



MINUTES of the Meeting of Great Brickhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom video conferencing

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr C Leech (Chairman), Mr K Boad, Mr D Bratt, Mrs J Haydon, Mr R Kettle,
Mr A Middleton, Ms B Wight, Bucks Cllr Mr S Raven

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 3 members of the public were present
Agenda for members of the public circulated on the newsletter InfoLine

1747 **Apologies for absence** – no apologies were given

1748 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2020 were approved. Cllr Bratt proposed, seconded by Cllr Middleton the approval of the minutes as a true record, all agreed by those present and to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting in person.

1749 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Leech – finance Point 1752.2

1750 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

1751 **Reports**

1751.1 Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr Scott Raven attended the meeting. He said that the guidelines for the forthcoming month lockdown are on the Bucks Council website including guidelines for remembrance Sunday.

1751.1.1

VALP/HS2/Expressway

Bucks Council has withdrawn from the Oxford to Cambridge arc growth programme.

1751.2 Parish Hall Committee

1751.2.1

Parish Hall/Forest Hut

Cllr Bratt shared a financial projection summary of Parish Hall income and the effect on revenue of the covid-19 situation. Little Ashes is a major user of the Hall, as a consistent renter of the facility in the mornings in term time, providing a guaranteed stream of income. The new forest hut will increase rental income and allow for Little Ashes to undertake additional hours of care. In addition to Little Ashes, other users who will be able to rent the cabin include:

- Local residents as a 'party room' for outdoor children's parties
- Village groups and societies as a meeting room (book club, art club, bridge club etc.)
- Clubs providing after-school childcare for Little and High Ash children
- The Youth Cafe (ages 12-18) which meets every Friday evening as an alternative venue
- Local Cubs/Brownies or Scouts/Guides groups
- Holiday multi-sports camps (ages 5-14) which run during the school holidays
- High Ash as a 'Forest School' option for 5-11yr olds



- Other local schools and home-schooled children to provide a 'Forest School' experience using a local practitioner

The outside toilet is now available. It will be cleaned regularly and hand sanitiser provided. The Parish Council agreed that it should be kept closed until the covid-19 restrictions are lifted. The old noticeboard has been removed and it was agreed that it could be re-located to the bus shelter.

1751.2.2 Parish Hall car park lighting
Paul Stearman is to look at replacing the light bulbs in the security lights on the Parish Hall which face The Bunch of Nuts with a warmer colour which will lessen the impact on the surrounding area. He will also put tape over the green status lights, which will reduce their brightness. They are a legal requirement and cannot be removed altogether. The far corner of the car park, which is dark, is still under consideration along with the entrance into the car park.

1752 **Finance:**

1752.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk said that she has transferred the budgets remaining for the hall extension and the forest hut from the Community Account into the Parish Hall Budget Account. The only additional funds transfers will be VAT on any outstanding invoices that are made from the Parish Hall Budget Account that the Parish Council will reclaim. The Clerk supplied a finance report.

Barclays/Santander	£
Community (Barclays)	23,282.01
Business Reserve (Barclays)	4,303.63
MUGA Sinking Fund (Barclays)	6,197.35
Parish Hall Budget (Barclays)	38,689.21
Business Reserve (Santander)	46,338.09
Business Bond (Santander)	0.00
TOTAL	118,810.29

1752.2 Cllr Haydon proposed, seconded by Cllr Boad the approval of the following payments, all agreed.

Payment method	Payee	£
Bank Transfer	Clerk – salary	446.08
Bank Transfer	Clerk – expenses	26.00
Bank Transfer	Turney Landscapes – grass cutting	750.00
Bank Transfer	Youth Café	319.50
Bank Transfer	C Leech – zoom monthly charge	14.39
Bank Transfer	E M Maley – wreath	25.00
Bank Transfer	MGA – Inv 1048	7,670.78
Bank Transfer	MGA – final 5% retention	14,940.86
Bank Transfer	Hideout House – 5% retention	1,005.63
Bank Transfer	E.on – electricity bill	559.64
Bank Transfer	CPRE – membership	36.00
Bank Transfer	Quantum Fire – fire extinguishers	576.00
Bank Transfer	CPM – play area inspection	90.00
	TOTAL	26,459.75



1752.3 Other financial matters:

- 1752.3.1 On-line banking/payments
Cllr Wight is still to register for online banking.
(Action Cllr Wight)
- 1752.3.2 VAT reclaim
The Clerk confirmed that the VAT reclaim of £35,881.11 has now been received. A further claim will be submitted around January 2021.
- 1752.3.3 Budget and precept – 2021/22
The Clerk to draw up a draft budget and organise a date for a zoom finance meeting towards the end of November. **(Action Clerk)**

1753 **Public Participation**

A resident confirmed that he had sent two letters of complaint to the Parish Council. He said that he does not like the new forest hut and has looked into how the decision was made to purchase the hut. He said that he has read through the minutes and has particular concerns regarding conflicts of interest of the sub-committee and Little Ashes Pre-School. He said that good financial disclosure information was supplied by Cllr Bratt but he feels that Little Ashes rent paid/rent holiday was not adequately disclosed.

The Chairman confirmed that a letter of complaint was received and that the Parish Council did respond. A second letter was then received from the resident. He thanked the resident for raising his concerns. The Chairman said that he hoped the letter of response from the Parish Council had clarified matters in relation to transparency; the planning permission process; and Little Ashes.

Notwithstanding the response from the Parish Council, the Chairman said that further comments from the resident have prompted him to propose a review of the Parish Council's procedures, to look at whether there are areas where the Parish Council can make improvements to the way it operates. He said that he has asked Cllr Haydon and Cllr Boad to act as a sub-committee to look at this and ascertain how other Parish Councils operate, as well as the National Association of Local Councils and Government guidance. The Parish Council need clarity on their remit, objective and expectations and ensure this is transparent to all. A brief to be drawn up by Cllr Haydon and Cllr Boad in due course. A further letter to be sent to the resident.
(Action Chairman)

Cllr Middleton confirmed that the website is now up to date and the Clerk confirmed that the noticeboard has been updated.

