

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 1ST MARCH 2021
AT 6.30PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM VIDEO & TELEPHONE CONFERENCING**

This meeting was held using video and web conferencing software as permitted under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

Present by video link: Cllr Mr R Flemming (in the chair)
Cllrs Mr S Attenborough, Mr D Bill, Mrs D Glenville, Mrs A Hall, Mr M Hall, Mrs L Hoelmer, Mr K Lynch, Mrs M Lynch, Mr R Mayne, Mr N Robinson, Mrs M Sherwin, Mrs P Spence, Mr B Walker and Mr P Williams

In attendance by video link: Hazel Thomasson (Principal Officer)
Juliet Perry (Responsible Financial Officer/Deputy Principal Officer)
Andy Harrison (Estates Officer)

Present by video link: Burbage PCSO Darren Stretton

7 members of the public

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council

168. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mr Bray, Mr Findlay and Mr Hoelmer. Proposed by Cllr Mr Williams, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hoelmer, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – that the apologies be accepted.

169. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members at this time.

170. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 1ST FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 1st February 2021, having been circulated to all Members, were considered. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Spence, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sherwin, and agreed by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held 1st February 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

171. LOCAL POLICING TEAM UPDATE

The Local Policing Newsletter for Burbage March 2021 had been circulated to all members. PCSO Darren Stretton gave a verbal update of policing issues within the parish and answered Members' questions.

PCSO Darren Stretton left the meeting at this point.

172. PARISHIONERS' QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised from the members of the public. One member of the public wished to thank the Parish Council for their work over this difficult year.

173. CORRESPONDENCE

173.1 Driveway damage caused by parish owned trees

The Principal Officer confirmed that correspondence had been received from a resident claiming that their driveway had suffered damage from tree roots encroaching from parish owned land. The correspondence was being considered by Council's insurers, with any further communication with the resident being made through the insurer.

174. SUPPORT FOR DOG FOULING ISSUES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY/PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Cllr Mr Williams appraised members of the request he had received from a resident seeking support by way of signage to counter dog fouling and anti-social behaviour issues experienced on his private property which is subject to a public right of way passing across it. Members were familiar with the public right of way and discussed at length the potential issues and questions raised from supporting the resident with a signage request. Proposed by Cllr Mr Williams, seconded by Cllr Mr Attenborough, and by majority vote, it was

RESOLVED – to support the proposal for signage carrying the parish logo with a financial contribution in principal, subsequent to further reporting to the next meeting of Council on investigations by the Principal Officer to establish any legal implications/liabilities of proceeding with such support.

175. BCAF REQUEST FOR FREE USE OF PUGHE'S PADDOCK

Members considered the circulated request from BCAF for use of Pughe's Paddock to hold three open air events in August 2021. After discussion, proposed by Cllr Mr Williams, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hall, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – to allow BCAF free use of Pughe's Paddock to hold open air events on 28th, 29th & 30th August 2021 subject to Covid 19 restrictions at the time, with liaison with the Estates Officer to establish risk assessments and expectations.

The Chairman passed a resolution to move agenda item 14 to be the next item on the agenda.

176. BURBAGE COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE

Nominations for a representative to stand as Burbage Community Library Representative had been sought at the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mr Flemming, seconded by Cllr Mr Robinson, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – that Cllr Mrs Spence, being the only nominee, be accepted as the elected representative on the Burbage Community Library Committee.

177. BURBAGE COMMUNITY LIBRARY FRIENDLY BENCH

Members considered information circulated from Burbage Community Library seeking support from the Parish Council for installation of a Friendly Bench on the front corner of the library grounds. Members raised several questions which were answered by Mr Naldrett, chairman of the community library. Following further discussion, proposed by Cllr Mr Flemming, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hoelmer, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – to support the Community Library’s quest to instal a Friendly Bench on their grounds in front of the library. Cllr Mrs Spence, as representative on the Community Library Committee, to report back to Council on progress with grant funding and other fundraising achieved, prior to any financial support being considered at a further meeting of the Parish Council.

One member of the public left the meeting at this point.

178. APPEAL – LAND OFF SKETCHLEY LANE 19/00947/OUT – APP/K2420/W/20/3260227

Cllr Mr Hall made a detailed report to Members regarding the revised traffic mitigation scheme that had been submitted by the developer to the planning inspectorate ahead of the appeal proceedings due to commence on 9th March 2021. It was felt that the scheme was flawed and inaccurate and there was strong feeling from both Members and the public present that no consultation had taken place. Proposed by Cllr Mr Williams, seconded by Cllr Mr Walker, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – that the Principal Officer submit the following letter to the appeal case officer with copy to Matt Bowers at HBBC:

“The Parish Council is extremely concerned that Burbage residents have not been consulted on a road traffic mitigation scheme for Sketchley Lane in response to an additional 140 homes off the lane. Since the application was rejected at HBBC Planning Committee and an appeal lodged against the decision, the appellant has been allowed to modify the planned scheme, to which some limited consultation has been circulated. However, a traffic safety mitigation scheme has also been proposed, aimed at addressing the road safety reason for rejecting the application. This scheme has been reviewed by an HBBC traffic consultant who has concluded the scheme would adequately address road safety. Therefore, this reason for opposing the appeal cannot be defended by HBBC. However, we do not believe the acceptability of this scheme has been considered by HBBC.

