

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 19:30
The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

Present:

Cllr Mike Kay (Chairman)
Cllr Leigh Trevis
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Philip Clover
Cllr Paul Powell
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Claire Kelly

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 7

C 24 - 0159 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C 24 - 0160 The Public

Members of the public queried the fact that new benches, which the Parish Council had already approved, had yet to be installed on the Amenity Land. A member of the public had offered to make or donate the benches and was still willing to do this. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the member of the public and provide materials to manufacture the benches. It was noted that two benches had been approved - one new bench and one replacement.

Action item: Clerk to liaise with the member of the public to order materials and move benches to site where they will be fitted by the Council's groundsmen.

C 24 - 0161 Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Mark Noblet.

C 24 - 0162 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

None.

C 24 - 0163 New Councillors

Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that the recommendation of the interview panel was to appoint Anne Clarke as a Councillor and to invite Dave Fenlon to attend a second interview.

Resolved: that Anne Clarke would be coopted to the Parish Council and Dave Fenlon would be invited to attend a second interview.

C 24 - 0164 To co-opt a new member following the recommendation of the interview panel

Cllr Mike Kay invited Anne Clarke to come forward and join the Parish Council. Cllr Anne Clarke signed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form, the Declaration of Acceptance, and the Code of Conduct.

C 24 - 0165 Minutes

The Chairman asked those members present at the 3 July 2024 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Resolved: that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

C 24 - 0166 Actions update

The Clerk advised that a report had been identified which provided an easy-to-read quarterly breakdown of

the budget.

Action item: Clerk to provide a copy of the report to F&GP to determine if it provides sufficient information in a useful format.

C 24 - 0167 Minutes

The Chairman asked those members present at the 7 August 2024 Extraordinary meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Resolved: that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

C 24 - 0168 Actions update

None.

C 24 - 0169 Recreation Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were noted. Members discussed:
 - The lease with Panther for the 3Ms field which was still awaited;
 - The new management plan for the Millennium Wood which was still awaited;
 - The delay in treating the Azolla plant on the pond at Pitt Lane due to a shortage of weevils; and
 - The ongoing problem with rats at the Elmdon Lane allotments.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Members discussed the request to permanently lock one gate on the Amenity Land allotments but noted that only one allotment holder had supported the request and others had either been against it or didn't mind as long as it wasn't the gate located nearest to their plot.

Resolved: that both gates on the Amenity Land would remain in use.

C 24 - 0170 Events Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 17 July 2024 and 7 August 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Cllr Paul Powell provide an update on plans for the Community Day event which would take place on 14 September 2024:
 - Social media posts were due to go out publicising the event;
 - The risk assessment was almost completed;
 - Volunteers were still needed to help out on the day especially to cover the car park;
 - Ruby was no longer able to attend to provide entertainment, but Norman Stewart was booked to play steel pan music and AJ would also be in attendance with his disco;
 - Food was being provided by Belly's Caribbean Grill and the Scout barbeque and the Cricket Club bar would be open;
 - There were currently 35 stalls but take up by local groups was down on last year's event.
- d) Cllr Paul Powell advised that plans relating to VE Day had been put on hold while the Committee focused on the Community Day event.
- e) Members discussed the request from the Events Committee to take over responsibility for planning the Remembrance Sunday event.

Resolved: that the Events Committee would take over responsibility for the Remembrance Sunday event and the associated budget.

C 24 - 0171 Finance & General Purpose Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2024 were noted.
- b) Cllr Mike Kay provided an overview of the current budget position. The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Cllr Mike Kay advised that the interest rates on the accounts identified by the F&GP Committee at its meeting on 22 July 2024 had fallen. It was agreed that the F&GP Committee revisit the rates and decide if they were still the best accounts to open and, if so, arrange for monies to be deposited as follows:
 - Redwood Bank 95 day Business Savings Account - £40k
 - Redwood Bank 1 Year Business Savings Bond - £45k
 - Skipton Community Saver Issue 11 - £85k

- d) Members reviewed the request for a donation towards planning costs for the Bickenhill Village Centre Development proposal and agreed with the recommendation to decline the request.
Resolved: *that the request for a donation towards planning costs relating to the Bickenhill Village Centre Development was declined.*

C 24 - 0172 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2024 and decisions submitted under delegated authority were noted.
- b) The following applications were highlighted:
- PL/2024/01214/MINFHO -new boundary wall and gates to existing driveway;
 - PL/2024/01204/ MINFHO – two storey front and side extension, single storey rear extension and proposed dormer to garage; and
 - PL/2022/00521/COU – change of use of land to use as a residential caravan site for 3 gypsy families, each with two caravans, together with laying of hardstanding and erection of 3 no. amenity buildings. Application refused by SMBC.
 - PL/2024/01319/ADV – signage to new petrol filling station, Coventry Road, Solihull.

C 24 - 0173 Business Planning Meeting

Cllr Mike Kay provided an overview of the meeting that had taken place on 7 August 2024 and members agreed that another meeting should take place to move matters forward.

Action item: *Clerk to arrange another Business Planning meeting of the Full Council*

C 24 - 0174 To approve the Finance Approval List

The payments detailed on the expenditure report were considered and approved.

Resolved: *that the expenditure payments detailed in the report were approved.*

C 24 - 0175 To note the External Audit report from Moore

Members reviewed the external audit report from Moore and discussed the comments in box 2 and 3. The report was noted.

C 24 - 0176 Vehicle Signage

Members reviewed the quotes for signage on the new Ford Ranger pickup. Given their central location and the quality of the work done on banners for the Community Day event, it was agreed to opt for the quote from Fastsigns at a cost of £531.91 plus VAT.

