**Bovingdon Parish Council**

Meeting of the Outdoors Committee

held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

on

4 July 2018 starting at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:**

Councillor Alison Gunn

Councillor Julia Marshall

Councillor Ben Richardson

Councillor Julie Steer

Councillor David Stent (Chairman)

Councillor Adrian Watney

Councillor Pauline Wright

**Also present:**

Mike Kember, Parish Clerk

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|  | Prior to the start of the meeting, Councillor Dave Stent on behalf of the Parish Council presented a framed water colour painting by local artist Liz Hobson to Dave Wilder who retired as Village Warden at the end of June after nearly 13 years of service with the council. He was also given a bouquet for his wife Pat. |  |
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| **1.** | **Appointment of Chairman of the Outdoors Committee to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** |  |
|  | Councillor Dave Stent was nominated and appointed Chairman of the Outdoors Committee until the next Annual Meeting of the Council. |  |
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| **2.** | **Apologies for absence** |  |
|  | There were apologies for absence received from Councillor Graham Barrett. |  |
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| **3.** | **Declaration of Interests linked to any of the items** |  |
|  | There were no Declarations of Interest. |  |
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| **4.** | **Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2018** |  |
|  | It was agreed by those present at the meeting, that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2018 were a true representation of the meeting and were signed by Councillor Dave Stent. |  |
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| **5.** | **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2018 – not on the agenda** |  |
| **5.1** | **Vehicle damage to grass verge on Bovingdon Green** |  |
|  | This work has been completed to prevent further damage and the Parish Council has received a number of compliments from residents living nearby. |  |
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|  | The Parish Clerk was asked to raise with the Borough Council the possibility of putting a sign on the gate leading to the Green by the memorial plaque a ‘No parkin’ sign. | Parish Clerk |
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| **5.2** | **Maintenance of the Docks and pond on Bovingdon Green** |  |
|  | The Parish Clerk was asked to obtain a further quote for getting a larger digger to clear the pond on Bovingdon Green and to continue to look into the possibility of getting a grant for this work.  Councillor Barrett to follow-up with a contractor who may be able to repair the damaged section of railing around the Dock and to paint the railings once the repair is undertaken.  The Parish Clerk commented that following a conversation with Luke Johnson, Tree Officer at the Borough Council, that the council may get a request from the Herts Conservation Group to help with the pond maintenance as a project for them. | Parish Clerk  Councillor Barrett |
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| **5.3** | **Bovingdon Green – oak sapling** |  |
|  | Councillor Barrett to arrange for the plaque to be fitted. | Councillor Barrett |
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| **5.4** | **Highway issues** |  |
|  | Councillor Steer continues to report issues via the Herts Fault reporting service and to discuss various on-going matters with County Councillor Richard Roberts. Agreed that Councillors Steer and Stent will meet and agree a list of priorities to be forwarded to Councillor Richard Roberts for consideration from his Locality budget. | Councillors Steer / Stent |
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| **5.5** | **The former Bull Pub Sign, Chipperfield Road** |  |
|  | The Parish Clerk has sought informal advice on the condition of the sign and it was agreed that a further inspection should be arranged by either Herts Highways / Borough Council and an up to date condition report be made. In the interim, Councillor Steer will report this via the Herts Fault reporting service. | Councillor Steer / Parish Clerk |
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| **5.6** | **High Street – replacement of trees outside Archway / library** |  |
|  | Councillor steer reported that with the advice of Luke Johnson, Tree Officer at DBC it was agreed to replace the tree outside Archway with a Prunus Shirofugen (flowering cherry). Councillor Stent said that he would arrange for it to be watered when it was planted. | Councillors Steer / Stent |
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|  | Councillor Steer said that the Ladybirds had offered to replace the tree outside the Library. The Committee were appreciative of the offer but were concerned about the watering and maintenance of the tree (the previous one had died within weeks of being planted) and preferred to have the tree guard removed and the hole filled in. Councillor Steer to progress. | Councillor Steer |
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| **5.7** | **Proposed installation of a telecom cabinet** |  |
