

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 7th October 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Grant, Green, Ward, Blakeman, Rider, Jarman-Webb, Brazier, Rani, Charles Royden, Barlow, Corinne Royden, Holloway, two members of the public and the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms) were in attendance.

Absent: Cllrs Johns and Lamswood and Borough Cllrs Martin-Moran-Bryant and Moon.

Summary of the meeting: -

Table 1 – The Minutes

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Cllrs, Johns and Lamswood and Borough Cllrs Martin-Moran-Bryant and Moon. It was noted that the meeting was being recorded for uploading to Youtube. Chris Bailes was thanked for doing this.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:</p> <p>i) To receive written requests for a dispensation: None received.</p> <p>ii) To consider any requests for a dispensation: During the discussion under 3 below, Cllr Rider declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.</p>	
3.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2021:</p> <p>It was noted that discussion had taken place under item 6 regarding safety concerns and recommendations raised by the police adviser about potential rat runs between Graze Hill and Woodlands Park. This had not been included in the minutes because there was no action placed on the Parish Council from this discussion. The minutes for September were therefore agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	

Item	Description	Action
4.	<p>Public Open Session (15 mins):</p> <p>Average Speed Cameras in Brickhill Drive: A resident attended to express her dismay that the cameras which had been promised to be installed in the Summer were still not installed with no clear idea of when this will happen. Speeding on Brickhill Drive is getting worse and the vehicle activated sign is constantly activated. Residents are fed up and want a solution soon. Parishioners have also contacted Cllr Brazier and the Clerk asking for news of when these would be installed and an explanation for the delay. It was noted that there had been a recent accident at the roundabout adjacent to Tesco. It was also noted that this was to be discussed under item 6 on the agenda.</p>	
5.	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>i) To agree the bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment:</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the reconciliations and settle the accounts for payment which are listed below.</p> <p>ii) To agree to spend £500 on additional lights for the Christmas tree Following discussion, it was resolved to spend £500 on extra sets of lights. This is to cover the fact that the tree grows year on year and for any sets which have failed since last year.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6.	<p>To receive an update re: average speed cameras in Brickhill Drive</p> <p>The Clerk had been promised an update ahead of this meeting but none had been received. Cllr Charles Royden said that the delay is because of negotiations taking place with the police who have responsibility to enforce and ensure sufficient capacity to do so. Bedford Borough Council was an early adopter of having cameras on residential roads. This is creating a huge resource requirement on the police.</p> <p>The Brickhill cameras are part of a borough wide scheme. A response from the Borough Council was thought to be imminent and so no further action was proposed.</p>	

Item	Description	Action
7.	<p>To receive an update on possible replacements for the wooden “pigs” in the Pig Park on Woodlands Park</p> <p>It was noted that at the September meeting, it had been resolved that the Bpha grant of £2,500 as well as some contribution, hopefully, from the Great Barford Ward councillors would be used to replace the pigs on the “Pig Park” which were starting to disintegrate. Cllr Green was asked to establish that the Brickhill Community Centre was still holding in its accounts, the £1,000 grant from Wixamtree Trust. The Clerk reported that the existing pigs had been carved from lumps of wood and had no markings to suggest who had carved them. Cllr Fitzpatrick had spoken to an ex Bedford Borough Council officer for advice on who to approach to carve replacements. Cllr Fitzpatrick had sent photos and dimensions to the person and whilst they were too large for him to produce, he agreed to see if other carvers might be interested and would report back to Cllr Fitzpatrick. It was noted that the existing pigs had been in position for approximately 15 years but had not been maintained over that period. The “Pig Park” is now the responsibility of Bedford Borough Council and it will be for it to ensure that maintenance is correctly carried out in the future.</p>	<p>Cllr Green Cllr Fitzpatrick</p>
8.	<p>To consider and agree additional funding to complete the re-surfacing works on the Mowsbury Walk play area:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that three companies quoted for the installation of the replacement equipment and Reids Playground Maintenance (RPM) were selected to undertake the first phase of this work because, although slightly more expensive, they had installed and undertaken the re-surfacing on Waveney Green which everyone was really pleased with. With regards the second phase, only two of those companies quoted and RPM were the cheapest by £200 with a quote of £21,455. Although 3 quotes should be sought, the Financial Regulations make an exception where the work is seen as an extension of an existing contract.</p> <p>This appears to cover the situation with regards the second phase of the work. Following discussion, it was resolved, to accept the quotation from RPM for £21,455.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Item	Description	Action
9.	<p>To receive reports from the Borough Councillors:</p> <p>The Brickhill Ward Councillors had circulated a written report and a copy would be placed on the website. Great Barford Ward councillor Martin-Moran-Bryant had sent the Clerk her report via an e-mail which was only accessed after the meeting. In her report she highlighted the following. Highways weed spraying will be taking place in Brickhill on the 5th October. The officers were working on the car park barrier being repaired when she last spoke to them on 17th September. With regards general maintenance, she received an update on the 16th September to say that Woodlands Park, as part of Winter works last Autumn, had works undertaken to its play areas, sports pitches, country park including the balancing ponds and ditches. Clearance works was carried out to self-set vegetation along with pruning to shrubberies/hedges around the development. Winter works starts 1st of September through to March after bird nesting season. The level of growth this year together with the pandemic has resulted in some tasks such as grass cutting or hedges taking longer than normal to get around. There will be a response to local complaints or issues being raised and these will be prioritised accordingly. The grass cutting team are currently working in Woodlands and the other maintenance to shrubberies, ditches and balancing ponds will be carried out either before or during our winter works maintenance period.</p> <p>All ward councillors were thanked for their reports.</p>	
10.	<p>To identify roads and pavements in Brickhill for inclusion on the Bedford Borough Council future highways works:</p> <p>Cllr Grant spoke about the cycle routes signposted by the borough, one of which is running from Woodlands Park to Bedford town. Most of it is on quite roads but there are sections e.g. Avon Drive which take cyclists onto a busy road. Could the footpath running along the edge of Waveney Green/Avon Drive be widened to become a dual use path. There are other examples, e.g. Tyne Crescent. This would make it safer. Cllr Blakeman said that in the Cycle Network published approximately 5-6 years previously, these two sections were identified by the Cycling Officer as requiring change to dual use but this was not implemented. Cllr Barlow suggested the section of Tyne Crescent as you leave Westrope Way and turn right towards the roundabout where tree roots are impacting the</p>	Clerk

