

BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 03 March 2020 in the Village Hall, Bubbenhall.

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 James Macalister	
	Cllr Win Nwachukwu	
In attendance:	Cllr Pam Redford	Warwick District Council
	Cllr Wallace Redford	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr George Illingworth	Chairman of Warwick District Council
	PCSO Sharon Underwood	
	PCSO Rachael Clayton	
	Mr Doug Evans	Parish Clerk

Nine members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Trevor Wright (WDC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Baker declared an interest in Planning Application W/19/2171 and would withdraw from the meeting when necessary.

3. MEMBERSHIP

There was nothing to report on progress to fill the one vacancy.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2020

These were confirmed and signed.

5. COUNCILLOR GEORGE ILLINGWORTH, CHAIRMAN OF WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Illingworth was welcomed to the meeting and he gave a brief overview of his work on WDC, including the fact that he was a Chairman with a casting vote. Although this was unusual, he explained that there had been no issues with any recent votes. He added that the Council had set a higher budget than normal to allow for work on climate change matters and that there would need to be a public referendum to approve the council tax increase.

6. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

i. Spout/trough (Geoff Glover memorial)

The Chair circulated some information and pictures of a trough that had been sourced by Tony Sproul. The design and style of the trough was approved by Councillors. The Chair explained that he would be meeting with Geoff's niece on 11 March to discuss payment and it was felt that with delivery and installation the total would not exceed the previously suggested amount of £1,000. Once in place, a suitably worded memorial plaque would be installed on the trough, if possible.

ii. Pump water contamination

Tony Sproul was in the process of obtaining quotes for cleaning of the 35m deep well to remove the bacteria. Quotes for regular maintenance would also be obtained to prevent a reoccurrence. A sign had been fixed to the pump stating that the water was not suitable for drinking.

iii. Over-flowing drains

Cllr Wallace Redford reported that drains in Lower End and Spring were scheduled to be jetted and that he would be meeting with David Elliston to survey the rest of the village, this would include one on Stoneleigh Road that was highlighted by a resident. In response to an observation about a blocked ditch in Watery Lane, Cllr Redford explained that all ditches that were the responsibility of WCC had been cleared but farmers were responsible for their own.

iv. Public Transport Survey

All completed surveys were passed to Cllr Powell for collation of the responses. This included those from Stoneleigh, although Baginton had yet to be completed. A summary of the responses would be passed to Cllr Wallace Redford. The Chair reported that WALC were also carrying out a similar survey and had been given a copy of the master.

v. Horses and paths update

The Clerk reported that he had made contact with a local stables/livery yard and had been assured that all riders had been asked to not use unsuitable paths in the village. The owner had also given details of other stables that were more likely to be the offenders. All those present were asked to notify the Parish Council if they saw, and recognised, any riders not using bridle paths.

vi. Oak tree at Home Close end of pathway (work estimated at £120)

Cllr Baker reported that an estimate for work to the hedges had been obtained but the home owner would send her a picture of the offending tree so that a quotation could be obtained for that work. In the meantime, Cllrs agreed that the work on the hedges should go ahead at a cost of £120.

vii. Gas smell in village

It was generally agreed that the smell in the village had subsided but this would remain as an item on the agenda for the time being.

viii. Flooding on village green and Spring Hill

This item had been covered above.

ix. Unauthorised shrub planting on verge in pathway between Moat Close and Home Close

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to the homeowner thought to be responsible for the planting but no response had been received. It was agreed that this item would remain on the agenda for the time being.

7. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Underwood tabled a copy of her crime report and gave a brief overview of the Bubbenhall crimes. Other ones of particular note were the five burglaries in Offchurch.

A member of the public gave some details of a recent telephone scam she had reported to her bank. Cllr Pam Redford also reported there had been some instances of HS2 protestors outside Stoneleigh Park.

8. FINANCE

The following payments detailed in the payment schedule were authorised, after being proposed by the Chair and by Cllr Shattock.

