

BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 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 Trevor Wright	Warwick District Council
	Cllr Wallace Redford	Warwickshire County Council
	Mr Graham Stanley	Team Leader, Warwickshire County Council
	Mr Doug Evans	Parish Clerk

Six members of the public present.

It was agreed to change the order of the agenda and take Item 9, Ryton Pools and village parking issues, after item 3.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Wallace Redford for late arrival and PCSO Ed King.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 01 DECEMBER 2020

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

4. RYTON POOLS AND VILLAGE PARKING ISSUES

Graham Stanley was welcomed to the meeting and introduced as the Team Leader of the Minor Works Team of the County Highways Department. The Chair explained that Graham had been invited to the meeting to give an update on the current issues with Ryton Pools visitors, and associated parking issues in the area, and to take questions on the matter. Some of the points raised by those present are detailed below:

- The problems seemed to have worsened since Warwickshire Wildlife took over the site. Parking in Paget's Lane was the main issue, along with damage to verges caused by parked cars. Reduction of traffic and pedestrians would be the main goal but this would be difficult as they were public footpaths

Cllr Powell suggested that there may have been some movement with regards to signage but it was unclear if it was due to be fitted or if it had been a passing remark. Graham explained that the only signage would be on the A445 and not on Paget's Lane and would be 'soft verge' signs. 'No Parking' signs on the main road would take approximately 6 – 12 months to go through the approval process. Currently, the temporary signs belonged to Ryton Pools but WDC were in the process of sourcing more permanent ones. Cllr Powell expressed his concerns that the 'soft verge' signs were not enforceable and that no signs were planned for Paget's Lane. He was also concerned as to what would happen when the Police cones were removed from the A445.

Graham explained that he had already been involved with Ryton Pools to discuss the issues and senior Councillors at WCC were also aware of the situation. The Police were also involved and had been in discussions with the park. The problem had actually been made worse by the continued popularity of the attraction during the pandemic.

Other plans being considered include making the A445 an Urban Clearway. This was a legal order which would mean that parking would not be permitted. This could also be extended to sideroads off of the main road. This was different to the Quiet Lanes, as WCC did not have a policy on this initiative, but Police cones and 'soft verge' signs could still be a possibility on Paget's Lane.

Cllr Powell reminded all those present that Police cones had been placed on the main road as a result of an accident and that safety remained the primary concern of Councillors.

The Chair raised a question about the planned installation of collapsible bollards on the A445 but Graham stated that this would not be possible due to the high costs involved and that only the signs were planned.

- Converting the road to an Urban Clearway would cost in the region of £5,000
- People should not be travelling from out of their area to visit Ryton Pools during the lockdown so the Police should be addressing that issue
- All instances of illegal or obstructive parking should be reported to the Police on 101. The more that were reported the better
- People had actually started parking on Paget's Lane itself as the verges were so badly damaged. This would prevent emergency vehicles reaching properties

The Chair asked for any further comments or questions to be emailed to him and he would pass these on to Graham.

Graham was thanked for his time and input and he left the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

i. Spout/trough update

The Chair reported that the trough would be installed when the plaque arrived.

ii. Oak tree on the village green

Cllr Roberts confirmed that the arboricultural work on the tree had been completed but suggested that the condition should continue to be monitored in case further work was required.

iii. Gate at top of Orchard Way

The gate had been repaired to a very high standard by Tony Cox.

iv. Gateway South update

The Chair reported that a meeting had taken place with Segro in December where various aspects of the development had been discussed. These included the suggestion to make a no left turn at the Baginton Road junction and the effects on the village of Baginton and local businesses. Assurances had been given that no further removal of hedges on the Bubbenhall Road would be taking place.

v. Trees at top of Orchard Way

The Chair gave an overview of the work that was suggested on the trees, as per the Beechwood estimate of £520 +vat. It was agreed unanimously that the work should proceed and the Clerk agreed to schedule this.

vi. Three Horseshoes update

The Clerk explained that he had not made contact with the building's owners but would follow this up to obtain an update.

vii. Community fibre partnerships

It was reported that the pledge target had been reached but there was some uncertainty as to how the scheme would progress. Some residents had received emails explaining that they would be contacted by a company called DCMS but others had heard nothing. It was agreed that the Clerk would attempt to ascertain further information that could be shared with villagers.

viii. WCC Green Shoots Fund

The Chair asked everyone to continue thinking about ideas for suitable projects.

ix. Horses using the footpath at the bottom of Lower End

Tony Cox had spoken to Mark Grimes about this issue and some gravel had been placed in the affected area. Mark had stated that people were still using a shortcut across his field, instead of the correct public footpath, and the information disc about the correct path had been found in the field. A request to use the correct path had been shared on the village email.