|  | The Parish Clerk had written to BT Open Reach giving approval to install a cabinet by the well above the Docks and had drawn attention to the fact that they would be advised to consult their legal advisor for clarification, as the Lord of the Manor has an entry on the ‘Charges Register’ as kept by the Land Registry (printed below). There has been no acknowledgement or further communication from BT Open Reach. |  |
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| **6.** | **2018-19 Budget – spend to 30 June 2018** |  |
|  | The RFO provided some indicative figures, which were noted. The Parish Clerk was asked to arrange for a detailed statement to be circulated prior to the next meeting. | Parish Clerk / RFO |
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| **7.** | **The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (P3) 2018 – 19 - grant application** |  |
|  | A grant of £1k has been received and used towards the cost of completing the resurfacing of the remainder of the footpath between Austins Mead and Bryant’s Nursery, Water Lane (Footpath 11). The work had received a number of positive comments. |  |
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| **8.** | **High Street Project update** |  |
|  | The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Lord of the Manor has agreed to remove the caution on the Borough owned land opposite Ameyzoo to allow the provision of some parking spaces. The next step is for the Borough Council to apply for permission to use the land from the Secretary of State as it is common land. The Borough Council has confirmed that the money will be ring fenced for the project. | Parish Clerk |
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|  | Agreed that a meeting of the High Street Project Group should be arranged to discuss this as there may be an overlap with the work being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning Group. | Parish Clerk |
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|  | Councillor Watney asked whether it would be possible to introduce a weight restriction for vehicles using the High Street as the situation is getting worse. Councillor Stent undertook to discuss this with County Councillor Richard Roberts. | Councillor Stent |
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| **9.** | **Bovingdon Parish 10K and Fun Run – Update** |  |
|  | Agreed not to include this on the Outdoors Committee agenda as regular updates are provided at Full Council meetings. |  |
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| **10.** | **Christmas Street lighting** |  |
|  | Councillors Gunn and Marshall reported that the fund raising appeal for the provision of Christmas lights in the High Street is going extremely well and so far £14k has been raised (incl. the Parish Council’s contribution of £5k, which was matched by an anonymous donation of £5k). It has been agreed with the contractor, Lamps & Tubes Illuminations Ltd. in Chesham that they will be able to switch on the lights at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 2 December 2018 to co-incide with the Christmas Street Fayre. |  |
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| **11.** | **Health & Safety** |  |
| **11.1** | **Pond on Bovingdon Green** |  |
|  | Following an incident last year, the Borough Council arranged for extensive testing of the water in the pond, and the results have all been satisfactory and the ‘warning signs’ have now been removed. |  |
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| **12.** | **Any other business** |  |
| **12.1** | **Watering of hanging baskets and tree on Bovingdon Green** |  |
|  | With the prolonged period of exceptionally hot weather and the Village Warden retiring, there have been problems maintaining the regular watering of the hanging baskets and planters outside the Memorial Hall, the garden around the Millennium Sign and the tree that was planted on the Green in 2017 with a grant from the Fields in Trust. There is a contract with DBC to water the tree but the frequency has not been sufficient. Various interim measurements to help were discussed and put in place. | All to note |
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| **12.2** | **BT telephone boxes** |  |
|  | Agreed to ask BT to remove the abandoned telephone boxes in Water Lane near to the former ‘Royal Oak Pub’ and in the High Street near the Memorial Hall. | Parish Clerk |
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| **13.** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  | To be arranged. Agreed meetings will be held on Wednesdays and start at 7.00 p.m. | All to note |
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|  | A resolution was passed in the following terms: |  |
|  | **Exclusion of the public**  Part II – That under S 4 (A) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded during the item(s) in Part II of the agenda for this meeting, because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to a contract. |  |
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| **14.** | **Replacement of the Village Warden** |  |
|  | Agreed to invite expressions of interest for the contract for the outsourced provision of a Village Warden. | Councillor Stent / Parish Clerk |
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|  | Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m. |  |
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