

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present:**

Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Green, Grant, Ward, Holloway, Blakeman, Lamswood, Borough  
Cllr Rider, one member of the public and the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms).

Absent: Cllr Rani and Borough Cllrs Royden, Vann and Sawyer.

*Summary of the meeting: -*

*Table 1 – The Minutes*

Item	Description	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>  Cllr Rani and Borough Cllrs Royden, Vann and Sawyer.	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:</b>  i) To receive written requests for a dispensation:  None received.  ii) To consider any requests for a dispensation:  None received.	
3.	<b>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023:</b>  The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.	
4.	<b>Public Open Session:</b>  i) The new postmaster for the post office on Brickhill Drive attended to introduce himself and the	

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	<p>proposed move of the post office into the NISA shop.</p> <p>ii) The police had sent in a written report to say that they had nothing of note to report. The priority of the Community Policing Team until the end of 2023 was in reducing theft from motor vehicles. There had been a spike in this category of crime in Brickhill.</p>	
5.	<p><b>To consider and agree action re: co-option onto the Parish Council:</b></p> <p>There are currently no candidates to consider. There was a need to try to encourage applicants. It was noted that an article was being put in Brickhill News due for publication and distribution at the end of November/early December.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p><b>To receive reports from the Borough Councillors:</b></p> <p>Joint written reports had been received from Borough Cllrs Vann and Sawyer and Borough Cllrs Royden and Cllr Rider. The Clerk had circulated both reports to the parish councillors and had put copies on the website.</p> <p>Cllr Grant noted that in the last report by Borough Cllrs Royden and Rider, they had requested feedback regarding the state of footpaths. He highlighted the state of the footpath running along Avon Drive between the roundabout and Dove Road. Especially that on the Waveney Green side of Avon Drive. Cllr Blakeman reinforced this. Borough Cllr Rider said that she would ask the Borough Council to inspect the condition of the path and she would ask it be put forward for consideration for inclusion in the works programme for 2024-25.</p>	Clerk  Borough Cllr Rider
7.	<p><b>Financial Matters:</b></p> <p>i) To agree the bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment: <b>It was resolved</b> to accept these.</p>	Clerk

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	<p>ii) To confirm the date for a meeting of the Finance and Personnel Advisory Group:</p> <p><b>It was resolved</b> to hold this on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm. The Clerk to check room availability.</p> <p>iii) To consider any future projects for potential inclusion in the 2024-25 budget.</p> <p>Parish councillors need to give thought to this and come back via the Clerk by early December.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>All Parish Councillors</b></p>
8.	<p><b>To receive an update on Brickhill Community Centre:</b></p> <p>i) <u>Is there any RAAC in the building:</u> The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting any update from the Borough Council.</p> <p>ii) <u>Pigeons and the solar panels:</u> A new quotation had been received from PPSP for £2,340 ex VAT. Following discussion, <b>it was resolved</b> to accept the quotation assuming that the Clerk received clarification regarding the suggestion that access bolts may need to be installed. The Clerk would make the required 10% deposit. The Clerk would also inform the company that it would need to organise the work with the Centre Manager.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
9.	<p><b>To receive an update on Waveney Green and Mowsbury Walk Play Area issues and agree any further action:</b></p> <p>i) To provide an update regarding the decision to replace the dog waste bins on Waveney Green:</p> <p>The Clerk was still awaiting an update on when the bins would be removed and the new ones installed.</p> <p>ii) To receive an update on work to trees on Waveney Green and proposed works:</p>	

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	<p>The Clerk was still waiting for a quotation.</p> <p>iii) To receive an update re: works to resurface the green gym:</p> <p>This has been completed.</p> <p>iv) To note action taken re: lack of injunction signage on the Green:</p> <p>Paul Pace of Bedford Borough Council is to action this.</p>	
10.	<p>To receive any update on the Brickhill Neighbourhood Development Plan and any further action needed:</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that responses had been received from Historic England and Natural England to the documents forwarded and no problems had been highlighted. A response from the Environment Agency was outstanding. At the October Parish Council meeting it had been agreed to include additional areas in the Designation. Cllr Fitzpatrick was working on the best way to map these areas.</p>	
11.	<p><b>To receive an update on Woodlands Park matters:</b></p> <p>i) <u>Security lock on gate to changing rooms:</u> The Clerk has contacted Paul Pace of Bedford Borough Council regarding a replacement padlock. No response has yet been received.</p> <p>ii) <u>Planting on the diamond and replacement trees:</u> The Clerk has asked Paul Pace about the possibility of the planting of Spring bulbs on the diamond area on Ashmead Road. She has also contacted him about the 350 trees ordered by a resident and any plans the Borough Council may have to replace the dead trees off Ashmead Road. To date she has not had a response. Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that residents in Nursery Gardens were also looking to plant on the grass verges but were not receiving any response from the Borough Council. Borough Cllr Rider said she would</p>	<p><b>Borough Cllr Rider</b></p>