Item	Description	Action
	<p>pavement. Rhineland Way has already been identified via a petition. Cllr Jarman-Webb suggested parts of the perimeter footpath which runs behind the kickabout area. Cllr Green suggested the section of footpath between Kimbolton Road between Brickhill Drive and Park Avenue which has substantial tree damage, though it is not clear what can be done as work seems to have been undertaken in the past. It was resolved that the Clerk submit these examples to the Borough Council.</p>	
11.	<p>To consider possible locations for electric vehicle charging points to be suggested to Bedford Borough Council:</p> <p>Locations suggested were the Woodlands Park car park, Ashmead Road (Westrope Road end) and again Mowsbury Park car park. Unfortunately the latter had been ruled out already because of a lack of appropriate supply.</p> <p>Other possible locations could be the layby in Brickhill Drive outside Pilgrim and Avon Drive near Waveney Green, Falcon Avenue, Torridge Rise adjacent to the flats, Avon Drive/top end of Humber Drive near the bungalows, near the Owl Park in Ashmead Road and also locations in Brickhill near Bedford Park. It was important to avoid areas where there is already significant parking. It was resolved that the Clerk would reply to the Borough Council siting these examples along with any others included in the e-mail circulated from Cllr Jarman-Webb.</p>	Clerk
12.	<p>To note the existence of the Bedford Freight Strategy document and to receive any update on the actions taken and the progress of the new version:</p> <p>Cllr Grant had e-mailed Andrew Prigmore of the Borough Council about potential weight restrictions in Brickhill for which the feedback was that, if installed, they would tend to be ignored. The Parish Council is not happy with the amount of heavy goods vehicles and wants to take action. Getting signage into the Manton Lane facilities directing traffic left and down the hill rather than turn left through Brickhill. Including the potential, should it become a problem, for a night time ban for HGV's. The Parish Council should be keen to identify potential future problems and work to deal with these. The Freight Strategy document which is due to expire at the end of this year has still not been updated as far as is known. The Parish Council would wish to be pro-active and feed its views and ideas into the revision. There has been debate in the past about freight</p>	Cllrs Grant and Charles Royden

Item	Description	Action
	<p>monitoring systems and plans but nothing lately. Cllr Grant has sent a number of e-mails to Andrew Prigmore and he would be grateful if Cllr Charles Royden could chase these up. Cllr Grant was thanked for his report.</p>	
13.	<p>To receive an update re: policing in Brickhill:</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick informed the Parish Council that there had been two meetings attended by Cllrs Fitzpatrick and Grant. Cllr Rani attended the second meeting. The first was the Yellow Cluster Meeting on the 28th September held virtually with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Cllr Fitzpatrick complained about the lack of the engagement meetings which used to be held with the police, the priority setting meetings and the fact that the police do not attend any of our Parish Council meetings. Priority setting meetings seem to be occurring in some areas but not ours. Brickhill is lumped in with Harpur and De Parys. It is understood that the police have been out and about with the Brickhill Ward councillors so there is not a complete absence. Cllr Grant mentioned there was a lot of focus on the control room and it being under-resourced and underskilled. The PCC mentioned recruiting more officers and building up community policing. It was noted that the force had a poor retention record. The second meeting was the virtual Annual PCC Conference with Town and Parish Councils. Half of questions brought up were to do with average speed camera: why has our parish not got them, where are they on the list, what are the criteria used to decide.</p>	
14.	<p>To review and agree the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that, to date, there had not been any revision issued by NALC although there had been a consultation undertaken with town and parish councils. It was resolved to accept the existing Code of Conduct with no amendments.</p>	
15.	<p>To review and agree the Financial Regulations:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that, to date, there had not been any update to the model financial regulations produced by NALC.</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the existing Code of Conduct with no amendments. The Clerk explained the process for bacs payments and safeguards in place.</p>	

Item	Description	Action
16.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>E-mail from EWR re: ongoing engagement – north of Bedford BBC application to vary a Street Trading Consent outside the Town Centre: Dessert Boss</p> <p>E-mail re: Kennet rise temporary order – copied into an e-mail to highways consultations regarding a resident in Rede Close.</p> <p>BBC: Request from PC for views on how to improve services to the PC or residents. The Clerk wrote a detailed letter in response.</p> <p>E-mail re: request to provide seats (benches) for residents of Anjulita Court and others to rest as they walk. One halfway down first avenue and another at the post box. Also more bulb planting to give seasonal effect. Cllr Rani said that in a walkabout with a Bedford Borough Council official and Borough Cllr Moon, benches were discussed amongst other matters. She agreed to forward the e-mail to the Clerk to seek an update on action.</p> <p>E-mail from Stop the Arc Group</p> <p>E-mail from Brickhill Primary asking for help with local history. The Clerk will recirculate.</p> <p>E-mail asking for update on when the average speed cameras will be installed. The resident had attended this meeting.</p> <p>Date for the 2021 BATPC AGM, taking place at Henlow Park Pavilion, Wednesday 27th October at 7:30pm (with refreshments from 7pm). Noted. Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Grant and Barlow will attend.</p> <p>EWR meeting 19th October. The Clerk will respond to say Cllr Barlow will be attending. Any questions which have not been previously raised needed to be sent in by the 15th October. Reference was made to the recent process by EWR over the school Summer holidays of counting walkers using people and cameras. Not the most sensible time. What weight are EWR going to give to the results? The concern is that this information will be used to close footpaths when the Parish Council want to improve access. Also ask about environmental information which had not come out.</p>	<p>Cllr Rani</p> <p>Clerk</p>

Item	Description	Action
	<p>It was resolved that all councillors with questions to be raised should e-mail them to Cllr Barlow ahead of the 15th October deadline.</p> <p>Parish and Town Council Network Meeting, 4th November. Cllr Grant will attend and so gives his apologies for the next Parish Council meeting. It was noted that Jon Shortland, Chief Officer for Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Growth and Matthew D'Archamboud, Chief Officer for Transport, Highways and Engineering were attending. Cllr Grant could forward a question in advance regarding the discussion under item 12.</p>	Cllr Grant
17.	<p>To review outstanding matters and agree any further action:</p> <p>Ponds on Woodlands Park: Cllr Jarman-Webb reported that there had been an incident at the small pond recently. Cllr Rani said that on the walkabout mentioned under correspondence above, the council officer had agreed to take action to clear these. The Clerk will contact the officer concerned once she receives the e-mail from Cllr Rani.</p> <p>Update on the plans for the switch-on of the Christmas tree lights on Waveney Green:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that these were developing and she would report back at the November meeting.</p>	Cllr Rani Clerk Clerk
18.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7.30pm at St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise. This is dependent on any COVID restrictions in existence at that time.</p>	

Approved by

Chairman
4th November 2021

Table 2 Reconciliations for Approval (see item above)

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 67	£366.44	Grounds Maintenance MW
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 68	£1,483.68	Grounds Maintenance WG
National Allotment Society	BACS 70	£66.00	Membership
CCS Ltd	BACS 71	£540.00	BCC Tank Clean
Came & Co	BACS 72	£1,607.43	Annual Insurance
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£14.24	Associated Telecom Solutions
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 73	£820.73	Pensions
Pam Anthony	BACS 74	£60.00	Payroll cost July Sept
S Bottoms	BACS 75	£1,846.01	Salaries Sept
D Britton	BACS 76	£121.36	Litter Collection WG
HMRC	BACS 77	£809.09	PAYE
P Chester & Sons Ltd	BACS 69	£178.51	Brickhill CC - new flue
Anglian Water	DD	£245.29	Water Charge
NPower	BACS 78	£52.46	Electricity for Fountain
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 79	£188.33	Office Hire Sept
	Total Payments	£8,399.57	