

# Bucknell Parish Council

Minutes of the Bucknell Parish Council on Monday 11th January 2016 at  
7:30 in Bucknell Village Hall

## Draft

**Present:** Dan Blakey (Temporary Chair), Chris Wells, Neil Wainman, Rachael Blakey (Clerk), Alexander Bowden, Derek Hedges, Andrew Parsons

**In attendance:** Ian Corkin (District Councillor) Christine Desborough (Parishioner), Vanessa Smith (Parishioner), Sheila Wallington (Parishioner).

### **1 Apologies**

1.1 Lawrie Stratford (County Councillor)

### **2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

2.1 None declared

### **3. Minutes from the meeting held on the 9 November 2015**

3.1 These were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting having been proposed by AB and seconded by NW.

### **4 Matters arising from the minutes of the 9 November 2015**

4.1 Parking on the grass by the trigger pond and throughout the village.

AP reported on a meeting with landlord of the Trigger Pond PH (called at the request of the landlord following Sunday 6 Dec 2015 when 7 cars were parked on grass next to the pond) in which it was agreed that:

a) the pub staff would not use the car park during busy period, freeing up to 8 spaces; and

b) the PC would retain the item on the agenda for further discussion as the displacement of vehicles from the pond verge may cause further problems in other areas of the village.

Parishioners and Councillors noted that there have been several incidents of cars parked close to junctions and on pavements creating dangerous obstructions. It was also suggested that in the longer-term the pub carpark could be expanded onto the land immediately to the north of its entrance and its surface improved to increase capacity. The principal aim of the PC should be to protect the land around the pond as it is the property of the PC. IC suggested that the land could be protected by designating it as a village green.

**It was resolved** by the PC to a) investigate the ownership of the above-mentioned land with the assistance of Mr John Kightley and b) continue to monitor the parking at the pond and around village with a re-assessment at the March PC meeting.

**Actions:** Chair to contact Mr Kightley.  
Clerk to table village parking on the March meeting agenda.

### **5. District and/or County Councillor's report:**

- 5.1 Cllr Stratford provided a written report which was summarised by the Chair and is appended to these minutes.
- 5.2 Cllr Corkin
- a) CDC's financial position is better the OCC largely due to the new homes bonus
  - b) An application for a McDonalds restaurant at the Baynard's Green junction has been refused by the Planning Committee, however a new one has been submitted. This development may have a detrimental impact on the parish in terms of road-side littering. The Chair asked to be informed when the application is open for comment.
  - c) The recent district council boundary review will change the Bucknell's ward to "the Heyfords and Fringford" which will be represented by 3 councilors to be elected in May 2016.
  - d) the NW Bicester development may allow a cycle path from Bicester through Bucknell and on to Ardley and the Heyfords. IC will investigate current plans and routes, which will need to be closer to the village than the current bridle path to the south.
  - e) there will be a meeting of the Bicester Rural Neighbourhood on 24 March at Bicester Police Station – Bucknell PC will be invited to attend.

Agenda item 9c was discussed here, but is recorded below.

**6. Standing Items:**

**6.1 Traffic Calming**

6.1.1 There has been no further information from A2D on the traffic calming they can provide, despite this being chased by the Clerk on numerous occasions.

**Action:** Clerk to chase again.

6.1.2 The recent rainfall has led to significant volumes of flowing water on the Bicester Road. A crash on the morning of 11 Jan 2016 may have been caused in part by this.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Gordon Kelner (OCC drainage engineer) to assess solutions

**6.2 Bicester Developments**

6.2.1 There was nothing more to report regarding this as there have been no new developments since the last meeting. IC will follow-up with lead planners. AB enquired regarding a proposed NW perimeter road around the EcoTown, however IC stated that although this has been considered there is no evidence to support it.

6.2.2 NW attended the Garden City Village groups meeting in November 2015. The primary discussion topic was the proposed routes for the Bicester south east ring roads.

**6.3. Incinerator**

6.3.1 The next liaison meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> January.

6.3.2 An inspection of the facility for the storage and treatment of bottom ash is being organized. DH and NW will attend.

6.3.3 Lighting levels will be recorded, however BPC has not been contacted to provide details of suitable sites from which to do so. IC will chase this.

**6.4 Thames Water**

6.4.1 In a letter from TW they requested that they should defer a meeting with the PC until after the results of their Sewer Capacity Assessment (which will be finalised by 15th Jan 2016).

**Action:** Clerk to arrange meeting with Thames Water

**6.5 Planning**

6.5.1 15/02345/Q56. This is a re-submission with only minor amendments and it was agreed that the same response would be made.

**Action:** All comments over and above the previous comments to be sent to NW by 20th Jan 2016.

Clerk to send comments on application to CDC.

## **7. Correspondence**

7.1 A letter has been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire relating to celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday in June 2016. Various village organisations will be meeting on 3rd February 2016 to discuss a calendar of event and Her Majesty's birthday will be discuss then.

**Action:** CW to attend meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

7.2 Parishioner letters have been received from John Kightley and Sheila Wallington. Both raised the issue of surface water drainage. This is an ongoing matter with OCC.

**Action:**– Clerk to contact Gordon Hunt and LS to arrange drain clean drains.

SW raised the issue of dirty street signage. Cleaning will be incorporated into the Village Spring Clean (see 7.3 below).

JK raised the issue of fly tipping on roads around the village. CDC have been informed, but no action yet taken.

7.3 Notification from CDC has been received relating to support they may provide for a village spring clean. The PC agreed to lead on organising this but are unlikely to require CDC assistance. Mark Gammond has assisted previously and the PC resolved to request his help again.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Mark Gammond to ask for his help and select a suitable date

7.4 CDC have written with information relating to the provision of affordable housing. Building of such accommodation is likely to be outside the current planning restrictions on the village under the Local Plan. No action required at present.

