

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 2nd March 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

Absent: Cllrs Johns, Jarman-Webb, Rani, Rider, Brazier, Ward, Barlow 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, Barlow and Borough Cllr 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. Cllr Royden left the room whilst item 5ii was considered and so took no part in the discussion or decision reached. Cllr Green did not take part in the discussion or decision under item 14.	
3.	To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 2023: 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 give further consideration as to how funding for “Support for Children in Need” might be actioned.</p> <p>The Clerk had sent to All Nations Nursery, St Marks Nursery, Scott Primary and Brickhill Primary the letter agreed at the last Parish Council meeting. Detailed responses had been received from Brickhill Primary and both nurseries.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed to wait for a detailed response from Scott Primary and then a small group of parish councillors would meet and discuss how to allocate funds. Any recommendations would be presented to the full Parish Council and a decision reached.</p> <p>iii) To consider and agree the Asset Register:</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the latest version. The Clerk will arrange for this to go on the website.</p> <p>iv) To consider and agree the Risk Assessment:</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the latest version. The Clerk will arrange for this to go on the website.</p> <p>v) To consider and agree the Financial Regulations:</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the latest version. The Clerk will arrange for this to go on the website.</p> <p>iii) To consider and agree the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-24:</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the latest version. The Clerk will arrange for this to go on the website.</p>	<p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk</p>

Item	Description	Action
6.	<p>To consider and agree any action re: received police speed data:</p> <p>Cllr Blakeman had analysed the data received following the Freedom of Information request to the police.</p> <p>This had been needed because the data collected was for operational purposes only.</p> <p>It was noted that the information received was still only a snapshot.</p> <p>A summary table gave only the speed of the first 85% of the vehicles as being 39mph eastbound and 41mph westbound.</p> <p>The data has been analysed and showed a total of 33,029 vehicles travelling along the road over the week. Disturbingly 90.0% of the vehicles (29,726) exceeded 31mph (above the 30mph speed limit) and 14.5% (4,789) over 41mph.</p> <p>The information did not allow the exact number of vehicles exceeding the threshold limit of 35mph in the 31 to 40mph band to be seen but was calculated to be between 4,789 and 29,726.</p> <p>Even more disturbing were the results that one vehicle exceeded 81mph, three over 71mph, 35 over 61mph, 275 over 51mph and 4,789 over 41mph.</p> <p>It was noted that a similar exercise on the same road had been carried out in February 2011.</p> <p>In that case 15.8% of 35,645 vehicles counted had exceeded the threshold speed limit, that is, a total of 5,631 vehicles.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that this level of speeding is not considered 'generally fairly good' as advised by the police.</p> <p>In the first instance, Cllr Blakeman would draft a letter for the Clerk to send to the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Inspector of the North Beds Police Team.</p>	<p>Cllr Blakeman The Clerk</p>

Item	Description	Action
7.	<p>To receive an update on Woodlands Park Matters:</p> <p>i) CCTV Cameras at the “Owl Park”:</p> <p>The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from Bedford Borough Council that the Parish Council has settled the invoice. Once received, the Clerk will make a claim on the insurance.</p> <p>ii) More benches:</p> <p>The Clerk is awaiting photos from Cllr Rani.</p> <p>iii) Monies still to be spent on play areas:</p> <p>The Parish Council still had £550 from Bpha and £1,000 from the Wixamtree Trust in reserves. Following the e-mail below about the broken dragonfly in Laxton Way, the Clerk contacted Claire Pick at Bedford Borough Council to see if she had any plans for works to the play areas on Woodlands Park. She has replied that she was hoping that this might be something which the Borough Council could start looking at over the summer. The Clerk has mentioned the dragonfly to her.</p>	<p>The Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Rani</p>
8.	<p>To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that he has had a conversation with Dave Chetwyn from Urban Visions (the consultant working with the NDP Group). He is creating an updated version of the NDP document, having seen the comments received from Bedford Borough Council. Nothing will happen before the May elections.</p>	
9.	<p>To receive the February Minutes of the Allotments and Open Spaces Committee:</p> <p>These were circulated for information.</p>	
10.	<p>To consider and agree action re: Wildflower Area on Waveney Green:</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that the existing area should be removed. The view was that it had not been successful and was dominated by thistles. Consideration would be given in the future, following advice, as to whether to attempt to plant a replacement elsewhere. The Clerk will contact Bedford Borough</p>	<p>The Clerk</p>

