



Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.50pm on Tuesday 13th April 2021

This was a virtual meeting held under the Coronavirus Pandemic Regulations

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

6 Residents Cllr Mrs J Brandis (BC) C Lambert (Bucks Herald)

The Chairman opened the meeting by commenting on the planning application for Plumtree Cottage, which he stated was currently under review as changes had been made which needed to be looked at by the planning department and possibly a revised application to be made, which we had not received, as yet.

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 Gordon (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

- No declarations made or dispensations requested.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 9th March 2021

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 9/3/21 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 gave an update on the governments decision that all councils are to revert back to meeting in public in their council chambers after 7th May 2021. There is currently a High Court application being made to reverse this decision but if it is not changed the clerk has arranged for the parish council to meet in Dinton Village Hall as we did prior to coronavirus lockdown.
- The clerk reported that the A418 storage layby is no longer owned by Bucks Council and he was investigating the matter further. He has reported to BC the concerns of fly-tipping and litter in the layby.
- The clerk reported that Cllr Anne Dunne has resigned with immediate effect and will not be standing for election.
- Cllr Gordon has also reported he will not be standing for election.

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.

- Chloe Lambert thanked Cllr Judy Brandis for her time as a councillor and wished her well for the future. She also reported that the roads were still in a state of disrepair and mentioned Upton Road in particular.
- Cllr Vane thanked all those involved with the recent community litter-pick which was well attended. It was good, yet disappointing, that there was so much rubbish collected across the parish. There is to be another litter-pick organised for Ford due to the amount of litter about.
- Cllr Horn reported that Water Lane road appears to be collapsing and this has been reported to Buckinghamshire Council.
- Cllr O'Driscoll updated council on the state of the playground and the repairs that are needed. He also reported on matters relating to repairs which are needed to the footpath off Boot Lane and Cllr Brandis said she would try and obtain an up-to-date works list from the Bucks Council Local Area Technician.
- The parish field grass cutting was discussed, and the Cricket Club is to be approached with a view that they continue to cut the grass as the parish council allows them to use the field for car parking.
- Cllr Usherwood reported on his attendance at the Bucks Council cabinet member for planning meeting with parish councillors. He was disappointed at the outcome on planning matters and he also spoke about the future of the community boards which he and others feel are not what they were intended for and there appears to be no real engagement with parish councils in terms of questions being able to be asked and answered. There is a feeling that the community boards are not community driven but still being used as a platform for giving grants and receiving presentations on Bucks Council works and interests.

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------|
| • Aylesbury Town Council | Photocopying | £120.00 | 100991 |
| • EoN | Parish Field Utilities | £9.77 | 100992 |

7. Community Led Plan

To receive any updates on the plan from Cllr Dunne.

The plan needs to be developed further and the council will consider this after the May elections.

8. Community Litter Pick 2021 – Update

To receive an update on the community event and consider, in light of how much rubbish was collected, whether another litter pick is required this year.

RESOLVED: Another litter-pick will be arranged for Ford but the other parts of the parish will be considered after 6 months.

9. Devolved Services

To receive any reports, if available, and agree any specific actions in relation to devolved services. Nothing to report.

10. Roads & General Maintenance

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

The matter of the horse manure heap and environmental agency involvement was discussed. There have been no further updates on this matter. Road maintenance continues to be a problem and it was noted that £7m is to be spent on clearing out road gullies across the county.

11. Community Orchard

To receive an update from Cllr Heath that the Parish Council consider the purchase of fruit trees to be planted on parish land and for the benefit of parishioners. To consider costs, maintenance and specific land site.