Item	Description	Action
	take all these issues up with Paul Pace and report back to the Clerk.	
12.	<p><b>To consider the draft letter to be sent to Bedford Borough Council asking for action regarding the withdrawal of Service 21 from 2 October:</b></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated the draft letter composed by Cllr Blakeman. <b>It was resolved</b> that the Clerk should send this to the relevant officer at Bedford Borough Council and copy in The Mayor and all Brickhill borough councillors. The Clerk will also put reference to this in the December Brickhill News.</p>	Clerk.
13.	<p><b>To give further consideration to any options which might be available for Brickhill Parish from the Rural England Prosperity Fund:</b></p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported at the previous meeting that monies are available but in the case of Brickhill, only projects in the non-urban areas would be eligible. One possible project would be the cycle connection from Fosters Brow round the edge of the allotments/the industrial estate. Cllr Blakeman said this was one of the planning conditions for the warehouse development. This has not been done and he has struggled to get an answer as to when this will happen. This will be discussed again at the January meeting when Cllr Blakeman will provide a map clarifying the route.</p>	Cllr Blakeman and the Clerk
14.	<p><b>To receive an update from the BATPC and NALC AGMs and agree any action:</b></p> <p>Cllr Grant gave a report on the AGM of BATPC which Cllr Fitzpatrick also attended. He got a contact from Ampthill Town Council who is very knowledgeable on wildflower meadow maintenance and management. He intends to make contact to obtain some guidance.</p>	

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	Cllr Grant also reported on his attendance at the NALC AGM.	
15.	<p><b>To receive an update on the Bedford Town Deal Board:</b></p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick provided an update to the Parish Council. Following on from COVID the Government set aside monies to help rejuvenate towns around the country. Bedford Borough Council had put in a funding request which was successful. The designated area covered included Brickhill but not Woodlands Park and not Kempston. The latest project to be completed is the new building at Bedford College. Included in the projects is the Green Wheel. This is from Kimbolton Road via Ryland Way, under the underpass and across to Cherwell Road. Cllr Fitzpatrick has argued it should also include as far as Hawk Drive. He along with another board member are supposed to be monitoring the progress on the footpath and cycleway projects. A meeting took place with the relevant Borough Council officers. The plan is to undertake the Ryland Way section. Then in the Spring pick up again going towards Scott Primary.</p>	
16.	<p><b>To discuss the street trading consent application for Bedford Borough outside the town centre and agree any action:</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved</b> that the Clerk should respond to request they park up in safe places and take away any rubbish.</p>	Clerk
17.	<p><b>To note the East Park Energy Solar Power Station planned for Keysoe:</b></p> <p>Cllr Grant updated the Parish Council on this proposed scheme. It covers 2000 acres and is at the early stages of applying for consent.</p>	
18.	<p><b>To agree the meeting dates for the Parish Council for 2024-25:</b></p>	

Item	Description	Action
	January 4th, February 1st, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, September 5th, October 3rd and November 7th.	
19.	<p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p>From BATPC re: AGM Thanks and County Committee Election Results: Noted.</p> <p>Making of Public Path Order Brickhill: Footpath No. 9 Public Path Diversion Order 2023: The Clerk will write in confirming the approval of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Various consultations by Bedford Borough Council. Discussion took place about the consultation on electric charging points. The Clerk will check what the previous correspondence from the Parish Council was and re-send.</p> <p>New dates for Gumbles Fair on Waveney Green: 24<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> July including time for setting up and clearing away. Open 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July. The Parish Council <b>resolved</b> to agree to this.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
20.	<b>Date of the next meeting:</b> Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm at St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise.	

Approved by .....

Chairman 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Table 2 Reconciliations for Approval (see item above and table below)

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
British Telecom	DD	£ 168.24	Broadband
Glasdon UK Ltd	BACS 99	£ 1,343.04	Memorial bench for Alison Southern
Chris Horne Gardens Ltd	BACS 105	£ 224.40	Mow Allotment
D Britton	BACS 100	£ 145.60	Salary Oct
The Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 101	£ 911.61	Pensions Oct
HMRC	BACS 102	£ 912.53	PAYE October
S Bottoms	BACS 103	£ 1,956.69	Salaries Oct
Playsource	BACS 104	£ 11,589.60	Resurfacing under Green Gym WG
Gallagers	BACS 106	£ 1,936.75	Annual Insurance
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 107	£ 228.65	Election Charges
S Bottoms	BACS 108	£ 61.40	Consumables etc
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£ 19,478.51</b>	