

# Bierton with Broughton Parish Council

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th October 2016

**Present:** Cllr. B. Robson in the chair, Cllr G. Sherley, Cllr S. Cotton, Cllr B. Dewis, Cllr H. Money and the Clerk Mrs. M. Smith in attendance.

Parishioners present - 2

**1. Apologies for Absence :** Cllr L. Eaves, Cllr E. Foster, Cllr Gilpin, Cllr A. Webber

**2. Declarations of Interest :** No interests were declared

### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

It was noted that under section 8b of the draft minutes the word school had been spelt incorrectly and was amended.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the Monday 19th September with this amendment were then accepted as a true record and duly signed.

### **4. Public Forum**

The main topic raised was the closure of Broughton Lane as some of the residents were critical of the signs that had been put in place stating Road Closed were not being moved when the road was open. It was pointed out that the illuminated sign did show the exact hours when the road was closed. It was also commented that the weight limit sign to the bridge is situated in the wrong place as ideally it should be by the hair pin bend.

**5. Clerks Report –** The Clerk's report was noted.

### **6. Planning Applications**

The following applications were considered:-

**16/0357/APP** 1 Bishops Meadow, HP22 5EF -Single Storey Rear Extension - The Parish Council had no objections to this planning application.

**Land East of Aylesbury (Kingsbrook)** - Village 4 Reserved Matters, Eastern Link Road Reserved Matters, Bus Link Road between V2 & V4 - Cllr Robson stated that he would take a look at the documentation.

The clerk was asked to phone Rachel Carson at Engage Planning to arrange a Parish Stakeholders meeting regarding the Kingsbrook development.

### **7. Planning Determinations**

The following determinations were received from AVDC :-

**16/02868/APP** 78 Aylesbury Road HP22 5DL Single storey rear extension - **Householder Approval**

**16/02896/APP** 60 Aylesbury Road HP22 5BU Two storey side extension to dwelling - **Householder Approval**

**16/02940/APP** Rosebank Broughton Lane HP22 5AW - Conversion of detached garage to Annexe accommodation and single storey front extension; raising roof from pitched to gable to create first floor within the roof - **Refused**

**16/02993/APP** 114 Aylesbury Road HP22 5DL Two storey side extension with a fireplace/chimney to new side/end gable wall. Alteration of existing front 'dummy' bay window into a conventional bay window. Erection of storm porch. Raise the existing duo-pitch roof to rear - **Householder Approval**

**16/03020/APP** 135 Aylesbury Road HP22 5DW

Proposed part single, part two-storey rear extension with addition of two rooflights; single storey front extension & two front facing dormer windows - **Householder Approval**

## **8. Other Planning Matters**

a) Land off William Hill Drive, Bierton.

A site visit had been held to look at the landscape of the site and the views in and out of the conservation area. The Development Management Committee Meeting then met again after the site visit on the 13th October when a strong case was put against the development and the application was rejected. There was a reasoned and thorough debate when it was stated that it was thought that the officer in the report had given too much weight to the 'positive' benefits of the application and not enough weight to the landscape and conservation area.

The Parish Council discussed whether it was appropriate to send the new information to the Planning Inspectorate dealing with the Non-Determination of the first application and it was decided that Cllr Robson should write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) 10 Rowsham Road - Assessment of special architectural or historic interest by Historic England.

It was decided that Cllr Sherley would take a look at the paperwork but that the property was actually located in Hulcott Parish and therefore it should be Hulcott Parish that sends takes a lead in responding to Historic England.

c) Grove Court

The land at the end of Grove Court has been sold with planning permission . The new owner wishes to amend the planning application and had put forward a new design. The Parish Council agreed that as the Parish Council had put forward an objection to the original application and remained opposed to a house being built on the land then it would only consider any amendments to the planning application when a formal planning application is made.

d) Bierton Crematorium

It was noted that although the work on the Eastern Link Road had been delayed for two years the Parish Council was concerned about the effect that the proposed junction would have on Rowsham Road. The judicial review on Bierton Crematorium is likely to take place in February but it is not known how long it will take or what the outcome will be. The Parish Council would like Bucks County Council to consider the stopping up of Rowsham Road to be tied in with the progress of the Eastern Link Road as well as the progress (if any) of the crematorium . The clerk was asked to write to County Councillor Bill Chapple to get his support for this proposal.

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Cotton reported that there had not been a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group since the last Parish Council meeting. The group was looking at contacting a list of businesses in the parish to gain their views in the future. The clerk had printed out a form to apply for a grant from the government 'Locality' website and this form will be forwarded to Cllr Gilpin.

## **10. Defibrillators**

There has been a news release by the Mike & Claire Griffin Charitable Trust regarding the defibrillators. Two training sessions had been arranged on Thursday 20th October and Monday 14th November. It was planned to have a further two also in November.

The clerk was asked to put an 'Out of Order' notice on the defibrillator cabinet at the Sports Centre until a new part could be delivered.

## **11. Great Lane Allotments**

Cllr Cotton had contacted AVDC about the possibility of whether the Great Lane Allotments could be considered to be designated as a Community Asset. It was agreed that Cllr Cotton would complete the necessary forms and submit them to AVDC for a decision to be made.

