

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 4th November 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

Absent: Cllrs Johns, Grant, Brazier, Rani 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, Brazier, Rani 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: None.</p>	
3.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th October 2021:</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Open Session (15 mins):</p> <p>None.</p>	

Item	Description	Action
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>	Clerk
6.	<p>To receive reports from the Borough Councillors:</p> <p>The report from the Brickhill Councillors had been circulated and the Clerk had arranged for it to go on the website. Cllr Charles Royden said that the police have been actively enforcing the 20 mph areas recently and noted that the next Police Priority Setting meeting to cover Brickhill and De Parys would be taking place on the 8th December. The Brickhill Councillors were thanked for their report.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>To receive an update re: average speed cameras in Brickhill Drive:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she has had communication from Allan Burls the officer at the Borough Council involved in this project. He had thanked the Parish Council for its continued patience regarding the protracted progress that has taken place over the last few months in order to get to the current position. The Borough Council have been waiting for the conclusion of talks with the police which have now ended. These have been positive resulting in it being possible to finalise the design.</p> <p>He had circulated the design for the Brickhill Drive system, acknowledging that it has proven a very technically challenging design but the Borough Council have now been able to confirm that the proposed design is feasible resulting in a four-camera system.</p> <p>Specific locations may need to be altered should utilities be found which are not identified on the relevant plans but the</p>	

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	<p>locations on the plan have been designed based on the returned information.</p> <p>It is currently anticipated that installation will begin in February 2022 and it will certainly be completed by the end of March 2022. Once an exact installation date is available it will be communicated to the Parish Council.</p> <p>The Clerk will put a copy of the scheme design on social media.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan:</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that a new grant had been awarded to spend between now and March 2022. A one hour virtual meeting is being planned hopefully next Tuesday with the consultant Dave Chetwyn and Cllr Fitzpatrick will circulate details to all parish councillors.</p> <p>The aim of the meeting is to reset the process and pick up from where the group had left off at the beginning of last year with the intention to make further progress before the end of the current financial year.</p> <p>If any parish councillors wish to attend they will be very welcome.</p>	Cllr Fitzpatrick
9.	<p>To update the Action Plan for the Parish Council:</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated the existing Action Plan and asked for parish councillors to consider and let her know any revisions to be included.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p>To receive a report on the recent meeting between EWR and parishes 19th October:</p> <p>Cllr Barlow had circulated to all parish councillors a detailed report ahead of this meeting. He said there had been anger regarding the restrictions placed by EWR on who could attend the meeting namely only elected representatives from parishes and wards, that only questions which had not been asked before</p>	

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	<p>could be asked and all had to be in writing ahead of the meeting. This was despite Simon Blanchflower, live on 3 Counties Radio committing to a meeting with BFARe to begin discussion regarding its preferred option. Cllr Barlow highlighted some of the key discussion points:</p> <p>Decision Criteria: the 15 criteria were acted on “qualitatively” and there was no scoring mechanism. It remains unclear how the decision for Route E was reached and EWR seem unable to explain it in a structured fashion.</p> <p>Zero Carbon Aspirations: EWR said that no carbon efficiency calculations for the construction of any route were used to inform them of the carbon impact of the routes. They do not know if the route selected was the most carbon efficient and are rather seeking to mitigate the selection.</p> <p>Freight: EWR said the railway is being primarily designed to provide a passenger service running 4 times per hour in each direction and is expected to be able to support one freight path in each direction throughout the operating day. EWR continue to evade the issue of its potential contribution to the freight industry. They do not know the role of freight, the demand on their railway or where it stands on the National Freight Strategy. It will not commit to a “traction strategy” and refuse to state if it will or when it would be able to cease reliance on diesel power. Fully embracing freight business would suggest they should be pressing to electrify the line from build but they continue to show little enthusiasm for either.</p> <p>Backchecking: EWR claims to be doing so, but the response with regards Bedford was that it would require a significant rise in costs to trigger a back check. EWR considered the following too insignificant: the climate emergency declared in Bedford in March 2019 just as the EWR consultation was taking place. The six-track option (known to EWR in 2019) but not the public and the potential demolition in Poets, the wider Bedford and the northern villages.</p> <p>Costs: EWR refuse to reveal the costs for Section C (Bedford), E (Harlton to Hauxton) and F (Shelfords to Cambridge) during the 2021 consultation so it is not possible to undertake a cost</p>	