6. POLICE REPORT AND WRE COMMUNITY POLICING PRIORITIES

An updated crime report had not been shared but would be circulated in due course when received from PCSO Underwood.

It was agreed that the Policing priority would be suggested as more parking patrols in the village. Cllr Powell agreed to contact PCSO King to communicate this decision.

7. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Pam Redford reported that there was nothing to share on behalf of Cllr Wallace Redford, in relation to WCC.

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

- All relevant bulletins continued to be shared via email
- HS2 had been instructed to cease work with effect from 25 January so as not cause traffic disruption in the area as Stoneleigh Park was to become a Covid-19 vaccination hub

In relation to the earlier discussions about bollards on the A445, Cllr Redford commented that she felt that this work had already been authorised, contrary to Graham Stanley's view.

Cllr Redford was thanked for her report.

Cllr Trevor Wright reported the following additional items in relation to WDC:

- A Covid-19 grant scheme for self-employed people was being considered and updates would follow in due course
- The 'hairdressers' grant' scheme had been paid promptly and had been very popular

Cllr Shattock asked if the Local Plan was due to be reviewed in March 2021. Cllr Wright confirmed that the Plan would be reviewed but that the timing and format were not known.

Cllr Wright was thanked for his update.

Cllr Wallace Redford joined the meeting at this point.

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

- Eight people had died in Warwickshire as a result of Covid-19
- Although the rate of Covid infections was dropping, 5 Leamington wards were in the top 10 for infections on Warwickshire
- The Pound Lane LFT Centre was in full operation
- The collapsible bollards on the A445 discussed earlier had been budgeted for and planned

8. FINANCE AND PRECEPT SETTING DISCUSSION

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 2020.

In order to inform budget and precept decisions for 2021/22, budget expenditure and year end predictions for 2020/21 were reviewed in detail. Items raised for information and discussion are detailed below:

- A sub-committee consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Shattock would meet to carry out a salary review
- Election costs for 2023 could reach a maximum of £9,000 for a contested election. It was suggested that in previous years this had been accrued at £3,000 per year and ring-fenced. The expense line for election costs was currently at £250
- The CPRE subscription had not been continued
- It was suggested that the grounds maintenance contract should go out to tender
- Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to investigate the possibility of the village receiving a grant from HS2 towards the planned playground refurbishment, despite previous views that the village was located too far away from any of the works
- Another local village had received a grant of £40,000 for its playground from HS2 and it was felt that not enough projects were being suggested to HS2
- Tesco community grants were also suggested for the playground

After further discussion, the 2021/22 budget was agreed, as shown in the table below:

Payments as at 15/01/21	Agreed budget 2020/21	Actual paid to date	Remainder	Predicted Year End	Proposed 2021/22 Budget
Admin					
Clerk Salary	4,245	3,538	708	4,245	4,245
Office & IT	500	113	387	113	500
General Admin & Stationary	250	73	177	150	250
Training	500	66	434	120	500
Elections	250	225	25	225	250
Insurances	500	402	98	402	500
Subscriptions	625	756	-131	785	800
Chair Allowance & Members' Expenses	100	0	100	0	100
Community					
Handyman	768	640	128	768	1,000
Newsletter/Printing	0	144	-144	144	150
Utilities	156	130	26	156	156
Village Green/Spout Maintenance	3,000	3,360	-360	3,360	1,500
Other	1,000	1,923	-923	1,923	500
Grounds					
Maintenance & Materials	1,500	136	1,364	150	1,500
Mowing	2,500	2,088	412	2,088	2,500
Annual Safety Inspection	200	181	19	181	200
Pest Control	250	80	170	160	300
Sports Equipment	150	86	64	64	150
Specialist Services	1,500	1,325	175	1,325	1,500
Playground Equipment					1,500
	17,994	15,265	2,729	16,359	18,101

Although the budget was slightly over £18,000, it was agreed to keep the precept at that figure, as in 2020/21. Taking into account the reduction in the Tax Base, this would mean that the Band D charge to the local Taxpayer would only rise to £57.51, a modest increase of 1.61% on the previous year's figure of £56.60.

