

# BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 06 October 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

**In attendance:** Cllr Trevor Wright Warwick District Council  
Mr Doug Evans Parish Clerk

### One member of the public present.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Pam Redford (WDC), Cllr Wallace Redford (WCC) and PCSO Underwood.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the resignation of James Macalister, a new Councillor would need to be sought.

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 01 SEPTEMBER 2020

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

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

##### i. Spout/trough (Geoff Glover memorial) and pump water contamination estimates

Tony Sproul was still in the process of obtaining quotations for the remedial work to deal with the contamination and also options for a regular maintenance solution to prevent the contamination.

##### ii. Additional work on granite sets

Work on the granite sets had been authorised earlier in the year but some additional work to the wall had been identified. This would cost an additional £50 and this expenditure was approved unanimously.

##### iii. Gateway South update

The Chair reported that, although Buckingham's had been happy with the quotation, the road signs had still not been erected. Mick Gilhooly was being pursued on this matter and Cllr Wright offered to get involved, if necessary.

A member of the public had contacted the Chair with regards to the extremely muddy state of the river by Riverside apartments and the Chair had contacted Buckingham's about the matter. Cllr Redford had also raised the issue with the Environmental Health department. Buckingham's were satisfied that none of their defences had been breached and the condition of the river was just as a result of the recent heavy rain. The Chair commented that he would wait to hear from Cllr Redford.

An online meeting had taken place with Buckingham's and Segro where the proposed ANPR system had been discussed. The Chair reported that he felt that this would only be relevant to employees and would not help reduce traffic in the village. There were also doubts in relation to GDPR and ANPR. A better solution would be a no left turn out of the site and this was being followed up by Cllr Pam Redford. Another possible option would be to designate suitable roads in the village as 'Quiet Lanes' which would restrict certain types of

traffic. WCC had not adopted this scheme on any Warwickshire roads and Cllr Wallace Redford was looking into this possibility. Sat Nav routes continued to be a problem but it was doubtful if anything could be enforced in this regard.

**iv. VE Day memorial bench update**

One quotation had been received for the installation of the bench but it was proving difficult to find a company to give a second one. The Clerk reported that there was approximately £140 remaining from donations once the cost of the bench itself had been covered. As the Parish Council had agreed in principle to make a donation, but had not done so yet, it was agreed unanimously that a donation would be made to cover any shortfall in the installation costs. The Clerk agreed to liaise with Margaret Robinson on this and circulate details of the amount that would need to be donated.

**v. Pedestrian Crossing update**

Cllr Powell talked through the email he had sent to all on 13 September detailing the outcomes from the WCC Engineer's visit to the site. Suggestions had included removing the hedgerows from both sides of the Orchard Way exit, tarmac the path on the opposite side of the road to the existing barrier and installing a similar barrier on the opposite side. It was agreed that all options should be pursued but with a priority on the installation of a barrier to match the existing one. It was suggested that the hedgerow work could be started straightway but it was felt that this was a Highways Department responsibility. Cllr agreed to draft letter for the Clerk to send to Graham Stanley, the WCC Engineer, to convey the Parish Council's agreement to the suggested proposals.

The Chair noted that WCC had not answered the question of installing a pedestrian crossing.

**6. POLICE REPORT**

There was nothing to report on this item as PCSO Underwood was not in attendance. The Clerk explained that he would be receiving the crime report over the next few days and would circulate it for information.

**7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

Cllr Wright gave a brief overview of the current situation, explaining that the Government White Paper had not been published. This meant that all options being discussed were purely speculative. Reports had been commissioned by the authorities involved and these had been circulated. Cllr Shattock commented that there had been no mention at the recent WALC presentation on any involvement with Birmingham and, whatever the final outcome, the old Warwickshire boundaries would remain. The Chair added that other counties had become unitary authorities without the White Paper, although, for Warwickshire, the White Paper would state what could happen. After this was released there would be a public consultation on the options. Although any changes would take an extremely long time to be implemented, there remained concerns that parishes would lose out. Documents and reports would continue to be circulated but it was acknowledged that nothing could happen until the White Paper was published.

