



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on
Tuesday 12th October 2021 in Dinton Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Usherwood (Chairman), Horn, Vane, Heath and Cottman
K Gray (Clerk to the Council)

1 Resident Cllr A Waite (Bucks Council) C Lambert (Bucks Herald)
Cllr M Caffrey (Bucks Council)

The chairman welcomed newly co-opted councillor, Mr Nick Cottman to the meeting. Mr Cottman signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk to the Council, and took his seat.

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 Cllrs D O'Driscoll (prior commitment) and R Lamkin (family 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.

- Cllr Usherwood declared an interest in planning application 21/03648/APP.
- No other declarations were made or dispensations requested.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 14th September 2021

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 14/9/21 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.

The Clerk reported on the following matters, with no further questions from councillors on any other matters relating to parish business.

- Parish Magazine – councillors agreed for their details to be published.
- The Parish Liaison Meeting arranged by BMKALC and Bucks Council will take place tomorrow evening at 6.30pm by Teams. Details were sent to all councillors.
- The council needs to consider its 2022 Precept & Budget requirements and a decision will need to be made in December so that Bucks Council can have the information in January 2022.

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.

- Cllr Mike Caffrey (Bucks Council) mentioned that Bucks Council had agreed and signed the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). He said that this parish should be protected by the plan against any additional housing and planners and prospective house builders would have to consult with the plan before any decisions could be made. He encouraged parish councillors to read the plan and become familiar with it.
- Cllr Ashley Waite (Bucks Council) gave an update on the Planning Department, especially the enforcement matters of concern to the parish council. He, and others in Bucks Council, are not content with the length of time it takes to resolve matters and he has raised concerns with planning officers and the Cabinet Member for Planning. He has requested a number of meetings with officers to resolve certain matters of concern. He stated that a formal notice would be made in respect of Ford Field application but there was no further updates for Land near Hare Folly. A retrospective planning application should be made for the Shepherds Hut and the parish council should be receiving this for comment in due course.
He also mentioned that he and Cllr Paul Irwin were responsible for the Bernie Bus and at Christmas time they use the bus to travel to communities to collect and raise money for charities. He wanted to know if the parish council would like them to visit Dinton, Ford & Upton. He also suggested that the parish council, or a community group, could apply to the local Community Board for a grant of £500 towards purchasing of litter picking equipment.
- Resident asked if the council had received information on the Bucks Council Design consultation.
- Resident asked for information on the previously proposed Haddenham Cycleway which would link communities to Aylesbury by way of a designated cycle path through villages, Dinton being suggested as one of those areas. The Chairman and Clerk gave a detailed history of the original proposal, the meetings that had been arranged and attended and that no further discussions on this proposal had taken place. It was noted that there is no current budget or any agreement on future maintenance budgets for such a scheme and neither are any future plans being discussed for such a project. If it was to be considered in the same or a different format then the parish council would be contacted and formal discussions would take place, resulting also in public consultation with local residents.
- Cllr Vane reported that the fence posts near the Church had still not been repaired. The Clerk advised that Steve Webb has not had the time to do this work. He has previously worked on more pressing matters in cutting the hedge to clear the path in Westlington Green and also cut back significant tree growth in the Upton bus shelter. The Clerk will speak to Mr Webb and see if he can take on this additional work, at cost, to repair the fence posts.
- Cllr Usherwood referred to the urgent works that Steve Webb had carried out for the parish council and council agreed the costs for this work. He mentioned the discussion that had taken place with himself, The Church (Rosemary Jackson) asked the Parish Clerk for permission to move cemetery spoil onto the highway area so that it was easier for a lorry to collect and remove the soil waste. Cllr Horn raised a concern about the amount of soil possibly being put on the highway and the Clerk advised that someone needs to speak to the Church to ensure that this work is managed safely and that the relevant risk assessments are carried out. The parish council is not responsible for any matters in relation to this work and the Church will need to ensure that it is carried out correctly and safely. Cllr Usherwood also mentioned the request from the Church to install a War Graves Memorial plaque on the

fencing around the War Memorial. The Parish Council Chairman and Clerk saw no reason why this could not be done. The parish council have been responsible for the maintenance and painting of this fencing over a number of years. He reminded councillors about the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 14th November and the Clerk handed over the wreaths that were to be laid at the memorials. He also raised the matter of a parish council representative for the Freight Strategy Group and it was agreed that Cllr Richard Lampkin would be suited for this role. Cllr Lamkin should contact Elaine Hassell at the Haddenham Community Board for the relevant information. He also asked councillors to consider any plans they might want to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.

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

6. Finances and Orders for Payment

Agree orders and retrospective orders for payment presented by the RFO and/or Clerk

RESOLVED: That the following orders be agreed and paid:

• S Webb	Bus Shelter/Hedge Cutting	£180.00	101029
• South Bucks Tree Surgeons Ltd	Spinney Works	£7,176.00	101030
• South Bucks Tree Surgeons Ltd	Re-issued cheque for survey	£540.00	101033
• Impact Signs	Playground plaques	£34.96	101034
• Impact Signs	Playground plaque	£17.48	101035

RESOLVED: Cllr Horn to confirm with the Clerk that the cheques for Impact Signs were correct. If not, then the Clerk will seek a refund or allow for the amounts to remain in credit with Impact Signs.