**12. RFO Report :**

**a) The following receipts and payments were approved :-**

**Credit**

C. Cotton	Private Hire 11th September	60.00
AVDC	Precept - Second Payment	13,115.00
A. Chourish	Private Hire 5th November	80.00
1st Bierton Scouts	Regular Hire - Scouts Oct-Dec	508.43
Bierton Pre-School	Contribution to Village Diary	20.00
Keri Donnellan - Jazzercise	Contribution to Village Diary	20.00

**Debit**

NEST	Pension Contribution	14.55
EON	Electricity to Street Lights	286.33
Action Heating Ltd	SC Maintenance	60.00
Buckland Landscapes Ltd	Mowing	184.80
Done & Dusted	SC Commercial Cleaning	272.00
Kempson Electrical Services	SC Maintenance	220.80
Performing Rights Society	SC Music Licence	153.31
B Small	Handyman - September	351.00
Mrs M Smith	Clerk Salary & Expenses	884.76
HMRC	Handyman	31.34

**Cash in Hand after these receipts and payments:**

		£
HMRC	Handyman	16,438
HMRC	Handyman	21,006
		<u>37,444</u>
Less Online Payments	Handyman	2,158
		<u>35,286</u>

Reserved monies:

Sports Centre and Recreation Ground	6,922
Promotion of Recreational Facilities	500
Traffic Calming Measures	2,000
Neighbourhood Plan	3,000
Pavillion/War Memorial	<u>1,000</u>
	13,422

Leaving unallocated 21,864

**b) Budget and Precept for 2017/2018**

Cllr Shirley stated that it was recommended that the Parish Council should hold reserves equivalent to approximately 50% of the annual expenditure, that is approximately £27,000. It is therefore of some concern that the Parish Council should increase the reserves to this figure and also to agree on a budget to maintain the reserves and also to provide money for projects.

At the moment County Council and District Council increases are capped and there is a proposal that a cap of 2% is extended to all Parish Councils which means that the ability to raise the precept to cover any shortfall may be limited in the future.

Cllr Sherley proposed that the Parish Council should consider increasing the precept by 10% this year. The Parish Clerk stated that 2017/18 Parish Tax Base / Grant Award had been received from AVDC which shows an increase from 859.88 in 2016/17 to 1073.38 in 2017/18.

The precept for 2016/2017 is £26,230 which divided by 859.88 gives a Band D council tax of £30.50 per annum. The Parish Council could increase the precept to £ 32,740 in 2017/2018 without increasing the Band D council tax as  $32740/1073.38 = £30.50$ .

However a 10% increase in precept to £33.50 per Band D Tax payer (an increase of only £3 per year) would give a precept of £35,958 and is still one of the lowest precepts for a parish council in the area. The Parish Council also received a grant of £435 in 2016/17 and will no longer receive a grant in 2017/18.

Cllr Sherley did point out that currently only principal authorities such as district and county councils must hold a referendum if they want to raise tax by more than two per cent. However, the government is holding a consultation on introducing the same rules for town and parish councils with budgets of more than £500,000, and also that 'consideration is given' to extending the policy to all local councils.

The National Association of Local Councils labelled the plans "a centralist sledgehammer to crack a nut" which will "seriously damage smaller communities' ability to help themselves and threaten the government's previous commitments to localism and devolution".

Cllr Sherley stated that it would be particularly unfair to extend the two per cent cap to smaller parish councils with very low budgets. The problem is that with the smaller councils a large proportion of the precept is spent on costs that are out of the Parish Council's control and are pretty much fixed such as energy costs or essential maintenance costs. If there is a large increase in these costs then the Parish Council would find it difficult to budget if the increase in precept is capped. Also the smaller councils would find it difficult to afford the costs of a referendum. It was agreed that councillors would send their thoughts on this consultation to Cllr Sherley who would draft a response to the consultation.

### **13. Outside Organisations**

There were no reports from councillors attending outside organisations.

### **14. Correspondence, Circulars & Consultations**

- a) AVDC - 2017/18 Parish Tax Base / Grant Award - Noted
- b) AVDC - Help with Audit of sports and community facilities - Clerk to respond
- c) Bucks County Council - Street Lighting Maintenance - Noted
- d) Temporary Road Closure Notice - Broughton Lane from 17th October - Noted
- e) Bucks Playing Fields Association - AGM Thursday 20th October 7 pm Aston Clinton Bowls Club
- f) TFB - Invitation to Autumn/Winter Conference Tuesday 1st November 9am to 2 pm AVDC Offices - Cllr Cotton to attend
- g) AVALC - AGM Saturday 5th November 10 am - Watermead Village Hall - Cllr Cotton to attend
- h) Mayor of Aylesbury - Invitation to Civic Remembrance Service 11th November 6 p.m.
- i) Canal & River Trust - Invitation to South East Waterway Forum Tuesday 8th November 7-9 p.m. Forward to Jack Batson
- j) AVDC - News for the Parishes 4/2016 - Circulated
- k) Bucks CC - Parish Newsletter September 2016- Circulated
- l) District Councils - Options for the future of local government in Buckinghamshire- Circulated
- m) Came & Company - Council Matters Autumn 2016- Circulated

### **15. Matters of report**

- a) Ownership of Recreation Ground -

It was noted that in the History of the Tennis Club prepared by Simon Holding he noted the following from the Parish Council minutes :-

*"Bierton Parish Council Meeting (henceforth PCM) Feb 20th 1919. A public meeting was held to 'the consideration of the public to those who have fallen in this terrible war' (referring to World War One 1914 - 1918). The minutes continued... 'proposal to purchase the Recreation Ground and an effort be made to secure this as a lasting memorial to those young lives lost, for future generations of the Parish'."*

Cllr Sherley agreed to look into the matter of the ownership of the Recreation ground and perhaps if necessary purchase a copy of the minutes from the County Archives.

b) Parliamentary Constituency - It was noted that it is proposed that Bierton with Broughton Parish (Including Oldhams Meadow) will become part of the Aylesbury Constituency

c) Fireworks - Cllr Cotton stated that there will be fireworks at the Recreation Ground on Friday 4th & Saturday 5th November.

d) Acceptance of Apologies - It was suggested that the clerk should find out the procedure for accepting or not accepting apologies from councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 21st November at 7.30 p.m. at Bierton Sports Centre