

Meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council

Held remotely via video conference

11 January 2021 starting at 7.15 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrett (Chairman)
Councillor Alison Gunn
Councillor Julia Marshall
Councillor Ben Richardson
Councillor Hugh Schneiders
Councillor Julie Steer
Councillor Dave Stent
Councillor Philip Walker
Councillor Pauline Wright

Also present:

Dacorum Borough Council Gbola Adeleke
Herts County Councillor Richard Roberts
Mike Kember, Parish Clerk
Dave Kirk, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)
Lisa Edwards, Assistant to the Parish Clerk

Press:

Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager

Representatives from the Village:

None

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Adrian Watney.	
2.	Declaration of Interests linked to any of the Resolutions There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Question Time There were no members of the public present.	
4.	Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020 Those Councillors present agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council held on 2 November 2020 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.	
5.	Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020	
5.1	Flooding in Green Lane The Parish Clerk had obtained a quotation from a private gully emptying company to clear the drains, etc. but after further consideration it was agreed that as this is a significant issue it will require further substantial investment from Herts County Council.	
5.2	Councillor Stent to contact Sunnyside Rural Trust to complete clearing the footpath.	Councillor Stent

5.3	<p>Parish Council organised events Agreed to organise the Scarecrow Festival in 2022.</p>	Councillors Stent & Wright
5.4	<p>Bench at Bus stop, top of High Street Councillor Roberts undertook to arrange for the seat to be relocated and the Parish Council will meet the cost of the work.</p>	Councillor Roberts
5.5	<p>Enforcement of parking restrictions Residents have expressed concern at the amount of illegal parking on the double yellow lines outside the Tesco Express and queried whether there is any enforcement being carried out. Councillor Richardson and the Parish Clerk to raise with the Parking Operations Officer at Dacorum Borough Council.</p>	Councillor Richardson / Parish Clerk
6.	<p>Crime Report Councillor Richardson is continuing to work with the police to try and get the format of the report changed to include more detailed information on reported crimes. There is some confusion as to whether they are all crimes or whether some are incidents. In the absence of a police representative, Councillor Richardson went through the crime report for December 2020 and expanded on some of the detail.</p>	Councillor Richardson
7.	<p>Neighbourhood Planning Councillor Marshall reported that the Steering Group was meeting on 12 January 2021. Unfortunately, no student has volunteered from West Herts College to produce a professional video of the team presenting the vision for Bovingdon' future, so it will have to be undertaken by the Steering Group.</p> <p>Anne Barrett has produced a wonderful presentation on behalf of the Community team and it is hoped that the format will be able to be used by the other teams namely, Business, Transport and Housing. It is anticipated that a draft document will be ready for consultation during February 2021. The Housing Group are progressing well with the design codes.</p> <p>A leaflet has been delivered to a number of households by Thakeham Homes regarding the Land off Louise Walk. Agreed that a statement should be produced in response to this.</p>	Councillors Barrett / Marshall
8. 8.1	<p>To receive and adopt the following Committee reports: Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12 October 2020 Resolved that the minutes of this meeting as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	
8.2	<p>Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 19 October, 2 November and 23 November 2020 Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	
9. 9.1	<p>Feedback from Chairman of Committees: Finance & General Purposes Committee Councillor Steer reported that the Committee had met on 16 December 2020 and the main item had been to discuss the draft budgets for 2021-22 and to recommend a precept. She also reported that the Council had received a National Lockdown support grant of £1,334 via Dacorum Borough Council in respect of the Memorial Hall.</p>	