Proposal for a community orchard

Summary

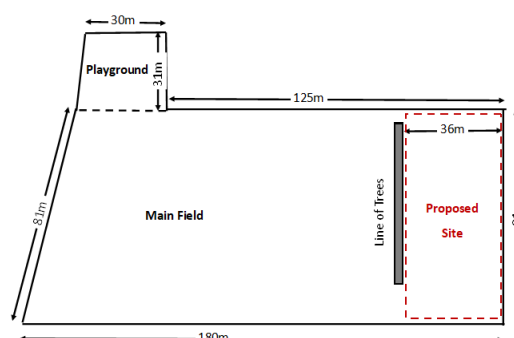
It is proposed that Dinton Parish Council establish a pear and apple orchard, with plants (to attract pollinators) and meadow grasses on part of the parish's communally owned field. Wildflowers from seeds are unlikely to succeed unless a great deal of work is done to prepare for them. Such an orchard would be a community orchard and not a commercial project. Costs are relatively low (grants may be available and sponsorship can be invited) and maintenance is minimal. In return, we would increase the area's biodiversity, enhance the parishioners' walking experience, provide fresh unadulterated fruit and leave a legacy to be enjoyed by future generations.

Background

Since 1950, orchards in England have declined by 57% and in 2007 Defra designated orchards a priority habitat in the 'UK biodiversity Action Plan' and community orchards are now a growing movement across the UK. The parish has owned the field and spinney for approximately thirty years. It has hosted village events, such as the fete, bonfire night and occasional black-tie dinners, normally inside the village marquee. The area proposed has been underutilised (or not used at all) for any part of these events. It is however used by walkers and a path has been created for them, near the tree line. It would greatly improve their walking experience and encourage others to make this area more attractive. Haddenham Townsend orchard was established five years ago and has been enthusiastically used and maintained by the villagers.

Location

The orchard would be the other side of the line of trees. This is a south facing slope in an area that is currently underutilised. It will benefit from optimal sunlight, be aesthetically pleasing and will encourage the parishioners to use it more frequently.



Type and siting

The orchard would be apple and pear, because they require less ongoing maintenance than soft fruit trees/bushes. The choice is either large trees (a traditional orchard), or the more modern smaller varieties. As this is intended to serve walkers, it is recommended that we use the smaller variety in order for the fruit to be casually picked. They are also easier to maintain, establish themselves more quickly and require a distance of 3 to 5m, whereas the traditional trees would need 5 to 7m. If we can procure three-year-old, container planted trees, we can plant in springtime. The apple trees will be grouped together and the so will the pear trees. This is to encourage cross pollination. Plants known to attract pollinators will be planted between the trees.

There is currently a two-metre-wide pathway, that is cut at the same time as the parish field. This will be resituated to meander through the centre of the orchard. In order to encourage people to stay and enjoy the orwill be created with wooden tables/seats (see photo left). These will provide areas for a picnic, or simply a place to sit and enjoy the orchard and wild flowers.



The total area is 2,592m². The pathway will be approximately 200m² and the seating areas 10m² each, leaving c. 2,372m² available for trees and flowers.

This means, we could plant as many as 250 apple/pear trees (at 3m spacing). However, I propose we plant 25 apple and 25 pear trees in the first iteration. We can

obtain, as a community project, free sapplings from the Woodland Trust. They are inviting applications later this spring, for delivery in the autumn.

Caveat: this is a slow process and it is likely that the main beneficiaries will be the future generations. We are likely to see some apples after five years, but the old saying “pears are for heirs” may prove true.

Wildflowers and pollinators

The orchard needs to have pollinator plants in order to encourage a good fruit yeild. Wildflowers can be planted, but despite their name, they do not compete very well with meadowgrass. The three main ways of establishing are:

1. Seed. Simply casting seed on the field is destined to fail. We would have to clear the ground, create a fine tilth for them to become established.
2. Mulch. This is mulch containing wildflower seeds, but it would require the same ground preparation.
3. Seed turf. This is the most expensive option and requires the same amount of ground preparation.

Given the cost and intensity of labour required, I suggest that we simply plant more rigorous flowering plants that attract pollinators.

Optimal planting time

Bare rooted trees need to be planted in the autumn, whereas container grown trees can be planted anytime of the year, except during periods of drought or frost. It is thereore proposed that we plant either container grown, or bare root trees in October/November.

