

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held virtually on Thursday 1st October 2020 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Holloway, Green, Blakeman, Ward, Charles Royden, Rider, Rani, Corinne Royden, Grant, Jarman-Webb, and the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms) were in attendance.

Absent: Cllrs Durham, Johns, Retout and Borough Cllrs S Moon and Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant.

1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Durham, Johns, Retout and Borough Cllrs S Moon and Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant.	
2.	Declarations of interest in items on the agenda: i) To receive written requests for a dispensation: None received. ii) To consider any requests for a dispensation: None.	
3.	To approve the reason for a parish councillor being unable to attend parish council meetings during the current COVID crisis: Unfortunately Cllr Durham has been unable to attend parish council meetings since they moved to being virtual following the start of the COVID crisis. The parish council resolved to continue to accept his apologies for the time being but to try to establish if there was anything which could be done to solve the problem. This matter would be reviewed at the November meeting.	Clerk and Cllr Fitzpatrick
4.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2020: The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.	
5.	Public Open Session (15 mins): None.	
6.	i) To approve bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment: It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliations and approve the following:	

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Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
Reids Playground Maintenance	BACS 46	£2,568.00	Wetpour under toddler unit
Bedford Borough Council	DD	£4069.48	Salaries Sept
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£15.49	Telephone Charges
NPower	BACS 47	£72.49	Electricity for Fountain
Otis Ltd	BACS 48	£607.88	Lift Service
	Total Payments	£7333.34	

- ii) To agree to move forward with the lease re: the Mowsbury Play Area and the likely costs involved:
 The Clerk reported that the draft lease was ready to be signed with the Borough Council. A copy of the most recent annual play inspection report had been received which showed all issues a low or very low risk. Although the fencing and equipment had recently been re-painted, the area continues to look tired and in need of attention. The Clerk had recently met with officers of the Borough Council and agreed with them that they would make arrangements to get the bark raked and topped up to required standards. The parish council would need to commit to two new pieces of equipment and some resurfacing over the coming years. It was noted that Gathering on the Green 2020 and the Spring Tea 2020 had not taken place and given COVID were unlikely to do so in 2021 so funds could be diverted to improvements on this play area. Should it be found possible to carry out these events in 2021, there were sufficient funds in reserves to cover costs.

Following discussion, **it was resolved** that the parish council should proceed with the acquisition of the lease and commit £20,000 to the initial improvements to the area. The details could be discussed at the next Allotments & Open Spaces Committee meeting in November. The Clerk will add this to the agenda and start the process of getting ideas and quotations for new equipment.

- iii) To note the National Salary Awards for Clerks for 2020: This was noted.

Clerk

	<p>To receive reports from the Borough Councillors:</p> <p>Cllrs Royden and Rider had circulated a written version which the Clerk will arrange to go on the website.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and agree further action:</p> <p>i) To receive the draft letter response to the Government planning consultation and agree action: Following discussion, it was resolved by a majority to respond to the Planning for the Future White Paper consultation using the arguments made by CPRE (see item 16v) in its response. The parish council response would stress the potential loss of democracy, the impact on housing affordability and access to green spaces and the fact that it is not clear how neighbourhood development plans would be impacted. The parish council would not respond to the Changes to the Current Planning System consultation.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>To review the new accessibility compliant website and agree further action:</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a link to allow the parish councillors the opportunity to visit the site. It was resolved that all councillors should contact the Clerk by Friday 9th October with any comments or suggestions so that she could collate these and forward them to Mr Edgar to make the changes. Once he had done that, the new website would become live.</p>	All councillors and the Clerk
10.	<p>To receive an update on the Brickhill Community Centre and any ongoing implications of COVID 19:</p> <p>Cllr Green reported that staff had returned from furlough at the beginning of September and that the Centre Manager had done sterling work contacting all existing users to establish their plans to return. Most groups have returned but for some, including the bridge group, that has not been possible.</p>	Cllr Green and the Clerk.