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	Council to establish the best way to remove it and restore the area to grass.	
11.	<p>To receive a report from the Borough Councillors</p> <p>Boroughs Cllr Royden and Rider had circulated a written report to the parish councillors and the Clerk had forwarded a copy for the website.</p>	
12.	<p>To consider and agree the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the latest version. The Clerk will arrange for this to go on the website.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>To consider and agree the Standing Orders:</p> <p>It was resolved to agree the latest version. The Clerk will arrange for this to go on the website.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>To consider supporting the Brickhill Community Association in its purchase of a ventilation system</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that the Brickhill Community Association had been awarded £20,000 by Bedford Borough Council for the installation of mechanical ventilation heat recovery systems in the main hall and 1st floor hall of Brickhill Community Centre.</p> <p>The purpose of the system is to improve the ventilation of the building, by extracting air and it is hoped reducing risk of transmission of COVID or similar diseases. At the same time, the systems will recover heat from the air being extracted and in so doing help reduce the heating costs of the centre.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed, that the Parish Council, as landlord of the Community Centre, was supportive of the project but whilst it could place the order on behalf of the Association, it would not be able to claim back the VAT on the project.</p> <p>Therefore, it was sensible that the order was placed by the Association and settled from its account.</p>	

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15.	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Following the refurbishment of the Pig Park a Facebook question was asked: <i>Are there any plans to repair the broken dragonfly in Laxton Way?</i> Please refer to item 7iii above.</p> <p>Highway Works in Your Ward – Waveney Avenue (<i>forwarded 22nd Feb</i>)</p> <p>Installation of two zebra crossings at Waveney Avenue will shortly be starting as part of the highway works programme for 2022/2023.</p> <p>Election information including the split into 5 wards. The Clerk is now in possession of the electoral roll so if anyone needs any numbers for the nomination papers please ask.</p> <p>Police Report from Junaid ASHIQ PC 441:</p> <p>Your Brickhill Community Team have continued their work around the current Community Priority of Drugs.</p> <p>In January, the team executed a Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act Warrant at an address in Aelfric Court. This resulted in a male being arrested, drugs seized, and the male being charged and remanded for drug offences.</p> <p>Overt and covert patrols have been carried out and intelligence is being gathered and developed across Brickhill.</p> <p>Drugs have no place in our local community, and we will continue to work to deter criminals using, dealing and exploiting others regarding drugs.</p> <p>A couple of other incidents of late that we have been doing some work around:</p> <p>3 residents from Aelfric Court who were under temporary accommodation were causing issues for a lot of the residents. Since this has started, a multi-agency meeting has taken place, and all 3 residents have had their tenancy agreement terminated. They have all been housed elsewhere. Hopefully, this will have a positive effect on the residents in Aelfric Court</p> <p>Another issue that residents of Brickhill have highlighted involving a specific dog attacking other dogs. I have been through this with Cllr Charles Royden but for re-assurance no dogs in Brickhill had been killed as a result. The owner of this offending</p>	

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	<p>dog has since got rid of the dog and she herself has moved out of Brickhill. The investigation side is on-going.</p> <p>In terms of engagement, we have carried out our coffee with a cop event. Also, we have been attending our councillor's street surgeries and in terms of both have had great interactions/feedback.</p> <p>Updates on our activities throughout Brickhill & De Parys. can be found on the Bedford Community Policing Team Facebook Page. We have advertised our upcoming community engagement events and if you require the dates, I am sure Alex can pass over as he is organising them.</p> <p>We are happy to take on any feedback/questions from the parish council.</p> <p>Obscene graffiti – Woodlands Park:</p> <p>This relates to a particular girl. Her mum sent in the e-mail and photographs. I have asked Charlie if he can get this removed as soon as possible. I have forwarded the e-mail to PC Junaid Ashiq and it is understood the mother has reported it to the police as well.</p> <p>E-mail re: grant support for Ridgeway School: Clerk has responded.</p> <p>Re: Empty Homes – Proposed Compulsory Purchase Action – 43 Clyde Crescent. The Parish Council supported the action. Cllr Grant had reported another empty property to the Borough Council.</p>	
16.	<p>Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 6th April 2023 at 7.30pm at St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise.</p>	

Approved by

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 Chairman
 6th April 2023

Table 2 Reconciliations for Approval (see item above)

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
ICO	DD	£ 35.00	Data Protection
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 149	£ 911.61	Pension
HMRC	BACS 150	£ 930.73	PAYE
S Bottoms	BACS 151	£ 1,999.49	Salary
D Britton	BACS 152	£ 389.00	Salaries
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£ 37.21	Telephone Charges
NPower	BACS 153	£ 119.07	Electricity for Fountain
NPower	BACS 154	£ 43.10	Electricity for Fountain
S Bottoms	BACS 155	£ 34.78	Expenses
	Total Payments	£ 4,499.99	