Resolved: *that the signage for the new Ford Ranger pickup should be ordered from Fastsigns at a cost of £531.91 plus VAT.*

C 24 - 0177 Donation of benches for Amenity Land

Cllr Mike Kay noted that this item had been covered under the public section of the meeting and that the Clerk would liaise with the member of the public who was going to make the benches that would then be installed by the groundsmen.

C 24 - 0178 Pickup Service Quote

Members reviewed the quote from Bristol Street Motors for three years' servicing of the new Ford Ranger pickup at a cost of £1,012.01. The quote was approved subject to the Clerk contacting Kingshurst Automotive to see if they would offer a similar product at a cheaper price but using Ford parts so that the warranty wasn't voided.

Resolved: *that the service plan quote from Bristol Street Motors was approved subject to checking with Kingshurst Automotive to see if they could offer a similar product at a cheaper price that would not void the vehicle's warranty.*

C 24 - 0179 Sale of Ford Ranger pickup FL53FWK

The Clerk let members know that following the valuation of £200 from the scrap yard, a valuation of

£678.89 had been received from We Buy Any Van. It was noted that a resident had also expressed an interest in purchasing the vehicle.

Resolved: *the Clerk was authorised to sell the vehicle to the highest bidder.*

Action item: *Clerk to contact resident to establish how much he is willing to pay for the pickup and, providing it is more than the offer of £678.89 from We Buy Any Van, to sell the vehicle to him.*

C 24 - 0180 Website Accessibility Statement

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council is required by law to have an accessibility statement on its website. Members reviewed the draft accessibility statement which had been based on a template obtained from SLCC.

Resolved: *that the Website Accessibility Statement was approved.*

C 24 - 0181 Meeting Diary

Members reviewed the meeting diary which had been updated to show Parish Council meetings taking place on the second Wednesday of the month from September 2024. The Recreation Committee meeting that was due to take place on 11 December 2024 had also been moved to the 18 December 2024.

Resolved: *that the amended Meeting Diary was approved.*

C 24 - 0182 Remembrance Sunday

After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Philip Clover would consider laying the wreath at the Bickenhill Remembrance Sunday service and, if he was able to do this, that Cllr Mike Kay would attend the SMBC service. However, if Cllr Clover was unable to lay the wreath at St Peter's, then Cllr Mike Kay will attend the service to lay the wreath. Cllr Clive Hill agreed to undertake the reading at St Leonard's Church.

Resolved: *that either Cllr Philip Clover or Cllr Mike Kay will lay the wreath at the Bickenhill Remembrance Sunday service. If possible, Cllr Mike Kay will attend the SMBC service. Cllr Clive Hill will undertake the reading at St Leonard's Church.*

C 24 - 0183 Christmas tree in Bickenhill

Cllr Mike Kay let members know that a number of residents in Bickenhill had requested a Christmas tree be installed this year on a new island near to the entrance to the village. He advised that, having spoken to Patrick at Skanska, it had come to light that there was no power near the site chosen. Cllr Philip Clover asked if a tree could be located near to the location previously used as there was power nearby that should be suitable for a new connection.

Resolved: *that Cllr Mike Kay should contact Skanska to determine if it would be possible to install a Christmas tree near to the site that was previously used*

C 24 - 0184 Letter from St Peter's Church PCC regarding the Church Hall & Vicar's Field

Members discussed the letter from St Peter's Church PCC and the responses to the questions that had been raised. Given the amount of money needed to repair the hall and the potential works required to the site, it was agreed that the Parish Council was unable to help at this time.

Resolved: *that the Clerk should let St Peter's Church PCC know that the Parish Council was unable to help at this time, but it would like to be kept informed of any plans they might make.*

C 24 - 0185 Holly Lane road safety

Members reviewed a draft letter to Paul Tovey, Head of Highways at SMBC expressing concern regarding the safety of Holly Lane following a serious accident that had occurred on 22 August 2024. The letter also sought a scheme to reduce or enforce against speed on Holly Lane and asked to be kept informed of the results of a speed survey that SMBC planned to undertake on the lane.

Resolved: *that the letter was approved as drafted and should be sent to Paul Tovey as a matter of urgency.*

C 24 - 0186 Correspondence

The thank you post card from St Leonard's church was noted.

C 24 - 0187 External Committee Reports

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that all was going well although an issue had arisen with the electric bill which the Hall Manager was looking into. The Hall would be represented at the Community Day event and chairs and tables would be loaned to the Council for use at the event.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – Cllr Clive Hill advised that the next Trustee meeting would take place on 8 October 2024 and representatives would attend the Community Day event.
- c) **Airport Matters** – Cllr Mike Kay provided an update following the latest ACC meeting. He noted that new machines had been bought in to deal with the security issues and that the restriction on 100ml bottles was still in place. The Airports connectivity with 5 of the 6 world hubs meant that it was possible to travel worldwide from Birmingham although there were no direct routes to North America. The issue of noise and night flights was discussed and it was noted that a public consultation was due to start which the Council should respond to. Cllr Kay let members know that it was possible to check noise issues out on a website called Webtrak.
- d) **HS2 Update** – no update as Cllr Mark Noblet had sent apologies for this meeting.
- e) **M42 J6 update** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that changes were due to take place which would mean that villagers would be required to take a longer route out of the village. It was anticipated that all roads should be open by 18 December 2024. Cllr Kay also advised that planting had now started.
- f) **SAM Meeting update** – Cllr Paul Powell let members know that representatives of SMBC had not attended the last SAM meeting so there had not been much business discussed. It was proposed that Cllr Leigh Trevis was added to the list of BMGPC representatives for the SAM meetings.
Resolved: that Cllr Leigh Trevis is added to the list of representatives for the SAM meetings.

C 24 - 0188 Date of the next meeting: 9 October 2024 at 19:30

Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

The meeting closed at 21:15