

Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council

Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

2nd September 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrett (Chairman)
Councillor Nic Leon
Councillor Hugh Schneiders
Councillor Julie Steer
Councillor David Stent
Councillor Philip Walker
Councillor Pauline Wright

Also present:

Herts County Councillor Richard Roberts, Parish Clerk

Press:

1

Representatives from the Village:

59

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1	<p>To receive apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Watney, Councillor Foulds, Borough Councillor Riddick & Borough Councillor Adeleke.</p>	
2	<p>WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE Councillor Watney (SEC.85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972). Agreed by all Councillors present and signed by Chairman.</p>	
3	<p>Specific Declarations of Interest Councillor Julie Steer declared an interest in 11.1.2 to consider the award for a £500 grant to Bovingdon Community Library for the purchase of stacking chairs for event use.</p>	
4	<p>Councillor Address Parish Council Chairman Graham Barrett made a presentation in which he gave a brief insight into the work of the Parish Council and the motivation of Parish Councillors. Councillor Phillip Walker then spoke about why the decision had been taken to introduce parking restrictions in the forecourt of the Memorial Hall and why these restrictions were vital for the future of the hall and the groups that are run there.</p>	
5	<p>Public Question Time There was a general discussion between the Councillors and members of the public about the decision to enforce the parking restrictions on the Memorial Hall car park.</p>	
6	<p>Signing of Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 24th June 2024 Those Councillors present agreed the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June 2024 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.</p>	
7	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 24th Jun There were no matters arising.</p>	
8	<p>Crime Report The crime report was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.</p>	
9	<p>Neighbourhood Plan (NP) A referendum was held on 13th June 2024. The Plan was successfully approved as 90.8% of respondents voted in favour. The Plan was formally adopted by Dacorum Borough Council on the 17th July 2024. The Council would like to thank all the committee and volunteers for all their hard work over the whole process. Particular thanks to Julia Marshall and subsequently Clare Norton for chairing the steering group.</p>	
10	<p>To receive and adopt the following Committee minutes:</p>	
10.1	<p>Planning Committee Meetings: (i) 3rd June 2024, (ii)24th June 2024, (iii)15th July 2024, (iv)5th August 2024 (v)19th August 2024. Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	
10.2	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee (i) 1st May 2024, (ii) 7th August 2024 Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	

11	Feedback from Chair of Committees:	
11.1	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(11.1.1) To consider the award of an £80 grant to the fundraising Santa event for hall hire and deposit. All present were happy to award the grant.</p> <p>(11.1.2) To consider the award for a £500 grant to Bovingdon Community Library for the purchase of stacking chairs for event use. All present were happy to award the grant.</p> <p>(11.1.3) It was proposed by Councillor Steer and seconded by Councillor Stent that the Council adopts the updated - Policy for the Award of Grants</p> <p>(11.1.4) It was proposed by Councillor Steer and seconded by Councillor Stent that the Council adopts the updated - BPC Grant Application Form</p> <p>(11.1.5) It was proposed by Councillor Steer and seconded by Councillor Walker that the Council adopts the updated - Press and Media Policy</p> <p>(11.1.6) It was proposed by Councillor Stent and seconded by Councillor Walker that the Council adopts the new - Flag Flying Policy</p> <p>Councillor Steer discussed that as part of the approval of its 2024/25 budget, Dacorum Borough Council identified a savings requirement of £3.9m over the next four years. Dacorum pays around £0.25m to parish and town councils in the borough to support the delivery of warden services and concurrent services, such as grounds maintenance. These are activities valued by local people. The Parish Council has been asked by Dacorum to provide it with information on the implications for service delivery if these grants were to reduce or cease.</p>	
11.2	<p>Memorial Hall Management Committee</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	
11.3	<p>Outdoors Committee</p> <p>There has been no meeting of the committee however Councillor Wright wanted to thank Councillor Schneiders & Councillor Graham Barrett for repairing the damaged rail at the Docks. Councillor Wright is going to speak with Jarmans about a possible refurbishment of the Docks area.</p> <p>The planter from outside the school is to be relocated to outside the Archway flats to help with safety concerns due to unlawful parking across the lowered kerb.</p> <p>The Council has been informed by the woodland trust that six trees on Bovingdon Green need to be taken down due to ash dieback disease. Also a large oak tree needs pollarding. The cost of replacing these trees would be £300-£800 per tree. Councillor Steer has asked if the Council would consider funding. County Councillor Richard Roberts said he will be happy to support a new tree.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Wright told the meeting there had been positive responses to the hanging baskets in the High Street.</p>	
11.4	<p>Personnel Committee Nothing to report</p>	
11.5	<p>Planning Committee The planning committee has considered 23 new planning applications since the last full Council meeting. There was a presentation given by BSR energy about their proposed new solar and battery development on land at Pudds Cross. There will be a public consultation running from 9th September to the 6th October. As part of this consultation they will be holding a drop-in session on Monday 23rd September between 4-8pm at the Memorial Hall. The planning meeting due to be held on this date has been rescheduled for the 7th October.</p>	
12	<p>Report from the Council's Representative on outside groups / bodies: HMP The Mount Councillor Leon reported that there is a new governor at The Mount and this has improved staff-prisoner relations and a much-improved regime with the prisoners spending more time out of their cells. However, The Mount is still overcrowded and many prisoners are being doubled up in cells designed for one person.</p>	
13	<p>Bovingdon Community Library There is nothing major to report from the Library, however Councillor Steer advised that more clubs are running. A new singing group is due to start on the 12th September from 7.30-8-45. Councillor Steer also says the Monday Lego Club has been a huge success and would like to thank everyone who has donated Lego and board games.</p>	
14	<p>Chilterns Conservation Board No representative present</p>	
15	<p>Bovingdon Primary Academy Councillor Leon is arranging a meeting with the School in the next couple of weeks so will hopefully have a report for the next Council meeting.</p>	
16	<p>Bovingdon Improvement Plan (BIP) Working Group Councillor Stent had nothing to report.</p>	
17	<p>Christmas Lights & Street Fayre Unfortunately, the decision has been made that due to lack of volunteers there will be no street fayre this year. In consequence, the Christmas lights will be switched on earlier, from the 15th November until early January.</p>	
18	<p>Councillor Vacancy After the resignation of Councillor Gunn there is now a vacancy for a new Councillor. Councillor Barrett thanked Councillor Gunn for all her hard work whilst serving as a Councillor particularly the work Councillor Gunn and her husband have done for the Christmas Fayre. Councillor Barrett also took the opportunity to tell the members of the public the Council welcomes applications and there was a form available to leave details if anyone was interested in becoming a Councillor.</p>	

<p>19</p>	<p>Donation of Defibrillator by Carla Homes Carla Homes have offered to donate a new Defibrillator for the village. This would entail continued running costs which the Council would be happy to accept. The Halfway House landlords have kindly said they are happy for the defibrillator to be sited at the pub. County Councillor Richard Roberts said he will speak with Carla Homes to see if they will fund the running costs for the next 10 years.</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p>The Docks – damaged rail The rail has been fixed by Councillor Schneiders and Councillor Barrett.</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>Watering of planters outside Jarmans This item has now been closed.</p>	
<p>22</p>	<p>Any other urgent business It was agreed that the social media presence of the Parish Council needs to be improved. A Communications Working Group has been set up and there will be a meeting to discuss how the Council should move forward. The working group members are: Councillor Dave Stent, Councillor Mike Foulds, Gemma Coventry, Gary Cullum and Stephen Rawlins.</p>	
<p>23</p>	<p>To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting: Monday 4TH November 2024 at 7.30 p.m. to be held in the Memorial Hall</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9:42 p.m.</p>	

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