

# MINUTES OF THE OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT OLD BUCKENHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

**Present:** Cllrs Mr S Milner – Chairman, Mr J Kemp – Vice Chairman, Mr A Joel, Mr T Cracknell, Mrs R Boggia, Mr T Johnson, Mr M Farrington and Mrs S Hornbrook

**Also Present :** 6 members of the public

## **1: Apologies**

Cllrs Mr G Hart, Mr B Devlin, Mrs C Marshall and Mr J Watling, Parish Clerk.

## **2: Declaration of Interest of items on Agenda**

Old Buckenham Parish Council as a shareholder of OBGRPs. Cllr A Joel as Member of Breckland District Council Planning Committee

## **3: Public Recess**

A resident from Fen Street raised concerns about the lack of information provided on December's agenda, in relation to the proposed planning applications on Fen Street and Hargham Road. Residents on Fen Street were unaware of the location of the proposed development, and more detail would have been welcomed. Cllr Milner advised that the Parish Council were already aware of the concerns of the residents on Fen Street, and that the presentation had been for information only. However, comments regarding the lack of detail provided on the agenda will be taken on board. It is hoped that the new Parish Council website will provide greater opportunity to provide additional information on agenda items.

A second resident raised concerns about the 10MPH signs that had recently been erected on Abbey Road, in particular whether these suggested that access may be taken from Abbey Road to the Chapel Road School (CRS) site. Cllr Milner had been to see the signs and was of the view that these were unrelated to the school development, and instead alerted road users to the skid risk posed by the significant amount of mud on the road. However, the Parish Council will try to ascertain who was responsible for putting the signs up. The resident was concerned about HGVs using Abbey Road during construction of the CRS. The Parish Council will monitor this, and raise it with Norfolk County Council if this becomes a problem.

## **4: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the Meeting. This was agreed with 5 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.

## **5: Matters Arising from the December Minutes**

Cllr Boggia advised that an attempt has been made to cut the hedge on the junction of Harlingwood Lane. Cllr Milner advised that Gary Overland has not yet been able to visit to check this work. Several Councillors advised that the hedge still overhangs the fenceline by a significant degree.

Cllr Joel advised in relation to item 9 of the December meeting, that Playdale had been due to make repairs to the play area on 21/12/15 but this had not occurred. They are now due to carry out the work on 20/01/16. No fencing quotes have yet been received from Cllr Hart and Cllr Devlin. Cllr Joel will ask the Parish Clerk to write to Playdale for a third quote for the fencing. A Working Party meeting is to be arranged to discuss next steps. Breckland District Council will provide a grant of 50%, up to a maximum of £5000.

## **6: Grant to Primary School**

Cllr Hornbrook advised that no further details have been received from the School. As and when details are provided, the item will be put back on the agenda.

## **7: Play Area**

This was covered under Item 5 (Matters Arising).

### **8: 4 Year Plan**

Cllr Joel requested that all Councillors provide a response by the next meeting, prioritising 3-4 items for immediate action.

### **9: Chapel Road School**

Cllr Milner advised that a Stakeholder meeting due to be held on 14/01 had been cancelled, due to ongoing issues with Probate. A new meeting date is awaited.

Cllr Joel requested that a Public Meeting is arranged, inviting Graham Bygrave, Cllr Stephen Askew and the Chairman of the Childrens' Services Committee, to discuss progress and the construction programme. Cllr Milner felt it important to demonstrate the depth of feeling within the village, and suggested a petition would do this. Cllr Hornbrook queried what it is hoped to achieve, in terms of highways/infrastructure improvements and suggested that a definitive 'wishlist' is drawn up to aid discussions. Cllr Milner proposed that a small group develops a short-term action plan, to include a petition. Cllr Boggia suggested that an open meeting would achieve the same outcome. It was proposed and seconded that an open meeting is arranged, and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Boggia further suggested that George Freeman MP is invited to this meeting.

### **10: Primary School Grant**

This is a repeat of agenda item 6.

