

Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council

Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

10 January 2022 starting at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present:

County Councillor Richard Roberts, Leader of Herts County Council (HCC)
Clare Norton, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Lisa Edwards, Assistant to the Parish Clerk

Press:

Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager

Representatives from the Village:

One

<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>(5.1)</p>	<p>To receive any apologies for absence There were apologies for absence received from Councillor Adrian Watney and Dacorum Borough Councillors Stewart Riddick and Gbola Adeleke and Mike Kember, Parish Clerk.</p> <p>To receive any specific Declarations of Interest Councillor Steer declared an interest in item 9.1.1 (d) Memorial Hall hire charges.</p> <p>Public Question Time There were no matters raised.</p> <p>Signing of Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 1 November 2021 Those Councillors present agreed that, subject to the following amendments: item 11.6 should read Thames Water not Affinity Water and item 5.12 refers to Hyde Lane not Rymill Close, the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting held on 1 November 2021 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.</p> <p>Matters Arising from Minutes: – Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 1 November 2021 Footpath 31 leading from Newhouse Road Clayton Rae, Footpaths Officer at Dacorum Borough Council, has informed the Parish Clerk that it does not meet the legal test to ‘obstruct’ a public right of way and, therefore is not the responsibility of Dacorum BC to replace. Councillor Steer suggested that the Parish Clerk contact HMP The Mount to see if they are able to help.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
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(5.2)	<p>Overgrown hedges in Newhouse Road</p> <p>This issue is ongoing and after discussion it was agreed that Bovingdon PC would provide Councillor Richard Roberts with an up to date list of all hedge/pavement issues around the village, so that any work can be included in the next programme of works. Cllr Wright confirmed that the cutoff date for work to hedges is the 15 February 2022, after which time no work can be carried out until later in the year. It was acknowledged that any work not completed before that date would be included in the 2022 - 23 Programme of Works. Councillor Wright agreed to ask the Parish Clerk to try again to find out who owns the stretch of land in question on Newhouse Road.</p>	Councillor Wright /Parish Clerk
(5.3)	<p>Representatives on outside bodies Bovingdon Primary Academy</p> <p>The Parish Clerk has written to The Principal of Bovingdon Primary Academy seeking a replacement representative, but no response received as yet. Parish Clerk to follow this up.</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.4)	<p>HMP The Mount</p> <p>It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact HACRO again in an effort to nominate a representative for HMP The Mount.</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.5)	<p>Planters in High Street/Library</p> <p>The four planters are now in situ outside the Library and have been planted up by Councillor Wright and all agreed that they are a great addition to the High Street. Councillor Richard Roberts added that he thinks they are “marvellous” and also took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Steer for her hard work with regards to the Library.</p>	
(5.6)	<p>Opening / closing of school gates on Saturdays</p> <p>The arrangements made by Sunnyside Rural Trust with Simmons are working well. Councillor Stent agreed to contact John Wood at Orbital Signs with regards to sourcing a sign for the car park advertising Saturday parking for villagers. Gary Cullum also agreed to promote Saturday parking at the school via the February edition of The Villager and also via the village Facebook page.</p>	Councillor Stent/Gary Cullum
(5.7)	<p>Unauthorised parking</p> <p>Refuse collection vehicles are still parking in the road leading to the school and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should write to Dacorum Borough Council about this again.</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.8)	<p>Highways matters Flooding in parts of village</p> <p>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>Councillor Roberts informed of delays caused by a shortage of drainage engineers, but that he will keep chasing to get the work completed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Shantock Hall Lane</p>	