RESOLVED: To receive, and agree, the monthly finance report, Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 30 September 2021 from the Finance Officer & RFO.

7. 20mph Speed Reduction

To formally respond to Cllr Peter Cooper regarding his email on the proposal to raise with Buckinghamshire Council a reduction in speed to 20mph for certain roads in local communities. Specifically would the parish council;

- Welcome having the option of introducing 20mph zones in your parish or town
- Pursue this option if it were available
- Support the widespread adoption of 20mph zones in residential areas across Buckinghamshire

RESOLVED, Unanimously, to support the above proposal from Cllr Peter Cooper and that the Clerk contact Cllr Cooper to express the parish council's support and to raise these matters with Bucks Council on their behalf.

Cllr Ashley Waite (Bucks Council) left the meeting at this point.

8. Community Led Plan

To receive any updates on the plan.

No plans, reports or comments to make on the Community Led Plan.

9. Grant Request

To consider a request for a grant from Bill Piers (Ramblers)

- **Grant Request for £100**

DFU/14/2 Phil Rimell has given us permission to re-build and enlarge the Vee to the timber kissing gate at the top of the steps just outside the entrance to Hermits Cottage in Westlington. This will make access easier through this kissing gate that is currently a tight squeeze.

- **Grant Request for £50**

DFU/14/2 Mr & Mrs Usherwood have accepted an offer to replace the hinges and re-hang the timber gate on the west side of their property to make it self-closing. Currently it is sometimes left open by walkers.

It was reported that the named property owners in the above application had not been contacted by the Ramblers Group and they had not given their permission for the proposed works to be carried out on their land.

RESOLVED: That no grants be awarded to the Ramblers Group as requested above.

10. Speed Restrictions

Council to receive an update from Cllr Lamkin on matters relating to speed restriction proposals, and procedures, for taking this forward with Buckinghamshire Council.

Cllr Richard Lamkin sent the following report/comments to the parish council for consideration.

- Currently the Leader of Bucks CC does not support 20mph limits due to the lack of effective enforcement and poor driver observance. Some County Councillors including Peter Cooper (Wing) are pushing Bucks Council for having the option of introducing 20mph zones in parishes and or towns and widespread adoption of 20mph zones in residential areas across Buckinghamshire.

At present I wonder if this goal may never be achieved due in no part to the resistance from the top levels of Bucks Council. I personally believe that right now the time, effort and money could be better spent finding ways of improving the driver observance within the current speed limits. I don't think that police enforcement is reliable long term solution because they are a limited resource and are only effective when present on site.

To limit the roads for consideration the Parish Council could look at those roads where speeding in excess of 30mph is present and the entrances to the villages. Up for consideration could be some form of traffic calming or road layout changes rather than expending the cost for surveys and other expenses with a view to moving to 20mph. There is little to be gained until 30mph is observed by reducing the limit to 20mph which will equally be ignored.

Some examples of claiming measures are village gateways, physical road narrowing; pinch points or pinch points with priority signage [a form of contraflow], the use of road markings or adding cycle lanes. I am aware there is a village gateway at Ford where Cllr Jon Horn has stated the 30mph limit is still regularly ignored.

As the road from Dinton hall to the Parish field was mentioned at the last Parish Council meeting I've listed ideas that could be looked into as options as an alternative to a 20mph limit

1. The road could be "narrowed" by solid white lines along the edges as it approaches the gate to Parish field. This gives the illusion to the driver of a narrowing road as it approached the corner into the village. I would be guessing but white lines must be cheaper than the cost of proving, approving and installing a 20mph zone.
2. A pinch point could be added before the gate to the parish field, again this could be a physical narrowing or by use of chevron lines.

I'm aware that even painting lines would need Transport for Bucks approval so there is no quick fix to the lack of effective enforcement and poor driver observance.

RESOLVED: That the above report and comments would be considered and discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council and to agree a way forward.

11. Devolved Services

To receive any reports, if available, and agree any specific actions in relation to devolved services.

No specific matters to report but the Clerk reported, again, that there had not been any attempt by Bucks Council to discuss the 2022 Devolved Services Agreement and this will continue to be raised with Bucks Council officers and councillors.

12. Roads & General Maintenance

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

General state of the roads remain unsatisfactory and there are also water leaks not repaired by the water companies and pot holes still await to be considered and repaired by Bucks Council.

13. 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
 - Formal planning notice would be made
2. Land between Hare Folly and Westlington Cottage, Gibraltar, 15/00448/C0N3
 - No further updates
3. Shepherds Hut, Gibraltar - 20/00456/C0NB
 - A retrospective planning application should be made for the Shepherds Hut and the parish council should be receiving this for comment in due course.

Cllr Usherwood left the meeting at this point as he had declared an interest in the following planning application.

14. 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.

- **21/03648/APP** **Flat, Laburnham Cottage, Westlington Lane, Dinton**
Householder application for modernisation and refurbishment of existing flat above garage. New windows and door apertures and replacement windows. Addition of new timber balcony to rear elevation.
RESOLVED: No Objection

Cllr Usherwood returned to the meeting at this point.

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____