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	<p>comparison for Bedford to Cambridge verses the 2019 consultation.</p> <p>EWR have admitted that they have these costs but so far have blocked the Freedom of Information request (FOI) which has gone to appeal with the ICO. EWR say the costs are “still maturing”.</p> <p>Consultation Process: EWR were asked if they felt that the 2019 consultation process had been adequate given that three of the directly impacted North Bedfordshire villages were not on the prescribed consultee list and in some parishes (Clapham and Roxton) only 5% of residences were on the EWR postcode list. Bromham, Biddenham and Queens Park were also omitted despite being immediately adjacent to Route E. EWR argued that the consultation had been well publicised and they had run multiple events.</p> <p>EWR were reminded that an inadequately answered FOI question on the shortcomings of the 2019 consultation had been submitted and still not answered after 25 working days.</p> <p>EWR Engagement with Bedford Borough Council: There have been at least 8 meetings where no agenda, minutes or actions have been kept. Several FOI requests have been made but no information forthcoming.</p> <p>Follow Up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A follow up meeting with the right people from BFARe was requested. EWR refused to commit to a follow up meeting, saying they needed to come back to us with an answer. When asked when they would come back with an answer, they said they needed to check. <p>Will Gallagher committed to come back to participants on 20th October 2021 with a timescale for when they will be able to answer whether they will commit to a follow up meeting with the BFARe team.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A follow up meeting open to the public was requested. Will Gallagher announced that they will be forming public forums for people to attend and he was going to 	

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	<p>investigate whether this could be brought forwards for the Northern Parishes. The next meeting involving parish councils will be the 23rd November.</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick said that what he would be interested in was understanding what has changed, if anything following the latest consultation given the quantity of comments submitted.</p> <p>Cllr Barlow was thanked for his report.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed that the widest participation in future consultations is in the interest of everyone including EWR. What is not clear is what will change following the last consultation if anything.</p>	
11.	<p>To receive a report from the Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils AGM:</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick said he and Cllrs Grant and Barlow attended the meeting. Will Gallagher, Director of Sponsorship and Strategy at EWR had said at the meeting that the aim is to achieve net zero carbon across the route from both construction and operation.</p> <p>Hydrogen powered engines had been ruled out as they would not be powerful enough for the route. Mr Gallagher had said that he does not want a diesel railway but initially diesel engines would need to be run on the line ahead of electrification of the line but it was noted that the Treasury had not yet signed off on the cost of installing the necessary infrastructure needed for the electrification of the route.</p> <p>The next formal consultation ahead of submitting the DCO was expected at the turn of the year or early next year. This will be concerning the actual alignment of the route within the corridor.</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick discussed the Queens Green Canopy Project and the fact that free trees can be applied for. Councillors were asked to give consideration as to possible locations and type of trees. The aim is to leave a legacy for future generations.</p> <p>The Clerk had received an e-mail in the past from the Borough Council offering advice on trees on parish land. She had said</p>	Clerk

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	that the Parish Council would be interested in advice regarding Waveney Green but had received no further communication. She will try to locate the original e-mail.	
12.	<p>To receive an update re: Christmas Tree Lights Switch on 9th December 2021:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that only available date that The Lions could attend is the 9th December which unfortunately is not an option for Scott Primary or St Thomas More. She is hopeful that Brickhill Primary will perform for us. Everything of course is dependent on the weather. The Clerk will contact Brickhill Primary after half term for an update. She will then look to advertise on social media.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>To receive an update on the re-surfacing works on the Mowsbury Walk play area:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Reids Playground Maintenance (RPM) will get the work done in this financial year assuming that the weather is suitable.</p>	
14.	<p>Agree a date for a meeting of the Finance Advisory Group:</p> <p>The Clerk reported that this Group consists of Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Ward and Corinne Royden. It considers the budget for the following year and makes recommendations to the Parish Council for consideration at the January meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact the members of the Group and will offer dates early in December. As this is only an advisory group, the meeting will be held on Zoom.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>Agree meeting dates for 2022:</p> <p>It was resolved that meetings should be the first Thursday of every month for Planning at 6.30pm. This is followed by full Parish Council at 7.30pm every month except for August and December when the full Parish Council does not meet. It was noted that because of the extra public holidays associated with</p>	

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	<p>June that both the planning and full Parish Council meeting should instead be held on Wednesday 1st June. The Clerk to confirm that the move of date is acceptable to St Mark's Community Centre.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Correspondence: All circulated to parish councillors ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>E-mail from Simon Blanchflower to Cllr Mike Barlow following 19th October meeting.</p> <p>Under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Clapham Parish Council have submitted their Neighbourhood Development Plan to Bedford Borough Council</p> <p>Retirement of Simon Blanchflower of EWR in March 2022</p> <p>Under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Felmersham and Radwell Parish Council have submitted their Neighbourhood Development Plans to Bedford Borough Council.</p> <p>BBC – Additional Call for Sites Local Plan 2040.</p> <p>Public consultation for Bedford Borough regarding domestic abuse.</p>	
17.	<p>To review outstanding matters and agree any further action:</p> <p>Woodlands Park issues:</p> <p>Cllr Rani had forwarded to the Clerk the e-mail from Claire Pick of Bedford Borough Council which identified the issues which had been discussed following the walkabout with Borough Cllr Moon and Cllr Rani. The Clerk had requested an update from Claire Pick on the issues discussed.</p> <p>Balancing ponds: Claire Pick understood from colleagues that the lifebelts had now been installed. Warning signs are on order</p>	

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	<p>for both ponds and should be installed in the next couple of months.</p> <p>Clearance of balancing ponds would normally fall under winter works and this is a better time to cut back vegetation generally and is out of the bird nesting season. Work was done on the larger pond last year.</p> <p>Play areas: Some remedial works in the larger playgrounds has taken place but in the smaller ones, the Borough are seeking input from residents on what they would like to see in them.</p> <p>Perhaps a pocket park theme would be good in them as they are not really large enough for traditional playground equipment.</p> <p>The Clerk informed her of the action the Parish Council had taken with regards seeking out a wood carver to replace the existing pigs on the "pig park". She was unable to recommend anyone.</p> <p>Benches: possible locations included the playground areas and near Anjulita Court. The Clerk mentioned that she had received an e-mail from a visitor to Anjulita Court requesting a bench on the bridleway between Anjulita and the post box. Claire Pick is happy to discuss locations and whether this is something the Parish Council would consider funding.</p> <p>The assumption is the Parish Council will meet the purchase and installation costs. The Clerk said that this was not something which needs to be decided immediately but if thought could be given to possible locations. There is approximately £2,000 in reserve left over from the Ravensden monies.</p> <p>The Clerk also asked if Claire Pick could also organise the installation of a bench on Waveney Green on the stretch of footpath between the dog bin and Falcon Avenue. She had agreed to include this when she tenders for further benches across the Borough.</p>	

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	<p>She warned that there was a long lead in time for any benches to be delivered but would confirm this when she tendered. A location would need to be agreed.</p> <p>Claire Pick ended her e-mail agreeing to keep the Clerk updated on any works or plans by the Borough Council on Woodlands Park.</p>	
18.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 6th January 2022 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

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 Chairman
 6th January 2022

Table 2 Reconciliations for Approval (see item above)

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
British Telecom	DD	£135.48	Broadband
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£15.98	Telephone Charges
Blanchere Illumination UK Ltd	BACS 80	£618.00	Christmas Tree Lights
David Britton	BACS 81	£121.36	Litter picking WG Oct
HMRC	BACS 82	£809.09	PAYE Oct
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 83	£820.73	Pensions Oct
S Bottoms	BACS 84	£1,846.01	Salaries Oct
Chris Horne Gardens Ltd	BACS 85	£342.00	Wildflower Meadow
P Chester & Sons Ltd	BACS 86	£58.80	Heating Fault BCC
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 87	£188.33	Office Hire Oct
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 88	£8.40	Hall Hire Oct
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 89	£16.80	Hall Hire - PC Oct
S Reilly	BACS 90	£645.00	Allotment Works April-Nov
	Total Payments	£5,625.98	