

Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council

Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

7 March 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

Also present:

County Councillor Richard Roberts, Leader of Herts County Council (HCC)
Clare Norton, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Sergeant 2784 Stephen Smyley

Press:

Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager

Representatives from the Village:

none

Apologies:

Councillor Pauline Wright, Mike Kember (Parish Clerk)

1.	To receive any apologies for absence There were apologies for absence received from Councillor Pauline Wright, Mike Kember, Parish Clerk and Dacorum Borough Councillor Gbola Adeleke	
2.	To receive any specific Declarations of Interest none	
3.	Public Question Time Councillor Steer raised the issue of the footpath at the end of Bovingdon Green where the dog bin is sited. The footpath needs raising and widening, as it floods quite often and is a safety hazard for pedestrians. Councillor Richard Roberts asked for photos to be forwarded. Outcome - I think it would be a good idea to get the grass off the length of this path and as suggested perhaps raise this section slightly to keep laying water off it. Let me see if we can do this as part of local Highway work.	Councillor Richard Roberts
4.	Signing of Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 10 January 2022 Those Councillors present agreed the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting held on 10 January 2022 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.	
5. (5.1)	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	

	<p>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 can help.</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.2)	<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 yet. Parish Clerk to follow this up.</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.3)	<p>Opening / closing of school gates on Saturdays</p> <p>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 via the village Facebook page.</p>	Councillor Stent/Gary Cullum
(5.4)	<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>	Councillor Roberts
(5.5)	<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>	Councillor Roberts
(5.6)	<p>Bench at Bus stop at top of High Street</p> <p>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. Awaiting reply from Peter Wright</p>	Parish Clerk
(5.7)	<p>Chesham / Hempstead Roads</p> <p>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>	Councillor Roberts / Parish Clerk
6.	<p>Crime Report</p>	

	<p>Crime reported circulated prior to meeting. Crime figures remain low, although there is still a spike on occasion. Sergeant Stephen Smyley gave an overview of current staffing levels. PCSO Bardi Agallili has moved from Bovingdon to a new role in Tring. Currently there is no replacement PCSO.</p> <p>Either Sergeant Stephen Smyley or PC Dean Childs-O’Leary can be contacted. Parish clerk to provide meeting dates to Sergeant.</p> <p>Parish Clerk to write to the Police Commissioners office asking for an update on funding from the locality budget and the provision of a PCSO within the Parish</p> <p>7. Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Clare Norton, Chair of the Steering Group reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering group last met in mid-February. • We finalised the Action Plan, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving outdoor sports clubs facilities ○ De-emphasising the need for a link road to take traffic away from the village (it may be necessary if the village grows by the next plan 2038 onwards) ○ Extend the Conservation Area up to the top of the High Street • Dacorum’s Local Plan will now not be adopted until 2025, but this will not stop us from striving to adopt the NP by 2023 • We are chasing DBC to conclude the SEA screening which has not yet started and will further delay the NP from being finalised • CN is working proactively with the consultant Jacqueline Veater to conclude the aspects of the plan we can finish • The Community chapter will need review as the Airfield Control Tower is being refurbished and so will no longer need protection as a Heritage asset <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:</p> <p>8.1 Planning Committee Meetings: (i) 5 January 2022 (ii) 31 January 2022 (iii) 10 February 2022</p> <p>8.2 Outdoors Committee Meeting: 16 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:</p> <p>9.1 Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>9.1.1 Resolutions to be considered from the Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(a) That the Council approves the draft Parish Asset Register as previously circulated Proposer: Councillor Dave Stent, Seconder: Councillor Adrian Watney</p> <p>(b) That the Council approves the draft Memorial Hall Asset Register as previously circulated Proposer: Councillor Dave Stent, Seconder: Councillor Alison Gunn</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
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	<p>(c) The Council to note the approved 1.75% pay Award for staff for 2021-2022</p> <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> <p>9.2 Memorial Hall Management Committee</p> <p>(a) Councillor Steer reported that the decorating works due to be carried out over the Christmas holidays will now be completed in the Easter holidays, including repairs to the Clubroom door if time allows.</p> <p>(b) British Gas will no longer support business maintenance contracts. The Memorial Hall contract ends in April.</p> <p>(c) The Preschool have submitted a request to hire the Memorial Hall Monday-Thursday from 25 July - 1 September. No other requests have been made for bookings during the summer holidays, apart from regular hirers. The Council agreed to the bookings.</p> <p>(d) The Preschool have submitted a request to book the Clubroom Monday weekly between 1-3.30 as the Main Hall is unavailable. After discussion, as maintenance issues may have to take place during their booking and/or hall and fire alarm checks, the Council agreed to the booking.</p> <p>(e) The Council approved the new cleaning contract from 1/06/22-32/5/25 as per submitted tender.</p> <p>9.3 Outdoors Committee</p> <p>(9.3.1) In Councillor Wright's absence Councillor Stent proposed purchasing three additional planters from CIL monies to be located outside the school gates next to the Memorial Hall. After discussion it was agreed that two planters would be purchased.</p> <p>Sunnyside contract under review, we are now waiting a price. The outdoor committee voted to put in a watering system for the hanging baskets outside the hall. Rob Cassidy (DBC) will be supplying four hanging planters for the railings outside the library.</p> <p>(9.3.2) Councillor Steer proposed purchasing a new "Tommy" Standing Soldier to be located permanently around the library area. The old soldier will be used for village events, as becoming damaged due to constant relocations.</p> <p>(9.3.3) Councillor Steer proposed purchasing two poppy benches representing WW1 and WW2 to be located outside the library. Asked to provide a site plan and costings for consideration</p> <p>Clare Norton gave an update that they are hoping to demolish the Scout Hut by the end of March, this year.</p> <p>9.4 Personnel Committee There was nothing to report.</p> <p>9.5 Planning Committee</p>	<p>Councillor Steer</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Councillor Steer</p> <p>Councillor Steer</p>
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	<p>The Committee has met three times since the last meeting of the Parish Council and considered 10 applications.</p> <p>Councillor Steer has written to DBC for details on the April CIL payment.</p>	
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 Councillor Steer confirmed that all Councillors available for the 10k event (Fri-Sun) Councillor Walker and Watney joined the committee</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 (Louise Bandle) Email report dated 2/3/22 There is not too much to report to you on the visitor centre at HMP The Mount</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There is still only an hours visit 6 days a week. HACRO are present at the visitor centre for an hour and a half for each visit to greet and support visitors. 2) HACRO assist in ensuring that all visitors have a negative COVID test. People either present the NHS negative COVID app notification or we assist them with doing a test on entry. 3) PACT have restarted selling grab bags; they contain a drink and snacks that are consumed in the visits hall with their loved ones inside. 4) The visitor centre has just had a new floor put down. This looks much fresher and can be kept clean far more easily. 5) We still have not had notification that we can put out toys. We are going to reintroduce colouring for children to keep them entertained as they wait. 6) Lastly, we have 3 main staff at the visitor centre, 3 bank staff and 8 active volunteers. We generally have a staff member and a volunteer covering each session. <p>A bit of insight in to HACRO's role at The Mount currently.</p>	
(11.4)	<p>Community Safety Vehicle speed in Chipperfield Road We still wait for information on the commencement of the PCC's Road Safety Funded improvement work on village gateways and installation of an advisory 20mph zone for the school. These funds were approved following the 2018 Feasibility study of the B4505 Hempstead/Chesham Roads and the High Street/Chipperfield Roads. Cllr Richardson has progressed the work with the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership, supported by County Councillor Richard Roberts. There have also been meetings to progress these works between Simon Brown of the Road Safety partnership and the Police Commissioner. Cllr Richardson will be meeting a representative of the Police Commissioners office on 15th March to progress further. A new bid for Road Safety Funding has been submitted (7th March 2022) to the Office of the Police Commissioner for speed measuring devices to be</p>	

	<p>installed in Chipperfield Road. These will augment the improved village gateways and enhance the message that speeding is unacceptable.</p> <p>Parish Marshals Having been approved at the last Parish meeting, the Parish Marshal scheme has started with patrols conducted in January (3 patrols) and February (7 patrols). Total volunteer commitment being 41 hours. Initially patrols were carried out one or two times each week in morning or afternoon. In March this will be extended to mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Currently there are four volunteers with the aim to increase to a maximum of six. As a safety measure, volunteers will be trialling the use of radios for person-to-person communication. Generally, the volunteers have been well received with recognition of the new scheme being boosted by an excellent article in The Villager. Villagers have raised issues to the patrols which have been referred to the Parish Council or other appropriate authorities. Marshals have dealt with a variety of issues such as fly tipping, inappropriate parking as well as leaflet drops and raising awareness regarding a future High Street closure.</p>	
(11.5)	<p>Bovingdon Community Library Councillor Steer confirmed that the library continues to operate under restricted hours as more volunteers are required. The volunteers ran activities during half term and will advertise Easter events. Toddler Tales is a regular Monday event 3-3.15 and the Preschool visit twice a week. Waiting on a date for the school to return.</p>	
(11.6)	<p>Chilterns Conservation Board Councillor Watney confirmed there are four scheduled meetings a year. The government may confer national park status on the Chilterns, with possible boundary extensions as far as Chesham. They are looking for more funding and closely monitoring the HS2 and the river Chess.</p>	
12.	<p>Bovingdon Improvement Plan (BIP) Working Group Progress report circulated. The work will be done in stages not large pitches. Phase1 – enhance car park area - spoken with shopkeepers, the school has agreed for use of their front car park and Parish marshals will be around during the works assisting as required Phase2 – parking including feasibility study.</p>	
13.	<p>The Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2 – 5 June 2022 Councillor Steer, St. Lawrence Teatime and Bovingdon Lunch Club have arranged a Jubilee Tea Party at the Memorial Hall on the 28th May 2-4pm £5 per ticket. The Council agreed to provide £300 towards the event</p> <p>Additional jubilee bunting will be purchased to be hung from the Bovingdon sign and along the hedge at the front of the school.</p> <p>The Council will offer a grant of £50 to help fund local street parties, dependent on number of attendees. Policy and application to be completed</p>	<p>Councillor Steer</p> <p>Councillor Walker / Stent</p> <p>Councillor Steer</p>

<p>14.</p>	<p>Any other urgent business Concerns were noted regarding the conflict in Ukraine.</p> <p>Parish Clerk to write to Macdonalds Hotel owner of the Bobsleigh Hotel, to see if the hotel could be made available. Councillor Roberts would also write to them.</p> <p>A Ukrainian flag will be purchased and flown at the Memorial Hall.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting: Monday 9 May 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>16.</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>	
<p>17.</p>	<p>The Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2 – 5 June 2022 Discussion held on content for 2 June 2022. Poster created for event; email contact address needs to be corrected Plans for up to 250 classic cars at £7.50 per vehicle. Payment will be taken using Eventbrite which Gary Cullum will set-up. Need to identify volunteers for day of event. 5 Councillors are unavailable</p> <p>Meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.</p>	<p>Councillor Wright</p>