	<p>The RFO presented the budgets and explained that due to several factors including, loss of Dacorum BC Grant, increased running expenses of IT and office technology including website costs, additional warden work, a provision for ad hoc events and inflation the Committee were recommending a precept increase of 3%.</p> <p>The three-year funding for the Christmas Street lighting has come to an end so it will be necessary to negotiate another contract for the provision of lighting as from December 2021. Agreed to have a meeting with our current provider.</p> <p>The Memorial Hall currently has an operating surplus of £2,369, which based on current income and expenditure will cover the cost of running the Hall until June 2021.</p> <p>9.1.1 Resolutions to be considered from the Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(a) That the Council approves the draft budgets for the Parish for 2021/2022 as set out in the attached papers. It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Marshall and resolved that the Council approves the draft budgets for the Parish for 2021/2022 as set out in the attached papers.</p> <p>(b) That the Council approves the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2021/2022 as set out in the attached papers. It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Wright and resolved that the Council approves the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2021/2022 as set out in the attached papers.</p> <p>(c) That the Council approves the proposed precept for 2021/2022 It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Walker and resolved that the Council will increase the precept for 2021 / 2022 by 3.0%. The precept figure (net of Council Tax Support Grant and Resilience grant) is £64,996. Based on current information, the Parish Rate for a Band D property will rise from £29.77 to £30.67 per annum, an increase of 89p per annum or 1.7p per week.</p> <p>(d) To note the External Auditors comments on the Council's completed AGAR Part 3 documentation It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Stent and resolved that the Council note the External Auditors comments on the Council's completed AGAR Part 3 documentation.</p> <p>(e) That the Council adopts the updated Parish Asset Register It was proposed by Councillor Steer and resolved that the Council adopts the updated Parish Asset Register.</p> <p>(f) That the Council approves the move to online banking with The Co-operative Bank in the new financial year, to be set-up May / June 2021 It was proposed by Councillor Steer and resolved to proceed to on-line banking with effect from 1 June 2021.</p> <p>9.2 Memorial Hall Management Committee Councillor Steer confirmed that the Memorial Hall is currently open to the Bovington Pre-school for children of key workers, NHS Blood and Transplant Service and the Child Health Clinic.</p> <p>9.3 Outdoors Committee</p>	<p>Councillors Barrett / Gunn / Parish Clerk</p> <p>RFO</p>
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	<p>Councillor Stent confirmed that Sunnyside Rural Trust has continued to carry out the contract for village warden services as normal despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19. The proposed works to the area in front of the Co-op is linked into the Dacorum Local Plan Emerging Strategy for Growth (2020-2038) and the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
9.4	<p>Personnel Committee Councillor Richardson reported that the Committee have had an initial review of several of the personnel policies and procedures and the current job descriptions. Another meeting is to be arranged for late January / early February 2021.</p>	Councillor Richardson / Parish Clerk
9.5	<p>Planning Committee The Committee has met three times since the last meeting of the Parish Council and considered 37 applications.</p>	
10.	<p>Health & Safety There was nothing to report.</p>	
11.	<p>Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation and Public Sector Surveys – for discussion The Parish Council is supportive of the document and has no comments to make.</p>	
12.	<p>Bovingdon Parish 10k – Sunday 5 September 2021 Councillor Steer reported that there is a meeting planned to take in place in February 2021.</p>	
13.	<p>Feedback from Claire Norton, the Council’s Representative on Bovingdon Primary Academy (BPA) In the absence of Claire Norton there was no report.</p>	
14.	<p>Feedback from Councillor Ben Richardson, the Council’s Representative on Community Safety Councillor Richardson reported that the volunteer activities are currently on hold although several of the Emergency Service Volunteers are available to help with COVID-19 activities.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Dacorum Borough Council to try and resolve the matter of a red Vauxhall van which has been abandoned for the past 8-9 months in two of the parking bays in Church Lane. At least seven reports have been registered on-line with the borough but with no action being taken.</p>	Parish Clerk
15.	<p>Feedback from Councillor Steer the Council’s representatives on the Bovingdon Community Library Due to COVID-19 the Library will remain closed until further notice.</p>	
16.	<p>Feedback from County Councillor Richard Roberts Councillor Roberts has Cabinet responsibility for Adult Social Care in Hertfordshire and is also Chairman of the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board reported on the serious problems being caused in the county for this sector of the community and the 33,000 care staff working in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The County Council is proposing a 2% increase in the general precept and 2% on the precept for Adult Social Care, although the budget still has to be approved by the full council.</p> <p>Councillor Roberts confirmed that the pavements in Nye Way, Rymill Close and Ryder Close are to be repaired in the 2021 – 22 budget.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Steer commented on the dangerous state of parts of Shantock Hall Lane and will send photographs and details to Councillor Roberts. She also mentioned that the junction of Green Lane and Bovingdon Green (the triangular piece of land) also needs attention.</p>	Councillor Steer
	<p>Councillor Wright commented on the poor quality of the surface dressing work undertaken at the lower end of the High Street. Councillor Roberts indicated that he was not aware of a possible issue and said that he would look into it.</p>	Councillor Roberts
17.	<p>Any other urgent business</p>	
17.1	<p>Use of Memorial Hall for COVID-19 vaccination programme</p>	
	<p>Councillor Richardson asked if the possibility of using the Hall as a vaccination centre for people in the village and surrounding areas could be investigated. Councillor Roberts said that in Dacorum all vaccinations are being dealt with at two sites in Maxted Road, on the industrial estate in Hemel Hempstead and at Robertson House in Stevenage. If residents had particular difficulties in assessing these centres, then alternative arrangements would be offered.</p>	
18.	<p>Date of next meeting</p>	
	<p>Monday 1 March 2021 to be held remotely via video conference starting at 7.00 p.m.</p>	All to note
	<p>The Council passed a resolution in the following terms:</p>	
	<p><u>Exclusion of the public</u></p>	
	<p>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 an individual:</p>	
19.	<p>To review private document</p>	
	<p>Agreed to adopt the revised protocol.</p>	
20.	<p>Bovingdon News</p>	
	<p>Agreed that Steph Farrer will take over responsibly for the production of the Bovingdon News and that the Parish Council will organise for them to be delivered to all households in the village.</p>	Parish Clerk
	<p>Meeting ended 9.00 p.m.</p>	