

Bucknell Parish Council Meeting

Via Microsoft Teams

11 Jan 2021

MINUTES

Present at the meeting

Cllr Andy Parsons (AP), Cllr Chris Wells (CW), Cllr Neil Wainman (NW), Cllr Derek Hedges (DH), Cllr Alexander Bowden (AB), Cllr Lee Peck (LP)

In attendance

Sue Mackrell (clerk), Cllr Ian Corkin (from 8pm) and 9 members of the public

1. **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 3.1 to enable meeting to be held remotely via Microsoft Teams due to the Covid 19 pandemic lockdown measures in place.
2. **RESOLVED** to note that there were apologies from Cllr Stratford
3. **RESOLVED** to note declarations of interest from:
Cllr Hedges as a riparian owner.
Cllr Bowden as a riparian owner and a neighbour of the Trigger Pond and Stan's Land.
4. **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the following amendment:
8b When asked about the installation of a carbon capture filter, Viridor stated that they did not emit as much carbon as a power station and that the installation of a filter was too expensive.
5. Matters arising not covered on elsewhere on agenda:
 - a) School transport issues still pending. CW will draft an email to LS to express concerns for when the schools are open again. **ACTION CW**
 - b) No interest received from any builder to install the bench other than the original one (Richard Powell). However, one of the members of the public present volunteered to quote. Cllr Bowen will liaise with him offline. **ACTION AB**
 - c) No reply received from Sanctuary Housing about permission to site the bench. Cllr Parsons to chase. **ACTION AP**
 - d) Cllrs Parsons and Wells still to draft an impactful ministerial document from Jasper Von Thor's papers. **ACTION AP and CW**
 - e) No response from brewery about 'Stan's land'. Cllr Parsons to chase. **ACTION AP**
6. **RESOLVED** to note that Cllr Corkin will join the meeting at 8pm to discuss the recent flooding issues. Any further information will be received by email.
7. Landscaping Issues:
 - a) Bench - See 5b above. One of the attending members of the public lives adjacent to the site and gives permission for the siting of the bench. This still needs to be confirmed with Sanctuary. She also reports that Thames Water has left items on the green including fencing, sandbags,

cones and pallets. Cllr Bowden will liaise with Thames Water for them to be removed. **ACTION AB**

- b) Pebble garden. Nothing further.

8. Standing agenda items:

- a) Thames Water and Village Flood Water – to be discussed once Cllr Corkin joins the meeting.
- b) Ardley Incinerator. Nothing further. Waiting for the next Liaison meeting to be fixed.
- c) Traffic Calming. It was noted that the OALC newsletter has reported that OCC has changed its policy and will now approve 20mph speed limits in built up areas subject to the consent of residents and that there will be help with funding. Cllr Parsons will look into this and report back. **ACTION AP**
- d) Trigger Pond parking and associated issues. Nothing further due to the current closure of the pub.

9. Planning:

- a) Decision 20/03254/SCOP – noted.
- b) Great Wolf Appeal – Cllr Wainman will draft a letter of response and support for the refusal of the application. An email has been received from Chesterton PC requesting support including possible help with funding. Cllr Wainman will investigate and report back. Wider support of residents would be needed to support any promise of funding support. **ACTION NW**
- c) Cllr Wainman asked for a second planning responder to support him. Cllr Peck volunteered.
- d) Cllr Wainman asked that SM chased cllrs more vigorously in terms of responses to planning applications since at least three cllrs need to agree any given response. Agreed, and the use of Teams reminders option can also be used. **ACTION SM and CW**

10. Emergency Plan Review. To be discussed as part of the flooding debate.

11. Finance;

- a) **RESOLVED** to note payments made between meetings to Mr T Cannon (£60.00).
- b) **RESOLVED** to approve the following cheque payment;
- Mrs S Mackrell £326.56 Clerk salary x 2 months
- c) **RESOLVED** to approve precept request of £5545. Proposed Cllr Peck, seconded Cllr Wainman. All agreed. The represents yet another year of no increase.
- d) **RESOLVED** to note bank balances of £17,807.60 and £1,334.21as at 31.12.2020

Cllr Corkin joined the meeting. He reported in the events of 23rd Dec as follows:

- There is now an action group from OCC and CDC working together on the flooding issues locally.
- The monitoring station at Stoke Lyne recoded 60mm of rainfall on 23rd December compared with the December average of 56mm.
- Local river courses peaked higher than ever before although the levels went down fairly quickly.
- Care homes in the area were flooded and evacuated. 70 incidents were attended by the Fire Service.
- OCC distributed 25,000 sandbags (none to Bucknell).

Actions:

- Paul Wilson at OCC to arrange drain survey, camera survey and jetting of highway drains, especially outside Manor View. Note that OCC are only responsible for highway water. CDC are responsible for land drainage and is being dealt with by Tony Brummel.
- Thames Water responded with stock responses about the upgrading of pumping station to its limit, high investment made and cannot do anymore. However, it is noted that they have eventually resolved the issues at Caulcott where similar problems had been endured. It is worth noting that when they make investment decisions, weight is given to areas that have complained most.
- Effluent from Viridor going into the system contributes to the problem and their trade waste team are supposed to be quantifying this.
- Major issues around both Viridor and Thames Water denying responsibility for the problem, especially at customer service levels. Need to have access at a higher level, so Victoria Prentis MP is going to get involved. Cllr Parsons will write to Victoria Prentis.

ACTION AP

Members of the public comments:

- This is the 5th time of flooding in 7 years and was the worst yet. 2 – 3 inches of raw sewerage indoors. No-one came to help. Eventually Fire Service was called and they pumped the property out. Thames Water were not interested. Could flood barriers across doorways be provided?
- It is claimed that the leachate from Viridor in the system is over 20%.
- Requests to Thames Water for clean up to properties was appalling. They only cleaned up the properties that had contacted them directly, ignoring pleas from neighbours once on site. Some of the cleaning was haphazard and not efficient.
- The issues have been in evidence for several years, and no sight of a solution yet. The problem has been exacerbated greatly since Viridor has been online.
- The jetting of surface water drains has already been done. Is there any point in doing it again?
- The clean-up was very basic and unsatisfactory and legal action against Thames Water is being taken through insurance companies.

- It is claimed that Viridor use a chemical in their water plant that congeals when in contact with sewerage, blocking the system. The water is blue. Thames Water deny this categorically.
- Need to report the situation to OffWat.
- Health issues after the event – several residents and their pets all suffered illness because of the close contact with raw sewerage.
- Residents have a log of the timing of events during this period.
- Residents feel vulnerable when they and their property is under threat. A community response needs to be identified.

Practical steps to be taken:

- Get Victoria Prentis to elevate the situation within Thames Water.
- Viridor needs to be contacted and taken to task. Cllr Corkin will write to them asking for a report about what is in the drains. **ACTION IC**
- Cllr Corkin is happy to have another meeting or to meet with residents as and when needed. Another meeting with a single item agenda will be scheduled for next month. **ACTION AP/SM**
- Samples can be taken from those who get ill and from the substances in the flood water and sent to a microlab as a matter of urgency. A matching cross reference will be proof of contamination. Needs Cllr Corkin to gain authority to send sample packs out. Cllr Corkin to liaise with Cllr Wells. **ACTION IC/CW**
- Cllr Corkin will pick the matter of impact on resident's health with Environmental Health.
- Emerging Emergency Plan needs to reflect both immediate and longer term actions to support the community. Volunteers are needed to populate the Plan and step up to be first responders etc. Communication to the village residents is key in the initial stages. People need to know how to access sandbags quickly, where they can go to be safe if necessary. Social media can be used effectively. **ACTION CW**
- Sandbag stocks need to be replaced. Cllr Wells has a contact at OCC for this. But where can they be stored? A small number can be on site somewhere (maybe under seating in bus shelter) with a call out for more when the situation arises.
- Cllr Hedges reported that the pumping station is the real problem. It gets overloaded with surface water and then feeds it back into the sewage system, creating flooding of sewerage. On the 23rd Dec, the pumping station was submerged. Cllr Hedges is meeting with a Thames Water engineer on site tomorrow (Tuesday 12th Jan).
- Flood alleviation needed locally. Surface water cannot get where it needs to go because of ditches and water courses not being dug out or maintained properly. Water needs to cross through the Manor and out across the Eco Town to the River Bure. Access across the Manor is OK, but farther out becomes a problem. Flood alleviation around The Manor would help.

- Residents asked that they be informed about the outcome of meetings with Thames Water etc. Cllr Bowden will ensure information is available.

ACTION AB

Cllr Parsons thanked everyone for their involvement and for being considerate to all parties. All agreed that it had been helpful. Cllr Parsons and Cllr Wells reminded all the members of the public that all meeting minutes are available on the village website.

12. Correspondence received;

- i. OALC Dec update – Noted
- ii. Request from Vanessa Johnson for permission to pollard an ash tree. Resolved to approve the work. SM to contact her. **ACTION SM**

13. AOB:

- Enquiry about the bench – can it have a silent soldier. Cllr Parsons to liaise with the resident off line and explain the thinking behind the decisions already taken. **ACTION AP**
- Tree felling by the Trigger Pond – what is happening there and was permission granted for the felling of those trees. SM will investigate. **ACTION SM**

Cllr Parsons again expressed his thanks to all attendees.
Meeting ended 21.25

DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY March 8 2021