Costs and funding

Spring stock is no longer available. The autumn stock will be available in September. The following prices are based upon the spring stock, so some adjustment may need to be made when we order in autumn.

Item	Quantity	£ Unit	£ Total
Apple trees	25	21.54	538.50
Pear trees	25	24.24	606.00
2.1m Stake	50	7.68	384.00
Tree tie	50	1.14	57.00
Plants (packs of various types)	2	70	140.00
Signage	4		386.83
Total			2,112.33

These costs can be borne entirely by the parish council, or we could ask for local people and companies to sponsor a tree.

Maintenance

Apple and pear trees need light pruning twice a year (summer and winter). This can be achieved via volunteers from the orchard committee and several people have already shown willing to do this. We need to ensure the trees have plenty of water in order to establish themselves, so we may need to run a pipe from the existing supply to a container at the top of the orchard.

RESOLVED: That work should be started, as per the proposal, on the community orchard with further discussions to take place.

12. 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. Willow farm, Ford 20/00261/C0N3
2. Ford field, Main Road, Ford - 19/00304/C0N3
3. Land between Hare Folly and Westlington Cottage, Gibraltar, 15/00448/C0N3
4. Shepherds Hut, Gibraltar - 20/00456/C0NB

The above land areas continue to be a concern to the parish council due to the lack of enforcement by Buckinghamshire Council.

13. Planning Complaint – Freedom of Information Request Reply to Bucks Council

Councillors are asked to consider the continuing concerns and complaints made in respect of Planning Application 18/02750/AGN – in particular the replies to the FOI Request and from planning officers in regard to the planning process and decision making.

Councillors are asked if they wish to instruct the Clerk to continue raising these matters and whether Bucks Council have sufficiently replied and clearly shown their standing on this matter in terms of planning process.

- Emails and proposed letter copied to all councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk issue the letter to Bucks Planning Department and pursue the complaint to the next level.

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.

- **21/01111/APP Land Adj Endsleigh, Oxford Road, Dinton**

RESOLVED: Object/Oppose

1) The site is within the Dinton, Westlington, Upton and Gibraltar Conservation Area and forms the western boundary of the Gibraltar Conservation area.

The application does not provide any details of the proposed construction beyond the barest details of a large modern dwelling substantially at odds with the existing mix of construction including the nearby and adjacent listed and heritage buildings in this conservation area.

2) Whilst highways have raised no objections to the proposal, subject to certain conditions regarding the establishment of suitable access, the Parish Council, aware of the number of serious accidents on this stretch of road, feels strongly that there are significant dangers associated with the access and egress of vehicles associated with this application, as it is situated on a particularly dangerous bend unsighted to the east and opposite the access for Westlington House which will have shared access.. We think that the Highways Department should look again at this aspect

3) The design and access statement seems to be based on complying with the Hampshire Fareham Council Local Plan Review planning policies and is therefore not relevant to this site situated in the Conservation Area of Gibraltar in Buckinghamshire.

4) The minimal details provided show a large modern dwelling which would detract from the character and appearance of the existing conservation area and would not respect the historic layout, scale and forms of buildings in the conservation area. In this respect the proposal is in conflict with Policies GP8, GP35, GP38 and GP53 and does not comply with BE1, BE2 and D3 of the emerging VALP. The Heritage Officer should be consulted regarding the detrimental effect the current proposal would have on the existing settlement.

5) The site, including the frontage, has lain undisturbed for a number of years and has reverted to nature and currently contributes to the special characteristics of the conservation area and this should be taken into account, especially the proposal to provide 2 metre high wooden fencing around the proposed dwelling. The site is situated in an Area of Attractive Landscape and any proposed development should respect the landscape character under Policy RA 8.

- **21/01170/APP** **Upton Barn, Upton Road, Dinton**
- **21/01171/ALB** Removal of existing plain clay roof tiles and
Replacement with handmade clay roof tiles
RESOLVED: No Objection

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____