

# Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 12 September 2023

Chairman: Councillor Mr J Pugh  
Councillors: Councillor Mr G Chater, Councillor Ms E Farrell, Councillor Mrs M Lawrence, Councillor Mr P Robinson, Councillor Dr J Walmsley, Councillor A Barlow Councillor S Davidson  
Apologies: Councillors Robinson and Farrell  
Clerk: Mrs J Flanders  
Attendance: Councillor Cooper & Councillor Bond arriving later  
Parishioners: 4

## 1. Apologies for absences

Councillors Robinson and Farrell sent in their apologies. There were no other apologies received.

## 2. Reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillor and the Police

No report from the Police.

Councillor Cooper confirmed the responses he had received following his 20mph email to Parish Clerks in that many were in the same position as this Parish and were getting no where with creating 20mph limits and were finding it very frustrating. He confirmed that the Cabinet Leader, Martin Tett, was anti 20mph areas and it had become political when voting on the matter. It was suggested that maybe if people lobbied him it might help but in the first instance writing to Mr S Broadbent would be best and if no response then Mr Tett. It was also pointed out that the Police Commissioner did not support the scheme. It was agreed the Traffic Group would continue to lobby Bucks Council.

Councillor Barlow raised the issue of Manor Fm Rowsham and the enforcement action and it was confirmed that the owner's planning application had been refused and therefore the Enforcement Notice takes effect. The building should be re-built.

## 3. Disclosure of interest on items in agenda

No Councillors present needed to disclose for any item on the agenda except Councillor Chater on Item 13.

## 4. Sign off Parish Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 and were signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Planning Applications:

**5.1 23/02225/APP** Land At Aylesbury Road Wingrave. Placement of a prefabricated mobile structure for office and laboratory kitchen, secure storage, and erection of wormery and birds coop, and an area for parking.

Councillor Pugh introduced the application and outlined the background to the area/land to which it relates. General discussion took place as to whether the description was in fact a farm activity and it was not clear whether the use would be a business activity or agricultural. As there was no clarity on this it was decided that it was against Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan. One Councillor did not consider there was a massive problem with the application but did consider further information would have been useful. It was RESOLVED to refuse the application on the above grounds with 4 Councillors against and 2 abstaining.

**5.2 23/02637/APP** Land To The South Of Mitchell Leys Farm Lower End Wingrave Extension to south elevation and conversion of agricultural building to residential dwelling

Councillor Pugh outlined the application and stated that a similar application had been received many years ago and refused. Councillor Davidson confirmed that the property concerned was outside the Neighbourhood Plan and was against Policy 1 for change of use and should be refused on those grounds to enforce the NP.

Councillor Pugh also indicated it would be interesting to see Highways response to the Application due to the site entrance being on the steep part of Dark Lane.

It was RESOLVED to refuse the Application on the grounds that it was outside the Neighbourhood Plan and was a change of use and was voted unanimously to refuse.

#### **6. Insurance Quote**

The Clerk confirmed that the proposed new premium was £5557.15 which was an increase of approximately £1000 on the current year. It was agreed to accept the new proposal and the Clerk would start making enquiries from other brokers next year from February onwards.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from A J Gallagher unanimously.

#### **7. Confirmation of new SiD is working & Payment**

The Clerk confirmed that the SiD was now in operation and working correctly and thanked Chris Stovold for his invaluable help. She also confirmed that she had received instructions on how it works and how to download data. The Clerk confirmed that the cost was £3800 plus VAT and would pay this from the Cala Homes donation of £3500 and the Parish Council would make up the difference from the Reserve Fund. The Clerk confirmed she had made enquiries as to whether the £300 could be taken from the s106 Traffic Fund but confirmed Bucks Council had confirmed there was no procedure for Parish Councils to seek reimbursement and that it had to be a traffic calming matter – this was obviously unsatisfactory. It was suggested that the Clerk send an invoice to Bucks Council for the balance.

#### **8. Update on Sewage Works**

The working group led by Phil Lees have continued to monitor the river and outputs from the sewage works and Phil Lees provided a report on the findings which can be seen on the Parish Council's website. He reported that the overflow rate is still working at a high rate and is awaiting further data from Thames Water. The situation was considered unsatisfactory with Thames Water being very evasive. Phil Lees explained how the Office for the Environment Protection exists which oversees the Environment Agency who in turn oversees Thames Water – meaning each can sue the other for non-compliance but the issue still exists. It also appears there will not be an upgrade of capacity at present and therefore the problem could remain. It was suggested that the Clerk invite the Thames Water's Rachael Followwell-Mattin, Customer & Stakeholder Manager, to a meeting so she can answer some of outstanding queries.