**8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

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

- The 2021/22 budget was starting to be considered. This was earlier than usual because of the Covid-19 situation
- The Climate Change charge to residents had been withdrawn and the monies rebated
- Ideas of Council Tax figures for next year would be clearer around December
- There continued to be debates around the Kings Hill development and also HS2 because of the issue with the Leamington to Southam road

Cllr Wright 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. APPROVAL OF AGAR (ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN)**

Approval of the Certificate of Exemption, as presented, was agreed unanimously.

**11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY**

WALC had suggested that Parish Councils should have in place an Equality and Diversity Policy and a suggested model had been circulated for guidance. Cllr Roberts commented that the first sentence in the third paragraph of the opening statement in the document was too harsh but others felt that it was more of a general statement and just expressed an acknowledgement that discrimination existed. After some discussion, Cllr Baker agreed to send the Clerk a simpler version of a policy that could be adapted for consideration.

## **12. HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

Cllr Powell reported that it was pleasing to see that work to install the dropped kerbs in the village had been completed.

With regards to the suggested Pagets Lane signage, Cllr Wallace Redford has reported that it would not be possible to install the official 'No Parking' signs.

## **13. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Cllr Powell explained that he had been made aware that the Bear in the image on the Bubbenhall logo was chained to the staff and that Warwickshire had removed the chain on all of its branding. After discussion, it was considered too tricky to remove the chain and so it was agreed that a disclaimer would be added to the website stating that the chain was part of a historic image and did not reflect the current views on animal welfare.

The Chair reported that he had received a request to reduce the height of some trees on Parish Council land at the top of Orchard Way. It was agreed that the Chair would supply details of the location and the Clerk would liaise with the District Council in relation to planning considerations before a decision was made.

## **14. PLANNING**

### **i. Update on Pit Hill barn conversions**

The Chair reported that he and Cllr Roberts had met with Mark and Sarah Grimes to discuss the project and had both felt comforted by the family's attitude in not wanting to upset village residents. It was a very positive meeting and they had explained that they were intending to move the grain store to another location the field, reinforcing their intention to keep the rest of the land for agricultural use. The project was also going to be managed by the Grimes family, which was preferable to a developer.

Cllr Shattock commented that, although it had been a 'permitted development', the way in which it had gone through the process had not allowed WDC to discuss specific clauses in the guidance.

## **15. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND**

### **i. Annual safety inspection review**

Cllr Baker gave a brief overview of the report and explained that there were some minor items that needed attention, along with the renewal of the button seat. Costs would be obtained for this and the minor works. The main area requiring attention was the decay in the trim trail. Although this was not at a dangerous level, requiring it being taken out of service, it was getting to the point of needing to be replaced. Funding and grant options were discussed and the Chair agreed to contact Steve Haynes who had experience in this area with previous projects. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Baker details of previous trim trail quotes he had received.

## **16. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

There was nothing to report on this item as the only meeting attended had been covered earlier.

## **17. PARISH MATTERS AND ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING**

- Cllr Shattock reported that the streetlamp in Church Lane was still not working. The Clerk reported that he had been following this up and would continue to do so
- It was noted that a barbed wire fence had been installed blocking the 'short cut' exit from the footpath around Riverside onto the road. It was agreed that this was good, as the short cut was not a public right of way, and also precipitated onto the road at a blind corner and could be dangerous. This led to a discussion about the adjacent stile as it was too high for many people to use and there was no obvious need for a stile there. The Chair agreed to pursue the matter with the landowners with a view to removing the stile (or replacing it with a 'kissing gate').
- It was agreed to schedule the Parish Assembly for 20 October 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom. The Clerk agreed to circulate an agenda and to ask relevant individuals for their reports

## **18. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS**

There was nothing to report on this item.

**Date of next meeting – 03 November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom**