

# BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 in BYFIELD VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm

**PRESENT** - Cllrs J Gillic (Chairman), M Buckley, L Clark, S Crowshaw, C Davis, B Ridyard, S Shepherd and M Taylor.

Also present - District Cllr Frost No others.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were approved for Cllr Boddington.  
County Cllr Brown had sent apologies.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS –** None.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING(S) –**

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2018** Page 383 item 12a line 10 and onwards. After some discussion Cllr Davis proposed that an amendment suggested by the Chairman be approved; seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all. The following additions/amendments were agreed. After “there could be conflict” insert “of interest” and after “a very good idea” insert “for the school”.  
The amended minutes were approved.

### **3. UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING,** which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Updating Risk Assessment )

b) Making payments by BACS ) awaiting meeting with Brackley TC

c) Registration of registered village greens with Land Registry Still to be done.

d) Scout HQ new lease. The Clerk is obtaining a similar lease as used by Daventry DC.

e) GDPR requirements. To do.

**Clerk  
Clerk**

### **4. ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING**

a) Councillor to monitor Rights of Way. Cllr Clark offered to take on this role.

b) Councillor to oversee Brightwell Recreation Ground Cllr Taylor offered to take on this role, which would also include keeping an eye on the state of the two pavilions which are owned by the Council.

### **5. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) Office furniture for the projected Council office in the village hall had been ordered – desks, shelving and filing cabinets.

b) He had purchased a laptop to go with the projector so that it could be used at meetings.

c) Agendas and supporting papers could all be sent by email. Any councillor wishing to receive a print copy should advise the clerk.

d) Letters to some parishioners from “Byfield Neighbours”. These letters seek to sign up parishioners to a website/group emailing but has nothing to do with the Parish Council. Names of parishioners are being used on the letters indicating that the mail comes from them. In at least one case it does not and their name has been taken in vain. The Chairman would write something about this for the next issue of The ByWord.

e) Council Tax statements. Cllr Gillic advised he had heard there had been adverse comments on some social media sites about the increase (in percentage terms) of the Parish Council element of the tax for 2019-20. No direct questions had been put to the Council about the increase. He would prepare a paper explaining the reasons for the increase. This would be posted on the Council website and also be included in his report for the Annual Parish Meeting later in March.

## 6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Cllr Frost that funding had been provided for improvement work at the Country Park and also to help the Reach for Health scheme to move to larger premises. Many people are referred to Reach for Health as part of their medical treatment. Daventry will be getting a new small cinema as part of the re-development of the current library site. The library will move to St John's square.

Plans for the required Unitary Authorities for the County are moving ahead. There is still a campaign for 3 rather than 2 UAs.

He apologised for the great length of time it is taking to resolve the matter of who funds the necessary repairs to the underside of the former BR bridge under the Hellidon Road at Charwelton. The closure of the bridge and road means much traffic for Hellidon comes through Byfield.

Questions. Cllr Ridyard asked if the decision papers for the application by Farol Ltd for 8 dwellings on its land on Boddington Road had yet been issued. (DA/2017/0495) The application was approved at the end of 2018. Cllr Frost said he would investigate.

**7. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS** None present

**8. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE requiring a DECISION** None

## 9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### a) PRESENT FINANCIAL POSTION and FUND BALANCES

The Clerk reported that the financial state at 28 February 2019 showed total liquid assets of £93,204.77 which included £55,506 of ring-fenced funds.

Payments excluding VAT totalled £56,644 against a budget of £60,325.

b) Internal Control The Chairman advised he and Cllr Davis had carried out a check and all was in order.

### c) Banked INCOME since last meeting

Lloyds Bank	Interest for January	£4.18
Northants CC	Grant towards verge mowing	£668.97
Dignity Funerals	Ashes – Mrs N Prestidge	£121.00

### g) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – see page 391

Cllr Shepherd proposed that the listed accounts be paid; seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all.

## 12. AUDIT

a) Adoption of revised Assets Register The Clerk presented a Register to 14<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Clark proposed the revised Register be adopted. Agreed by all.

## 13. PLANNING

### a) APPLICATIONS

i) Grey Barn (previously known as Byfield Lodge), Woodford Road for single storey outbuilding to provide double carport, domestic storage, workshop, home office, garden room and covered deck area.

Cllr Ridyard reported that a site visit had been made. The dwelling, being a converted agricultural barn, has no external garage or storage space. She proposed that Council SUPPORT the application, but request a condition that the outbuilding must be retained an ancillary to the main building. Seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed by all.

### b) APPROVAL(S)

i) DA/2018/1041 - Pool View Garage, Boddington Road to demolish part of existing building.

Construction of warehouse and workshop building siting of storage containers, and formation of parking area.

ii) DA/2018 1137 and 1138LB - Butterwell Cottage, Boddington Road for single storey side extension to dwelling incorporating part of existing boundary wall to be rebuilt and internal alterations.

c) REFUSALS None

d) Any urgent planning matters to be brought to the attention of the Council, arising after publication of the agenda. None.

## 12. LIGHTS, UTILITIES

a) Faulty lights. None known of.

b) Report on Street Lighting training day held by NCALC. Cllr Davis reported the day had been very useful with good speakers on a technical subject. It was suggested that if a trial installation is to take place of LED lanterns that they be alternated with existing lanterns so parishioners can judge the difference. Information had been given on a government back loan scheme for energy saving street lights but any loan has to be repaid within 5 years.

Any application for borrowing approval has to show consultation with parishioners.

A site visit to see LED lanterns in Pitsford is still to be organised. Long Buckby PC has also had some LED lanterns installed and a visit to see these might also be helpful.

c) Considering of transferring PL47 to Holy Cross church The external wiring for this lantern is considered to be in a poor state and Council had been advised by the church that its electrician is able to wire the light into the church power supply. This would mean the light could be removed from the Council inventory. There would be a cost to disconnect the supply, which has to be carried out by Western Power Distribution. The Clerk would seek a cost for this. An estimate to supply and wire in a new lantern had been supplied by the church's electrician.

Before a decision could be made the Clerk was asked to find out if the new light would have a LED bulb. Based on this information Council could then decide on an annual donation to the church for the cost of the energy to power the light.

**Clerk/Agenda**

## 13. PLAYGROUND

a) Weekly inspections No safety issues with equipment but often a quantity of dog mess in or near the playground.

b) Revised proposal and quotation for new play equipment Cllr Ridyard proposed that the revised quotation from Proludic of £28,652 excluding VAT be accepted; seconded by Cllr Crowshaw and agreed by all. An order would be placed. Lead time likely to be around 10 weeks.

**Clerk**

c) Remedial work on Nest Swing Cllr Ridyard reported the loose membrane had been cut away. The safer surface now needs topping up with new bark chippings.

## 14. HIGHWAYS

### a) HS2 traffic

i) Recent traffic count on A361 – 27 February. Attached.

ii) Liaison meeting with NCC/HS2 – 1<sup>st</sup> March. Notes of Byfield HS2 Action Group meeting attached.

### b) Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

i) SID 2. Still not working correctly. Payment not to be sent.

ii) SID 1 This is also not working as it should. Consultations ongoing with supplier.

iii) Purchase of battery charger for volunteer. It was agreed to purchase a suitable charger from ScrewFix for around £25.00. The Clerk would buy this.

iv) Payment of honorarium to volunteer keeper of SID to cover cost of energy for charging the batteries for the two devices. Cllr Crowshaw proposed £100 a year; seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all. The payment would be made in December to cover the calendar year.

### c) Other Highway Issues

i) Road Safety Audit. Item to be carried forward.

**Next agenda**

ii) Purchase and installation of road tube counters for monitoring numbers and types of vehicles. Item to be carried forward.

**Next agenda**

### d) Rights of Way

No problems known of, except for the on-going issue with stiles on parts of EF2.

Waymarkers have been given to landowner for use on EF14 bridleway.

Cllr Clark will receive a copy of the full Rights of Way map.

**15. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND**

a) Structural repairs to sports pavilion Cllr Taylor proposed that the action agreed at the last meeting for the Clerk in liaison with the Chairman to let a contract for urgent repair work to the sports pavilion be confirmed. A contract had been let to Mr A Mawle with additions and adjustments agreed after work had commenced when it was found further work was required to make the building sound and fit for purpose. This was agreed by all.

b) Any further internal electrical work required Cllr Crowshaw will complete a survey and issue a report and recommendation for the April meeting. **SC/Agenda**

c) Clearing streams around and beyond the BRG Cllr Shepherd offered to look at what might be needed and done and the Clerk would seek advice from Northants Wildlife Trust. **SS/Clerk**

**16. COMMUNICATING WITH PARISHIONERS**

a) Council Website Cllr Taylor reported he had met with Mark Challice of Small World Systems to consider the website beyond 31 March 2019. Mr Challice would be submitting a quotation for a new contract.

b) Facebook Cllr Taylor reported the Council page seems to be going well. Cllr Taylor urged councillors to also join a PC What'sApp Group.

**17. BURIAL GROUND and CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

a) Closed churchyard. The Chairman reported he was due to meet with a DDC officer on 15<sup>th</sup> March to show what work the Parish Council had undertaken.

b) Burial Ground A relative of a parishioner had expressed concern about flowers being strewn about the burial ground and a headstone pushed over. It was explained the headstone had been laid down by the Council for safety reasons because the next of kin (owner of the memorial) could not be traced. The flowers 'strewn about' were artificial flowers which being much lighter than fresh flowers are easily blown about by the wind. There had been no further comments from the complainant. Item closed.

**18. ALLOTMENTS, POCKET PARK, NEW WOOD**

Report from Cllr Boddington attached.

Cllr Clark advised that 2-3 small plots were being created from reclaimed land on the north bank of the gardens, adjacent to plot 9. These would be fenced and netted and then offered for lease.

**19. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

a) Village Hall. Cllr Gillic reported that at the year ended 28 February the hall had made a surplus of a little under £3,000. Its Annual General Meeting would be held later in March.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman

April 2019

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**Dates of next meetings –** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March - planning if necessary and Annual Parish Meeting  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Full Council meeting

**Next agenda**

- Best Village Competition