	<p>Councillor Roberts confirmed that detailed discussions have taken place regarding a scheme for two passing spaces and has been included in the Locality budget for 2022 - 23.</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 asked Bovingdon PC to confirm exactly where the bench is to be moved to and then email Peter Wright, Hertfordshire County Council with the location, so that the work can be programmed. Councillor Roberts asked to be copied into the email to Peter Wright.</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. It was agreed that an up to date list of pavements needing resurfacing be circulated to Councillors and then, once agreed, discussions to take place with Councillor Roberts with regards to prioritising work in the 2022 - 23 budget. Councillor Roberts confirmed he would need this information within 2 weeks to ensure that it could be included in next year's budget.</p> <p>6. Crime Report Councillor Richardson gave an update on the crime levels in December 2021 and confirmed that they remain low in the village. Councillor Richardson also confirmed that Sergeant Smiley will attend the Parish Council meeting in March.</p> <p>7. Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Clare Norton, Chair of the Steering Group reported that progress has been made, albeit slowly. Clare confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with Dacorum BC on 11 January 2022 to discuss affordable housing - Meeting planned with Watford Community Housing Trust to discuss the plans for the five houses which have been built in the village - She has met with the developers of the Bobsleigh Hotel and can confirm that works will commence this year - Successful grant application to DLUC for £15,000 to be consultancy costs to redesign the High Street <p>Councillor Barrett thanked Clare for her continued work on the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk to continue to try to obtain some information from Chipperfield and Kings Langley Parish Councils who provide allotments.</p> <p>8. To receive and adopt the following Minutes: (8.1) Planning Committee Meetings: (i) 18 October 2021 (ii) 1 November 2021 (iii) 22 November 2021</p> <p>Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p> <p>9. To receive reports from the Chairman of Committees: (9.1) Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(9.1.1) Resolutions to be considered from the Finance & General Purposes Committee</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Councillors Steer & Stent / Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
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	<p>(a) That the Council approves the draft budgets for the Parish for 2022/2023 as set out in the attached papers. It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Stent and resolved that the Council approves the draft budgets for the Parish for 2022/2023 as set out in the attached papers.</p> <p>(b) That the Council approves the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2022/2023 as set out in the attached papers. It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Walker and resolved that the Council approves the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2022/2023 as set out in the attached papers.</p> <p>(c) That the Council approves the proposed precept for 2022/2023 It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Wright and resolved that the Council will increase the precept for 2022/2023 by 4.0%. The precept figure (net of Council Tax Support Grant and Resilience grant) is £68,527. Based on current information, the Parish Rate for a Band D property will rise from £30.67 to £31.90 per annum, an increase of 4%.</p> <p>(d) That the Council approves the revised Hall rental Charges from 1 April 2022 It was proposed by Councillor Foulds and seconded by Councillor Walker and resolved that the Council approves the revised Hall rental charges.</p> <p>(e) 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>(f) That the Council adopts the updated Press and Media Protocol It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that the Council adopts the updated Press and Media Protocol. It was also agreed that all future updated council documents will refer to the 'Chairman' as the 'Chair'.</p> <p>(9.2) Memorial Hall Management Committee Councillor Steer reported that the decorating works due to be carried out over the Christmas holidays have now been delayed until the Easter holidays. The repairs to the Clubroom door have also been delayed and will now be carried out during February half term. Councillor Steer also reported that the amplifier from the PA system in the Main Hall has been stolen. The Parish Office to contact Mike Aylward of the Bovingdon Players for his help in sourcing a replacement.</p> <p>(9.3) Outdoors Committee Councillor Wright reported that she is currently in discussion with Sunnyside Rural Trust (SRT) regarding budgets. Councillor Wright confirmed that she has applied for a grant from Hertfordshire County Council for a tree and if the application is successful she will then liaise with Luke Johnson of Dacorum BC with regards to a location for the new tree. Councillor Wright also confirmed that work is planned to cut back and clear away greenery on the footpath between Austins Mead and Bovingdon Green. Approximate costs £500.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
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	<p>Councillor Barrett asked if meetings for all Committees could be scheduled in for the year, so that Councillors can plan their diaries. Parish Clerk to schedule the dates and circulate.</p>	Parish Clerk
(9.4)	<p>Personnel Committee There was nothing to report.</p>	
(9.5)	<p>Planning Committee The Committee has met five times since the last meeting of the Parish Council and considered 45 applications. Councillor Walker expressed his concern at the deterioration in the quality of the planning applications that Bovingdon PC are receiving and the fact that their poor quality makes decision making challenging. The Parish Clerk to write to Dacorum BC Planning Department to see if this can be improved.</p>	Parish Clerk
10.	<p>Health & Safety There was nothing to report.</p>	
11.	<p>Report from the Council's Representative on outside groups / bodies:</p>	
(11.1)	<p>Bovingdon Parish 10 – 4 September 2022 Nothing to report.</p>	
(11.2)	<p>Bovingdon Primary Academy In the absence of a representative there was no report.</p>	
(11.3)	<p>Friends of The Mount /HACRO In the absence of a representative there was no report.</p>	
(11.4)	<p>Community Safety Councillor Richardson confirmed that he is hoping to receive confirmation from the PCC in January as to whether the Expression of Interest completed before Christmas has been successful and able to move to the next phase. Hopefully this will lead to a more permanent system of monitoring motorist's speeds on Chipperfield Road.</p> <p>Also, Councillor Richardson reported that, due to the success of the service provided by the Parish Marshalls at the Christmas Fayre, this has led to the Marshalls being invited to patrol with the PCSO's around the village and a recognition that they can provide a useful function in the safety of the village such as monitoring traffic and parking issues etc. Councillor Richardson asked for the support of the Parish Council going forward to develop this service and this was agreed. Councillor Steer did express concern about exactly what was involved and any administrative burden this may place on the Parish Office.</p> <p>Councillor Richardson confirmed that this would be minimal and that he would provide a schedule to the Parish Office once this had been completed. He also confirmed that a £100 budget would be required to cover costs per annum. Councillor Richardson stated that he is hopeful that there may be the possibility to recruit more volunteers to this role in the future.</p>	Councillor Richardson
(11.5)	<p>Bovingdon Community Library Councillor Steer confirmed that the library continues to operate under restricted hours and with COVID guidelines in place. There is a new Committee and some new volunteers although more volunteers are needed.</p>	

