

BYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2021 - by video conference commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT – (7 of 9) Cllrs J Gillic (Chairman), S Boddington, M Buckley, S Crowshaw, C Davis, B Ridyard, and M Taylor
Also present – District Cllr Frost

TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Clark and Shepherd. Also from Cty Cllr Brown. District Cllr Frost had advised he could not join until later in the meeting.

1a DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS None

Declarations of any non-pecuniary interests – Cllr Gillic for item 10bi (planning)

1b Appointment of Chairman for all or parts of Item 10 Planning when Cllr Gillic absents himself from the meeting. Agreed to appoint a Chairman when that item is reached.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING(S) –

- **19th January.** Cllr Taylor proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all who had been present.

- **21st January (mainly planning)** Cllr Davis proposed the minutes be adopted as a true record; seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all who had been present.

3. REPORT ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING – which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Renewal lease for Scout HQ The Clerk advised she had written to the solicitors (WellersHedley) dealing with this for the Council confirming that the local Scout Group is happy with the proposed renewal lease. This will now be sent to the Scout Association Trust.

b) Updating the Risk Assessment Chairman working on this.

c) Updating Financial Regulations Still with the Clerk to complete. Draft considered some time ago.

d) Council assistance with Remembrance Sunday arrangements for 2021 and onwards. Cllr Boddington offered to take the lead on this and would speak with Alan Bailey of the local branch of the RBL. **SB**

4. ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION BROUGHT FORWARD FROM THE LAST MEETING None

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Local elections - The Chairman reported that these are now planned to go ahead on 6th May (postponed from 2020). Nomination papers should soon be available from the Clerk via DDC with associated advertising to encourage parishioners to put themselves forward.

Electors are being encouraged to consider applying for a postal vote so as to reduce the number needing to use the polling station and having to take along their own pen or pencil.

b) Census 2021 – more information would be coming to householders in late February/early March. All are being encouraged to complete the form electronically unless this is not possible, in which case paper forms will be available.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Not present at this point. See after Planning.

7. COMMENTS FROM PARISHIONERS Cllr Taylor as moderator/host advised he had received requests for joining details from 3 parishioners; two of whom known to wish to speak about planning applications. It was agreed their comments would be heard under item 10 Planning.

8. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE requiring a DECISION None.

9. FINANCE**a) FUND BALANCES and Financial state**

The Clerk reported that the financial state at 28th January 2021 showed total liquid assets of £109,447 of which £43,064 is 'ring fenced'. Total net payments to date excluding VAT = £60,367 against a budget of £75,050.

The balance of the CIL account is now 'nil' as the brought forward balance of £1069.70 had been used to upgrade some of the street lights.

b) Internal Control Cllrs Gillic and Davis had separately checked the account books against bank statements and minutes and found all to be in order.

c) Banked INCOME since last meeting

Lloyds Bank	Interest	£1.03
Cricket Club & Scout Group	Repayment for water Aug-Nov	£54.71
HMR&C	Repayment of VAT Oct-Dec 20	£1306.92

d) ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - see schedule on page 544

The Chairman advised that a further invoice had been received - from TBS for approved supply of salt/grit for the Parish Council owned bins at £280.80 including VAT.

Cllr Ridyard proposed that the listed and 1 additional accounts be paid; seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed by all.

10. PLANNING (Cllr Ridyard)**a) Application from Northants CC**

i) NCC20/0070/WASCOU – part of the former PoW Camp, Boddington road for change of use of storage and industrial yard for the purpose of an operational yard for the crushing and screening of hardcore and soils plus the formalisation of existing access.

Cllr Ridyard outlined the application which she advised would bring about very many more lorry journeys on the narrow roads within the village and also possibly along The Twistle – which is not a designated route for such traffic. She was particularly concerned about any increase in lorry movements onto or out of Boddington Road at the junction with the A361 where the parts of Boddington Road are only single carriageway width. County Council signs have long been present warning of vehicles in the middle of the road for the bend by house no. 14.

After some further discussion Cllr Davis proposed that Council should OBJECT to the application as the location is not appropriate for such an activity – too many vehicle movements, wear and tear on an already damaged road surface, Boddington Road junction with A361 very inappropriate for even more heavy traffic, traffic should not be using The Twistle for access to the site. This was seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed by all.

The Chairman offered to draft a reply which he would send to all councillors for comment before it is sent to the NCC Planning department.

JG

b) Applications from Daventry DC

It was agreed to change the agenda order.

ii) DA/2021/0015 – 3 Thomas Close for single storey kitchen extension, single storey garden room extension and new pitched roof to garage to replace existing flat roof.

Cllr Ridyard outlined the application and proposed that Council SUPPORT it as the proposals should upgrade the property and enhance the quality of life for the residents. Seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed by all.

- The Chairman left the meeting at this point as he had declared an interest in the other planning application. This left 6 councillors.
- Cllr Taylor proposed that Cllr Ridyard take the chair. Agreed by all.

i) DA/2020/1168 – 30 Banbury Lane for creation of first floor to existing dwelling by raising roof height and formation of dormer windows.

Cllr Ridyard outlined the application, reminding councillors that the single storey dwelling had had single storey extensions made in the recent past by the applicants in order to create more bedroom space for their family. This had brought the edges of the property closer to neighbouring properties. The application under discussion sets out to create bedrooms on a new second floor and to also increase the footprint of the existing ground floor by making more or larger living rooms. That is, turning a single storey bungalow into a 2-storey house.

- Meeting closed for comments from parishioners wishing to speak.

1. Paul Titcombe, neighbour at 28 Banbury Lane spoke against the application as the proposed new north wall would sit right on the boundary of his property with the strong likelihood of loss of light into some rooms of no. 28. He felt there could also be a possibility of over-looking from the proposed dormer windows into parts of no. 28. The existing bungalow at no. 30 stands on raised ground so the addition of a second storey could put the roofline level with or above that of no. 28.

He was also concerned about overlooking into the garden of the Listed Building at no. 32/34 as its garden runs behind no. 30 and the house itself sits below the level of no. 30.

He was also concerned about the lack of off-road parking for the property which has just one small parking space at road level. Any further parking is already on public roads which are already congested. Finally, he felt that it is essential that the few bungalows available in the village should be retained as such for the possible use of residents who wish to 'down size' and he reminded the members that the village had recently lost a very useful village family who could not find a bungalow to move into, so had had to move out of the area.

He advised he would be writing to the case officer objecting to the application.

2. Delith Overy of 15 Banbury Lane (opposite the application site) expressed concern about loss of sunlight due to the proposed increase in height of the building and also a fear of overlooking into bedrooms. She wished to reinforce the comments expressed by Mr Titcombe. She and her husband would be objecting to the application and would send a copy to the Parish Council.

- Mr Titcombe and Mrs Overy left the meeting.
- Meeting re-opened.

Cllr Taylor reminded Council that a property had been built in the garden of no. 51 Church Street and adjacent to the property at no. 49 which he had purchased. The new property (49A) blocks some sunlight and views from no. 49.

Cllr Davis proposed that Council OBJECT to the application on the grounds of over-development of a small site and a likely detrimental impact on neighbouring properties. Seconded by Cllr Ridyard and agreed on a vote of 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

Cllr Ridyard would draft a response to DDC and circulate to all for comment.

BR

c) Consultation from South Northants Council on its' Draft Housing Supplementary Planning Document. Byfield PC included in consultation as is adjacent to SNC area e.g. Boddington. It was agreed there is no need to comment.

- Cllr Gillic re-joined the meeting and took back chairmanship.

d) Approvals

i) DA/2020/0765 – Farol site, Boddington Road for 7 dwellings and garages. This dealt with Reserved Matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. Note: qualifies for CIL payment to the Parish Council.

ii) DA/2020/1057 – 33 Bell Lane for 2-storey extensions to front, side and rear; single storey extensions to rear and full height glazing on front elevation.

e) Refusals None received.

f) Neighbourhood Plan This arose from an invitation from a business offering to largely undertake conducting a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that now is not the time to consider this but to revisit in 6 months e.g. October or November when any likely costs (a lot) could be considered for the next year budget. The Chairman reminded Council that the work leading up to producing a Plan requires a lot of input from the community and not just the Council.

It was noted that in such activities it is often the process which is as equally as important as the end result.

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

b/f 6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Frost had joined the meeting. He was pleased to report that the number of cases of Covid-19 in the District was falling.

He advised that the process for establishing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) can be very divisive and set parishioner against parishioner. He had witnessed this first-hand with eventually the necessary referendum to continue with a NP failing and the process being halted.

Cllr Frost left the meeting.

11. BRIGHTWELL RECREATION GROUND (Cllr Taylor)

a) Alleviating flooding of Scout HQ and lower parking area Cllr Taylor proposed that the County Council Flood Prevention team be approached to consider the narrow pipe set into the vehicle width bridge between the BRG and 42 Church Street as this no doubt contributes to the backing up of water in the Corn Brook and it overflowing onto the parking area and on occasions into the Scout HQ.

He also proposed that the footbridge over the brook at the end of Gooseberry Lane (EF10) be raised as this is also something of a pinch point when the stream is very full. And, thirdly, that NCC be asked to comment on the idea of creating an underground pipe to take excess water from near the EF10 footbridge to a point further downstream of the brook. Is this acceptable and how best can it be done to achieve what is desired i.e. to prevent further flooding of the area?

It was agreed to pursue all three suggestions.

MT/Cik

The Clerk had already reminded Council that it does not own the stream bed or the water and cannot change its' line or culvert it without the permission of the County Council and the Inland Drainage Board. These two bodies also have to ensure that the stream flows well and is not interrupted.

Cllr Crowshaw offered to advise on the diameter of the pipe set into the vehicle bridge.

SC

b) 'Dogs on Leads' signs for near the playground Cllr Taylor advised these would be installed week commencing 15th February.

12. HIGHWAYS MATTERS (Cllr Crowshaw)

a) HS2 Road Safety Projects

- Pedestrian crossings. Cllr Crowshaw reported these are now both fully installed and working. He asked councillors to check that both are 'beeping' when it is safe to cross, as well as showing the green light.
- A new Vehicle Activated Speed sign will soon be installed on Banbury Road facing south. Consideration can then be given to the Council owned Speed Indicator Device – who to manage, how to charge battery.
- Offer of new from Littlethorpe of Leicester for use at Edwards Close stop as part of the package for the new pedestrian crossing on Banbury Road. The crossing installation team had been able to re-use and re-locate the existing lean-to shelter. Cllr Crowshaw will find out if the offered new shelter is still to be supplied and, if so, if this will mean uplifting the existing shelter again. **SC** If a new shelter is to be supplied what is to be done with the existing shelter as it could be put to good use? Cllr Davis, as Council Property councillor, suggested it might be of real use on Woodford Road opposite the brick shelter. This would require permission of the County Council and also agreement from adjacent householders. The Clerk would write to the two properties nearest to the proposed location. **Cik**
- Chicanes or build-outs on Woodford Road and/or Boddington Road. Cllr Crowshaw is awaiting a meeting with Highways and the HS2 team.

b) Chipping Warden Relief Road (by-pass) Could be fully open in April.

c) Surface water drainage problems The Clerk reported that the two known problems on Banbury Road and The Green had been inspected by KierWSP for County Highways with cameras used to check for any blockages and jet washers used to clear the systems. Report awaited on possible collapsed pipe under The Green. There are still problems for one parishioner beside Banbury Road and he is dealing with County Highways over this.

d) Any other highway matters to be reported to County Highways None except for many potholes and water running down Boddington Road from a possible spring.

13. COUNCIL PROPERTY including pavilions. (Cllr Davis, with Cllr Crowshaw)

a) Improvement plans for the Brightwell pavilion Cllr Crowshaw reported he has even more information to provide for Commonplace/HS2 before any grant can be released. On-going.

b) Russell pavilion – separate water supply The Clerk reported she is still fighting with the Anglian Water website to set up a new account to separate the supply from the village hall account.

One quote had been received to lay a supply pipe around the parking area by the hall – rather than dig up the parking area to take the pipe more directly from the Anglian Water inlet towards the pavilion.

On-going.

CIK

c) Improvements to the war memorial The Byfield branch of the RBL had obtained a price to steam clean the memorial and to re-paint the lettering of the names. This to mark the 100th anniversary of the memorial being installed in 1920. It was agreed that all councillors look at the war memorial before the March meeting of the Council to see if this work is really required. If so, a second quote might be sought.

ALL/Agenda

d) War Memorial Garden – Registered Village Green 57 Large vehicles have recently been driving above the 2nd height kerb on Banbury Lane in order to get by cars parked on the opposite side of the lane. This is damaging the war memorial garden, with deep double tyre tracks left in the grass. One of these is reported as being the DaventryNorse refuse lorry on a Monday. Others unknown may have also done this.

In the first instance the Clerk will ask DaventryNorse to check with their drivers as why this has become necessary and to tell them they must not drive up onto the garden.

CIK

Thoughts will then be given as to how to prevent this happening in the future. The Clerk will ask County Highways if it would consider taking off some of the highway owned bank outside nos. 4 and 6 Banbury Lane to make the road just a little wider. This might be easier to deal with from a property-owning point than the Council trying to obtain permission to remove some of the Registered Village Green and then to build up a retaining wall to keep the Green and war memorial garden in place.

CIK

14. BURIAL GROUND and CLOSED CHURCHYARD (Chairman - Cllr Gillic)

a) Burial Ground

i) and ii) Vehicle access improvement. It was decided to not book a contractor for 2 days with a JCB to scrape away dead leaves, earth etc to see if there is a hard surface underneath.

However, it was agreed to investigate the possibility of creating a new vehicle access point at the western end including changing the single pedestrian gate into a double width gate and moving the notice board to a new location. The Chairman proposed that £2,000 of the burial ground budget be set aside for this task. Seconded by Cllr Crowshaw and agreed by all.

Cllrs Boddington and Ridyard would form a small working party to consider how best to create a new suitable vehicle access and would seek technical guidance from Cllr Crowshaw so that a specification could be drawn up.

SB/BR

ii) Any further improvements within the burial ground None at present.

b) Closed Churchyard

i) Poor state of RoW EF9 – path from west door of church to recreation ground. No response as yet from County Highways.

15. LIGHTING, UTILITIES (Cllr Davis)

a) Faulty lights Still no response from Davidson Homes re. warranty cover for failed PL97 in Clock Meadow. The Clerk will endeavour to find the right person to contact and, ideally, the developer or light supplier covering the cost of an upgrade as the light has not been working for some months. Another of the lights installed with the development had already failed and been upgraded.

b) Further lights to be upgraded in 2021-22 Cllr Davis proposed that all the remaining lights on the west side of the village plus Edwards Close and The Green be included in an upgrade in 2021-22 with a contract placed early in the new financial year. Based on current quotes this should cost around £10,000. Seconded by Cllr Buckley and agreed by all. The Clerk would seek a firm price from Zeta.

CIK

Cllr Davis advised that the remaining lights on the east side of the village including along the A361 be upgraded in the following financial year but there could be a slight increase on the prices for these already supplied by Zeta.

16. RIGHTS OF WAY (Cllr Clark)

In the absence of Cllr Clark the Clerk advised that the stiles on EF16 had been improved including addition upright 'grab posts'. The rusty finger post for EF5 on Banbury Lane had been removed and a waymarker fixed to the wall of Beechcroft with permission of the owners.

EF7 High Street to Church Street. It was agreed that the RoW be opened up although the damaged fence on 22 Church Street had not yet been mended (contractor unable to source some materials). The Clerk would advise the householders and install suitable notices.

CIK

The Chairman advised that as it was close to 10pm when the meeting would close that remaining items be carried forward to March. Agreed by all.

This covered Allotments and Pocket Park, General Environment improvements, Council owned trees, Communicating with parishioners, Playground and village hall.

Cllr Taylor would circulate his report on the use of the website and Facebook.

MT

There being no further time the meeting was closed at 10.00pm.

**Date of next meeting(s) - Thursday 25th February for planning re amendment to DA/2017/0826
Thursday 11th March Full Council
Thursday 25th March – Annual Parish Meeting and any planning**

Chairman

=====