The Parish Council wishes to make it clear neither this Council nor residents have been consulted on this mitigation scheme. Such consultation would consider the potential harm caused by the loss of trees and hedgerows to implement the scheme; the practicality of implementing the scheme as a number of measurements are considered in error in the documentation; alternative schemes which may be more acceptable and/or effective in the

opinion of residents; the noise of traffic hitting the speed ramps is considered on nearby residents; the impact of the scheme on traffic avoiding peak congestion on Rugby Road.

The Parish Council would ask that this limited opportunity for residents to be consulted about this traffic mitigation scheme is recognised at the appeal and a remedy to this situation is considered in the appeal deliberations.”

One written representation from a member of the public present at the meeting had been noted and Cllr Mr Hall confirmed that he would be liaising with residents as their resident representative.

Two members of the public left the meeting at this point.

179. CO-OPTION OF CASUAL VACANCY FOR LASH HILL WARD

The Principal Officer confirmed that the Parish Council had no adopted policy for co-option of a councillor and that a policy was not mandatory. Having considered the circulated information, proposed by Cllr Mr Flemming, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hoelmer, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – to establish a Co-option Task & Finish Group to draw up and place a vacancy notice, inviting prospective candidates for selection at a future meeting of Council. The task and finish group members being Cllrs Mr Lynch, Mrs Sherwin and Mr Mayne.

180. DRAFT VOLUNTEER POLICY

A draft Volunteer Policy, Volunteer Agreement and guidance notes had been circulated and considered. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Hoelmer, seconded by Cllr Mr Williams, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – to adopt the Volunteer Policy and associated documents as presented.

181. WORKING PARTY REPORTS

181.1 Traffic Issues Working Party

A meeting of the working party had taken place on 10th February 2021 and minutes had been circulated. Proposed by Cllr Mr Walker, seconded by Cllr Mr Mayne, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Traffic Issues Working Party meeting held 10th February 2021 be approved.

182. MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Mrs Glenville reported that she had recently attended a meeting of Hinckley Bid and confirmed that the Hinckley town centre team is well prepared for a safe reopening of non-essential retail on 12th April as per step 2 of the roadmap out of lockdown.

183. STANDING COMMITTEE & SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

183.1 Planning

The minutes of Planning Committee meetings held on 8th & 22nd February 2021 had been circulated to all Members. Proposed by Cllr Mr Flemming, seconded by Cllr Mr Attenborough, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 8th & 22nd February 2021 be confirmed.

183.2 Finance & General Purposes

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 15th February 2021 had been circulated to all Members. Proposed by Cllr Mr Williams, seconded by Cllr Mr Flemming, and by show of hands, it was

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held 15th February 2021 be confirmed.

183.3 Staffing

No meeting of the Staffing Committee had taken place since the date of the last meeting. Cllr Mrs Sherwin reported that an offer had been made for the vacancy of Community Projects Officer. The applicant had accepted and after serving notice, was due to take up the position on 22nd March 2021.

183.4 Coronavirus sub-committee

A meeting of the Coronavirus Sub-Committee had been held on 25th February 2021, no minutes were available at this time.

184. ESTATES OFFICER'S REPORT

The Estates Officer gave a verbal report to Members on the following:

- Satisfactory completion of Hall 2 remedial floor works, awaiting reinstatement of fire detection system
- Hardscaping complete on VE Day Memorial Garden, awaiting delivery of memorial boulder and planning out the planting scheme
- Information signage in place at Biodiversity Project sites – one vandalised by easily repaired
- Peter Hall commemorative plaque commissioned, awaiting delivery
- 80% of identified tree works completed, Coronation Tree to have lights removed and light crown reduction by LCC contractors working with BPC
- New replacement height barrier at Hinckley Road Recreation Ground in place and paid for by 3rd party who damaged it.

Cllr Mrs Hoelmer requested a site list of all bat, owl and bird boxes recently erected for her records.

185. PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Principal Officer gave a verbal report to Members on the following:

- Gardening Club lease signed and with the solicitors

- Methodist Church PCIF application support signed and returned for submission
- Indigo Drive land transfer - still awaiting details of Persimmon's chosen legal team
- Suggestion to acknowledge all of Burbage's litter pickers/wombles in next edition of Local Rock
- David Longford – Community Project Officer attending parish office for induction on 23rd March
- Staff holidays during March to be circulated to all members.

186. REPORTS AFFECTING BURBAGE

186.1 County Council

Cllr Mr Bill reported that the county budget had been agreed, seeing a 5% rise in their council tax charge.

186.2 Borough Council

Cllr Mr Flemming reported that the borough had approved their budget for 2021-2023 with an above inflation increase in council tax for 2021/22 of £5 per year on a band d property (10p per week).

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