



MINUTES of the Meeting of Great Brickhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Great Brickhill

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr C Leech (Chairman), Mr D Bratt, Mr A Middleton, Ms B Wight

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 2 members of the public were present

1524 **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Mr R Kettle, Mrs K Leyland

1524.1 Councillor vacancy
Nothing to report.

1525 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2019 were approved. Cllr Bratt proposed, seconded by Cllr Middleton the approval of the minutes as a true record, all agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman.

1526 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Middleton – planning Point 1531.3.2

1527 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

1528 **Reports**

1528.1 County Cllr Blake
County Cllr Blake was not present.

1528.2 District Cllr Blake
District Cllr Blake was not present.
The Parish Council agreed that they would like an update regarding the Unitary Authority and the Oxford/Cambridge expressway and would appreciate the attendance of both the County Cllr and the District Cllr at the October Parish Council meeting. The Clerk to email County and District Cllrs Blake. **(Action Clerk)**

1528.3 Parish Hall Committee

1528.3.1 Project 2020 – Parish Hall improvements
Cllr Bratt reported that a grant from Aylesbury Vale for £110,000 has been awarded to the project. A further grant application to ACRE for £38,000 has been submitted and a decision will be made in October. An application will also be made to WREN when planning permission has been given. The Architect has drawn up the plans and will submit them with a cheque for £231 payable from the Parish Hall fund. The car park can be altered and four additional parking spaces acquired.

1528.3.2 New signage for hall
Nothing to report.

1528.3.3 Little Ashes Pre-School
Cllr Bratt reported that he has sourced a potential log cabin for the Forest School which is 25m² at a cost of £14,000. A small extension will be needed on the side to allow for toilet facilities. The swings would not have to be moved for this structure and this will save some money. A trench will need to be dug from the Parish Hall to the cabin



for water, drainage and sewage. The plan is to use a digger that is being used for the Spinney area. The cost of the work will cost no more than £1,500. Cllr Bratt said that this cost will come from the Parish Hall reserves and Little Ashes Pre-School will be asked to reimburse the Parish Hall if the plans were not to go ahead. A grant for £5,000 has been applied for from the Local Area Forum Local Priorities Funding for the new Forest School log cabin.

1529 **Finance:**

1529.1 Bank balances and finance report:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Barclays/Santander | £ |
| Community (Barclays) | 28,688.17 |
| Business Reserve (Barclays) | 4,293.94 |
| MUGA Sinking Fund | 6,149.06 |
| Parish Hall Budget | 4,066.92 |
| Business Reserve (Santander) | 56,595.78 |
| Business Bond (Santander) | 85,000.00 |
| TOTAL | 184,793.87 |

1529.2 The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Wight the approval of the following payments, all agreed:

| Payment method | Payee | £ |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Transfer | K Barker – salary | 526.60 |
| Cheque | HMRC – Clerks tax | 20.20 |
| Bank Transfer | K Barker – expenses | 35.11 |
| Bank Transfer | Turney Landscapes – grass cutting | 750.00 |
| Bank Transfer | Aylesbury Mains – light repairs inv 19236 | 42.48 |
| Bank Transfer | Aylesbury Mains – light repairs (Jan 2019) 18770 | 79.80 |
| Bank Transfer | Barbara Osborne – payroll | 64.50 |
| Bank Transfer | Marco Loxley – Youth Café | 434.64 |
| Bank Transfer | NBPPC – membership | 20.00 |
| Bank Transfer | CPM – play area inspections | 90.00 |
| Bank Transfer | Denne Engineering – fencing materials | 26.28 |
| Cheque | E.on – electricity bill | 553.55 |
| | TOTAL | 2,643.16 |

1529.3 Other financial matters:

- 1529.3.1 On-line banking/payments
Cllr Wight is still to register for online banking.
(Action Cllr Wight)
- 1529.3.2 Santander Business Bond - maturity
Pending due to traffic calming measures.
- 1529.3.3 MUGA Income £300, £300, £78
Noted by the Parish Council.
- 1529.3.4 Community First Responder – request for financial support
The Clerk read out an email from a resident who works as a voluntary Community First Responder for the South Central Ambulance Service for 120 - 150 hours a month, on average. They are required to fund raise for equipment. Many of the alarm calls involve elderly people who have fallen and a set of observations have to be carried out including temperature, blood pressure, blood sugar and oxygen saturation. These observations can be carried out with the use of a Manger Elk, an inflatable lifting cushion which allows the patient to be safely lifted and can save dispatching an



ambulance. The cost of a Manger Elk is Circa £1,500 and financial support would be much appreciated. Cllrs were very interested and positive towards the request and the Clerk was requested to ask the resident to attend the October meeting. **(Action Clerk)**

1529.3.5 Smith of Derby – annual visit query
The Clerk said that an invoice had been received from Smith of Derby. The invoice was not the usual invoice for the annual church clock service but a charge for an aborted visit, no access to the Church. The Clerk to ask Smith of Derby who they contacted to arrange the visit. Resident, Mike Turner said that he will ask the Church Warden if they were contacted. **(Action Clerk)**