### **11: BDC Local Plan**

Cllr Joel provided an update on the progress of the BDC Local Plan. The Preferred Directions document will be out for consultation from 11/01/16 for 6 weeks. Various consultation meetings are to be held, including a meeting for Parish Councils on 18/01/16. Cllr Joel and one other will attend. Cllr Joel further advised that the document suggests an allocation of 0 new homes for Old Buckenham, and suggested that the documents and plans should be made available to Members of the Public between 6-7.30pm on February 4<sup>th</sup>, ahead of the Parish Council Meeting scheduled for 7.30pm. The Parish Council will discuss their response to the consultation at the February meeting.

### **12: Grant Allocation Working Party**

Cllr Milner advised that 1 member of the public has been approached (Roy Dickinson) and is happy to be involved. Cllrs Cracknell, Boggia and Milner confirmed their willingness to serve on this working party. Cllr Cracknell is to act as Chairman.

### **13: Section 106 Payment Projects**

Cllr Milner advised that the village needs to have plans for recreation/play proposals thought out, in advance of being approached by any potential developers, in order to benefit from s106 money. It was suggested that Cllr Marshall be asked to look into what additional facilities the village would like.

### **14: Trade Directory**

Cllr Cracknell has spoken with Chris DeBoos, who produced the last version; whilst he is unable to commit to producing an updated version, he would be happy to assist in setting it up. The costs for the previous version were approximately £1500 for printing 1800 copies. In the region of £4000 of advertising space was sold, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract sponsors. It may be possible to produce a new version on a not-for-profit basis, if it were sold for £1 a copy. Cllr Milner suggested that the Parish Council approach either the OB 2000 Trust or the Church, to see if they would be prepared to take on this project.

### **15: Planning Applications**

2015/1464 – The Pines, Manor Corner – Single Storey rear extension. Proposed and seconded that this application be supported. 7 votes were made in favour of this recommendation, with 1 abstention.

Shrublands – Cllr Joel confirmed that this application would go before BDC's Planning Committee on Monday 11/01/16. Cllr Milner had registered to speak on behalf of the Parish Council, and Cllr Joel would also be speaking in his capacity as District Councillor. Cllr Milner read out his suggested presentation,

which expressed the Parish Council's concerns regarding highway safety, and the lack of pedestrian/cycle access into the village. Cllr Farrington supported Cllr Milner's comments in full, and confirmed that it is impossible to walk safely along the B1077 in this location. As a result, there is a lack of community in that part of the village. Cllr Hornbrook suggested that the presentation, whilst expressing the Parish Council's opposition to the proposals, should also make suggestions for measures to be taken should the application be approved, in light of the fact that the application was being recommended for approval by BDC's officers. Cllr Milner suggested that improvements to sustainable transport links should be requested, for instance the provision of a pedestrian/cycleway link to Fen Street.

#### **16: Planning Decisions Received**

2015/1014 – Doe Lane – 5 Holiday Cabins. This application had been refused, despite the Parish Council's support.

#### **17: Approval of Accounts Payable/Finance**

It was proposed and seconded that all invoices on the monthly cheque list be paid, and approved unanimously. There were no questions regarding the monthly budget analysis.

#### **18: Chairman's Report**

Project 365 Old Buckenham has achieved its aim of taking a picture every day of 2015 demonstrating the Best of Old Buckenham. The achievement has been well reported in the local press. Plan is to create 12 posters displaying the images. These will be framed and mounted in the village hall. looking for sponsors to help cover the cost of the display. An exhibition is planned for late January / early February. Chapel Road School. Planned stakeholder meeting was cancelled due to delays in resolving Mr Alstons probate. New date expected in January. Road Safety. We are now in the rota for the community SAM sign and we have the sign for the next few weeks. Due to theft it has been requested that when in use it must be supervised. Had one session on Cake street, two observations, firstly many cars were slowing down when their speed was displayed but of concern over half of the cars were exceeding the speed limit and 10% driving at speeds in excess of 40Mph Cllr Farrington volunteered to assist with the SAM sign rota.