#### **9. Sensory Garden**

The Clerk confirmed that Liz Miles seemed to be a good option and whose initial cost was similar to other designers. The Clerk agreed to make contact and arrange a mutually convenient meeting on site with her and Councillor Walmsley.

#### **10. Bus Shelter Update**

Councillor Lawrence and Councillor Barlow gave a brief update and confirmed they had received information from Prudence Goodwin on the history and now had the potential wording albeit it would need to be reduced. Pictures for the Board were also being sought and once the size was confirmed and the space required for the translation of the wording into Czech and Slovak costings could be requested. It was thought a Board at waist height would be ideal. Councillor Chater said he might know someone who could translate at least the Czech and would ask them. The Blue Plaque on the Bus Shelter was to remain in situ. The Clerk thanked both Councillors for their input.

#### **11. Footpath Leaflet**

Councillor Walmsley confirmed she had worked with Office Innovation and now had costings and confirmed the design and layout cost would be £250 plus VAT and printing would be additional. Councillor Chater confirmed that WWSAL should be able to sell copies at The Park and other places may be happy to do so.

It was RESOLVED to agree to the cost of £250 plus VAT for the set up costs and to print 200 leaflets unanimously.

## 12. Footpath – Process to create Public Footpaths

Councillor Walmsley gave a brief explanation of the history to some of the paths currently used but they were not official Public Footpaths. The CA17 Notices which had appeared near some footpaths had prompted a look at what should be done to create them and others into official Footpaths on the Definitive Map. There is a lengthy process but in effect Councillor Walmsley confirmed that residents and footpath users needed to complete a form which would be sent to Rights of Way. Robert Honan, Estates Manager of the Ascott Estate was present and gave a brief outline of the frustrations of some members of the public on the Ascott Estate not adhering to the footpaths. General discussion took place as to accessibility and the affects on wildlife and the Stewardship Scheme and abusive behaviour experienced from some individuals. It was felt that both the Estate and the Parish Council could work together to educate people and maybe hold Open Day events which promotes understanding of the surrounding area and what is important such as protecting wildlife etc.

## 13. Pavilion & Bowls Clubhouse

Councillor Chater confirmed that there had been a change in Architect due to cost and both projects proceeding as one to the next phase of obtaining Building Regulations and tender packs using the Passmore plans. These should be available end of September early October. Due to the savings in these fees Councillor Chater asked if the saving could be used to do two trial holes to provide data for estimates for the footings of the Pavilion near the trees and the bank near the Bowls Clubhouse – this in turn could save approximately £20K and without the information could be a problem for the tenderers. It was agreed to cap the cost of the trial holes at £1250. He confirmed he had one quote and would seek a further one to consider.

It was RESOLVED to agree to funding the trial holes upto £1250 plus VAT. All Councillors agreed with Councillor Chater confirming a conflict of interest and one abstaining.

Councillor Chater also confirmed that it was hoped to make the COF application at the end of the month and the Clerk agreed to submit once Mr Jollie was back from holiday.

It was RESOLVED to submit the application unanimously.

Councillors Chater and Pugh thanked all those who had helped with completing the application form which was extremely long and arduous.

The Bowls Club Chair asked for confirmation of receipt of her email confirming the Bowls Club's members acceptance of the ring-fence funding from the Parish Council and the Clerk confirmed receipt. It was agreed that any terms in the management agreement would be considered with full Council once the funding was agreed at a later date. It was that the provisions of the agreement made by the PC would stand and are not altered by the Bowls Club's letter which can only be considered at the appropriate future date.

## 14. Devolved Services

Councillor Pugh explained how over the previous months residents had complained about the standard of the cut, missed areas resulting in more complaints and he was less impressed with the overall standard and the Parish Council should look at other options. To this end the Clerk had written to Buckland Landscapes giving six months' notice to terminate the Contract. It was suggested that maybe along with WWRSAL, the Handyman and some residents or other contractors may be able to take on certain areas and take pride in their work. It was agreed to look into who may be interested.

It was confirmed that hedges which encroach on the Highway are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner and they can be written to requesting that they cut and maintain their hedges. The Clerk agreed to send out such letters where appropriate.

## 15. Finance

15.1 The Clerk confirmed the balance of accounts as follows:

Community Acc. £53,589.17

Reserve Fund £38,909.43

Kirby Fund £60,512.05

15.2 The Clerk confirmed payments made July – August 2023 as follows which were in addition to the Direct Debits and Standing Orders:

	£
Maintenance Skate Park	90.00
Elite Turf Pitch Maintenance	6682.00

Website & laptop assistance	36.00
Parish Handyman Apr-Jun	415.29
Scarecrow competition donation	60.00
P Lees reimbursement water test	315.78
Security Test The Park	117.92
Passmore – Plans/drawings	576.00

Meeting Closed 2130hours