

Minutes of the meeting of Bucknell Parish Council

12th September 2016

Present: Daniel Blakey, Andrew Parsons, Alexander Bowden, Neil Wainman, Chris Wells

In attendance: Clr Ian Corkin (Cherwell District Council)

Public: Vanessa Johnson, Bob Dixon, Sheena Buck, Megan Savins, Sheila Wallington, John Kightley, Tina Desborough.

1. Apologies for absence: Clr Derek Hedges. County Councillor Lawrie Stratford.

2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda.

DB declared an interest in item 11b.i and 11b.iv as he is a trustee of both payee institutions.

CW declared an interest in item 11b.iv as he is the treasurer of the payee institution.

3. Minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th July 2016.

The minutes were declared a true record of the meeting by all councillors and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th July 2016

The matter of the AED is outstanding.

Action. DH to follow up with Stephanie

5. Appointment of a new Clerk

Sue Mackrell has offered to take up the post

Action. DB to follow up with her.

6. Local Councillors' reports

a) the reports from Clr Stratford are appended to the minutes.

Actions. DB to distil information about the Oxfordshire Comet and put on the village notice board and in the village hall.

DB to put information regarding electric blanket testing on the village notice board and in the village hall.

The Council has corresponded with Clr Stratford regarding the meeting dates and his availability on the 2nd Monday. Once further information is found including the regular availability of Clr Corkin, the Parish Councillors, and the Village Hall the council may move its meeting date.

Action. All councillors. Provide details of availability on different evenings.

b) Clr Ian Corkin

The proposals for 'devolution' in Oxfordshire and neighbouring countries is currently in abeyance. Reports on this matter were commissioned by the District Council from Grant Thornton and by the County Council from PWC. These have identified areas for savings and greater efficiency whilst maintaining the current structures.

The Graven Hill site near Bicester is now selling plots for self-builders. A third of these will be affordable housing, and there is a four week window of opportunity for local council tax payers (domestic and commercial) to obtain sites.

Age UK are holding an event on 30th September

There are forthcoming jobs fairs in Banbury and Bicester.

Action: DB to put up poster advertising the Age UK event

7. Co-option of a new Councillor

Mrs Juliet Hope has withdrawn from her current to become a Parish Councillor.

Mrs Christina Desborough was unanimously co-opted onto the PC

8 Regular Items

8a Traffic calming. postponed to a future meeting.

8b. Bicester Developments.

The plans for the future of the Bicester developments were to be discussed at the Bicester area CAB AGM

8c. Incinerator

DH and NW attended the Incinerator Liaison committee. The matter of the storage and treatment of incinerator bottom ash was raised with respect to the recent site visit – BPC has concerns around the potential for wind-borne matter to leave the site. However, the Environment Agency representative was not present.

The council officer who commissioned the survey on the interior / exterior lighting – light pollution was not present and therefore the item was postponed until the next meeting on 26th October.

8d. Thames water and village water management issues

Reports have been received from parishioners of "chemically smelling reddish brown effluent"

In addition, reports of overloading of capacity at the pumping station has been reported. A meeting has been planned with TW by AB.

8e. Planning

i. The local planning enforcement document was circulated

ii. 16/00898/F Subdivision of dwelling to 3 No separate units. Coach House Stores Bicester Road Bucknell Bicester OX27 7LP. The application has been withdrawn.

iii. 16/01753/F Change of use to provide overnight parking for 3 HGVs and 1 trailer".

Swallowfields Upper Farm, Middleton Road, Bucknell, Bicester. The PC resolved to raise the following objections to the application:

1. The applicant has provided insufficient information for a decision to be made. In particular:

- a. No information has been provided as to whether the proposed storage of the vehicles is ancillary to the operation of a business and if so the nature of that business. As far as we are aware the site is for agricultural use only.
- b. No information has been provided as to the size or capacity of the HGVs and trailer to be stored at the site.
- c. No information has been provided as to employment, hours of opening, or vehicle movements.

2. The site is accessed from a single carriageway country lane which has no passing places between the site and the village of Bucknell and only two which are close to each other and within approx. 100 metres of the B4030 and therefore a considerable distance from the site.

3. The proposed use of the site will potentially generate additional traffic through the village of HGVs and other vehicles at all, presently unspecified, hours of the day and night. Such additional traffic with the additional noise and pollution is to the detriment of the village of Bucknell.

4. The proposed use is effectively a change of use from agriculture to business and/or industrial which represents inappropriate and non- sustainable development, given the rural situation of the site and the reasons set out at 2 and 3 above, and 5 below.

5. There is no appropriate route for HGVs to leave the site through the village. Ardley Road is subject to a 7.5 ton weight restriction. Bainton Road is a single track country lane with bends which are unnavigable by HGVs. The junctions in the village giving access to Bicester Road from the site are unsafe for use by HGVs and Bicester Road itself is unsuitable for such traffic by dint of road width, bends and a speed limit of 60mph.

8f. Car parking in the village

Letters have been received from Mrs Johnson and Mrs Wallington regarding the inconsiderate and dangerous nature of the car parking around New Row and Bicester Rd (in particular).

It was fully acknowledged that the PC do not wish to see damage done to the Trigger Pond as a business as a pub is seen as a key asset for the village.

The issues include:

- parking on the pavement;
- parking around the corner / junction;
- parking on the grass verges and by the pond.

Potential solutions were discussed to include:

- Encourage staff to park elsewhere within the village and in a legal and considerate manner

- Write to the CEO of Wadworths particularly with relation to the purchase of the land adjoining the pub's carpark.
- The erection of signs to request no-parking on pavements.

Actions: an open meeting should be held with residents and the pub to examine the issue in more detail.

9 Correspondence received

a) Letter from Mrs Wallington covering a wide range of village matters (some of which are dealt with earlier on the agenda).

Safety issues of uncut grass verges and hedge-row verges. The County Council appear to have further reduced their maintenance programme meaning that in addition to the grass within the village (e.g. at the junction between New Row and Middleton Road) being unkempt unless mowed by residents, the verges at junctions such as Middleton Road – B4030 have become very dangerous.

The PC resolved to put continued pressure on the County Council rather than take this obligation on itself.

Community publications "Bucknell Matters"

The role of the PC in producing a village newsletter was discussed.

An open letter or other form of approach to other village organisations was suggested to coordinate a village wide newsletter and a 6 monthly PC newsletter was agreed.

Visibility of the PC.

Suggestion that members of the PC have a photograph together with details of areas of interest and responsibility to be displayed on the village notice board.

10) Any other matters of public participation

Neighbourhood watch. Signs have been replaced, however an active N. Watch committee has not been in place for some time.

11) Finances

Cheques were signed for

- i) £200 to "Bucknell Village Hall Community Events" – received from Cherwell District Council to support the Queen's Birthday Celebrations, in particular the purchase of fireworks.
- ii) £400 to "Bucknell Parochial Church Council" – in support of the annual expenditure for the maintenance of the churchyard.
- iii) £87 to "Bucknell Village Hall" – to cover 50% of the cost of repair work for the notice board affixed to the Village Hall which is used for a number of village purposes.
- iv) £400 to "Bucknell Playing Field Association" – as agreed in the precept.

12) AOB

None raised

Meeting closed a 21:45

Signed as an accurate record of the meeting

Dated _____

Chair – Dan Blakey