

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 5th January 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Green, Grant, Holloway, Blakeman, Lamswood, Charles Royden and Corinne Royden, the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms) and two members of the public.

Absent: Cllrs Johns, Barlow, Ward, Rider, Brazier, Jarman-Webb, Rani and Borough Cllrs Moon and Martin-Moran-Bryant.

Summary of the meeting: -

Table 1 – The Minutes

Item	Description	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Rider, Brazier and Borough Cllr S Moon	
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 received.	
3.	To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2022: The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.	
4.	Public Open Session: None.	

Item	Description	Action
5.	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>i) To agree the bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment: These are listed in table 2 below.</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the bank reconciliations and the accounts for payment.</p> <p>ii) To consider and agree the budget for 2023-24:</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick had circulated in advance a proposed budget based on input from the Clerk and from the Finance Advisory Group. It was resolved to put £5,000 in a category: "Support for Children in Need". The Clerk would put this on the February agenda where hopefully a proposal could be considered as to how this could be progressed. Following discussion, it was resolved that with some revisions by Cllr Fitzpatrick, the budget would be agreed. The Clerk will arrange to put a copy on the website.</p> <p>iii) To agree the precept for 2023-24:</p> <p>It was resolved to request £124,600 which will involve no change to the Band D council tax amount of £35.32 per year which equates to 68p per week. The Clerk will forward this request to Bedford Borough Council.</p> <p><u>Agreement to replace the mechanism on the cantilever swing on Waveney Green</u></p> <p>The Clerk had brought this forward as an emergency item. Unfortunately when the equipment was stripped down it was found that the mechanism needed changing. The cost will be £2,135, with the bulk of the costs being the mechanism from Wicksteed. It was resolved that the Clerk authorise the repair.</p>	<p>Cllr Fitzpatrick</p> <p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk</p>
6.	<p>To receive an update on the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights on Waveney Green</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the event went well with lots of people attending. Thanks to Brickhill and Scott Primary Schools for providing the choirs and Dave Todd and helpers for the music.</p>	

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	<p>Thanks also to those councillors who attended and helped out and to the Bedford Lions for bringing Santa. The Clerk had forwarded the agreed £150 donation to Bedford Lions.</p>	
7.	<p>To receive an update on Woodlands Park:</p> <p>i) Ashmead Road priorities</p> <p>The Clerk understood that Borough Councillor Moon was relaying the decision of the Parish Council back to the appropriate officer at Bedford Borough Council. She had received no update.</p> <p>ii) CCTV camera replacement/repair</p> <p>The Clerk had received communication from ACE Security to say that the replacement cameras were to be installed on 3rd/4th January. The insurance company have agreed the claim. Once the Clerk receives the invoice and arranges payment, she will make contact with the insurance company.</p> <p>iii) Seats and the Pig Park</p> <p>It was resolved that a further bench be ordered for installation at the Westrope Way end of Ashmead Road. The Clerk was awaiting an update from Cllr Rani regarding any other locations. The Clerk was also awaiting an update re: the pig park. Measurements had been taken in October but that the carver was running behind schedule.</p>	The Clerk
8.	<p>To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that no progress had occurred over the Christmas period but work on this will now resume.</p>	
9.	<p>To receive any update on meeting dates including the May Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she was hoping that it would be possible to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wed 17th</p>	

Item	Description	Action
	<p>May and the Parish Assembly either Monday 22nd May, Tues 23rd May or Wednesday 24th May.</p> <p>She will report back at the next meeting as she will be able to confirm dates after the Church Office re-opens on the 10th January.</p>	
10.	<p>To receive a report from the Borough Councillors</p> <p>Boroughs Cllr Royden and Rider had not submitted a written report due to the festive period but were willing to answer any questions parish councillors might have.</p> <p>Cllrs Blakeman and Grant referred to the police traffic management data which had been referred to in the November Brickhill Borough Councillors report. (The figures are referred to again under the police report listed in item 11).</p> <p>Both were concerned that the police seemed satisfied that the average speed Eastbound of 35mph and Westbound on Avon Drive of 37mph implied most drivers were complying with the speed limits. These reported averages must mask the range of speeds and more detail was needed.</p> <p>In 2011 when a similar exercise was carried out, the Parish Council were provided with a detailed table. Is it possible to obtain the same for this latest data? It was resolved that the Clerk would contact the police to try to obtain this.</p>	The Clerk
11.	<p>Correspondence: List circulated separately:</p> <p>Bedfordshire LGPS - Triennial Valuation and Employer Contribution Rate 1 April 2023 - 31 March – <i>forwarded 11th Nov (signed by Mark and returned)</i></p> <p>Bedford Borough Council Trees SPD and Greyfriars North SPD Consultations <i>forwarded 22nd Nov</i></p> <p>Police surgery dates for January – <i>forwarded 29th December and to Simon for social media.</i></p> <p>EWR local representative groups information – <i>forwarded 21st December</i></p>	