In relation to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, it was agreed that Cllr Kemp would remain as Chairman, with Cllr Hornbrook as Vice-Chairman to act in his absence. The group would be opened up further to members of the public. A meeting of the Working Group would be arranged shortly.

#### **19: District Councillor's Report**

See Appendix 1 to minutes.

#### **20: Parish Councillor's Reports**

Cllr Johnson advised that the road improvements to St Andrews' Close had still not been carried out. Cllr Joel advised that he had received email correspondence from Cotman and that work was due to start on 18/01/16. He further suggested that the Parish Council write to Cotman directly. Cllr Johnson also raised concerns about the amount of mud on the road and flooding issues within the village, and suggested that the Parish Council draw attention to the fact that ditches aren't being dredged. Parish Clerk to contact the relevant responsible Authority.

#### **21: Parish Clerk's Report**

Not provided, due to absence of Parish Clerk as a result of illness.

#### **22: Highways**

Cllr Joel advised that a number of road markings need to be re-marked. The Parish Clerk will be asked to write to Gary Overland to request that this work is carried out in the Spring.

Cllr Johnson raised concerns about the fact that the verges are being eroded, causing drivers to drive in the middle of the road.

Cllr Cracknell queried whether a full half of the village hall car park had been resurfaced. Cllr Milner confirmed that the area was slightly less than half, but that funds were being raised to do the remainder; in addition to the Parish Partnership Grant, a fund-raising event has been arranged for 23/04/16.

Cllr Joel raised concerns about the mature tree positioned at the junction of Crown Road/Church Road and the B1077, as this is obstructing visibility, and there have been a number of accidents in this location as a result. Cllr Milner advised that he had spoken to the OBGRPs in relation to this tree, but it is unlikely to be removed as it is a good specimen. Cllr Joel hoped that the Parish Council would support any request for removal, but this was not forthcoming.

### **23: The Green**

Cllr Milner reported that an offer had been made by the owner of The Green (Cllr T Cracknell), to transfer his interest in The Green to the Parish Council. However, the ownership is disputed. After some discussion, it was agreed that the offer will be reviewed, and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Farrington expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Cllr Cracknell for the generous offer.

### **24: Public Recess**

A resident spoke in relation to Agenda Item 13 (Section 106 Projects), and expressed the view that the provision of a footway on Crown Road had not been discussed with residents of Crown Road, and should not be included within any potential s106 projects. In relation to the Recreation Area, a suggestion was made that the Parish Council ask a Committee Member of the New Buckenham Football team be asked to join the Recreation Area Working Party. Changing facilities are likely to be required if the Recreation Area is to be used seriously by any teams, and this should be prioritised as a project. Cllr Milner will pass these recommendations on to Cllr Marshall.

The same resident also spoke in relation to Agenda Item 9 (CRS) and expressed the view that an Open Meeting could act as a kick-off for a petition. Attendance at such a meeting would be dependent on good publicity from the Parish Council. The resident felt that a 'wish-list' of improvements was not appropriate, as the desire is to see existing problems solved. The role of the Stakeholder group was queried, and Cllr Milner advised that this is a group set up to bring together all interested parties, and he attends as the Parish Council representative.

A second resident spoke in relation to the proposals for development on Fen Street, discussed at December's meeting, and asked whether any feedback had been provided by the Parish Council, and whether this was in the public domain. Cllr Milner confirmed that he had corresponded with the developer's agent on a number of occasions. The resident also queried whether planning permission had been granted for CRS; Cllr Milner confirmed that it had, but advised that a number of changes may be required as a result of value engineering. The Parish Council has not seen details of any such amendments.

### **25: Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 4<sup>th</sup> February. The Parish Council Meeting will begin at 7.30 but the hall will be open from 6pm to enable residents to view BDC's Preferred Directions consultation document.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.