

**Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council**

**Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon**

**6 September 2021 starting at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillor Graham Barrett (Chairman)  
Councillor Alison Gunn  
Councillor Ben Richardson  
Councillor Hugh Schneiders  
Councillor Julie Steer  
Councillor David Stent  
Councillor Philip Walker  
Councillor Adrian Watney  
Councillor Pauline Wright

**Also present:**

The Mayor of Dacorum, Councillor Stewart Riddick  
Borough Councillor Gbola Adeleke  
County Councillor Richard Roberts, Leader of Herts County Council (HCC)  
Mike Kember, Parish Clerk

**Press:**

Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager

**Representatives from the Village:**

Five

1.	<b>To receive any apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.	
2.	<b>To receive any specific Declarations of Interest</b> Councillor Steer declared an interest in item 10.1.1 (v).	
3.	<b>Public Question Time</b>	
(3.1)	<b>Benches in High Street</b> A request was made for the front of the wooden benches at entrance to Old Dean and by the bus stop to be beveled off to make them more comfortable.  The Parish Clerk reported that the resident who had made the circular tree seat bench, which is located at the Memorial Hall has undertaken to repair and restore it for the Parish Council.	
(3.2)	Councillor Steer raised several queries on behalf of residents. <b>Footpath 31 leading from Newhouse Road</b> Can the missing kissing gate at the entrance to the footpath be replaced? The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Dacorum Borough Council.	Parish Clerk
	<b>Overgrown hedges in Newhouse Road</b> Despite reporting this several times to Herts Highways, the request keep being closed and no action taken. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Richard Roberts.	Parish Clerk
4.	<b>Signing of: Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 5 July 2021</b>	
(4.1)	Those Councillors present agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were a true	

	<p>representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes: –</b>  <b>Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 5 July 2021</b></p>	
(5.1)	<p>Parking in High Street  Councillor Stent confirmed that this issue will be considered as part of the Bovingdon Improvement Programme (BIP).</p>	
(5.2)	<p>Representatives on outside bodies  Bovingdon Primary Academy  In the absence of a replacement representative for Bovingdon Primary Academy the Parish Clerk was asked to contact The Principal.</p> <p>HMP The Mount  The Parish Clerk had contacted HACRO to nominate a representative for HMP The Mount and a member was supposed to be attending the meeting but had not arrived.</p> <p>Police representative  The Parish Clerk has contacted the police to ask if either the PC or PCSO could attend the meeting but neither had responded. It is understood that there have been some changes of personnel and the Parish Clerk was asked to contact Inspector Jeff Scott to see whether there could be a police representative at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 1 November 2021.</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.3)	<p>Planters in High Street  Agreed to proceed with the purchase of four planters to be sited on the forecourt of the Library to prevent unauthorised parking.</p>	Councillor Steer
(5.4)	<p>Replacement Litter Bins  The replacement of the remaining two open top litter bins outside Bovingdon Primary Academy and on Bovingdon Green with covered ones for hygienic reasons connected with the disposal of dog waste is still outstanding, despite Councillor Steer having progressed this matter with Dacorum BC.</p>	Councillor Steer
(5.5)	<p>Grant – HS2  The Parish Clerk has circulated details of the community grants available but the Parish Council is not eligible as HS2 does not affect the village.</p>	
(5.6)	<p>Replacement tree outside the library  Councillor Steer and the Parish Clerk are still progressing obtaining costings and permission from HCC.</p>	Councillor Steer / Parish Clerk
(5.7)	<p>Opening / closing of school gates on Saturdays  This is part of the contract with Sunnyside Rural Trust and will be raised with them at the next meeting.</p>	Councillor Wright / Parish Clerk
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Crime Report</b> - to receive report from Herts Constabulary  The crime figures for August have not yet been received. In the absence of a representative, Councillor Richardson reported on the figures for July, which show nine incidents of criminal damage caused to vehicles parked in Howard Agne Close.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan (NP)</b></p>	

