



LITTLE BERKHAMSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall in Little Berkhamsted.

Cllrs present – Cllr Stokes(Chair), Cllr Standbrook, Cllr Kent, Cllr Hunter, Cllr Noble, Cllr Morris

Others present – Cllr Ken Crofton, Linda Haysey - Leader of the Council, Laura Brooks-Payne (Clerk), 16 members of the public

- 1 To receive apologies for absence and approve;** None
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation;** Cllr Noble for Planning item number 6
- 3. To approve minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021:** Proposed by Cllr Standbrook, seconded by Cllr Morris

Standing orders suspended to allow members of the public to speak if they wish

4. To receive questions and comments from the public:

A resident reported that there is currently a very noisy helicopter making regular journeys into and out of the village. Cllr Noble explained that it is disturbing farm animals and residents, and she had been in communication with housekeeper for the house that the helicopter is flying to. She explained that a celebrity is currently staying at the house and the housekeeper is very keen not to affect any residents. Notes can be put through the letterbox of the house concerned regarding any concerns.

A resident thanked Cllr Stokes for liaising with her regarding the current SID location. She explained that she felt that the current location does not work and is not effective and also unsafe. Cllr Stokes explained that Herts County Council have now agreed to move the SID to a more suitable location at their expense. There are 3 potential locations where the SID could be sited which are currently being consulted on, letters have already been delivered to affected residents. Cllr Stokes has also asked the local Police to do regular traffic monitoring.

A resident commented that the volume and size of vehicles is problematic. She asked why Highways cannot use other traffic calming measures. Cllr Morris explained that most traffic calming measures require the road to have street lights in place which Church Road does not have. Cllr Stokes explained why the 20's plenty campaign may help to slow the traffic.

Standing Orders reinstated from here

5. HIGHWAYS

- 5.1 **To receive an update on the re-siting of the SID:** Discussed in Item 4. The deadline for the second consultation is 2nd August 2021.
- 5.2 **To update on the '20's Plenty' campaign:** Cllr Stokes reported that the PC are working alongside 20's plenty for Herts. PC Turner had explained to Cllrs during the Police visit to the village last Saturday that the data from recent traffic surveys indicated that the vehicles are not necessarily always speeding but instead the roads are generally not suitable to travel at 30mph giving the impression that the vehicle may be speeding. New signs are being designed as the current ones are rather faded.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1 **To receive & discuss the latest Planning Report circulated by the clerk:** Clerk had circulated the latest report – there were no new applications since the last meeting. Cllr Stokes went through the recent applications.

7. OPEN SPACES

- 7.1 **To report on playground issues:** Cllr Standbrook reported new bearings on the larger swings are to be replaced but parts are unavailable at the moment. Cllr Stokes explained that there is a 'Covid welcome Back Fund' available to the PC. There is £2500 available to enable the PC to purchase several new picnic tables for the recreation field and playground areas. Cllr Stokes had circulated details of picnic bench examples. Cllrs unanimously approved to purchase 1 x large 8-seater octagonal bench and 3 x A- Frame style benches.
- 7.2 **To discuss overgrown hedges and footways:** Cllr Kent explained that growth has been increased of late with the perfect weather combination of sun and rain. The footpaths are currently well kept. However, ROW officer Nick Maddox has kindly agreed to organise for the overgrown areas to be cut back. Cllr Kent will also ask Nick Maddox to replace several broken wooden pencil signs. Countryside Code signs have been obtained and are in process of being put up around the village. Cllr Standbrook reported that some of the 30mph traffic signs need attention. Cllr Noble will investigate further.
- 7.3 **To discuss War Memorial Quotes:** Cllr Stokes had circulated 4 quotations for the cleaning of the War Memorial to Cllrs prior to the meeting. After discussion, Cllrs agreed to obtain additional information because the quotes varied greatly in price. Cllr Ken Crofton will send the Clerk details of a couple of specialist cleaning companies.

8. PREMISES MANAGEMENT

Village Hall

- 8.1 **To report on the Village Hall:** Cllr Standbrook reported that the PC need to remove the piano. A few areas of the floor need repair. The decking to the back of the Village Hall is sound. The decking to the back garden of the cottage is in need of repair. Cllr Standbrook will obtain quotations for the cottage garden decking to be replaced.

The storage heaters in the cottage are old, inefficient and need replacing. Cllr Standbrook has contacted several companies that can help with insulation, potential grants, and who find the best solutions for new heating. Cllr Standbrook will liaise with Sandie, the cottage tenant re electricity bills to enable the best prices to be sought.

Cllr Stokes had researched cost of Wifi for the Village Hall to enable a wider range of hirers to use the building. The price for this would be approximately £25-30 per month. Cllrs agreed that this was resource was needed and approved the monthly Wifi cost.

Cricket & Community Pavilion (C&C Pavilion)

- 8.2 **To update on Apple Daycare use of the pavilion:** Cllr Stokes reported that the arrangement is working well. She reported a few teething issues have been sorted out quickly and easily with Apple Daycare. The date of the meeting to discuss ongoing use of the pavilion will be held on Wednesday 18th August at the Pavilion at 7.30pm. Cllr Stokes will advertise the meeting to residents and interested parties nearer the time.

- 8.3 **To receive the latest report & information on the Cricket & Community (C&C) Pavilion:** Cllr Hunter reported that the PC now have a regular cleaner at the Pavilion. Appleday Care are walking the children from their other premises, therefore mitigating previous traffic issues. There has been interest by local groups to use the C&C pavilion.

Cllr Kent reminded Cllrs that an opening event is yet to be held for the C&C Pavilion. Cllrs discussed this being held on the same day of the village picnic, 30th August 2021. Cllr Stokes will discuss this with the Cricket Club, and research this further.

Cllr Morris suggested a plaque could be placed on the outside of the C&C Pavilion thanking the donors who helped to finance the C&C Pavilion refurbishment. Cllr Ken Crofton again, kindly offered to contribute financially to the day when it is organised.

- 8.4 **To update on Cricket Club (CC) 2021 play season:** Cllr Stokes advised that the CC have been asked to notify neighbours when play is taking place, use the wicket furthest from the houses when high risk games are being played, and to commission a risk assessment.

- 8.5 **To update on pavilion bar refurbishment:** Cllr Stokes reported that Cllrs had met with members of the Cricket Club to discuss the refurbishment of the bar area. Cllr Standbrook is currently obtaining quotes for the scope of works. It was noted that work will be restricted by Apple Daycare and the Cricket Club regularly using the building.

- 8.6 **To discuss encouraging community use of the Village Hall and C&C Pavilion:** New leads and local clubs have recently shown interest in regularly using the C&C Pavilion and the Village Hall.

Current confirmed bookings to date are; Church office – Wednesday afternoons, Tiny Tots – Tuesday mornings, and possibly on Friday afternoons the start of a community

café drop-in at the C&C Pavilion. Ideas to include a seasonal plant swap and a book swap.

It was suggested that holiday sports camps could potentially use the green space and facilities. The PC will make general enquiries.

9. FINANCE

9.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts: The latest accounts had been circulated by the Clerk. Cllrs unanimously approved the accounts.

9.2 To appoint the Internal Auditor for 2021-2022: Cllrs approved Mrs Janet Pearce as Internal Auditor again for 2021-2022.

9.3 To approve war memorial cleaning quote: Information on quotations had been circulated by Cllr Stokes before the meeting amongst Cllrs but it was agreed to obtain additional quotations because the prices varied greatly.

9.4 To approve expenditure for Litter Pick Signage purchase and 10 litter picking sets: Cllrs unanimously approved the cost of £125 for the set and £200 for the signs.

9.5 To approve payment for a regular cleaner for the pavilion: Cllrs approved to pay the cleaner £13 per hour for 2 hours per week.

9.6 To approve the pavilion bar expenditure & replacement seating foam: Further quotations and information are to be sought for the refurbishment of the Bar area. The cushions recently made were not made quite as expected. £225 was unanimously approved to improve the internal foam.

10. To Co-Opt a new Councillor: The PC have a vacancy for a new Councillor. Lawrence Eaglestone was in attendance and interested in the post. Lawrence gave a little background on himself, explaining that he has lived in Epping green for 27 years with his wife and 2 daughters. Lawrence expressed that he loves the village exactly how it is and does not want it to change. Lawrence has previously worked in London in the Finance sector, but is now involved in Property Development. Cllrs agreed Lawrence to be a good candidate to become a councillor. Lawrence was proposed by Cllr Hunter and seconded by Cllr Morris and welcomed as a new councillor.

11. To approve the date of the next meeting on Wednesday 15th September at 7.30pm and a date for the upcoming PC Social evening:

The meeting date was approved and PC Social evening will be discussed at the next meeting.

12. To close the meeting: Cllr Stokes closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Parish Clerk: Mrs Laura Brooks-Payne 07803 906291 clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk

DRAFT