



Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th March, 2021

This was a virtual meeting held under Covid-19 Regulations

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

In Attendance: Cllr Mrs J Brandis (Bucks Council) C Lambert (Bucks Herald)
12 Members of the Public

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 and no dispensations requested.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 9th February 2021

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 9/2/21 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 advised Members that the April meeting will be held after the Annual Parish Meeting (the Chairman to read the council’s annual report from 2019 and 2020).

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 from Ford raised concerns over the proposal planning application for a solar farm to be established on land owned by a Ford resident, but on land designated as part of Aston Sandford Parish Council. The proposed solar farm will be seen from Ford Village.

The Chairman explained that the parish council is yet to receive a formal planning application and until we do, residents are entitled to express their feelings about the plans.

The landowner, Mr J Elgin, also invited residents to contact LowCarbon, the company who is installing the proposed solar farm and express any ideas

about the solar farm proposal. He asked residents to engage with the proposal and give ideas on what they would like to see on the land that could accommodate the solar farm and also address any concerns residents may have.

- Residents who were in attendance from Ford Village asked a number of questions about proposed security, lighting and also expressed their concerns about the proposed solar farm and one resident made it clear that he did not wish to speak to LowCarbon as he was of the opinion that there shouldn't be any solar farm installation on the land in question and that many residents will vote against such a proposal.
- The Clerk advised the Council that he had also received a number of emails expressing concerns about the proposed solar farm and he was also copied into a letter from a resident who is taking a lead on forming a vote of objection to a proposed solar farm.
- Cllr Mrs J Brandis (Buckinghamshire Council) reported that 7.7 million pounds will be earmarked for clearing out highway gulley's annually. There are also 3 new consultant planning officers and adverts for more planning officers are in place. Bigstrup Farm application has been refused, although there is some confusion on the exact details showing on the BC planning website. She also reported that companies installing telecom poles could do so without planning permission or consulting BC Planning Dept as they had permitted development/planning rights to install these poles where they wished.

The Parish Council has raised concerns about this and asked Cllr Brandis to investigate further, as some of the proposed telecom poles are in conservation areas in front of listed buildings and there appears to be a proposal for a pole to be erected on the church.

- Cllr Horn raised a concern about a local resident who has been refused a covid vaccine in his home (he is unable to travel to the vaccine site and no one will transport him). Cllr Brandis will contact Mr B Lynch the chairman of the Haddenham Patients Group to ask what the current policy is in these matters.
- Cllr Dunne reported that the recent repaired potholes were now requiring further repair as the recent weather had damaged them again and the roads are in a bad state. Information has been sent to the Local Area Technician and also reported on Fix-my-Street. Concerns were raised as one resident was told to contact the local parish council who would deal with any landowners on clearing out ditches. This is not the policy of BC Highways as they deal with the landowner and also clear ditches themselves.
- Cllr Vane reported concerns about the school bus not being able to park properly because of anti-social and illegal parking by parents dropping children off at the school. She stated that someone at BC Highways may be contacted to lengthen the road area for the bus to park so other vehicles cannot park and cause obstructions or difficulties for the bus drivers. She also reported that the Village Hall Committee had received recent grants totally approximately £7,000 for maintenance repairs to the village hall.
- Cllr Usherwood reminded everyone of the 6th May elections for parish councillors. He updated everyone on the recent situation on planning breaches at Plumtree Cottage, Westlington due to additional roof height and changes made by the architect – work has stopped until the matter has been resolved. He also updated council on the concerns in respect of a planning application for land adjacent Pinehill and the Clerk will issue a letter from the parish council to the planning department to outline our concerns.

- Resident raised questions on the amount of hedge cutting that had taken place on land. The landowner is within his rights to cut back the hedge as he sees fit even though it was cut back, in the opinion of many, too much.
- Resident asked for an update on a recent matter relating to a caravan and now land area covered in excess litter. People are aware of this and discussions taking place.

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

• HMRC	Quarterly Contribution	£709.76	100986
• EoN	Parish Field Utilities	£9.77	100987
• PKFLittlejohn	Annual Audit Fee	£240.00	100990
	Replacement cheque		

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

7. Community Led Plan

To receive any updates on the plan from Cllr Dunne.
Nothing to report.

8. Devolved Services

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

The Clerk reported that grass cutting has started and the financial contribution from Bucks Council has been agreed as same as last years figures. This will be paid to Aylesbury Town Council who carry out the devolved services work for the parish council.

9. Roads & General Maintenance

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

Potholes still causing problems as well as the grass verge in Westlington, which has been torn up by builders' vehicles. The parish council will look at this matter once the building works have finished.

10. Community Orchard

Proposal 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.

RESOLVED: To wait for further information on this proposal.

11. Buckinghamshire Local Plan

Statement of Community Involvement and the call for Brownfield Sites.

Council to note and consider the plan and make any comments if applicable.

RESOLVED: Council noted the plan.

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.

Lack of enforcement is still causing concern for the parish council and the following matters remain outstanding despite repeated attempts by Cllr Mrs J Brandis to get BC Planning Department to deal with these matters:

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
5. Woodland East of the Spinney, Ford - 20/00484/C0N

13. 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.

- **21/00500/APP** **The Old Coach House, New Road, Dinton**
Proposed detached car port and extension to front drive.
RESOLVED: Object/Oppose
Proposed design is too large and negatively affects the street scene, overdevelopment of site, negatively affects neighbouring properties and concerns raised on whether this size of property needs space for 4 vehicles.
- **21/00493/APP** **Chestnut Farm, Ford Road, Dinton**
Removal of condition 1 (the garage, gymnasium and storage building hereby permitted shall not be used or occupied for any purpose other than as ancillary to the residential use of the properties) on application 20/01124/APP.
RESOLVED: No Objection
- **21/00387/APP** **The Spinney, Burgess Lane, Ford**
Conversion of stable building into a ceramics studio
RESOLVED: No Objections as long as the proposed studio is for residential use only and not commercial use such as tutorial classes, sales, visitors to the property etc which would cause problems in terms of parking and vehicle numbers.

- **21/00444/APP** **Old Flowers Cottage, Burgess Lane, Ford**
Replace existing shed with new shed.
RESOLVED: No Objection

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____