1529.3.6 Grant Endorsements
The Parish Council approved an application for £2,000 by the Great Brickhill Tennis Club to the Aylesbury Vale NHB Microgrant Fund. The money is to be used to purchase a new 'Automatic Ball Machine' to improve the Club's coaching options. Total cost around £4,000 with the Tennis Club funding the additional sum. The Chairman agreed to sign the application on behalf of the Parish Council. **(Action Chairman)**

1530 **Public Participation**

A resident said that there is a hedge in Galley Lane that is overgrown and obscuring a sign. The Chairman said he will ask the owners to cut it back. **(Action Chairman)**

1531 **Planning:**

1531.1 Planning Applications

1531.1.1 19/02872/APP – 46 Pound Hill – erection of detached dwelling. The Parish Council support the application.

1531.1.2 19/03066/APP – Great Brickhill Manor, Church Lane – creation of a new porch and private access road to the front, demolition of an existing garage and erection of a new timber framed garage building to the south west. The Parish Council support the application.

1531.1.3 19/03067/APP – Great Brickhill Manor, Church Lane – replacement of an existing shed structure, including new proposed metal railings and gate to replace existing metal railings and timber gate. The Parish Council support the application.

1531.1.4 19/02698/APP – Bryerley Springs Farm, Galley Lane – extension to existing hay barn. The Parish Council support the application.

1531.1.5 19/02458/APP – Link House, 5 Cuff Lane – wooden decorative pergola (retrospective). The Parish Council support the application.

1531.2 Decisions:

1531.2.1 19/01834/APP – Manor Farm Cottage, Galley Lane – single storey rear extension. Approved. Noted by the Parish Council.

1531.2.2 19/01709/ALB
19/01708/APP – Fosseys, Stoke Lane – proposed new access and double garage. Withdrawn. Noted by the Parish Council.

1531.3 Other Planning Matters

1531.3.1 Oxford/Cambridge expressway
The Chairman said that he has written to Highways England to ask what their mechanism will be for generating public awareness of the proposed expressway to the village.



1531.3.2 The Old Farm, Ivy Lane
The Clerk confirmed that following the Parish Council's objection to the application in April, a further letter was sent to the Planning Department on 16th July in response to a letter from Carter Jonas, the agent for the applicant. The contents of the Parish Council's letter included:

Reference to the AAL and RA.8

The development is outside the curtilage of the existing settlement, and therefore it can only have a detrimental effect on the Area of Attractive Landscape. If substantial tracts of land are developed then it will cease to be an AAL.

Reference to policy RA.3

This is an extension to the curtilage of the existing housing along Ivy Lane. The land has been used only as an informal garden and a driveway to an adjacent property lies between it and Ivy Lane Farm. The AOP shows several trees, and all of the hedging along Ivy Lane is going to be removed, thus the argument that the development will not be visible from Ivy Lane is not valid. Landscape planting after having removed existing hedges and trees, are often overlooked at the end of building works and even if implemented, they take 15-20 years, or more, to replace, let alone "enhance", the existing landscape character.

RA14

Due to the removal of trees and hedging it will be visible from Ivy Lane, and also from Stoke Lane. The site is not substantially enclosed by existing development and the proposed development would intrude into open countryside.

1531.3.3 Appeal – 19/00040/REF – 52 Pound Hill – dismissed
Noted by the Parish Council.

1531.3.4 Planning Responsibility – Sept/Oct
Cllr Wight to review planning applications received.

1532 **Review of Projects**

1532.1 Traffic Calming Measures

1532.1.1 Road Safety Audit

The Chairman said that he has been informed by Tfb that when producing the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the scheme they believed it was not necessary for an independent Road Safety Audit regarding the proposed virtual footway section. However, following communication with the Network Safety Team, this is now required and is not optional. This will add to the cost and delay the programme slightly. The additional cost is £876. The Chairman said that he is surprised at this given they are only painting lines on the road and has expressed his frustration as to why the Parish Council were not advised of this previously. Cllr Middleton proposed, seconded by Cllr Wight to accept the additional cost, all agreed.

1532.1.2 LAF Local Priorities Funding for 2020/21
The Chairman confirmed that a grant application will be submitted for up to £10,000 towards traffic calming.



1533 **Village Improvements Committee**

The Chairman reported that some weeding has been done, work to the fence at Poors Acre, a sign re-instated and vegetation cut back.

1534 **Village Matters:**

1534.1 Unregistered land in Great Brickhill

The Chairman said that he will be visiting the Solicitor shortly.

1534.2 Public footpaths – progress (Pochards Lake to Cuff Lane)

Nothing to report.

1534.3 Spinney (trees/bank)

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Wight to accept a quote of £500 plus VAT from 2018 to remove 6 dead trees plus 2 more that have since died, all agreed. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Wight to accept a quote of £700 plus VAT to prune the Oak Tree, all agreed.

Works to the Spinney will commence on 16th September and take two weeks. Heras fencing will be put in place and some signs put up informing that the area is closed for works. Cllr Wight agreed to supply the signs. **(Action Cllr Wight)**

1534.4 Best Kept Village Competition

The Village received a Certificate of Merit with a score of 95 out of 100. The judges commented that the churchyard is very tidy and well kept, the cricket field is extremely well kept and the children's play area is stunning and the best the judges have seen this season, the soft surfaces are exceptional. The Spinney nature conservation area is a fascinating place and a great asset to the community. The Poors Acre Pocket Park along Heath Road is a very tranquil place and another good asset for the community. The village hall is in great condition and is a huge asset for the village with excellent parking at front. Generally verges were well maintained but the Three Trees triangle could do with a good sweep out. The front of the Old Red Lion is neat and tidy and the bus shelter is another good asset for the village. A tiny bit of litter was evident on the day of judging. The war memorial by the church is in excellent condition and well maintained. There were no floral displays or planters evident.

The Parish Council agreed that consideration needs to be given to planting tubs and baskets next year.

1534.5 School Bus/parking on Green End

Nothing to report.

1534.6 War Memorial – steps breaking up

The Chairman to ask Cllr Kettle to make contact with a contractor.

(Action Chairman)

1534.7 Allotment rubbish

The Chairman confirmed that a fence has been placed around the area concerned. The School have left old tyres on the allotment plot they used to rent. The School to be contacted to ask them to remove the tyres. Quotes to be sought for the removal of the rubbish. Allotment agreements to be initiated in order to clarify the future removal of rubbish from the allotments by the allotment holders.

(Action Chairman/Cllr Wight/Clerk)

1534.8 Heath Road – signage – response

The Chairman said that some signs are obscured by vegetation which will need cutting back and the "Bend in Road" sign needs cleaning. Tfb will look at renewing or improving any other signs as necessary.



1534.9 Speedwatch

The Chairman said that the Police have to agree to the locations where the speedwatch will be carried out. He will find out who the contact is. The Chairman confirmed that the speedwatch equipment has been added to the insurance schedule at no extra cost. **(Action Chairman)**

1534.10 Devolved Services

1534.10.1

Village grass cutting – Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust

The Clerk read out a letter received from Bucks CC:.

'The Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) have decided that they will no longer be cutting grass that forms a part of the public highway. It has been agreed that their final cut will have either already been undertaken or will be completed by the end of this July. As a devolved parish, Great Brickhill Parish Council has 74m² of grass that was previously maintained by VAHT; unfortunately VAHT have not provided plans. It has been agreed with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation that payment, at the prevailing rate, will be made for the additional areas. The full rate will be applied, there will be no discounting as a consequence of "missed cuts" as it is recognised that (a) the amount involved is not great and (b) that this is beyond both your and our control. Therefore, when calculated at the prevailing rate of £0.05074/m², you are entitled to an additional £3.75. I am aware that the value of the offer is not great, but would hope that as it reflects the rates currently paid that it will be acceptable to your Council. As with all devolved service activities it is for you to determine the relative priorities for the delivery of the service; if you decide to reduce the level of cutting so that it matches the funding available then you are simply adhering to the County Council's policy.'

Cllrs agreed that the amount of grass maintained is actually 600m² and queried which areas that Bucks CC are including in their calculations. The Parish are maintaining the areas and request that the land is transferred to the ownership of the Village. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of reply. **(Action Clerk)**

1534.10.2

Devolved Services agreement - extension

The Clerk read out an email from Bucks CC.

The current devolution agreement period comes to an end on 31st March 2020 (as per the one year extension agreed last year). The Shadow Executive for Buckinghamshire Council recently agreed to an extension of funding for all existing highways devolution agreements for up to a maximum of two years to 31st March 2022.

For clarity, the details of this extension are as follows:

- *The offer is to extend the budget (and therefore the duration) of all existing Devolved Service Agreements for a maximum of two years up until 31st March 2022*
- *The budget offered to all Local Councils will remain the same and individual annual payments will not change.*
- *The terms of these agreements will remain the same, including the inclusion of a 6 month break clause which can be triggered by either party.*
- *The services in scope remain the same as those which you currently deliver:*



- *urban grass cutting,*
 - *siding out,*
 - *hedging,*
 - *rights of way clearance,*
 - *weed killing - specific itemised weeds on footways*
 - *maintenance e.g. checking for obstructions, minor street furniture repairs & cleaning, removal of fly posters, approval of charity event advertising*
- *We would really appreciate if you could notify us as soon as possible with regards to your intentions. However, in order to ensure delivery of a continuous service we require your formal expressions of interest by no later than 31st October 2019.*

The Parish Council confirmed their interest in extending the devolved service agreement until March 2022. The Clerk to respond. **(Action Clerk)**

1535 **Play Areas**

1535.1 Play Area Inspection Reports

The reports were noted. The matting under the swings needs replacing.

1536 **Matters for the newsletter**

Spinney closure, hedge trimming, speedwatch, Best Kept Village result

1537 **Date of next meeting** – Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 1st October 2019 at 7.30pm

1538 **The meeting closed at 9.50pm**