Further to the points raised earlier, the following actions were agreed unanimously:

- To investigate opening a separate bank account in order to allocate £9,000 for potential election expenses
- To reinstate the CPRE membership
- To increase the Handyman's pay to £9.00 per hour, with effect from 01 January 2021
- To confirm if a tender process was needed to be carried out for the grounds maintenance contract
- To allocate £10,000 towards the playground renewal project

Cllr Wallace Redford was thanked for agreeing to investigate HS2 grants.

9. TREE PLANTING

Cllr Powell reported that he had spoken with Debbie Cole at WDC and thanked Cllr Pam Redford for passing on the contact details. Cllr Powell had also investigated the possibility of Woodland Trust grants but their spending on activities had been suspended. Debbie Cole would be appointing a site visitor to look at green space development and this would involve an assessment of whether any planning could take place without any groundwork. If it was the latter, there would be cost implications. The earliest any work would take place would be in autumn 2021.

10. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

i. Dropped kerb issue at Spout

Cllr Powell reported that he had not yet checked the work at the Spout.

ii. Surface dressing in village

Another sweep of the affected areas had taken place but it was possible that another one was needed. Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to ask if this would be possible but it was felt that the limit might have been reached. It was suggested that there could be a fault with the stones being used in that they had not been washed properly and were therefore not sticking. Cllr Powell added that the areas with most problems were on bends.

iii. Bollard installation on A445

This item had been covered as part of the Ryton Pools discussion earlier.

With regards to Community Speedwatch, Cllr Powell explained that monitoring at the top of Pit Hill had not commenced as the monitoring equipment was shared across the County and was not yet available.

PCSO King had carried out risk assessments at current Speedwatch locations and, as a result, some could now be used to check in both directions.

11. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

After discussion, a decision was taken to re-open the village hall car park following feedback from residents about parking issues in Lower End.

Cllrs Redford confirmed that all WDC parks remained closed.

12. PLANNING

i. Kings Hill Judicial Review

The Clerk reported that he had taken advice on this subject from John Crossling at WALC and John had suggested that making a financial contribution to a fund in support of a judicial review was not an appropriate use of the Bubbenhall Parish Council budget. Cllr Shattock agreed with this view, particularly as the village was not directly affected by the development. Cllr Wright explained that the Kings Hill development would be reviewed as part of the Local Plan, and in light of the ONS figures.

After brief discussion, it was agreed that a financial contribution to the fund would not be made.

ii. W/20/1886 – Lavender Farm, Watery Lane, Bubbenhall, CV8 3BQ. Erection of agricultural building

The Chair explained that this application would have normally been classed as a 'permitted development' but because it was within 3km of the airport it had to be submitted as a full application. It was agreed unanimously that no comment would be made on the application.

The Chair reported on an application that had been received that day for an extension at 32 Moat Close and some initial thoughts on the plans were discussed, mainly concerning the size of the proposed extension. Cllr Pam Redford explained that Planning Officers were not carrying out site visits as a result of the pandemic but she advised that an objection should be submitted if it was felt there was genuine planning reason for doing so. After discussion it was agreed that an objection should be submitted and, as a result of the deadline being prior to the next meeting, this would be drawn up by the Chair, Cllr Powell and Cllr Cooper and entered onto the portal by the Clerk.

13. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Baker reported that work to eradicate more moles would be taking place and some equipment for tensioning wire fencing would be purchased. Tyres under the see-saw were also due to be replaced.

14. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Powell reported that the Emergency Committee had met recently. After the announcement of the latest lockdown, a leaflet drop had taken place to ensure that every necessary household had a nominated volunteer. There were some new volunteers but the well-established network meant that little additional support was needed. The oldest residents who had not been vaccinated had been followed up and the vaccination process was clarified where necessary.

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

The Clerk reported on an email he had received from the WDC Dog Warden, Vicky Timms, offering pavement stencilling in areas prone to fouling. It was agreed that an expression of interest would be made but more thought would be given to possible locations.

Cllr Roberts agreed to circulate the A46 Bypass consultation response before it was submitted.

16. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report on this item.

Date of next meeting – 09 March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom