

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 20th September 2021 8pm, Brightwalton Village Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Shaun Orpen – Chairman

Annie Agnew – Councillor

Sue Sayers – Councillor

Tim Wyatt – Councillor

Christine Delahunty – Councillor

Sarah Youldon – Clerk

A Britnor-Guest - Village Hall Committee

Apologies:

Mike Cooper – Councillor

Clive Hooker – Downland Ward Councillor

Minutes: The minutes of the July meetings were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Declaration of Interests: There were no declarations of interest.

Open Session:

Several parishioners had commented on the minutes not being published in the Brickleton News this month, Clerk explained that the decision had been made as the meeting was pushed back to the 20th and M Ananin had committed to publishing the Reliance Bus event information which didn't leave time for printing and distribution before the event on the 25th. PC confirmed this was a one off, and as usual draft minutes would be published on the notice boards and were always available on the Parish Website.

Village Hall Committee: Committee was pleased to report that bookings are now starting to increase with a number of regular users back from September. It was noted that the Reliance Bus would be outside the hall on Saturday – details have been published in the Brickleton News.

PCC/ASPIRE Update: Phase one work is complete with the kitchen and toilets now installed in the Church; the water is due to be connected in November. The new organ is also now in place and there have already been positive comments from passers-by during practice. Fundraising for the coordinator role is now underway, Clerk to forward the mailer to neighbouring Parish Councils for them to share with the community.

Matters Arising:

Brightwalton Hill Tree Planting: Clerk reported that it was difficult to find stock at a suitable size of the chosen ornamental cherry trees, enquiries were still being made. Chaddleworth PC confirmed that they had no issues with planting on where the land falls under their parish boundary. Highways have confirmed that trees need to be planted on the hedge line and the PC would be required to sign agreement confirming that they are responsible for ongoing maintenance. Clerk to request copy of contract and speak to the Oxford Diocese to seek permission to plant on the playing field boundary. **SY / SO**

Village Autumn Working Party: Provisional date of Sunday 17th October agreed. Note to go on website and Facebook, Councillors to personally approach neighbours and new families to the village. Agreed that cutting back and cleaning of the road signs in the parish was required and the white gates in the Holt needed clearing and cleaning. Clerk to organise walk around week before to agree working party job list.

All

Christmas Tree: Councillors agreed purchase of Christmas Tree for the Churchyard, Clerk to speak to Rev'd Miri Keen. £120 included in budget for the purchase, quotes still to be obtained. **SY**

Superfast Broadband coverage: Following conversations with West Berkshire Council and Gigaclear it had been confirmed that extending the current fibre would not be feasible under the original Superfast Project or with Gigaclear direct. T Wyatt had found that there is a government voucher scheme available that could potentially help cover the cost of extending the fibre to the south end of the village. Clerk to speak to Clive Hooker about other options. Agreed that next step would be a door drop to affected houses to judge potential interest in improving the offering. Enquiries to also be made with the Local Enterprise Partnership. **SY / TW**

Defibrillator Refresher Training: South Central Ambulance are currently unable to offer community training due to covid restrictions, Clerk to set up once their restrictions have been lifted.

Wildflower Sowing: Advisor from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxford Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) had been out and given guidance on ground preparation and sowing times. Corner of playing field will need to be cut and cleared during the working party and seeds sown in February. They advised that Dunmore Pond was a positive nature area and felt current management was suitable. For the Old Churchyard it was agreed that a 2-3 year plan would need to be put in place, to include regular cutting and removal of the nettles and ground ivy, before any planting of bluebells and snowdrops etc would be effective. It was noted that BBOWT are in the process of mapping all verges across the district with recommendations to follow on the management of all these. This should provide the PC with the opportunity to recommend more mowing on the verges where visibility is essential and comment on those that could be left as wildflower verges. **SY**

Cricket Nets: Update to follow from M Cooper. **MC**

Old Churchyard Wall: J Delahunty had agreed to lay capping stones on the lower wall as it stands now in exchange for the bricks that have been removed. Councillors all agreed this was a good solution. **Resolved**

Brickleton News November Articles: Working party write up, Village Christmas tree and the Christmas services. Responsibilities of the Parish Council and an insight into the work of the Clerk suggested. **Planning:** It was stated for the record:

21/01971/FUL –Nightingale Farm, Wantage Road, Leckhampstead - proposed replacement dwelling and new outbuilding. PC agreed a response of No Objections.

Finance: Balance of the Current Account as of 20/09 will be £3,115.15 Deposit Account £9,035.11. The following transactions had been made since the July Meeting:

- 02/08 BACS Scofell July Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT)
- 02/08 BACS Imprint £67.00 July Brickleton News
- 20/09 BACS Scofell August Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT)
- 20/09 BACS Imprint £90.50 Community Coordinator Flyers
- 20/09 BACS Imprint £67.00 September Brickleton News.

Clerk reported that the 2nd Precept payment of £3,550 was due in shortly.

It was agreed that the PC would not request a contribution from the Village Hall Committee for the mowing this year as bookings were only just starting to pick up.

It was noted that Scofell had apologised for getting behind with the playing field mowing, this has been due to staff shortages, and they are now caught up. VHC had enquired about extending the contract to include cut and collection for the area in front of the hall to reduce grass cuttings being brought inside the hall, Councillors agreed this would be too expensive.

CIL Funds & Budget: Clerk reported that there were £1,504.55 on CIL funds held, having used £525 to pay for the rubber chippings in the playground and £620 to deal with the Sycamore at Dunmore Pond (work scheduled for October). Confirmed that some of these funds would be used to purchase the trees for Brightwalton Hill. It was agreed that the £370.32 held and raised from pop up drinks would be put into the 2022 events – either the jubilee or a restart of the pop-up drinks. S Orpen & Clerk had reviewed budget and reported that day to day running costs were still being met by the precept with savings of around £11,000 to be carried forward. It was agreed that 2022/23 would be considered at the November meeting in preparation for setting of the precept in January.

Clerk Appraisal: S Orpen reported on the appraisal conducted in August. Last salary review was 2018; based on the new National Association of Local Councils pay scales, the consumer price index rises of the last 3 years and in reflection of clerk performance and the additional training conducted over the last 2 years, Councillors voted to increase pay to £2,574 per annum. Clerk demonstrated that on average the weekly hours were just over 4, with some weeks considerably higher. In recognition that the Clerk will also be overseeing the new Village Coordinator Role it was agreed that weekly hours would be increased to 4.5. Changes would take effect from the 1st September. Clerk to inform payroll administrators.

Any Other Business:

Local Plan Consultation: Clerk reported that the next stage of the Settlement Boundary and Local Plan Consultation had been delayed due to announcements from government on changes to the Planning Framework Policy. Expected that the public consultation will now take place early 2022.

Platinum Jubilee: Agreed that we should start planning events for 2022 –November agenda.

Some concern was raised about the loss of trees over time in the village, it was agreed that it would be useful to document and photograph the village as it is now, so the Parish Council can continue to monitor; it would also be a useful reference point in relation to planning in the village.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm
The remaining 2021 Meeting will be held: 8th November

Signed: S K Youldon 23rd September 2021

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