7.5 The Clerk has written to the Parish Council giving advance notice of her intention to resign her post in April 2016. DB thanked the Clerk for her commitment and hard work. A new Clerk will be recruited.

**Action:** Chair to take the lead on the recruitment of a new Clerk.

## **9. Public Participation**

9.1 VS noted that a locked gate has been placed across a public footpath on land to the south east of the village.

**Action:** AB to contact the landowners to discuss access .

9.2 CD asked about progress on the plaque to the memory of Hazel Watt.

**Action:** DH to contact Stephanie

## **9. Finance**

9.1 Current account balance: £6846.15

Savings account balance: £1326.98

9.2. There was one cheque for signing.

£329.17 for the Parish Clerk's wages and expenses

9.3 The spend profile against the previous year's precept requests and budget were presented by the Clerk with suggestions for potential deviation. The Council resolved to request a precept with the same profile as financial year 2015 – 16 but with a 2% increase to account for inflation.

**Action:** Clerk to send precept request to CDC

## **10. A.O.B**

- 10.1 Bucknell Matters website and printed version. Lack of written copy has prevent the publication of recent planned issues of Bucknell Matters. Pauline Wainman has offered to assist in the collation of copy. A printed and web-version were agreed to be desirable as not all households have internet access.
- 10.2 The SSE run Resilient Community Grants were raised. One possible purchase is an automated defibrillator.  
**Action:** CW to raise on 3rd February village meeting.

**Date of the Next Meeting**

14th March 2015 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Signed ..... Date.....

## **REPORT TO BUCKNELL PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2016 FROM CLLR LAWRIE STRATFORD**

### **GENERAL OCC REPORT**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT**

Oxfordshire County Council has now received details of future grant funding from central Government and the levels are even worse than feared. The council had been preparing for up to £50m of savings from 2016 to 2020 (on top of the £292m it is already in the process of making for the period from 2010 to 2018). However, on the basis of figures provided by central Government last month, OCC will have to make £20m further savings on top of the £50m, bringing the total saving to £70m over the next four years. Central Government has changed the formula for funding councils, and it seems shire counties, particularly in the south of England, have come off worst.

The list of proposed savings for £50 million was already controversial, with many members of the public opposing them. To achieve the additional £20 million savings, no area of the council can be exempt other than those where there is a statutory obligation to provide for the most vulnerable in the county. This means other areas will suffer disproportionately, which will involve some very difficult and controversial decisions. By law, the Council has to pass a balanced budget with no revenue borrowing. The Cabinet recommendations will be published 18<sup>th</sup> January for decision 26<sup>th</sup> January, before the budget goes to Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **DEVOLUTION**

OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth, District Leaders, LEP representatives and health colleagues attended a meeting with the Secretary of State in December to put forward the case for Oxfordshire devolution. The meeting was very positive, however Government has not yet said what it will ask for or offer. Any move towards a Combined Authority is very much dependent on this and will be preceded by a governance review. All aspects of the offer and governance have to be agreed by each individual council before a Combined Authority can be created.

#### **FLOODING**

Oxfordshire's High Volume Pump has been deployed to flood-hit areas in the North to assist with operations. The pump is crewed by seven fire-fighters, all of whom volunteered to go and help – thus missing out on New Year celebrations with their own friends and family. OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth personally thanked them for their commitment.

#### **OXFORD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

A public drop-in event will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January in Oxford Town

Hall. This event is running from 2:30pm to 7pm and is taking place as part of the consultation on the route options. All interested parties are invited to attend this event, or any of the other four local events:

- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Abbey House (Council Offices), Abingdon, OX13 3JE
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – South Oxford Community Centre, OX1 4RP
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January – Kennington Village Centre, OX1 5PG
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – West Oxford Community Centre, OX2 0BT

The consultation is an opportunity for the public to view and comment on the various options that have been developed for the channel. It will be also be available online.

## **NEW OXFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES APP**

Oxfordshire Libraries can now be accessed from smart phone or tablet.

People can:

- manage their account
- search the catalogue
- renew and reserve books.

Bar code scanning is available on devices with a front-facing auto-focus camera.

Search for 'Oxfordshire Libraries' at the App Store or Google Play.

## **APPLICATIONS DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES**

Families with children due to start primary school this year are being urged to ensure they don't miss the 15 January applications deadline.

Parents or carers of children born between 1 September 2011 and 31 August 2012 should visit the primary school admissions pages and apply online where possible.

Primary or junior school applications also need to be made for children currently attending an infant school who were born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009.

## **COUNTY'S YOUNGSTERS IMPROVE IN CORE SUBJECTS**

Oxfordshire's eleven-year-olds have surged ahead in reading, writing and maths tests, according to the latest figures.

The proportion of the county's pupils reaching Level 4+ in all three core subjects at Key Stage Two increased to 81 per cent in 2015 – up from 79 per cent last year.

It means the county has moved above the national average of 80% on this measure. The proportion of children making expected progress between the

ages of seven and eleven is also higher than the national average for reading and writing, and in line for maths.

The recent Oxfordshire Reading Campaign, backed by the Oxford Mail and delivered by the National Literacy Trust, helped targeted primary schools make significant improvements in literacy attainment at Key Stage One and Two in recent years – with many schools intending to carry on using the programme.

Melinda Tilley, OCC's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families, said: “This campaign work has helped create and sustain a real culture of reading and writing in participating schools, and I think it’s fair to say we are seeing this reflected in these improving results.”