

BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 01 December 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	
	Cllr Stephen Cooper	
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 Wallace Redford for late arrival, Cllr Trevor Wright (WDC) and PCSO Sharron Underwood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following his expression of interest, Councillors unanimously approved co-opting Stephen Cooper onto the Parish Council, following a proposal by Cllr Powell which was seconded by Cllr Baker. The Clerk agreed to send details of online training availability to Cllr Cooper and Cllr Roberts.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 07 OCTOBER 2020

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

5. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

i. Spout/trough update

The Clerk reported that he had authorised Tony Sproul to action the installation of the UV steriliser system. Work on the area surrounding the trough had been completed and pictures had been circulated. In response to a question, the Chair agreed to contact Tony to ascertain when the new trough would be installed.

ii. Oak tree on the village green

A quotation of £325 + vat had been received to remove the dead branches from the top of the tree. To remove the whole tree would cost £975 + vat. It was agreed to just remove the dead branches. A quotation for the work to the trees in Orchard Way would be received on 04 December and the Clerk agreed to action the oak tree work in conjunction with Orchard way, once the quotation had been approved.

iii. Stile by Riverside footpath

Tony Cox had produced a report on the footpaths and the Chair gave a brief overview. The Old Glebe Farm footpath was extremely muddy and Tony would be contacting Smiths Concrete with regards to their lorries cutting the corner and causing the issue. Tony was still waiting to hear from the Coventry footpath group but the stile towards the river had been repaired and strengthened. Cllr Powell commented that it was not clear

if the stile would be removed or the ground built to reduce the size of the first step. Cllr Baker reported that she had witnessed some walkers damaging the hedge in the area in order to gain access to the road.

iv. Gateway South update

The Chair reported that the 'No Access to Gateway South' signs had been installed and that the Environment Agency 'phone number had been included in the village newsletter for people to report relevant issues.

v. Trees at top of Orchard Way

This item had been covered above.

vi. Three Horseshoes update

The Clerk reported that he had emailed the pub's owners about the state of the pub and the area but had received nothing apart from an automated response. The Clerk agreed to follow up the email with a 'phone call. Cllrs noted that some work had been taking place at the pub and that the weeds had been cleared. A building inspector had also been seen but he had not been forthcoming with any additional information.

6. POLICE REPORT

The report from PCSO Underwood had been received that day and would be circulated by the Clerk to all Councillors. The Chair commented that it was pleasing to see that there had been no reported crimes in Bubbenhall.

7. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Pam Redford reported the following items, on behalf of Cllr Wallace Redford, in relation to WCC:

- There were some high Covid-19 infection rates in some local communities, although, apparently, there had only been one case at North Leamington School.
- Precept guidance would be published in the near future with a probable increase of 2%, and 3% for adult social care.
- An additional amount of £1.4m would be made available as a winter grant, predominantly to support children and families.
- Views on the A46 relief road would be appreciated, once submitted

Cllr Redford was thanked for her report.

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

- Most updates continued to be circulated via email when they arose
- There would be free car-parking in WDC carparks during December, but not on-street parking
- Waste management contract discussions were on-going and additional information was available on the WDC website via the '123+ Waste Collections' link
- Two grant schemes were available for those affected by Covid-19 and 50 applications had been received
- SDC had submitted a pre-judicial request in relation to Warwickshire being placed in Tier 3 Covid restrictions. The tiers would be reviewed anyway on 16 December and could be reduced due to the falling infection rate in Warwickshire

Cllr Redford was thanked for her report.

The Chair confirmed that information from the A46 discussion and consultation submission would be shared with Cllrs Redford.

Cllr Powell commented that the 123+ system looked good in principle but it could be six weeks if a general waste collection were missed. It was confirmed that there would be a consultation on the plans prior to a contract commencing.

Cllr Wallace Redford joined the meeting at this point.

8. 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. Councillors approved a payment of £80 to Steve Sidaway for mole removal.

The Chair requested that the January meeting agenda should include an item to discuss the precept for 2021/22. In light of possible plans to spend a large amount of money on play equipment, budget comparison documents would also be produced by the Clerk for the meeting.

9. COMMUNITY FIBRE PARTNERSHIPS (BT OPENREACH GIGABIT BROADBAND VOUCHER)

Following BT Openreach's distribution of 'Gigabit Broadband Vouchers' in the village, and subsequent registration by residents, the chart on the website showed that the village was at 61% of the target when fibre broadband would be installed. It was agreed that the scheme would continue to be publicised and people encouraged to register.

10. WCC GREEN SHOOTS FUND

The Chair explained that the Green Shoots initiative would support suitable ideas from Parish Councils and asked those present to consider project ideas that could be submitted for consideration.

11. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

i. Pit Hill junction

It was hoped that something would be heard from WCC in relation changing the junction layout at the top of Pit Hill in order to reduce speeding. Cllr Powell reported that he had not been in touch with WCC on this but confirmed that Police would be carrying out speed checks in the area. Cllr Wallace Redford felt that a layout change was unlikely but chances would be improved if there was Police support. PCSO Ed King would be placing speed monitors on nearby tree and signs but there was no evidence of this at the moment. Cllr Powell agreed to contact Ed for an update and to state that it would be good to get evidence to support the case for a junction layout change.

Cllr Wallace Redford confirmed that David Elliston's replacement had not been found so David was still the first point of contact.

ii. Quiet Lanes

Nothing had progressed with regards to Quiet Lanes as WCC did not have a policy on this. It could be considered for inclusion in a future strategy but this was unlikely to happen until the latter part of 2021 because of the elections in May.

Cllr Nwachukwu reported that there was still an issue with cars parking on the verges in Padgets Lane, with 3 recently having to be pulled from the mud by the AA. In response to a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that the lane to Shrub's Lodge was also a public highway. Sadly, quiet lanes would not have an impact on improper or careless parking. It was widely acknowledged that the parking issues were caused by Ryton Pools visitors avoiding the nominal parking charge on their site. Cllr Baker suggested some signage to prevent parking, as was in place around Warwick Hospital's neighbouring streets. Cllr Wallace Redford explained that any non-mandatory signs would be removed by the highways department. Cllr Powell also explained that the Police were not responding now to parking issues and their 'no parking' cones were being thrown in the hedges by unscrupulous motorists.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Ryton Pools asking for support with ideas to address the parking issues.

iii. Dropped kerb issue at Spout

Cllr Wallace reported that the work had not been carried out but it was on a priority list for scheduling.

iv. Surface Dressing in village

There had been many complaints about the excess quantity of stone chippings left on the roads following the work. Cllr Wallace Redford explained that the areas should have been swept three times after the work but only one visit had been made. Cllr Redford had already spoken to David Elliston about this issue and the contractors would be addressing the problem.

12. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- i.** A Lower End resident had reported that large numbers of horses were being ridden through the village on a daily base and causing damage and mess. After discussion, it was acknowledged that they were being ridden on public highways and that little could be done.
- ii.** The Chair explained that as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' scheme, Parish Councils were being encouraged to plant a tree in their village in 2021 in preparation for the Queen's platinum jubilee in 2022. Cllr Pam Redford suggested that WDC might be able to supply a suitable tree for this purpose. Cllr Shattock suggested planting an oak tree on the village green and it was agreed that this was a good idea. Cllr Powell commented on the area beyond the tennis court and felt that this could take 50 – 100 trees. Suggestions of a community orchard were felt to be not viable because of the maintenance required. It was agreed that the Chair would contact the Woodland Trust for advice.

13. PLANNING

A46 Strategic Link Road

Councillors raised the following points during the discussion on this item:

- There was very little reference to the 2500 houses planned on King's Hill and the plans did not show access and egress points
- It was a major plan and needed careful consideration
- The train station was a surprise and many had not received information on this. It was felt that it would not be of use to the University
- The ONS figures for housing needs were being questioned and the need for the King's Hill development could still be challenged
- The planned houses were a separate issue to the link road
- Planning permission had only been granted for 1500 houses and highways would need to be satisfied before further permission was considered
- The link road would open up more green-belt for building

It was agreed that a sub-committee would be set-up to discuss all of the options and the best way forward. The Chair, and Cllrs Shattock and Roberts agreed to form the sub-committee.

The Chair reported that two local buildings had been selected for local listings in the conservation area and these details had been circulated via email.

W/20/1901 – Reserved Matters application for landscape bund adjacent to Gateway South site link road

This would be behind Oak Close in Baginton at the junction with Bubbenhall Road. Cllr Powell felt that the plans were not clear in relation to the junction. Cllr Shattock felt that there was little that could be said about the application but commented that it would be many, many years before the trees shielding the buildings. Cllr Pam Redford suggested that larger, more mature trees should be used and she would monitor the situation.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would make no comment on the application.

14. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND

i. Improper use of tennis court

The Chair explained that he had received a report that someone was using the court for, what looked like, dog training. He had been assured, when questioning the person, that this was not the case.

The person had not been back to the court but the situation would be monitored.

Cllr Baker reported that Chris Goddard would be sourcing a new tool for re-tensioning the zip wire and would be replacing the two cracked tyres under the see-saw.

In response to a question from Cllr Pam Redford, the Chair explained that Bubbenhall was too far away from HS2 to qualify for a grant.

15. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report on this item.

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

- As discussed earlier, the Precept would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- Cllr Powell reported that he had asked volunteers to monitor neighbours and other vulnerable individuals during the latest lockdown.
- Cllr Cooper reported that he still had some leaflets on how to be aware of scams and it was agreed that these would be given to Cllr Powell for distribution by the volunteer network.

17. DATES OF 2021 MEETINGS

The Clerk agreed to circulate a list of suggested dates for comments.

18. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report on this item.

Date of next meeting – to be confirmed