	In the absence of Clare Norton, Chair of the Steering Group there was no report.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Co-option of new councillor to fill vacancy</b> Michael Foulds was welcomed to the council and will join the Finance & General Purposes and Memorial Hall Management Committees.  County Councillor Richard Roberts joined the meeting at 8.00 p.m.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>To receive and adopt the following Minutes:</b>	
(9.1)	Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting: <i>4 May 2021</i>	
(9.2)	Outdoors Committee meeting: <i>28 September 2020</i>	
(9.3)	Planning Committee Meetings: <i>(i) 7 June 2021 (ii) 5 July 2021 (iii) 26 July 2021</i> Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>To receive reports from the Chairman of Committees:</b>	
(10.1)	<b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b> Councillor Steer reported that the we will soon be starting the round of committee meetings to discuss budget requirements for 2022 – 23.	
(10.1.1)	Resolutions from Finance & General Purposes Committee:	
(i)	To approve the Council's Standing Orders It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Stent and resolved to approve the Council's Standing Orders.	
(ii)	To approve the Council's Financial Regulations It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Walker and resolved to approve the Council's Financial Regulations.	
(iii)	To approve the Council's General & Financial Risk Assessment It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Watney and resolved to approve the Council's General & Financial Risk Assessment.	
(iv)	To consider the award of a grant to the Bovingdon Cricket Club towards the cost of a replacement roller Agreed to award a grant of £400 to the Bovingdon Cricket Club towards the cost of a replacement roller	Parish Clerk
(v)	To consider the award of a grant to the Ladybirds towards the cost of four tables to be used at community events Agreed to award a grant of £436.80 to the Ladybirds towards the cost of four tables to be used at community events	Parish Clerk
(10.2)	<b>Memorial Hall Management Committee</b> Councillor Steer reported that it was quiet at the moment following the summer holidays.  A meeting has been held with the Bovingdon Pre-school regarding changes to their Hall bookings. From the middle of September until July 2022, they have extended their session from 13:00 – 15:30 in the Main Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays. This will be reviewed in April each year.  For many years the Pre-school have been given two hours free-of-charge to set up / down. With effect from January 2022 this will be reduced to one hour and from April 2022 the remaining hour will be removed. This is partially off-set by the reduced rental paid for the use of the office.	Councillor Steer / Parish Clerk

	<p>The Parish council ratified these changes.</p> <p><b>(10.3) Outdoors Committee</b> At the meeting held on 9 August Councillor Wright was elected Chairman.</p> <p>Councillor Wright reported that that Dacorum Borough Council has cut back the vegetation on a number of the footpaths in the village and that there is to be a meeting with Sunnyside Rural Trust on 7 September. It was also noted that Councillor Stent is liaising with Dacorum Borough Council about planting daffodil around the village.</p> <p>(10.3.1) Resolutions from Outdoors Committee:</p> <p>(i) To appoint the Bovingdon Improvement Plan (BIP) Steering Group Councillor Stent introduced this item and explained that it was proposed to establish two working groups. Namely, the Memorial Hall Working Group (MHWG) to oversee the redevelopment of the Memorial Hall and improved car parking facilities in village and the High Street Working Group (HSWG) comprising councillors and traders to oversee the improvements to the forecourt in front of the Co-op and other matters. Both groups will report back to the full council who will be the Bovingdon Improvement Plan (BIP) Steering Group. Agreed that Councillors Barrett, Richardson, Stent, Walker and Wright will be members of the MHWG.</p> <p>(ii) Agreed to appoint Councillor Stent as the Lead Councillor / Project Manager.</p> <p><b>10.4 Personnel Committee</b> There was nothing to report.</p> <p><b>10.5 Planning Committee</b> The Committee has met three times since the last meeting of the Parish Council and considered 27 applications.</p> <p><b>11. Health &amp; Safety</b> There was nothing to report.</p> <p><b>12. Report from the Council's Representative on outside groups / bodies:</b></p> <p>(12.1) <b>Bovingdon Parish 10 – 5 September 2021</b> Councillor Steer reported that the day had been successful. 203 people had registered to take part in the 10k but only 149 ran. 36 people entered the 3k. Richard Taylor who initiated this race on behalf of the Council has moved out of the village but returned to help. The results have been posted on the noticeboard outside the Memorial Hall and on the Parish Council's website. Agreed that more volunteers are needed to help with future events. The run next year will take place on Sunday 4 September 2022 and several people have already signed up to take part. Councillor Barrett thanked Councillor Steer and Richard Taylor for their hard work in organising the event.</p> <p>(12.2) <b>Bovingdon Primary Academy</b> In the absence of a representative there was no report.</p> <p>(12.3) <b>Friends of The Mount /HACRO</b> In the absence of a representative there was no report.</p> <p>(12.4) <b>Community Safety</b></p>	<p>Councillor Stent</p>
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	<p>Councillor Richardson reported that there have been several changes of personnel locally. PC Karl Diggins has left and replaced by PC Charles Dean O’Leary and the sergeant has left but not yet been replaced. The DriveSafe Campaign has been stopped after six years and the work of DriveSafe in the county is being reviewed and proposals are being made to ‘trial’ electronic speed detection equipment to monitor speeds (automated DriveSafe). These machines will be backed up with more enforcement of vehicles which exceed the speed limits. Agreed that Councillor Richardson will submit a funding bid to the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for one of these to be sited in the Chipperfield Road.</p>	Councillor Richardson
	<p>Refuse collection vehicles have been parked in the road leading to the school and the Parish Clerk was asked to write to Dacorum Borough Council about this.</p>	Parish Clerk
(12.5)	<p><b>Bovingdon Community Library</b> Councillors Steer reported that the library hours have been extended although they are still having to dealing with some COVID-19 restrictions. There is a need for more volunteers. There is still a need to engage with the bovingdon Primary Academy about the use of the building.</p>	
(12.6)	<p><b>Chilterns Conservation Board</b> Councillor Watney has been elected to the Board as the councillor representative for Hertfordshire and he is one of 27 members. His first meeting will be on 7 September.</p>	
13.	<p><b>The Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2 – 5 June 2022</b> Councillor Wright has formed a small committee made up of representatives from groups and organisations within the village. They have prepared an initial outline of a programme of events which was discussed and comments made. The programme will involve working with the churches and school.</p>	Councillor Wright
14.	<p><b>Any other urgent business</b> Councillor Barrett invited Councillor Roberts to report back on items marked for his attention from the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 July 2021:</p> <p>Flooding in parts of village Councillor Roberts confirmed that he has looked at the ‘dip’ outside HMP The Mount and thinks that it may require another drain.</p> <p>Councillors raised concerns about the flooding outside the St Lawrence Church Hall in Vicarage Lane, which is caused by blocked drains. Councillor Roberts confirmed that this has been chased.</p> <p>Shantock Hall Lane Councillor Roberts confirmed that detailed discussions have taken place regarding a scheme for two passing spaces.</p> <p>Trees in Nye Way This work has been completed.</p> <p>Bench at Bus stop at top of High Street It has previously been agreed that HCC would undertake this work and that the Parish Council will pay for it. Councillor Roberts to confirm exact location with Parish Clerk.</p>	<p>Councillor Roberts</p> <p>Councillor Roberts</p> <p>Councillor Roberts</p>