	<p>Unfortunately, the annual Christmas party is not able to take place this year. Could residents be informed of this in the next newsletter.</p> <p>With regards the financial position, there was a likely loss in the current financial year of between £7,000-£8,000 which would need to be covered from reserves. Cllr Green agreed to keep the parish council updated as necessary.</p>	
11.	<p>To receive an update re: average speed cameras in Brickhill Drive and agree any further action:</p> <p>As agreed, Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Green, Grant, Johns and the Clerk had met with Allan Burls from Bedford Borough Council on site. Following that meeting, Mr Burls had e-mailed to say that he is now in discussions with colleagues, the Borough's supplier and will seek the views of the police as well.</p> <p>Once all this information had been received, he would circulate a proposed design to the parish council for comment. Dependent on response times he would hope to have this, or at the very least an update, with the parish council by the middle of October.</p>	
12.	<p>To note the Call for Sites for the Local Plan 2040:</p> <p>It was noted that more land within Brickhill parish had been submitted for this new plan than was submitted and accepted in the Local Plan 2030.</p> <p>The Borough Council is now assessing the suitability all the land submitted in this latest call for sites across the whole of Bedford Borough and the parish council will await the results of that process.</p>	
13.	<p>To review the Standing Orders:</p> <p>These were reviewed and accepted. The Clerk will put a copy on the website.</p>	Clerk

14.	<p>To review the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>These were reviewed and accepted. The Clerk will put a copy on the website.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>Xmas Window Display Competition:</p> <p>Following Cllr Fitzpatrick suggestion, it was resolved that the parish council should hold a competition along the lines of that undertaken in past years in the Black Tom area of Bedford and offer some modest prizes for the best six windows.</p> <p>Displays should be up from Monday 14th December until Christmas. He suggested that details could be included in the forthcoming newsletter. Another possibility was to promote this through the schools but an issue with this was that a number of children are not resident in Brickhill.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Correspondence: List in Supporting Documentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) E-mail from Chief Executive re: Local Plan 2040: noted. ii) BATPC: The 2020 AGM will take place on 21st October 2020 at 7.30 pm: Cllr Fitzpatrick will be attending. iii) Bedford Borough Council: the Financial implications of COVID-19: noted. iv) Planning Reforms Briefing Paper from CPRE Bedfordshire – Response to Planning Consultations. The parish council supported CPRE’s response to the consultation contained in Part 1 of the briefing paper and had used this to provide a basis to its own agreed response in 8i above. v) Public consultation on draft recommendation for new ward boundaries: noted. 	

	<p>vi) New community policing priority for Bedford – Burglary: Cllr Rani noted the increase in attempted and actual car break-ins. It was resolved to invite the police to attend a future parish council meeting.</p> <p>vii) Policy by the borough council re: orange sacks: noted.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>To review the list of outstanding matters and agree any further action:</p> <p>To consider and agree action regarding planting around the Brickhill signs:</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick has purchased the bulbs and will arrange planting as soon as ground conditions allow.</p> <p>i) Request for a bin near noticeboard/postbox in Ashmead Road:</p> <p>the Clerk had spoken to James Lynch from Bedford Borough Council who agreed to arrange for the Environmental Services team to investigate. It is dependent on the available capacity of the vehicle used to collect waste from the bins.</p> <p>Cllr Jarman-Webb had also reported to the Clerk that there is a problem generally with discarded litter on the grassed areas alongside Ashmead Road on the entrance from Tyne Crescent.</p> <p>It was not clear if this is caused by the users of the football pitch or residents/visitors to properties on Woodlands Park. The Clerk had reported this to the Environmental Services team to see if they were able to suggest anything.</p> <p>ii) Large pond on Woodlands Park:</p> <p>Cllr Jarman-Webb had received reports that this was in need of clearing. The Clerk had reported this to Environmental Services. He thought that the life ring was also missing.</p>	

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	<p>iii) Request by Cllr Holloway for sleepers/or suitable surface to be installed on the slope near the green gym on Ashmead Road: This route is used by bus passengers and is very slippery.</p> <p>It was resolved to ask the Great Barford councillors if they were able to allocate some of their future ward funds to this work.</p>	Clerk
18.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 5th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.</p>	

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 Approved by Chairman
 5th November 2020