

**Minutes of a Meeting of Bradfield Parish Council held on
Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.30pm in Bradfield Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr. A. House (Chairman)
Cllr. M. Ashbrook
Cllr. R. Balsdon
Cllr. P. Henwood
Cllr. P. Isherwood
Cllr. S. O'Reilly
Cllr. T. Wale
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)

There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

72. **Apologies.**
Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Dearing and Cllr. Wyatt.
73. **Declarations of Interest.**
There were no updates to the Register of Interests and no interests in any agenda items.
74. **Public Forum.**
- 74.1 **Drainage opposite Ridgeway, Southend Road.**
A parishioner raised concerns about the drainage opposite Ridgeway on Southend Road. After heavy rain, half of the road and the pavement are flooded, necessitating pedestrians to walk into the middle of the road, or get drenched. Cllr. House commented that attempts have been made to fix this problem in the past, but it has not been done well. Stuart Clark (WBC) has looked at the issue earlier in the year along with several other flooding problems in Bradfield.
- 74.2 **Speed of traffic on Southend Road.**
A parishioner commented that the 30mph speed limit starts (to the west of Bradfield Southend) where there are no buildings, which doesn't encourage drivers to slow down. It was noted that vehicles travel through Bradfield Southend at quite a speed, and it was questioned whether the Police could carry out some surveillance. Cllr. House commented that SID has been used in the parish, but that the speeds recorded don't warrant Police surveillance.
- 74.3 **Parish Poll.**
A parish poll is being considered about the proposed plans for the new Village Hall, however it is important that as many of the electorate as possible vote and not just the "hard line" few. Careful consideration needs to be given to the question posed. Many believe that the trustees have based the financial and business plans on dubious figures which may be considered misleading. It was suggested that it is premature to have a parish poll on the grounds that it would be based on flawed data.
- 74.4 **New Village Hall Project.**
BPC were thanked for picking up the concerns of parishioners on the new Village Hall plans. The public meeting held by the Village Hall Committee was well attended by parish councillors, but the questions which have been posed were not answered and instead new concerns arose about potentially significant loans. There is no mention in the Business Plan about paying off loans. District Cllr. MacKinnon has been contacted and he has been asked to review the state of the project finances.

The Village Hall Committee has a culture of “we need to continue given how much has already been spent.”

It was noted that in 2016, when the planning was originally submitted, none of the trustees were willing to consider any changes.

The trustees of the Village Hall Committee have been asked a number of questions about the finances, but answers have not been forthcoming. The trustees should represent transparency, but instead they appear to be hiding information. It was asked whether the Charity Commission might be able to cajole the Village Hall Committee into being more transparent.

WBC has allocated a CIL grant to the hall; in order to award this grant, WBC must have considered the Business Plan. Is it possible for WBC to demand an audit of the project on behalf of the Village.

75. **Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Bradfield Parish Council (BPC) held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 were an accurate reflection of the meeting and were signed by Cllr. House.

76. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

76.1 **Lunch Club.**

No progress has been made on finding out when the lunch club will resume.

76.2 **Scrub and Weeds overhanging footpath across the Village Hall Field.**

The overhanging vegetation on the path has been cut back.

76.3 **Footway vegetation along Ashampstead Road.**

On inspection there is no issue with vegetation on the footway on Ashampstead Road, but a tree has fallen partially blocking it.

76.4 **Broken Swing Seat.**

The Village Hall Committee are sourcing replacement parts.

76.5 **Mattress outside 52 Southend Road.**

The mattress has been removed.

76.6 **Bradfield Village Hall.**

There is no update about WBC reviewing the grant for Bradfield Village Hall.

77. **Planning Applications**

77.1 **Planning Applications which WBC has consulted BPC on:**

No planning applications have been received from WBC since the last meeting.

77.2 **Planning Decisions taken by WBC:**

77.2.1 **21/01676/FUL – Bradfield Village Hall.**

Demolition of existing village hall and garage and construction of new village hall (D1/D2 mixed use) and associated parking and access, removal of existing recreational facilities, creation of new multi-games area, relocation of childrens play area, new boundary treatment, landscaping and ancillary works. Section 73 application to vary condition 18 (BREEAM) of approved application 18/02472/FUL.

BPC **objected** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

77.2.2 **21/01548/COND1 – Fishers Copse House.**

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 9 (spoil), 13 (bats) and 14 (tree protection) of approved 20/01876/FULMAJ - Erection of a replacement dwelling with associated parking, turning, landscaping and private amenity space following the demolition of existing dwellinghouse. Installation of ground source heat pump coils involving the excavation and re-instatement of existing ground.

BPC was not consulted on this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

77.3 **Enforcement Issues:**

77.3.1 **Applecroft, Tutts Clump.**

The appeal for the retrospective up and over garage doors was dismissed. Clarification has been sought from WBC enforcement about the situation should the doors simply be kept open and the not be removed.

77.3.2 **Cray Cottage.**

The veranda to the rear of the garage has been reported to WBC enforcement, no response has been received.

77.3.3 **Elmwood Building.**

Monitoring of the site will continue.

77.3.4 **Hewins Wood Farm.**

Planning application 21/01533/COMIND has been submitted to regularise the buildings, their use and the storage containers, the decision on this application is awaited.

77.3.5 **46 South End Road.**

WBC enforcement have been advised that the building is approximately 400mm forwards of the building line and that there is a satellite dish. To date no further response has been received. The Clerk will attempt to get an update from WBC enforcement on this site.

77.3.6 **Old Travellers Rest.**

Planning application 21/01390/HOUSE was considered by the Eastern Area Planning Committee on Wednesday 15th September and was approved, subject to revised wording of conditions. No formal approval has been received to date.

77.3.7 **Pumping Station Site.**

It is noted that the site was up for auction by Savills yesterday, the 5th October.

78. **District Councillors Report.**

There was no District Councillors report.

79. **Bradfield Village Hall.**

A letter has been sent to the trustees of the Village Hall, suggesting two possible courses of action which could result in BPC being able to support the Village Hall project. Acknowledgment of the letter has been received.

One option is for a parish poll to be called as a result of a Parish Meeting (not a Parish Council meeting). This would give all electorate the opportunity to vote with their response to a question. Voting would take place in person during a 5 hour period (4pm – 9pm). The cost of this would be borne by BPC and would cover rent of the polling station, and a returning officer.

There was a discussion about how the question should be worded and a feeling that parishioners should be asked about whether they are willing to pay for some of the project through the precept. The results of a parish poll are non-binding. Concern was raised that the turnout would be poor.

Answers to questions about the figures the Business Plan is based on need to be received. It was noted that the trustees are being asked the questions in the best interests of the parishioners. Questions were asked about what scrutiny WBC would have made of the Business Plans in order to allocate the CIL grant which has been awarded to the Village Hall.

80. **Platinum Jubilee.**

The late May Bank holiday is being moved to Friday 3rd June 2022 and there is to be an extra bank holiday on Thursday 2nd June, both to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There was a discussion about possible celebrations including the possibility of having a combined celebration with the May Fayre. However, it was concluded that the May Fayre was for both parishioners and outsiders, whereas the Jubilee celebrations would just be for the parishioners.

There was the suggestion of a village lunch on either the Saturday or Sunday. Possible events will be discussed at the next meeting.

