

BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held on

THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 2019 in BYFIELD VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

PRESENT - Cllrs J Gillic (Chairman), S Boddington, L Clarke, S Crowshaw, C Davis, M Taylor and B Ridyard.

Also present – District Cllr Rupert Frost and 3 parishioners.

DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS – None

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were accepted from Cllr Buckley. The absence of Cllr Shepherd was noted.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING(S) –

11th July 2019 Cllr Crowshaw asked for section 10a of the July 2019 minutes (page 411) to be amended to read as follows –

a) Sports pavilion (cricket/football) work update. Cllr Taylor reported that the proposed drainage work in front of and under the decking of the pavilion is an on-going project with work not yet started. He and Cllr Crowshaw are working on a schedule of internal improvement works and will liaise with the sports clubs as appropriate.

Cllr Taylor proposed the amended minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed by all who had been present.

2. UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Fields in Trust – Centenary Field status for Brightwell Recreation Ground

The Chairman explained that *Fields in Trust* are seeking copies of very distant documents relating to the 'new' part of the BRG which had been purchased from British Rail including copies of deeds from before BR owned the land. This was proving to be very difficult to find and he will ask *Fields in Trust* if they can just consider the original portion of the recreation ground, as left to the village by Mr Brightwell in memory of his son killed in WW1, as a Centenary Field. If they cannot do this he proposed that the idea be dropped. The Chairman would contact the legal team at *Fields in Trust*.

b) Updating the Risk Assessment On-going.

c) Registered Village Greens and Land Registry Still on-going

d) Scout HQ lease. Still on-going.

e) Northants ACRE Best Village Awards Cllr Boddington reported on the presentation event and the comments from the judges. Byfield was not a winner but she thanked Cllr Ridyard for her help in putting together the application and also all the village groups which had given written material and also come along to speak to the judges. It was generally considered that the Council would not enter next year, unless the format changed.

JG
MB
Cik
Cik

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Allotments. Cllr Clark had relinquished his voluntary role of 'co-ordinator' for the allotment holders but would be continuing as an allotment holder. The Chairman asked if any other councillor would consider taking on this role, but none felt able to do so.

Cllr Clark would continue to look after Rights of Way and also to monitor the state of village road name signs.

b) Mr C Manton had been engaged to undertake a number of pieces of work on the Recreation Ground and in the closed churchyard.

c) He is having discussions with two families regarding vehicular access from Becketts Close into a rear garden on The Green for over-wintering a vehicle. Council agreed for the Chairman to continue to deal with this request and to ask the householder to obtain an easement for crossing part of a Registered Village Green in order to gain access into their property.

d) He advised that the village hall management committee had written to give notice that it felt there is now a need to increase the fee paid by the Council for the use of a room in the village hall. This has now increased from being a 'storage' facility for archiving documents and other items to a fully-fledged office which will in due course be used by the Clerk to the Council. The charge will increase from the agreed £200 a year as a 'storage' facility to £420 a year or £35 a month.

Sept agenda

4. REPORTS BY COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

a) County Councillor Could not be present

b) District Councillor Cllr Frost reported the following items –
DDC looking into setting up a dedicated site for travellers.

Have set up a Climate Change Committee.

West Northants Strategic Plan out for consultation.

£20K has been set aside to help encourage market traders.

£75K earmarked for a Town Centre Vision

£730K earmarked to create a cycleway between Braunston and Daventry town centre.

The saga of who is to fund the necessary repairs to the ex-BR bridge under the Hellidon Road in Charwelton continues. Hellidon Road remains closed.

He reported he had spoken with the MP about the impact HS2 construction would have on villages within his constituency. The MP had asked that Byfield PC write to him about its concerns. Cllr Crowshaw said he would do this. **SC**

Cllr Frost left the meeting.

5. COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS PRESENT None of a general nature. Those present wished to comment on planning matters.

6. MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Installing a barrier on RVG59 to prevent damage to shrubs by parking vehicles. It was agreed not to pursue this for the time being as the shrub border had been very well cleared. The matter would be monitored by all councillors. **ALL**

b) Request by Byfield school to plant or sow wild flowers in highway verges, install bug hotels and consider some tree planting. Cllr Boddington suggested the Public Open Space at Clock Meadow might be a suitable site for bug hotels and also, perhaps, some tree planting. Cllr Ridyard will liaise with the school when term recommences in September and bring ideas to future meetings. **BR**

c) Issues raised by Internal Auditor Finding a pension provider, establishing conditions for safety in a lone working situation, providing further facilities for backing up the Council's computer. To be carried forward. **Agenda**

7. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, requiring a decision and not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Northants CALC Notice of AGM on 5th October with request for any motions. None forthcoming. Consideration of sending a delegate will be discussed in September. **Agenda**

b) Northants CPRE Planning Roadshow – 10th October Cllr Ridyard expressed an interest in attending. It was noted this would be the evening of the Council meeting so planning matters would need to be covered by another councillor. Cllr Ridyard would book her place at the roadshow. **BR**

8. FINANCE

a) Financial state The Clerk reported that as at 26th July 2019 the Council had total financial assets of £69,088.01. The Chairman advised that the offered grant from DDC towards the new play equipment had yet to be claimed. **JG**

Fund balances Information provided by the Clerk.

b) Internal Control Cllr Gillic and Cllr Davis had carried out a check and found all in order.

c) Audit 2018-19. Report from external auditor not yet received.

d) INCOME banked since the last meeting –

Lloyds bank	Interest for June	£ 2.66
Western Power Distribution	Wayleave for poles on BRG	£27.74 (contra)

e) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT** See schedule on page 420

Cllr Taylor proposed that the listed accounts be paid; seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed by all.

9. PLANNING

a) DDC Applications

i) DA/2019/410LB – Crown House, 1 High Street for installation of 3 dormer windows and other internal and external works, including the removal of a redundant chimney in attic space.

Cllr Ridyard proposed that Council support the application as work is necessary to make the house safe and habitable. Agreed by all.

ii) DA/2019/0531LB – Fiveways Filling Station, High Street for demolition of flat roof single storey section of disused workshop.

Cllr Ridyard proposed that Council support this Listed Building application, which forms an integral part of an already approved planning application. It was agreed to support the application and to accept the views of the Listed Building planning officer.

iii) DA/2019/0605 – 29 Greenwood Close for conversion of garage to habitable room and single storey front extension. Cllr Ridyard reported she had not been able to speak with neighbours as they had not been available when she called, but she felt the proposed conversion would have no impact on neighbours and a number of similar properties seemed to have carried out similar conversions. She proposed Council offer No Observations as a comment. Agreed by all.

iv) DA/2019/0578 – Morgan's Orchard, Whitecroft Lane for single storey extension to side and rear. Cllr Ridyard advised the application also included increasing the height of the existing bathroom.

The meeting was closed for any comments from parishioners present, including the applicants.

The applicants, Mr and Mrs Bethell, explained the reason for the need for the extension to provide accommodation for Mr Bethell's father and for the proposed size and shape of the extension.

Mr Davies of 15 Jubilee Close explained he is the adjacent neighbour and the proposed extension would be right up against his boundary. He felt the proposed extension is very imposing and could have a detrimental effect on light into his house and garden. He advised that the applicants had agreed to move the north boundary wall of the extension 1m to the south and providing the application was amended as such he would consider not to raise any objections.

Meeting re-opened. It was agreed to support the application providing the north boundary wall of the extension is moved away from the boundary with 15 Jubilee Close.

b) Approvals

i) DA/2019/0315LB – 10 Banbury Lane for consent to alterations to existing outbuilding including replacing roof and installing timber garage doors with glazed panels. No rooflights to be installed in replacement roof.

ii) DA/2019/0331 – Fiveways Filling Station, High Street for extension to forecourt canopy, demolition of flat roof section of disused workshop and new parking to side of shop.

iii) DA/2019/0488 – 2 Becketts Close for retrospective replacement of flat roof with pitched roof to existing extension.

c) Refusals None.

d) Any URGENT planning matters to be brought to the attention of the Council None.

11. LIGHTS and UTILITIES

a) 'Trial' LED light Cllr Davis reported that the trial LED light at PL44 The Green is now operational and she asked all councillors to consider what they thought of it. **ALL**

b) Replacement light on the west end of the church Cllr Davis advised that this should now operate from dusk to dawn and reminded councillors that it is now run from the church electricity supply. It was agreed to donate £10 a year to the church for the energy for this light. **Agenda**

12. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND

a) Sports pavilion work update The drainage work to be started after the close of the cricket season.

b) Defibrillator for sports pavilion The secretary of the Tigers FC had written to advise that the County FA is able to subsidise the cost of a defibrillator. The Chairman proposed that a maximum of £300 (one third of the cost) could be donated from the Brightwell Recreation Ground charity. Seconded by Cllr Boddington and agreed by all. The Clerk would write to Tigers FC. **Clerk**

c) Request from Byfield Bowls Club for assistance with the fee for having a second garden waste bin for the mowings and hedge trimmings After some discussion Cllr Davis proposed that a donation of £36 (for one year of collection) be made; seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed by all. **Sept Agenda**

13. PLAYGROUND

a) Weekly reports – no problems with equipment but, sadly, more dog fouling occurring.

b) Annual safety inspection – work required Copy of Post Installation Inspection report to be sent to Proludic as some issues were raised by the inspector. **CIK/BR**

Cllr Ridyard will make a list of recommendations from the inspector for remaining items. **BR**

None of these require immediate action.

c) Safer surface under nest swing Quotations had been obtained for alternative surfaces but Cllr Ridyard proposed that as it turned out there was sufficient new safety bark to raise the level under the nest swing that any thoughts of replacing this surface be postponed for the time being.

14. ALLOTMENTS, POCKET PARK, NEW WOOD

a) Allotments

i) Community Garden (plot 1) Cllr Clark advised he had taken out his plants from this area and had cut the grass. He said he would continue to cut the grass on the paths and maintain the flower border in front of plot 9.

There was some discussion on how to maintain the rest of the 'garden' which can often be very wet. The pond would need to continue to be fenced in some way. Cllr Boddington suggested it be strimmed at least twice a year to keep the area under control. Further thought would be given to how best to manage the area.

ii) Management of the bank on the Farndon Road side behind plots 9 to 12 This is very overgrown with weeds and grass and is difficult to maintain with ease. Cllr Boddington asked all councillors to think how best this might be maintained with not much cost and to let her have their thoughts on this. **ALL**

iii) Re-claiming of plot 11 Cllr Clark advised he is willing to continue with doing some of this work but had found hiring a small digger with a driver a problem. Cllr Crowshaw offered to seek a small digger for hire and would drive it himself. The hire was agreed by all.

iv) Allotment liaison Cllr Boddington asked if any councillor wished to take on this role from Cllr Clark. None were immediately forthcoming.

b) New Wood/Pocket Park

Cllr Boddington reported that parts of the New Wood, Sheep Meadows 1 and 2 had been cut by Mr Law with his Allen scythe. More plants and some tress will be ordered to replace losses.

15. COMMUNICATING WITH PARISHIONERS

Cllr Taylor reported a new page had been added to the website. The Facebook page now has 119 'followers'.

16. HIGHWAYS

a) Update on SID 1 and SID 2 Cllr Crowshaw advised that SID 2 is still not working properly and the suppliers did not respond to requests to come out to sort it out. Payment for SID 2 has been withheld as it did not work properly from day 1. It was agreed that Cllr Crowshaw write to the supplier advising them that the Council does not want the machine and asking them to arrange to collect it and issue the Council with a credit note to cancel their original invoice. **SC**

b) HS2 work at Chipping Warden. Work has not yet re-commenced so no obvious associated HGVs using the A361.

c) Any other highway issues Cllr Crowshaw reported that when Northants Highways closed parts of the A361 in the village over two nights recently on the second night a number of vehicles continued to come into the village centre including a HGV from Stobbarts, which was driven through the line of cones closing the road to through traffic. Cllr Crowshaw has details of the vehicle registration.

d) Village road name signs Cllr Clark will continue to undertake a survey of these to find out which ones might need to be replaced and which ones cleaned or re-painted. New signs can be ordered via Daventry DC, who fund the cost.

17. TREES

a) Two cherry trees in The Causeway Cllr Ridyard reported that the householder at 1 The Causeway is extremely concerned about tree roots invading her front garden. Cllr Boddington proposed that the tree outside 1 The Causeway be felled, the stump ground out and dealt with to prevent any further growth and a suitable replacement considered. She also proposed that the cherry tree on the opposite side of the road be further crown reduced next summer. This was agreed.

The Clerk would obtain quotations for both pieces of work.

Clerk

The Chairman proposed that as Standing Orders states that no meeting shall continue beyond 10pm that the remaining two items for Rights of Way and Council Property be carried to the next meeting and that the meeting be closed.

Agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 22nd August for planning if necessary
Thursday 12th September for full council**

Items for September

Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
Portable Appliance Testing for items in sports pavilions

Chairman

September 2019