Cllr Kettle said that he was concerned about the Spinney recently being fenced off when Little Ashes Pre-School was using it. He said that it is not just for the sole use of Little Ashes and the rest of the village cannot be disadvantaged. Cllr Bratt said that the Pre-School has been made aware that it is a public area and they do not have a right to stop people using and entering the area.

1754 **Planning:**

1754.1 Planning Applications

- 1754.1.1 20/03456/APP – Priory Cottage, Church Lane – removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension with new front entrance gates and front stone boundary wall. The Parish Council support the application. Based on the plans and review of the location, the removal of the conservatory and addition of the extension will cause virtually no impact as it is at the rear of the property and not visible from the road. The front wall replacement and gate addition to compliment the neighbouring properties will improve the look of the property when viewed from the street scene.



- 1754.1.2 20/03462/ACL – Home Farm, Home Farm Lane – application for a certificate of lawfulness for existing use of two mobile homes as two dwellings. The Parish Council has no objection to the application. Based on the plans and review of the location, it appears that the mobile homes have been in place longer than the timeframe in which someone could object or enforcement action could be taken.
- 1754.1.3 20/03347/APP – Partridge House, 1 Strawberry Fields – single storey side extension. The Parish Council support the application. Based on the plans and review of the location, the proposed works will have minimal impact on the neighbours and will be shrouded from the main road by the border hedge. There are no objections from the immediate neighbours.
- 1754.2 Decisions:
- 1754.2.1 20/02885/APP - 36 Pound Hill – erection of a balcony on top of the existing flat roof. Approved
- 1754.2.2 20/02836/APP - 48 Pound Hill – part two storey, part single storey side extension. Approved
- 1754.2.3 20/02313/APP - Rectory Farm, Church Lane – conversion of a now redundant agricultural building to Use Class B1 (c). Approved
- 1754.2.4 19/01780/AOP - Orchard Mill Bungalow, Mill Lane – outline planning application for a detached chalet bungalow with detached double garage. Refused
- 1754.2.5 19/03275/APP - Alders Farm Trout Fishery, Ivy Lane – conversion of existing building to form shower block and self catering accommodation. Approved
- 1754.2.6 19/03276/APP - Alders Farm Trout Fishery, Ivy Lane – extension of existing café/Fisherman’s club and other associated work. Approved
- 1754.3 Other Planning Matters
- 1754.3.1 Planning Responsibility – Nov/Dec
Cllr Middleton to review planning applications received.
- 1754.3.2 Cuff Lane development – boundary query
The Chairman said that it is rumoured that the land owners have been asked by Bucks Council to remove the wall they have built which is thought to be on Bucks Council land. He said that Enforcement should have informed the Parish Council if this is so.
- 1754.3.3 Re: 20/03195/APP – Land at St Margarets Farm – erection of an agricultural storage building
The Parish Council discussed the building of an agricultural building at St Margarets Farm and following additional information provided by the applicant and a request that a restriction be placed on the barn that it could not be converted to residential use in the future, they supported the application. The Clerk to email Parish Support and ask for the amended comment to be added to the planning portal.
(Action Clerk)
- 1754.3.4 Newton Leys West – meeting report
The Chairman said that he attended a virtual meeting. It was hosted by Newton Longville Parish Council and included a presentation by Arnold Whites Estates, a Leighton Buzzard based company who describe themselves as a promoter of development sites around



Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes. They are putting forward a proposal to extend the Newton Leys development further west, which would take the development well in to Buckinghamshire and beyond the Newton Longville/Stoke Hammond Road. The proposal would include a new road which it is hoped would become part of a proposed SW Bletchley by-pass, which would link to the A4146 at Water Eaton. Whilst this development in itself would not impact upon Great Brickhill it would undoubtedly increase traffic volumes on the portion of the A4146 which is in Great Brickhill parish and further increase pressure on Buckinghamshire Council to allow development on the portion of Eaton Leys which is in Great Brickhill parish and the site could be described as in-fill .

1755 Review of Projects

1755.1 Traffic Calming Measures
Nothing to report.

1756 Village Improvements Committee

VIC will be installing the kissing gate at Green End and will move the dog bin by the Parish Hall to the pedestrian entrance on the cricket field.

1757 Village Matters

1757.1 Registered land in Great Brickhill
Cllr Bratt proposed, seconded by Cllr Kettle to accept the quote provided in March 2020 of £550 plus VAT from MK Surveys to draw up plans for land at Horsepond to be registered in the correct place, agreed by all.

1757.2 Public footpaths – progress (Pochards Lake to Cuff Lane)
Nothing to report.

1757.3 Speedwatch
Nothing to report.

1757.4 COVID-19
The Chairman said that another month of lockdown is to start on Thursday 5th November. Cllr Wight said that more requests for shopping are being received. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Wight for the incredible job she has done coordinating support throughout the village. Cllr Haydon suggested setting up a support group to spread the workload.

1758 Play Areas

The Parish Council agreed that the MUGA be closed for the duration of the lockdown and the play areas remain open in accordance with Government guidance.

1758.1 Play Area Report
Noted by the Parish Council. Minor repairs to be done.

1759 Correspondence:

A letter of complaint about Parish Council procedures was received from a resident and this was discussed.

1760 Matters for the newsletter

Covid Support Group, Eco Friendly Food Supply

1761 Date of next meeting – Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 1st December 2020 at 7.30pm

1762 The meeting closed at 9.40pm