Chris Goddard	£64.00
Chris Goddard	£64.00
Doug Evans	£353.75
Doug Evans	£353.75
A D R Sproul	£30.00

The Clerk reported that a payment of £70 had also been made to Steve Sidaway for mole removal.

9. VE Day celebrations

i. Discussion with regards to a donation towards a VE Day memorial bench to be sited on village green

The Chair reported that this project was being organised by Margaret Robinson and a grant application had been submitted to WDC. Various fundraising events were scheduled and donations would also be received from residents. All Councillors agreed that donations, and any grant, would be processed through the Parish Council's bank account. After discussion, it was agreed that a donation would be made by the Parish Council but the amount would be decided once fundraising amounts were known.

ii. Discussion with regards to a donation towards VE Day celebrations at the Malt Shovel

The Chair gave an overview of events being planned for 08 May and explained that a request had been made to support the costs of the band. It was agreed that a donation of £200 would be made to the Malt Shovel.

10. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

i. Bubbenhall Road closure

Buckingham's, the Gateway South contractors, had stated that any closure would be planned and agreed with WDC.

Cllr Baker reported that comments had been received on the Council's Facebook page about recent HGV traffic problems on a local diversion route.

ii. Damage to local verges

One of the verges concerned had been allegedly damaged by contractors resurfacing Coopers Walk on 06 or 07 December 2019 but it had not been possible to identify the vehicle. Cllr Wallace Redford explained that WCC always claimed costs in cases of verge damage but this was unlikely in this case as the perpetrators had not been identified. However, he agreed to look into the case, although it would be considered a low priority by WCC.

With regards to the more recent case of damage, video evidence had been given to Cllr Redford and David Elliston would be making contact with the builders concerned.

iii. 30mph roundels

The recently applied roundels had almost disappeared and David Elliston had scheduled the original contractors to carry out remedial work.

11. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

i. Pedestrian crossing on Leamington Road from gateway at top of Orchard Way

The Chair talked Councillors through an email from a village resident requesting that a pedestrian crossing be installed on the A445 by Ryton Pools. Cllr Powell gave a brief overview of events from 2016 when, despite site visits by WCC and Councillors, a similar request was denied, along with a request for the speed limit to be reduced. Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to raise the issue with the Highways Department but stated that it was unlikely to be considered as there had been no accidents at the suggested area. Cllr Powell explained that he had carried out some research on crossing times for individuals but these did not take into account people with children or pushchairs, or those who walked more slowly.

It was agreed that Cllr Powell would take up the crossing issue again with the relevant bodies, including the possibility of siting a crossing in different location and the possibility of a footbridge crossing.

Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to look at a hedge close to the site to see if visibility could be improved by cutting it back.

ii. Hardstanding pathway around perimeter of park on playing fields

After discussion, it was agreed that a pathway around the park, or the whole fields, would be a worthwhile addition to the facilities but it was felt that the cost would be prohibitive. It was agreed that this would be a long-term goal.

Cllr Pam Redford was thanked for her work in supporting two village residents with a housing issue.

12. PLANNING

i. W/18/0643 – Land at Kings Hill Lane, Stoneleigh

The Chair explained that letters had been sent to relevant MPs asking for the planning decision to be called in but it was just a case of waiting. Cllr Illingworth explained that WDC had produced a report showing housing provision against planned requirements but that Coventry City Council had not published a similar document.

ii. W/19/2128 – Erection of replacement dwelling at 'Intwood', Leamington Road, Bubbenhall, CV8 3BP

An objection had been raised in relation to trees that had been removed at the site but the Planning Department had stated that nothing could be done about this as the trees were not protected. Cllr Powell expressed some frustration at this situation.

iii. W/20/0020 - Land to the north and south of the A45, (between Festival and Tollbar junctions) and land at the A45/Festival Roundabout, the A46/Tollbar Roundabout and at the junctions of the A444 with the A4114/Whitley Roundabout (comments submission extended to 09 March)

The Chair reported that he and Cllr Shattock had met with Baginton Parish Council and the CPRE but it had been agreed that nothing could be done about this development and no objection would be submitted.

With regards to Gateway South, the Chair reported that the site had been sold to the Segro Group but that Buckingham's had started the ground works. Work at the whole site would continue until the summer of 2022 and it would be occupied by the spring of 2023.

Concerns were raised that the earth works had been started without decontamination work being carried out. Cllr Pam Redford explained that she would be meeting with Ragu Sittambalam to discuss the earth works and other concerns about the whole site. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted and sent to the new owners giving details about the history of the contamination. The Chair confirmed that he had contacted Buckingham's about overnight floodlights at the site that were affecting residents in the village. It was reported that poplar trees shielding Middlemarch Business Park had been felled.

Cllr Baker withdrew from the meeting at this point

iv. W/19/2171 – Proposed second storey extension and remodelling of existing dwelling at 8 Waggoners Close, Bubbenhall, CV8 3JE

Cllr Powell had circulated his views on the application via email and he gave an overview. The boundary lines on the plans were incorrect and gave a false impression. It was also stated that the extension could not be seen from Spring Hill but this was also incorrect, as well as the large gable affecting properties on Spring Hill. The size and height of the extension remained an issue, it would look significantly different from neighbouring properties, it was estimated that the increase on the original footprint was 53%, way over the recommended figure, and it did not retain open spaces between buildings. As the plans did not comply with many aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that an objection would be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Baker re-joined the meeting.

v. Minerals Plan

The Parish Council had submitted an objection to the plan previously and a date had been set in early June for a hearing and examination of the plan. The objection would need to be written into a presentation that could be delivered at the hearing but a timetable for the two-day hearing would need to be checked as the Chair and Cllr Shattock were away at times over the two days.

13. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND

i. Enquiry concerning use of playing fields on Saturday afternoons for football coaching

The Chair reported that the enquiry was actually for Sundays and therefore could not be accommodated due to existing bookings.

Cllr Baker reported that little had been completed on the list of work in relation to the RoSPA inspection because of the recent bad weather. However, routine checks were still being made on the play equipment. This had highlighted the fact that the wood on the multi-play equipment was starting to perish and would need attention or renewal at some point in the not too distant future.

Cllrs agreed to purchase a new tennis net in readiness for the summer, as well as bark to replenish the play area. The Clerk reported that the new goalposts had been ordered and would be delivered that week.

14. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Shattock reported that she and the Chair had attended training on planning in relation to historic buildings and Local Listings. This had raised a thought about a possible issue with the Three Horseshoes as it was in a conservation area and it was not let to a new landlord. There followed some discussion on whether it should be changed to a Community Asset.

The Chair reported that he had attended Rural East meeting, had met the new PC, Amy Poole, and had invited her to Parish Council meetings. WDC had announced plans to plant 168,000 new trees in the area and had requested details of anyone who would be interested having some to plant. There was a VE Day fund but only £1,100 available. The Rural Forums were currently under review and people had been asked to write to Cllr Wallace Redford in support of the Rural East Forum. Suggestions had also been requested for ideas for future speakers.

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

- i. The Chair reported that the next village letter pick was scheduled for 04 April. It was agreed that flyers could be purchased at a cost of £17, if required.
- ii. Cllr Powell agreed to review the Emergency Plan in light of the current Corona Virus situation.
- iii. It was reported that large amounts of litter appeared to be coming from the landfill site. It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda of the next Liaison Committee meeting.
- iv. Cllr Shattock reported a streetlight that was not working in Church Road and the Clerk agreed to report this.
- v. An issue with some fencing damaged in a recent accident was reported.
- vi. Various hedges and leaning trees on the A445 were reported and Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to review these when he was next in the village.

16. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report on this item.

Date of next meeting – 07 April 2020