(11.6)	<p>Chilterns Conservation Board In the absence of Councillor Watney there was no report.</p>	
12.	<p>Bovingdon Improvement Plan (BIP) Working Group Councillor Stent confirmed that there was nothing to report and that he should have an update at the next meeting in March.</p>	
13.	<p>The Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2 – 5 June 2022 Councillor Wright reported that she has a meeting on the 13th January 2022 to discuss plans for the Jubilee and so is hoping to have an outline plan for the celebrations after that meeting. Councillor Wright also confirmed that the grant for the beacon had been received. Councillor Steer and Councillor Wright are also looking into the possibility of organising an afternoon tea event at the Memorial Hall on the 28th May, where they are hoping to involve members of the various groups in the village for the older generation. Councillor Steer is in the process of contacting each group to gain their involvement.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Gary Cullum will promote the fact that the Parish Council are willing to support local street parties by offering a grant. This will be dependent on number of attendees. The wording of the article to be agreed with the Parish Council before publication.</p>	<p>Councillors Wright & Steer</p> <p>Gary Cullum/Parish Clerk</p>
14.	<p>Switch-on of Christmas Street Lighting – Sunday 28 November 2021 from 4.00 – 7.00 p.m. Councillor Gunn circulated a paper setting out the feedback from the Street Fayre and switching on of the new Christmas Lights, which in general was very positive. All agreed what a successful and enjoyable event it was and Councillor Barrett congratulated Councillor Gunn and everyone involved for all their hard work in making the event such a huge success.</p> <p>Clare Norton agreed to provide Councillor Gunn with details of an online raffle ticket system.</p>	<p>Clare Norton</p>
15.	<p>Any other urgent business There were no items of any other urgent business.</p>	
16.	<p>To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting: Monday 7 March 2022 to be held in The Memorial Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>The Council passed a resolution in the following terms:</p> <p>Exclusion of the public</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>	
17.	<p>Overgrown Hedges Councillor Wright expressed her concern at how some of the hedges around the village are now so overgrown they are dangerous. This is causing pedestrians to walk in the roads, as the pavements in some parts of the village are inaccessible. As a result, with the help of Councillor Schneiders, she confirmed that she had received a quotation from Paul</p>	<p>Councillor Wright</p>

	<p>Empson to have some of the most dangerous hedges cut back. It was acknowledged by all that, even though it may not be the responsibility of the Parish Council, due to the serious nature of the problem it needs to be resolved as soon as possible. As a result all agreed that, with the exception of one item, the quotation was approved and Councillor Wright will contact Paul Empson and schedule the work as soon as possible.</p> <p>Councillor Walker also reported that he had received a quotation to have the wildlife signs by the pond on Bovingdon Green reprinted. It was agreed by all to accept the quote of £383.00 and Councillor Walker agreed to contact the contractor and also agreed to install the signs when complete.</p> <p>Following the success of the planters outside the library, it was agreed by all that Councillor Wright would source more planters for installation in other parts of the village.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Councillor Walker</p> <p>Councillor Wright</p>
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