

BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 03 November 2020 via Zoom

Present:	Cllr Jan Lucas	Chair of the Parish Council
	Cllr Sam Baker	Vice Chair of the Parish Council
	Cllr Bob Powell	
	Cllr Joanne Shattock	
	Cllr Jim Roberts	
	Cllr Win Nwachukwu	
In attendance:	Cllr Pam Redford	Warwick District Council
	Cllr Wallace Redford	Warwickshire County Council
	Mr Doug Evans	Parish Clerk

Three members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Trevor Wright (WDC) and PCSO Underwood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Baker declared an interest in Planning Application W/20/1245 and would withdraw from the meeting when necessary.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There remained one vacancy. Cllr Powell reported that he had asked all volunteers in case they were interested but had received no positive responses.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 07 OCTOBER 2020 AND THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2020

These were confirmed and would be signed when social distancing permitted.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

i. Spout/trough – To consider estimates to rectify contamination and onward maintenance options

The Chair reported that Tony Sproul had obtained a second estimate for the work from B A Hull Ltd in Moreton in the Marsh. This equated to £1425 + vat to carry out the installation of a UV steriliser system in the underground chamber to sterilise the existing borehole water. The annual service agreement for the system was £320 + vat. Smiths Concrete had kindly offered to fund 50% of the installation and 50% of the annual fee, so long as the company remained in the village. It was agreed unanimously to proceed with the proposal and the Clerk agreed to contact Tony Sproul to inform him to proceed with the work. The Clerk would also write to Smiths to thank them for the contribution.

ii. Design of memorial plaque

It was agreed to proceed with the plaque with the matt finish. The Chair would discuss this Tony Sproul.

iii. Stile by Riverside footpath

The Chair reported that he had spoken with Jill Green and the Riverside Management Committee and Jill had confirmed that she would be happy for the stile to be replaced by a kissing gate. Tony Cox had spoken to the local footpath group about WCC supplying and installing the gate but Bubbenhall paths were now managed by the Coventry group. Tony had agreed to progress this with them.

iv. Gateway South update

There was nothing much to report on this item for the fact that the Chair was still chasing Mick Gilhooly about the road signs. The next meeting with Segro was scheduled for 16 December. Cllr Shattock commented on the removal of hedges in front of Alvis and it was agreed that this would be raised at the meeting in December.

Cllr Roberts questioned the weight limit on the local bridge and Cllr Wallace Redford confirmed that the bridge had been tested to 40.5 tonnes. Blue weight limit signs were also still in place.

v. VE Day memorial bench update

Cllr Baker confirmed that the bench was being installed on 07 November and that it was hoped that a small ceremony would be held on 08 November. The Chair agreed to confirm arrangements with Margaret Robinson and share the plans with villagers.

vi. Pedestrian crossing update

Cllr Wallace Redford confirmed that he was progressing the proposed work with WCC.

vii. Trees at top of Orchard Way

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Jason Thombs, the WCC Arboriculturist, with regards to the work but had not heard back. The Chair added that another resident had reported an issue with a tree further down the road. Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to look into this as it was a highways responsibility. Cllr Baker suggested contacting the company recently used, Beechwood, to check for safety but the Chair confirmed there were no issues in this regard. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Beechwood to arrange for an inspection and an estimate for work on the Parish owned trees in Orchard Close.

6. POLICE REPORT

The Chair gave a brief overview of the report that had been received by email that day and the Clerk agreed to forward it to all Councillors.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

It was reported that Warwickshire had not been selected for the review shortlist and that three other counties would be involved. A working party was going to be set up and there would be workshops for town and parish councils. Cllr Shattock questioned whether it was worth being involved in such matters if Warwickshire was not on the list.

Cllr Wallace Redford explained that it would some time before and changes were made, if at all, but felt that parish councils would be the most affected, regardless of the type of unitary authority followed. It would therefore be good to view the consultation experiences of the three shortlisted counties and study the white paper when it was published.

8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Pam Redford reported the following items in relation to WDC:

- The Environment Agency correspondence in relation to Gateway South had been circulated
- WDC remained in constant communication with Buckingham
- Information on further business grants was pending
- WDC was reviewing the hours that model planes could be used on St Mary's
- Western Power was planning on extending its grant window because of recent problems in the area
- The last submission date for nominating a local sporting hero was very soon

Cllr Redford was thanked for her report.

Cllr Wallace Redford reported the following items in relation to WCC:

- Various relevant updates were always sent out via email
- Free school meals would be continuing over the Christmas holiday period
- Used WCC laptops were being recycled and given to 1500 children
- Some WCC issues were taking longer to resolve because of lockdown and staff working from home or on part-time hours

Cllr Redford was thanked for his report.

9. FINANCE

Councillors received and noted the previously circulated list of payments made by the Clerk under the delegated powers detailed at the meeting on 24 March.

10. COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIPS

Cllr Baker introduced this item and explained that a BT scheme was in place where a group of residents could form a small community group and part fund the installation of fibre broadband in a certain area. It was felt that this was a good idea, especially as good broadband would be needed more in the future with more people expected to continue working from home. Cllr Powell suggested that, as a Parish Council, we should know more about timescales for BT's scheduled normal broadband installation programme. The Clerk agreed to contact BT to see if there was any information available, and to see if they could answer why there was broadband in some parts of the village, but not others.

11. OAK TREE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

Tony Sproul had reported that some chunks had fallen from the tree and had suggested it be removed. The Chair gave an overview of advice previously given by the arboriculturist that the tree was safe to remain, although it was acknowledged that it had no aesthetic appeal. Cllr Shattock commented that it was quite common to see dead trees being left and not felled. Cllr Roberts felt that whatever happened to the tree itself, it would be good to preserve the sapling that appeared to be growing from the root.

It was agreed to ask Beechwood for an estimate for removing the dead branches at the crown when they were in the village looking at the Orchard Way trees.

12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

In response to a request from Tony Sproul, it was agreed that the usual Christmas lights in the village would be installed and switched on. Although an event for this would not be possible because of social distancing, it would be suggested that viewing should take place in family groups. The switch-on would take place on 06 December and villagers would be asked to synchronise household light switch-ons at a predetermined time. Cllr Baker added that the pub might also be able to open by that date. The Clerk agreed to inform Tony Sproul to proceed with arrangements.

13. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

i. Quiet Lanes

The Chair reported that the Highways Department was willing to carry out a survey on the proposed lanes but that this would cost £500. The results from the survey might not need to be followed but there would be options that could be costed. Cllr Wallace Redford suggested that funding for these options might be available they were deemed to be in the interests of road safety. Bubbenhall Road and Padgets Lane were still felt to be the best choices for consideration. Cllr Powell agreed that the survey would be a good way to progress the initiative. Cllr Shattock agreed with the plans but was irritated that there was a charge for the survey.

After discussion, it was agreed unanimously that the Highways Department would be asked to carry out the survey and the Clerk would action this request.

Cllr Powell added that the 30mph roundels were still waiting to be renewed and that speeding on Pit Hill would be a Police focus over the coming months.

14. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

i. Village shop

A request had been received from a resident asking the Parish Council to consider having a community shop and Post Office in the village. General views of Councillors were that this had been tried before and a new venture would not be well supported. The first issue would be finding suitable premises. After reminiscing about the days when there was a shop in the village, it was agreed that this was not an option for the current time. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident concerned to inform them of the decision, but with the suggestion that they could carry out a feasibility study themselves if they felt strongly about the need for a shop.

Cllr Baker withdrew from the meeting at this point.

15. PLANNING

i. W/20/1245 – Second storey side extension and remodelling of existing dwelling at 8 Waggoners Close, Bubbenhall, CV8 3JE

Cllr Powell commented that the main difference in this application to the previous one was the slightly lower roof to the side. However, the domineering frontage would still make the property significantly different to other houses in the street. Frustratingly, the plans still did not show the correct boundary lines. Cllr Powell added that it was difficult to see how the Parish Council could not object on the same reasons as before. One of the members of public present explained that the drawings he had submitted had not yet been uploaded to the planning portal but this had been done in the past. These would illustrate the fact that the second storey was only 1m from the boundary and the plans would see a 43-46% increase in the footprint of the building against the guide of a 30% maximum.

It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council would submit an objection based on the above reasons. Cllr Powell agreed to draft a letter for the Clerk to upload to the planning portal.

Cllr Baker re-joined the meeting.

16. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND

i. Play equipment survey

Cllr Baker reported that she would be discussing the list of items requiring attention with Chris Goddard and she would be arranging for some more issues to be addressed.

A survey had been drafted in relation to views on new play equipment and information was being gathered from suitable companies. It was agreed that a survey with equipment suggestions would be a good approach. Cllr Baker added that a basket swing and balance bars were items she thought essential. Cllr Powell suggested that rubberised flooring would be a good option when compared to the amount that had been spent on bark over the years. However, Cllr Shattock explained that bark had been used to replace peeling rubber. It was suggested that maybe there were grants available to bring play areas in line with current safety regulations and this might include up to date rubberised flooring.

The Chair agreed that a comprehensive survey was the most appropriate first step. As villagers with young children would more than likely be on-line, it was felt that printed surveys would not be required, although these could be arranged if there was a need. Companies could then be asked to quote, and possibly support with knowledge of grant sources.

17. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report on this item.

18. PARISH MATTERS AND ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING

The condition of the Three Horseshoes site was discussed and the Chair confirmed that he had heard nothing from the company in response to the letter from the local resident. It was agreed that follow-up contact would be made by the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair.

19. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report on this item.

Date of next meeting – 01 December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom