



**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at 8pm on Tuesday 12th April 2022
Dinton Village Hall, Dinton, Buckinghamshire**

Present: Cllrs Usherwood (Chairman), Vane and O'Driscoll,
K Gray (Clerk to the Council)

15 Residents

Cllr M Caffrey
Cllr A Waite

C Lambert (Bucks Herald)
M Dunton (Ford Village Society)

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies for absence notified to the Chairman or Clerk

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr N Cottman (prior commitment) and Cllr T Heath (prior commitment).

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest

To grant any requests for pecuniary declaration dispensation as appropriate

RESOLVED: To accept a declaration of interest from Cllr Usherwood on planning application number 22/00897/APP.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 8th March 2022

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 8/3/22 as a true record.

4. Clerk's Report

To receive a report from the Clerk on matters dealt with and taking forward for the parish council.

- Parish Liaison Mtg with BMKALC and BC – details forwarded to cllrs.
- Grass cutting season has started. Staffing problems with lack of staff.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to adjourn the meeting to receive questions from the public and receive any reports/questions from cllrs on matters relating to council business.

5. Questions from the public & any reports/questions from Councillors on matters not already listed on the agenda.

- Resident asked if the parish council and residents could assist her in having the bridleway registered and for the Rights of Way Team at Bucks Council to enforce the landowner to unblock the bridleway so people can use it as they have done for over 20 years.
Cllr Mick Caffrey will raise this matter with the Rights of Way Team at Bucks Council.

- Resident asked if the team can make sure they do not cut the wild orchids when cutting the grass. It was suggested that a rope fence be put in place as it was difficult for grass cutters to see where these areas are when cutting.
- Resident spoke on his application for a Solar Farm and explained his reasons for submitting this application. He spent sometime showing all those present, maps of the proposed area as well as the reduction in size of the proposed solar farm. He also spoke about possible future development in housing in land areas near and in the parish so residents may wish to see a discrete solar farm rather than thousands of houses in the area.
- Resident explained the proposed Upton Queen's Platinum Jubilee event and hoped the parish council would support them with a grant to enable the event to go ahead.
- Resident thanked Cllr Martin Usherwood for his time as Chairman of the Parish Council and expressed appreciation for him carrying out the role for a number of years. He will remain a parish council but will not be standing as Chairman in May 2022.
- Resident reported that the electric fence blocking a well-used public footpath had still not been removed by the landowner and she asked what the local Bucks Councillors had done to resolve this, as they had promised to do at the last parish council meeting. Cllr Caffrey (BC) replied that he would raise the matter with the Rights of Way Team.
- Cllr Usherwood reminded the public that there was a vacancy for a parish councillor and the council will look to co-opt someone. He also said that the parish council were not intending to enter the Best Kept Village this year but if residents wished to do so then people need to step forward to arrange this. He mentioned the successful community litter picks in Ford and Dinton and it is of some concern to all about the amount of litter that is still around. He also reminded everyone of the 2 planning inspectorate appeals still in place – Pine Hill and Biggstrup Farm which awaits a decision.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to re-convene the meeting under Standing Orders

6. Finances and Orders for Payment

RESOLVED: To accept and authorise payment of the following orders and retrospective orders for payment presented by the RFO and/or Clerk.

• EoN	Parish Field Utilities	£8.22	101077
• Aylesbury Town Council	Bigg Issue printing	£768	101078
• Blue Pepper Design	Freeman Scroll	£54.00	101081
• Fairford Leys Centre	Framing (2 scrolls)	£117.00	101082
• Dinton Village Hall	Hall Hire	£45.00	101083
• EoN	Parish Field Utilities	£9.10	101084
• Cllr D O'Driscoll	Keys/fire engine shed	£16.20	101085
• J Troup	Jubilee Event / Upton	£125.00	101086

RESOLVED: To receive, and agree, the monthly finance report from the Finance Officer & RFO.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Parish Events

Council to discuss any further plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

To receive any reports from Cllrs. To make any further decisions on funding and assistance for this event.

RESOLVED: That the organisers of the Upton, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event be awarded a grant of £125.00 for the event to take place. Cheque to be paid to J Troup.

8. Platinum Jubilee – Commemoration

To consider the installation of benches and or trees to commemorate the jubilee.

To receive information from Cllr Lamkin on prices for suitable benches.

To decide where any benches could be installed and by who.

RESOLVED: That the two benches proposed by Cllr Lamkin be purchased and one installed in Ford (opposite side of War memorial on the grass verge) and the other one in Dinton (on grass verge near Church entrance. The Clerk to speak to Mr Webb to see if he can install the benches, and additional costs for installation are agreed.

9. Westlington Green

Council to agree a proposal to install wooden posts around Westlington Green to stop further damage to the grass verges.

RESOLVED: That Mr Webb, if able to do so, install approximately 10 wooden posts along the boundary of Westlington Green to stop further damage to the verge. The Clerk to arrange necessary payment for the work to be done.

10. Community Orchard

Cllr Heath to give the parish council any updates, if necessary and for the council to make any further decisions.

Trees have been planted and arrangements for water to be connected from the parish water tap to this area.

11. Devolved Services

To receive any reports, if available, and agree any specific actions in relation to devolved services. No updates or reports.

12. Roads & General Maintenance

Any specific matters for discussion relating to road maintenance concerns raised with the County Council and other stakeholders.

The path remains a problem in Boot Lane and this has been reported to the LAT and it needs to be made safe for pedestrian use. Pot holes remain a concern on many roads in the parish and regular maintenance is required. Cllr Lamkin is in discussion with Bucks Council Local Area Technician on matters relating to the school area, bus lane proposal and obtaining a quote for a road mirror.

13. Spinney

The Council to appoint/delegate someone to visit the Spinney each week and keep an eye on the land area. To report back any problems or works that may need doing so that insurance cover is adhered to.

Further discussion is needed on this. It was reported by Cllr O'Driscoll that the Spinney needs to be cleaned up and lots of branches need to be removed. The Clerk emphasised the need for the area to be made safe, at all times, for public use and if not suitable then the area needs to be fenced off with suitable notices installed.

RESOLVED: Councillors to consider what works and should be taken.

14. Ford Notice Board

Council to nominate someone to keep the Ford Notice Board updated with notices and council agenda's and minutes.

RESOLVED: To accept the kind offer from Mr Nuckley to place agendas and minutes on the Ford parish council notice board.

15. Planning Enforcement

Council to receive an update on the enforcement, by Buckinghamshire Council Planning Enforcement Officers, of specific planning breaches raised by the Parish Council.

- 1. Ford field, Main Road, Ford - 19/00304/C0N3**
- 2. Land between Hare Folly and Westlington Cottage, Gibraltar, 15/00448/C0N3**

No changes to the above matters and the parish council awaits enforcement from the Bucks Council Planning Offices as previously reported years ago.

16. Planning Applications

To receive, comment and to either object, support or oppose the following planning applications:

To accept and consider late applications presented by the Clerk.

To note any applications (decisions made and to be made) delegated to Councillors.

- **22/00791/APP** **The Spinney, Burgess Lane, Ford**
Householder application for replacement of existing extension, reinstatement of front door and internal alterations.
RESOLVED: No Objection
- **22/00793/ALB** **The Spinney, Burgess Lane, Ford**
Listed Building application for replacement of existing extension and adjacent kitchen, reinstatement of front door, alterations to recent staircase, removal of recent internal partitions and raising the cill of a recent window by 150mm.
RESOLVED: No Objection
- **21/01403/APP** **Pasture Farmhouse, School Lane, Dinton**
Change of use from agricultural land to garden, conversion and extension of pigsty to form garden studio and ancillary storage area, relocation of existing greenhouse and construction of swimming pool.
RESOLVED: No Objection
- **21/01404/ALB** **Pasture Farmhouse, School Lane, Dinton**
Repair, conversion and extension of pigsty to garden studio.
RESOLVED: No Objection
- **22/00921/APP** **The Jays, Main Road, Ford**
Demolition of single detached garage, division of one dwelling into two separate dwellings. Side and rear extension on one dwelling and loft conversion and new porch on both dwellings.
RESOLVED: No Objections
- **22/01147/APP** **Westerlands, Main Road, Ford**

Householder application for single storey rear extension, single storey front porch extension, change to fenestration and internal alterations.

RESOLVED: No Objection

- **22/00897/APP** **Willow Cottage, The Green, Dinton**
Householder application to replace flat roof covering and replace French doors to match existing.
RESOLVED: No Objection

- **22/01121/ALB** **Willow Cottage, The Green, Dinton**
Listed building application to replace flat roof covering and replace French doors to match existing.
RESOLVED: No Objection

- **22/01100/APP** **The Cottage, Boot Lane, Dinton**
Householder application for demolition of conservatory and lean-to greenhouse, erection of two rear extensions and front porch extension of existing paved patio areas.
RESOLVED: No Objection.

- **22/00986/APP** **Callie's Solar Farm, Owlswick Rd, Ford**
Construction of a solar farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.
RESOLVED: Object/Oppose

The parish council objects to this application on several grounds. Some of these are akin to those expressed in regard to a rejected application for a wind turbine on the same site (12/01806).

This was also refused, again, by the Planning Department on application 21/02310/APP Owlswick Road, Ford - Construction of a solar farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.

1) Siting

The development of a solar farm in an area of the Vale of Aylesbury would be detrimental to the Area of Attractive Landscape.

The land is agricultural in usage and of grade 3a,3b and some grade 2. This is at odds to government policy recommending usage of brownfield sites for solar farms.

The proposed site seems to have been largely chosen on the availability of an electricity substation adjacent to the A4129 Rd. It is already alongside a solar farm at Bumpers farm.

A further proposal at Whirlbush farm has been agreed, and if Callie's Solar Farm was approved it would create a very large area of solar farms and occupy an area of true countryside and agricultural land thus turning it into an industrial site.

2) Visual Impact

The proposal in this application is within proximity to several Conservation

Areas and to the Chiltern ANOB and thus be clearly visible from the Chiltern Ridge and not hidden by trees and hedges as claimed.

The nature of the solar farm with Solar panels 3 metres high and fencing along foot paths (3) of up to two metres high with CCTV and alert systems would be intrusive. The changes to PROW s are not in keeping with the countryside and will not enhance the biodiversity of the area.

3) Construction and decommissioning

The claim is that the disruption to the villages and the small roads of the area would be carefully managed. Our experience of the impact of building HS2 suggests otherwise, as does the extra traffic diverting around Aylesbury. The bussing in of 100 construction workers would not improve this traffic problem Although the term of this scheme is 40 years there is published evidence to suggest that decommissioning, contamination and restoration of the land scape is extremely difficult to achieve without harm to the environment and the land

4) Impact on Heritage sites

The National heritage sites at Waldrige Manor, Aston Mullins, Aston Sandford and Ford are long recognised and the impact will be as great as expressed by the previous decisions about a wind turbine on the same site made by the Secretary of State in rejecting an appeal.

Ridge and furrow fields of the immediate area have been along appreciated features and represent an ancient association to the past agricultural usage. Despite the comments made in the application an applicant environmental impact assessment (EIA) is needed.

This is a potentially large scheme if considered in the context of the existing Bumpers farm and the Whirlbush farm scheme. For this reason alone the application should be considered by the strategic planning committee . We would strongly ask that this application is rejected and are prepared to speak to our objections when it is called in to committee

We will send a representative to a Development Control Meeting to oppose this application and also “Call In” this application.

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____