	<p>Howard Agne Close Concerns have been received from residents about the indiscriminate parking on the grass verges leading onto Howard Agne Close. Councillor Roberts suggested the possible creation of parking spaces to tidy up the area, although this may not resolve the problem.</p> <p>Rymill Close Councillor Roberts confirmed that he has spoken to the residents about the issue of 'melting' pavements following their resurfacing. There has not been any further deterioration. Negotiations are continuing. The damage was caused by a very heavy vehicle driving over them.</p> <p>Pavements in lower high Street (outside Fyfe's butchers) The resurfacing works carried out some months ago have not deteriorated any further.</p> <p><b>Refugees from Afghanistan</b> Councillor Roberts reported that there are 400 in the county at any one time. There is a website that people can access to make donations, etc. although they do not need any more clothing. <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/hertsrefugees">www.justgiving.com/campaign/hertsrefugees</a></p> <p>Chesham / Hempstead Roads Councillor Roberts reported that he was looking to make funds available to restore the footpaths on these two roads as they have become very overgrown and difficult to navigate in places.</p> <p><b>Christmas Street Lighting</b> The new contract has been signed for the purchase of Christmas lighting decorations for the next five years. The switch-on event this year will take place on Sunday 28 November 2021 at 5.00 p.m. outside the Memorial Hall. Councillor Watney to arrange for the High Street to be closed from Church Lane to Old Dean. It is hoped to arrange for refreshments and other stalls to be available on the evening. Our anonymous donor has agreed to provide 50% of the total cost. The Parish Council has made £5k available and the remainder will be found via local sponsorships. The application has been submitted for the Festive Lighting Licence.</p> <p><b>15. To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting:</b> Monday 1 November 2021 to be held in The Memorial Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>The Council passed a resolution in the following terms: 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:</p> <p><b>16. Sunnyside Rural Trust</b> Councillor Wright reported that there is to be a further meeting with Sunnyside Rural Trust on the 7 September to discuss the contract for the delivery of village warden services.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.</p>	<p>Councillor Roberts</p> <p>Councillor Roberts</p> <p>Councillor Roberts</p> <p>Councillors Gunn, Watney &amp; Wright / Parish Clerk</p> <p>All to note</p>
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