81. **Highways.**

- 81.1 Road Closures for Remembrance Sunday.
A deferred quote from last year is for signage costing £410. The cost of marshals (£28 per man hour) will be dependent upon the number required and the duration.
Cllr. House has organised the wreath. The service will take place at 3pm at the war memorial and will be conducted by the Rev. Jules Gadsby. Bradfield College will be invited to send a Guard of Honour.
Bradfield WI are not able to provide refreshments at the Social Club due to concerns about COVID. Cllr. House will liaise with Bradfield Social Club about parking provision.
- 81.2 SID Portal.
The Clerk has registered on the SID portal where all SID users need to be registered as well as all sites in the parish where SID can be used. Each of these sites needs a risk assessment which must be reviewed on at least an annual basis. The Clerk will make enquiries about use being made of SID at Bradfield College.
- 81.3 Footway from Hungerford Lane to the Avenue.
There is no update on the footway from Hungerford Lane to the Avenue.
- 81.4 Replacement Signage at the junction of Common Hill and Union Road.
There is no update on replacement of the damaged sign at the junction of Common Hill and Union Road.
- 81.5 Road Safety on Union Road.
The Clerk will request an update on road safety issues on Union Road.
82. **Environment.**
- 82.1 Defibrillators.
The Clerk has ordered the cabinets and defibrillators. A cheque will be raised to cover their cost. Defibrillators have been in high demand and delivery is not expected until December.
- 82.2 Hedges.
Cllr. House has attempted to speak to various residents about getting the hedges in Cock Lane cut back but has had no response.
Issues were raised about the hedges in Hungerford Lane on the double bend near Acres Farm.
- 82.3 Benches.
The bench, by the river, had not been installed on 21st September. The clerk will check with Bradfield College when it will be installed.
An invoice has been sent to WBC for the successful Members Bid grant to cover 50% of the cost of the benches.
- 82.4 Additional Dog Waste Bin.
There is no update on the proposed bin on the footpath opposite Wellington Close.
83. **Correspondence.**
- 83.1 WBC Community Champions.
Possible candidates for the WBC Community Champion were considered and will be further considered at the November meeting. The closing date for nominations was thought to be November 20th.
After the meeting it was discovered that the closing date for nominations is 1st November 2021; it was 20th November in 2020.
- 83.2 Over 80's Parcel fund.
There was a discussion about possible recipients of parcels from the Newbury Weekly News Over 80's Parcel fund, but it was felt that it would be better to donate to a local food bank. The Clerk will look at whether Greenham Common match any donations for any of the local food banks.

- 83.3 Letter from the John Simmons Trust.
The John Simmons Trust have written to BPC with an update of news from Rushall Farm and in appreciation of the donation made earlier in the year. Oak trees on the Farm were affected by the winter oak roller moth like those on The Avenue and in other local areas.
84. **Finance.**
- 84.1 Bank Reconciliation to the 5/10/2021.
The finance report showed a balance of £15,298.28 in the Treasurers account once all cheques and lodgements have cleared, this includes the second half of the precept. The finance report showed a reconciliation to the current account bank statement dated the 3/8/2021 with a balance of £6,268.96. The business account had a balance of £44,117.70 on the 27/9/2021.
- 84.2 List of payments since the last meeting.
The following payments have been made since the last meeting:
Salaries and expenses to 30/9/2021 £566.58
Payments of the Clerk's salary for October was approved.
85. **Round table comments.**
- 85.1 Speedwell, Scratchface Lane.
The scale and positioning of the new build have been questioned by a neighbour. Having looked at the development from the road, the development is considered in line with the approved application.
- 85.2 Drainage and speeding on Southend Road.
It was noted that following the heavy rain, water is running westwards along Southend Road and puddling opposite Ridgeway. It is sufficiently bad, that some pedestrians are walking to the middle of the road to avoid it, and anyone unfortunate enough to be walking on the pavement when a vehicle passes gets drenched.
- 85.3 Removal of trees.
It was reported that a new resident has removed a lot of trees from a property at the far end of Bishop's Road.
- 85.4 Junction of Cock Lane and Southend Road.
The vegetation growing at the junction of Cock Lane and Southend Road is a distraction to drivers.
- 85.5 District Councillor.
There was disappointment and concern at the continued absence of District Cllr. Ross MacKinnon. It suggested that this be raised directly with District Cllr. MacKinnon and the Chairman of WBC.
86. The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.
Date of Next meeting:
Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7.30pm (Bradfield Village Hall).