

Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council

Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

9 January 2023 starting at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

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

Also present:

Borough Councillor Stewart Riddick
Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager
Brad Gunn
Mike Kember, Parish Clerk
Dave Kirk, Responsible Financial Officer

1.	To receive apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Julie Steer and Adrian Watney and Borough Councillor Gbola Adeleke.	
2.	Specific Declarations of Interest There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Question time There were no questions raised.	
4.	Signing of Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 5 December 2022 Those councillors present agreed the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council held on 5 December 2022 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.	
5.	Matters Arising from Minutes: – Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 5 December 2022	
5.1	Dead cherry tree outside Archway Flats The Tree Officer at Dacorum Borough Council is aware of this and arrangements are being made for it to be replaced at the appropriate planting time. In addition, two more flowering cherry trees are being planted on the other side of this area.	Councillor Wright
5.2	Opening / closing of school gates on Saturdays Councillor Stent to order two A-boards, which could also be used to advertise other events. Also agreed that the Parish Clerk would investigate other options to facilitate the opening and closing of the school gates on Saturdays.	Councillor Stent / Parish Clerk
5.3	National Pay Settlement for 2022 / 23 for local government employees The Parish Clerk confirmed that the award had been implemented.	
6.	Crime Report The crime figures to 31 December 2022 had been previously circulated. Councillor Richardson has met with PC Dan Stevens to discuss the format	

	<p>of the information and although some minor changes have been made, there are still further improvements to be made.</p>	
7.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan (NP) In the absence of Clare Norton, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, the Parish Clerk read out an update prepared by Clare.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Reg 14 consultation begun on 5th January 2023 with the NP published on the Parish Council website. The Parish Office has sent consultation emails to all statutory parties, businesses and community groups. Summaries have been delivered to every house in the parish – 70% of them by 1st Bovingdon Scouts as it was not possible to get a delivery service to do so within our timeframe. 2. The Consultation Statement (the last document) is being refined for the website and evidence needed of the processes that have been gone through. 3. The Open Event will take place from 11:00 on 22nd January, and is being publicised on social media. Over the coming week, Clare will organise some preparation with the Steering Group covering questions that may be asked. 4. Clare will coordinate feedback from the online form with the Parish Office as feedback from the statutory consultees is received. 5. Once the consultation ends on 17th February, Clare will report back to a meeting of the Parish Council and update on changes to be made to the NP. 	
7.1.1	Agreed to pay the 1 st Bovingdon Scouts £200 for delivering the NP summaries.	Parish Clerk
8.	<p>To receive and adopt the following Committee minutes:</p>	
(8.1)	<p>Planning Committee Meeting: (i) 28 November 2022 Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	
9.	<p>Feedback from Chair of Committees:</p>	
(9.1)	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee Councillor Richardson gave a summary of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 and highlighted that it had been agreed to set up a group of councillors / representatives of the Memorial Hall Management Committee review the method of calculating hire charges and make recommendations. The group will include Councillors Richardson, Stent and Walker and the Parish Clerk and the RFO.</p> <p>Councillor Foulds arrived at 7.50 p.m.</p> <p>The RFO presented the budget papers for 2023 – 24 and explained that the increase was mainly due to increased staffing costs via the National Pay Settlement for 2022 / 23 for local government employees and the additional costs involved in employing the replacement Parish Clerk, that is, pension and NI payments. The Committee had therefore, proposed to increase the precept by 15%. The parish continues to remain in the middle range of the precept league tables for Hertfordshire.</p>	Councillor Richardson / Parish Clerk
(9.1.1)	<p>Resolutions to be considered from the Finance & General Purposes Committee</p>	
(a)	<p>That the Council approves the draft budgets for the Parish for 2023/2024 as set out in the attached papers.</p>	

	<p>It was proposed by Councillor Stent, seconded by Councillor Wright and resolved that the Council approves the draft budgets for the Parish for 2023/2024 as set out in the attached papers.</p> <p>(b) That the Council approves the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2023/2024 as set out in the attached papers. It was proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Foulds and resolved that the Council approves the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2023/2024 as set out in the attached papers.</p> <p>(c) That the Council approves the proposed precept for 2023/2024 It was proposed by Councillor Schneiders, seconded by Councillor Richardson and resolved that the Council will increase the precept for 2023/2024 by 15.0%. The precept figure (net of Council Tax Support Grant and Resilience grant) is £78,411. Based on current information, the Parish Rate for a Band D property will rise from £31.90 to £36.68 per annum, an increase of £4.78 per annum.</p> <p>(d) That the Council approves the revised Memorial Hall hire charges to take effect from 1 April 2023 This has been deferred pending the report of the Working Group.</p> <p>(e) To note the External Auditors comments on the Council's completed AGAR Part 3 documentation The RFO explained that the comment received was because on the Council's documentation, the day after the Parish Council meeting had been entered whereas it should have been the day before the meeting. This Council noted the External Auditors comments on the Council's completed AGAR Part 3 documentation.</p> <p>(9.2) Memorial Hall Management Committee There was no report.</p> <p>(9.3) Outdoors Committee Councillor Wright gave an update on the meeting that had taken place on 5 December 2022 and highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Millennium Sign has been refurbished by Marc Jarman • 40,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted along the boundary of the Airfield with the Chesham Road and in the 'dip' into the Leyhill Road • A wildflower area has been planted on the grass verge opposite Mountbatten House and in front of Dudley Close • On-going review of contract with SRT • There are approx. 300 road, street signs which need cleaning in the parish and quotes for this are being obtained. Some signs need vegetation to be cut back from them. • The zig-zag lines outside the Primary Academy need re-painting. These were damaged when the drainage works were undertaken in November 2022. • Arrangements are in hand to repair the Speed Indicator Device on the Hempstead Road • Village gates – agreed that Councillors Schneiders and Walker will repair and paint them. <p>Councillor Richardson provided an update on the Road Safety Fund Award, which was approved in 2019 from the Police & Crime Commissioner's</p>	<p>Councillors Schneiders / Walker</p>
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	<p>budget. The Parish Council has expressed concerns at the delay in implementing the work associated with this award which is due to capacity issues at Herts Highways. There has been on-going liaison with the PPC and Councillor Richardson on behalf of the Parish Council who understands that some of the original proposed works from the feasibility study are not within the suggested way forward. The PCC are meeting with Herts Highways to discuss these concerns and to find a way forward in terms of works that can be carried out.</p> <p>Herts Highways have indicated that they are likely to commission a third party to carry out these (and other delayed Road Safety Grant projects) due to capacity issues. It may be that consideration will need to be given to re-phasing the original grant award works and the more recent on-hold ViaCam Speed Monitoring System bid as it may be easier/quicker to achieve the ViaCam installation sooner than the works can take place. Councillor Richardson will keep the Parish Council informed.</p> <p>(9.4) Personnel Committee There have been no further meetings of the Committee. The vacancy for the post of Parish Clerk is currently being advertised in The Bovingdon Villager.</p> <p>(9.5) Planning Committee The Committee has met twice since the last meeting of the Parish Council and considered 13 applications.</p> <p>10. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) A further meeting has been arranged to consider the allocation of CIL funding on 24 January 2023.</p> <p>11. Bovingdon Improvement Plan (BIP) Working Group Councillor Stent reported that the council is working with Dacorum Borough Council on the introduction of parking controls outside the area in front of NISA and has agreed to meet 50% of the cost. Further work on plans for the Memorial Hall are on hold.</p> <p>12. Report from the Council's Representative on outside groups / bodies: (12.1) Bovingdon BP10 In the absence of Councillor Steer, the Parish Clerk reported that there had been an overall loss of £702.74 on last year's run. There were several reasons including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased medical support - £456 • EU Brexit UPS cost for medals - £ 65.31 • There was a fewer number of runners, as the London Marathon date had moved and runners were doing long distance runs instead. <p>Councillor Steer has been in contact with the Football Club to follow-up their expression of interest to take over responsibility for organising the event in future years. The Parish Council would continue to assist. A meeting is being arranged to process this.</p> <p>(12.2) Bovingdon Community Library In the absence of Councillor Steer there was no report.</p> <p>(12.3) Chilterns Conservation Board In the absence of Councillor Watney there was no report.</p> <p>(13) Health & Safety</p>	<p>Councillor Richardson</p> <p>Councillor Steer</p>
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	<p>There was nothing to report.</p>	
<p>(14)</p>	<p>Coronation of King Charles III - Saturday 6 May 2023 / Monday 8 May 2023 A letter has been received from Bruno Peeke the Pageant Master informing councils that beacons are not to be lit on this occasion and indicating that the coronation will be a more low key out of respect for the passing of HM The Queen. The next occasion that beacons can be officially lit is to recognise the 80th anniversary of D-Day in 2024. In the circumstances it was agreed not to hold any council organised event to mark the coronation.</p>	
<p>(15) (15.1)</p>	<p>Any other urgent business Classic Car Show – 9 July 2023 A small group, chaired by Gordon Bettis is looking into running this event, which may take place on the King George V Playing Field.</p>	
<p>(16)</p>	<p>To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting: Monday 6 March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.- to be held in The Memorial Hall, Bovingdon</p> <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 a contact:</p>	
<p>(17)</p>	<p>Sunnyside Rural Trust Further discussions are taking place regarding the contract and how the various areas of work can be undertaken more effectively. It may be that certain specialist works will need to be tendered for e.g. maintenance of the pond on Bovingdon Green.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.</p>	