Item	Description	Action
	<p>Parish and Town Council Network will be held on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 7pm. <i>Forwarded 4th Jan</i></p> <p><u>Police update from the Brickhill & DeParys Community Policing Team:</u></p> <p>Unfortunately a member was not able to attend in person but an update was received from PCs Junaid Ashiq and Umar Ajaz. It was noted that PCSO Alex Wheeldon has joined the team. The current community priority is speeding. Numerous speed gun sessions have taken place across Brickhill with the choice of location based on complaints highlighted.</p> <p>No drivers were prosecuted as the drivers captured during the sessions were not over the prosecution limit. The Community Team have worked closely with the Traffic Management Unit who installed their speed detection box at problem locations and confirmed that speeding is not a problem as data suggests most drivers were compliant.</p> <p>Data from the Traffic Management Unit. It had stated that the counters were put out on Avon Drive for 7 days between the 24/8/22 and the 07/9/22. Eastbound sampled 16,772 vehicles in that time. The average speed was 35mph, so only just on NPCC enforcement levels. Westbound sampled 16270 vehicles in that time, the average speed was 37mph - again only just on the enforcement thresholds. These averages suggest that compliance with the limit is generally fairly good.</p> <p>As of the 1st January the community priority changes to drugs as a result of a rise in acquisitive crime of burglary and thefts. This is seen as linked to drugs.</p> <p><u>E-mail re: suggestion for an additional fountain in the pond adjacent to the bridle path in Woodlands Park.</u></p> <p>It was suggested that this would vastly improve the water and the surroundings.</p> <p>It was not clear if this pond was in fact a balancing pond therefore water levels rise and fall.</p>	

Item	Description	Action
	<p>Following discussion, it was resolved that this was something to be considered for ward funding in the future. The Clerk will add it to the outstanding list.</p> <p><u>Woodland Trust Trees:</u></p> <p>Following discussion, it was resolved, that Cllr Fitzpatrick would apply for two free packs. Firstly a hedge pack for installation on Waveney Green possibly near the wildflower meadow and a second copse pack perhaps for installation on Woodlands Park. Permission would be needed from the landowner in the latter case. The packs would arrive in March.</p>	<p>The Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick</p>
12.	<p>Date of the Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 7.30pm at St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise.</p>	

Approved by

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Chairman
2nd February 2023

Table 2 Reconciliations for Approval (see item above)

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£ 29.63	Telephone Charge Nov
Co-operative Back	SO	£ 25.00	Chaps Charge
S Bottoms	BACS 109	£ 2,666.31	Salaries Nov
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 110	£ 1,265.14	Pensions Nov
HMRC	BACS 111	£ 1,336.02	PAYE
D Britton	BACS 112	£ 121.16	Salaries Nov
Otis Ltd	BACS 113	£ 643.57	Lift Service
Cos Colapietro	BACS 108	£ 56.00	Overpayment of allotment rent
Reids Playground Maintenance	BACS 114	£ 9,723.60	New Swings WG
Red N Security	BACS 115	£ 175.00	Lighting BCC
P Chester & Sons Ltd	BACS 116	£ 282.04	Plumbing Works BCC
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 117	£ 2,400.00	Part Paymt Fountain Repair
NSYS	BACS 118	£ 956.24	Website Hosting
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 119	£ 90.00	Removal bench WG
Shaun Reilly	BACS 120	£ 465.00	Grass Cutting at Allotment
NPower	BACS 121	£ 14.85	Electricity Fountain
S Bottoms	BACS 122	£ 236.74	Xmas Switch On
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 123	£ 18.48	Hall Hire A&OS
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 124	£ 13.86	Hall hire Planning
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 125	£ 188.33	Office Rent

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 126	£ 18.48	Hall Hire
S Bottoms	BACS 127	£ 1,999.69	Salaries (Dec)
D Britton	BACS 128	£ 121.16	Salaries WG (Dec)
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 129	£ 911.61	Pensions (Dec)
HMRC	BACS 130	£ 863.53	PAYE (Dec)
Bedford Lions	BACS 131	£ 150.00	Donation for Xmas Event
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£ 30.29	Telephone
Chris Horne Gardens Ltd	BACS 132	£ 216.00	Grass Cutting - Allotment
	Total Payments	£ 25,017.73	