

BUBBENHALL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Bubbenhall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 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 James Macalister	
	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

Two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Trevor Wright (WDC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2020

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

4. MATTERS ARISING AND UPDATES

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

The Chair reported that Tony Sproul was in the process of obtaining additional quotes for the decontamination work and agreed to contact Tony for an update. The trough had been delivered and was in storage waiting for the wording on the plaque to be carried out.

ii. Gateway South update

The Chair explained that he had been pursuing Buckingham's for the third quote for signage but that they were blaming their suppliers for the delay.

Questions were raised about the possibility that night work had been taking place on the site but this could not be confirmed by residents or by contacts in Baginton. All those present were asked to note times and dates if anything was heard.

iii. VE Day memorial bench update

The Clerk reported that some additional donations had been made and the total now exceeded the cost of the bench. Further donations would be put towards the installation costs.

iv. Pedestrian Crossing update

Cllr Wallace Redford reported that no progress had been made on this, largely due to the fact that there was a blanket ban on officers making site visits and nothing could be done until one had taken place. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda and Cllr Redford would update when there was positive news or when a visit was scheduled.

Tony Cox, the Footpaths Officer, was welcomed to the meeting and gave a brief overview of footpaths in the village. All paths had been walked and some issues with growth on them had been noted. In addition to reporting these to WCC, Tony explained that he was also contacting landowners directly where offending overgrown bushes were not the responsibility of WCC and where there were recurring problems. There had also been issues with litter from the landfill site on paths around the woods and this had reoccurred since the rubbish was last cleared in June. Cllr Powell suggested that FCC, who managed the site, should have a regular schedule for clearing such rubbish and agreed to write a letter that the Clerk could send to the site manager.

5. POLICE REPORT

There was nothing to report on this item as PCSO Underwood was not in attendance and she had not submitted a report for circulation.

6. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

- A Government report was expected soon on the future of local authorities and the possibility of a Unitary Council. This would form the basis of major consultation and thought would need to be given as to what was best for the electorate of Warwickshire. It was expected that any changes would not be made for some time

Cllr Shattock commented that she felt the original thoughts behind changes were for cost-cutting reasons but the recent document had suggested it was for more infrastructure and general restructuring. The Chair added that a unitary authority could mean more power to parish councils but with a greater burden of responsibility.

- Two new telephone helplines had been added to the WCC website – one for mental health problems and one for suicide crisis
- Covid-19 updates would continue to be circulated when available

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

- Covid-19 was continuing to be circulated where appropriate
- A much-reduced number of food parcels was being delivered to people shielding as the virus was considered by many to be less of a worry
- In relation to the white paper on local authority changes, SDC and WDC were already working collaboratively in a small number of areas of responsibility

Cllrs Redford were thanked for their informative reports.

7. 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. The Clerk reminded Councillors that two further invoices for approval had been circulated that week.

8. EMERGENCY PLAN REVIEW

Cllr Powell reported that a Covid-19 leaflet based on the WCC one had been delivered to all village residents and the village hall car park had been reopened. Following all of the work by the Committee during the pandemic, there was now a large bank of volunteers who could be called upon when needed.

Steve Haynes had stepped down from the Committee and Rose Cragg had been formally appointed.

The Emergency Plan had been revised and one copy would be printed for the Committee and one for the village hall.

Cllrs Wallace and Pam Redford congratulated Cllr Powell for chairing the Emergency Committee and for the amount of work he had undertaken with regards to the Plan. They added that Bubbenhall was way ahead of other parishes with regards to the Plan and the work of the Committee. This sentiment was echoed by the Chair and the other Councillors.

9. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

Cllr Powell gave a brief update and noted that repairs had been completed at the top of Lower End and surface dressing had been completed at other locations. White lines had also been reinstated where necessary.

Following the full reopening of Ryton Pools, the Police no-parking cones had been removed with the result of some people parking on the verges. There was also an increased amount of parking on Pagets Lane.

Cllr Nwachukwu explained that the vehicles parking in Pagets Lane were causing an obstruction, not only to everyday users but also to farm vehicles.

It was considered a difficult situation to manage and 'official' 'No Parking' signs were suggested as a possible remedy. Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to investigate this option.

Councillors commented on the number of HGVs listed in the circulated report that were still using unsuitable roads in the village. Although it was considered that some of these may have been just following sat navs, there was a feeling that some incidents were just because of inconsiderate drivers. It was acknowledged that the problem was difficult to solve.

Cllr Nwachukwu asked if foliage obstructing road signs could be removed. Cllr Wallace Redford agreed to take this up with David Elliston at WCC if Cllr Nwachukwu emailed full details of locations where there was an issue.

10. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

i. BT Fibre Broadband

The Clerk explained that he was liaising with a village resident and attempting to establish an update from BT with regards to timescales of fibre broadband installation at her address. The Chair added that some areas in the village had now got the service.

ii. The Chair reported that a resident had emailed the brewery with regards to the condition of the closed Three Horseshoes pub. The building had been boarded up because of anti-social behaviour in the car park and was felt to be an eyesore. A response had been received stating that the complaint had been passed to the relevant team within the organisation. The Chair agreed to keep people updated with any news on the situation.

11. PLANNING

i. Appeal Reference: APP/T3725/W/20/3248573. Agricultural building, Pit Hill, Bubbenhall

The Chair explained that the Government Planning Inspector had upheld the appeal which meant that the consent for the permitted development had been automatically granted. Cllr Pam Redford explained that she was appalled at the situation and would be taking the matter up with Gary Fisher, the Head of Development at WDC. She suggested that the Parish Council should do the same as the granting of consent in this manner had bypassed the democratic planning process.

Cllr Shattock added that prior approval should have been sought as part of the permitted development procedure.

It was hoped that villagers would have some influence on the detail of the properties but there was a fear that the property could be sold to a developer with the outline permission already in place.

It was agreed that Cllr Shattock would draft a letter to be sent to Gary Fisher and that Cllr Roberts would draft a letter to be sent to the Grimes family who owned the property, expressing the concerns of the village and suggesting a meeting with the Chair and one other Councillor to discuss these concerns.

12. YOUTH SPACE AND RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Baker expressed her thanks to Cllr Powell for his work in organising the team of weeding volunteers so that the playground could be reopened without the need for strong weed killer. It was also confirmed that there would be no need for a bark top up as the level was still acceptable because of the lack of use. The Chair added that the new handle for the tennis net had been installed

13. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

There was nothing to report on this item.

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

Over recent months there had been some regular power cuts in the village, which were quite prolonged but not across the whole village. Cllr Baker had contacted Western Distribution on Thursday 20 September during one of these power cuts and had been told that it was an underground issue and that only 35 houses were affected.

During another power cut the next day, it had affected many houses in CV8 and Western Distribution's Twitter feed stated that many areas across the country had also been affected, this time by an overhead cable issue. Cllr Pam Redford stated that she was aware of a situation years ago in another area where overhead lines had sagged and had caused many problems.

It was agreed that Western Distribution's freephone number, 105, would be sent out on the village email with people being encouraged to report any power cut.

15. CORRESPONDENCE NOT DEALT WITH IN OTHER ITEMS

There was nothing to report on this item.

Date of next meeting – 06 October 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom