

Bierton with Broughton Parish Council

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st July 2014

7.00 p.m. PRE-MEETING

Paul Hodson from Bucks County Council attended to discuss the proposal for Parish Councils to take on certain services currently carried out by Transport for Bucks (TfB) on behalf of Bucks County Council. The proposal is to take on the services within the 30 mph limit and that TfB will still be responsible for the services outside this limit although some parishes have enquired about extending their responsibility into the area between the 30 and 40 mph limits and this may be open to negotiation. It is thought that some parishes may take on the services from next April but if not by April 2016. The cabinet member for transport will however take a decision at the end of September depending on the uptake by the parishes as to whether this proposal is feasible.

Bucks County Council has asked parishes to work together in clusters in order to reduce administration costs and also there may be benefits in parishes in working together.

The County Council are offering 5 days consultancy support in order to set up the services for example initial contracts with contractors. The statutory responsibility of the County Council for maintaining these services will be devolved to the parishes and templates of risk assessment for the various services could be provided.

Also £2,000 to £2,500 may be available for the purchase of machinery .

The county have provided grass cutting maps but not hedge cutting maps but will provide template letters in order to chase the owners of hedges and help to find out who actually owns of the hedges.

The County Council have calculated the amount of money that will be transferred to each parish in order to carry out the services on the amount that would have been paid to TfB over the next four years as the County Council determines it's budget over this length of time. Every year the council will inform the parishes of what the budget will be for the next four years.

Paul Hodson was asked if a copy of the contract with TfB could be provided that would specify the exact areas that would need to be done and also set out the standards required. He responded that there had been deficiencies in the contract this year and the County Council are putting measures in place in order to rectify the situation.

Another query was whether Bucks County Council would restore all the areas to an acceptable standard, and the situation is that 'it would be taken as is' and therefore the parish should keep reporting all areas that need attention.

The Parish Council meeting started at 7.40 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Robson in the chair, Cllr. Miller, Cllr Batson, Cllr. Cotton, Cllr Gilpin, Cllr Horne, Cllr. Sherley, Cllr. Vaughan, Cllr Webber and the Clerk Mrs. Smith in attendance.

Parishioners present - Two

1. Apologies for Absence: County Councillor Bill Chapple

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Miller & Cllr Sherley declared interests in the planning applications relating to Rowsham Road and Cane End Lane.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May were read and a correction was made to Item 16 b) where 'the' house was replaced by 'their' house. The minutes were then accepted as a true record and duly signed.

4. Public Forum

A parishioner raised a concern that there was a lot of branches overhanging the pathway along the A418 near the allotments. It was stated that this had already been reported to Bucks County Council but the clerk was asked to report the problem again.

5. Wingrave to Aylesbury Cycleway

This item was moved up the agenda to allow the Malcolm Ash, the parish council representative on the committee, to give a report to the council. Mr Ash stated that the proposed cycleway is in his opinion a worthwhile scheme and the parish council in supporting the scheme would be helping the aim to get more people cycling, more safely and more often. It had been noted that the plans for the Barratt Development show a cycleway along the link road from Gib Lane to Stocklake and then onto the fire station and therefore it might be possible to link to this cycleway.

The cycleway from Wingrave to Berton could not be built at the side of the road and would have to be a totally separate cycleway hence the cost but could be used for walking and jogging and therefore would be of benefit to the whole community.

The Parish Council was asked to contribute to the cost of a survey and it was resolved in principal to contribute a sum of money on the understanding that other organisations would be asked to contribute towards the cost as well. £500 was proposed and agreed. It was also agreed that this money could be allocated from the monies reserved for 'Traffic Calming'.

6. Clerks Report – The Clerk's report was noted.

7. Planning Applications

The following applications received via AVDC were considered:-

14/01929/APP - 101 Aylesbury Road, Berton, HP22 5BT -Removal, repair & Replacement of a section of boundary wall - The Parish Council agreed to **support** this application as the work does need to be carried out.

14/01896/APP - 139 Aylesbury Road, Berton HP22 5DW - Two Storey Rear Extension - The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

8. Planning Determinations

No determinations had been received

9. Other Planning Matters

a) **Crematorium** - This application had been approved subject to certain conditions. It is believed that the S106 agreement will be done quite quickly. Cllr Miller will seek to set up a meeting with Cllr Chapple and Cllr Roberts to discuss the access from Rowsham Road. The developers that had put forward an application for a crematorium at Watermead have said that they may take the decision to judicial review.

b) **Watermead** - There is to be an enquiry on the 4th November

c) **Solar Farm** - A number of councillors had attended a meeting with the developers and it had been generally agreed that the site was far enough away from housing and off the main routes and therefore was quite a good place to site a solar farm. There would however be up to four months of heavy lorries transporting the panels to the site and some work may have to be done to Gib Lane . However after that the site would only require low level maintenance.

d) **Land East of Aylesbury (Kingsbrook)** -

The junctions had been fundamentally agreed with Bucks County Council. Cllr Horne expressed his concern that there appeared to be a lack of cohesion about infrastructure .

The Parish Council had received the minutes of the meeting with Barratt Homes and it would seem that the developers were under the impression that the main issue of the Parish Council was Ecology rather than Transport. The chairman stated that he was disappointed that the minutes did not reflect the feeling that the Parish Council would be consulted regarding the junctions.

It was also noted that the development had been given the name Kingsbrook although it was pointed out that a name given to a development is not the one that will be agreed by the District and Parish Councils. It was also noted that land is reserved for a secondary school but it is still not known if this will be needed or if so whether a new school should be sited there. In either case there would be a piece of land in the

middle of the development that has no planning permission and would potentially be available for more houses.

10. Council Devolution Programme

The Parish Council stated that there were a number of options to be considered :-

- a) Do nothing
- b) The Parish would take on the services and get the handyman or hire a contractor to carry out the work
- c) The Parish could take on the services in association with neighbouring parishes.
- d) Consider Aylesbury Town taking on the services
- e) Consider Aylesbury Vale District Council taking on the services.

Cllr Gilpin stated that at the Parish Liaison meeting the situation had been put forward that a good job is not being done and every year from now on the job is going to get worse. The proposal from Bucks County Council is giving parishes the opportunity to take some control of the situation.

However it was agreed by the Parish Council that the money being offered is not enough to get a contractor to undertake all the work required and therefore this will mean that the money will have to be topped up from the precept.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should look at the options although the timescale to make a decision by September is totally impracticable. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond to Aylesbury Vale District Council to get more information about the prices they might charge and the services they could offer and also to have discussions with Aylesbury Town Council.

Cllr Gilpin, Cllr Horne and Cllr Cotton agreed to take on the responsibility of looking further at the options available.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Sherley stated at the meeting with the AVDC cabinet parishes had been asked to consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan especially in an area without a Local Plan such as Aylesbury Vale. The Parish Council had considered the issue in the past and agreed that it was a decision to be deferred to the next Parish Council after the elections in May.

12. Sports Centre & Recreation Ground

a) Micro grant - Cllr Sherley had had a discussion with Community Chest and would put in an application for a micro - grant to cover the cost of installing new goal posts at the recreation ground. In order to complete this process he would need to find out exactly the type and quality of the goalposts that were required. It was suggested that Aylesbury United Football Club were contacted to find out the Football Association requirements.

b) Electronic Cigarettes - It was agreed that electronic cigarettes should not be allowed in the Sports Centre.

c) Fire Alarm Testing - The Sports Centre Management Committee stated that the testing of the fire alarm system was very unwieldy as the system was quite a complicated system. Chubb Fire had again recommended at the last service that the fire alarm system should be replaced as it was over ten years old. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with the Fire Department.

13. RFO Report :

a) The following receipts and payments were approved :-

Credit

HMRC	VAT Repayment 2013/14	3992.63
Mr S E Cook & Miss A Law	Private Hire 20/07	297.00
Mr D Morrison Chapman	Private Hire 06/07	163.00
Aylesbury United Ladies	Regular Booking – Football	60.00
1st Bierton Scouts	Regular Hire July- Sept	123.00
Claydons Academy	Regular Booking – Dancing	106.50

Cheddington Parish Council	50% Cont to Clerk Training	90.40
Bierton Pre-School	Regular Hire July- Sept	1482.16
Debit		
Eon Energy	SC - Electricity	140.44
Eon Energy	SC - Gas	58.61
Natwest	Bank Charges	19.65
Aylesbury Mains Ltd	Street Light - Maintenance	162.36
Buckland Landscapes Ltd	Mowing Contract	184.80
Chubb Fire Ltd	Fire Extinguisher Service	64.59
Done & Dusted	SC Commercial Cleaning	232.00
Brian Small	Handyman	495.12
Mrs M Smith	Clerk Salary & Expenses	721.46
Mr K Miller	Councillor Expenses	24.73
Mr R King	Internal Audit - Honourarium	79.99
Eon Energy	Street Lights - Electricity	186.44

Cash in Hand after these receipts and payments:

	£
Natwest	40,479
	<u>40,479</u>
Reserved monies:	
Sports Centre and Recreation Ground	11,000
Promotion of Recreational Facilities	370
Traffic Calming Measures	2,000
Traffic Lights	1,600
War Memorial/Pavilion	<u>1,000</u>
	15,970
Leaving unallocated	<u><u>24,509</u></u>

b) Donation towards cost of the service to a clock. - The Parish Council agreed to make a donation of £100 towards the cost of the service to the Church Clock.

14. Outside Organisations

Cllr Gilpin had attended the Parish Liaison meeting on the 16th July at which the main agenda item was the Devolution of Services to the Parishes.

Cllr Sherley stated that the main topic of the Parishes event on the 25th June had been Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Robson had attended the GALAF meeting on the 30th June when the Rowsham Road petition had been presented. Other items included the problem of contamination of the Blue Recycling Bins and the new requirement that individuals would have to register to vote themselves and not as a household .

15. Investigation Into Unitary Authority(ies) for Buckinghamshire

Correspondence had been received from Bucks Business First asking for donations to fund a campaign for unitary authority(ies) in Buckinghamshire. It was noted that Government Policy is against the proposal and that such changes are exceedingly expensive, but a lot of the discussion is about clarity. It was agreed that it was not an issue that the Parish Council would make a donation to.

16. Correspondence, Circulars & Consultations

Correspondence:

- a) Invitation from Inspector James Davies to councillors to accompany local police officers.
- b) Letter from Bucks County Council Re The Community Leaders Fund
- c) Letter from Local Government Boundary Commission setting out the Final Recommendations of the Electoral Review of Aylesbury Vale
- d) E-Mail from Engage Planning with Notes of the meeting with Barratt Homes on 15th May 2014.
- e) E-Mail from resident of William Hill Drive concerning the state of the path behind the property
- f) E-Mail from the owner of the Old Vicarage, 101 Aylesbury Road asking for access to the Garden Wall from the common land at St. Osyth's Well. - The Parish Council agreed to give the resident permission.
- g) E-Mail from the owner of the Old Orchard, 1, Parsons Lane with reference to the cutting of the hedge
- h) Bierton Church Charity and William Reeve, Broughton and Poors Land Charity Accounts for year ending 31st December 2013.
- i) Letter from NatWest re change in deposit accounts to Business Reserve Account from 1st October 2014
- j) Buckinghamshire County Council -Temporary Road Order
- k) Letter from AVDC - Notice of Lights Out Event 4th August 10-11p.m.
- l) AVDC - Invitation to Chairman's Civic Service Sunday 14th September 3 p.m. All Saints Church Brill
- m) AVALC - Notice of Meeting on the 25th September at 7p.m. in Winslow and minutes of the last meeting.
- n) AVDC - Letter regarding the devolution of services by Buckinghamshire County Council
- o) Bucks County Council - E-mail asking for Emergency Contact Details

Circulars:

- a) AVDC - Briefing Note for Parishes Event 25th June
- b) Bucks Playing Fields Association - The Playing Field June 2014
- c) Clerks & Council Direct - July 2014
- d) Bucks County Council - Hs2 Update
- e) TfB News- June

Consultations:

Buckinghamshire County Council -Draft Statement Of Community Involvement - Councillors were asked to have a look at the papers and let the clerk know if they wished any comments to be made.

17. Matters of report –

- a) The clerk was asked to report an intermittent fault with the street light outside the Jubilee Hall to Bucks County Council.
- b) Cllr Gilpin advised that his address had changed. The clerk was asked to update the list of councillor's details.
- c) Cllr Gilpin advised that CA Traffic had had problems sourcing components but that this should be resolved within the next three weeks. The old sign should then be replaced with a new sign with a solar panel.
- d) The Scouts have asked to have the Annual Bonfire and the Parish Council agreed subject to the usual conditions.
- e) The mat inside the entrance to the Sports Centre may need to be replaced.
- f) There had been no further update on the proposed extension to Bierton School
- g) NALC had circulated a consultation on underground drilling access

Cllr Robson concluded the meeting with the sad news of the death of Alderman Griffin. The clerk was asked to send a card with the condolences of the Parish Council.

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

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 15th September 2014 at 7.30 pm.