

BURTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 20th July 2015, at Burton Green Village Hall Green Room, Hodgetts Lane, Burton Green.

PRESENT:- Cllr Archie Taylor (Chair)
Cllr Wendy Exton
Cllr Tracey Grant
Cllr Caryll Green
Cllr Andrew Gibbs
Cllr John Vine

In attendance: Paul Knight - Clerk to Parish Council
John Whitehouse, WCC Cllr
George Illingworth, WDC Cllr
Rowena Hill, WDC Cllr
22 members of the public

Minute 55/15 Apologies: to receive apologies and approve reasons for absence
RESOLVED: Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Watkins and Cllr Jethwa both of whom are on holiday.

Minute 56/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grant informed the meeting that she had an interest in Warwick University as an employee of the organisation but added that as a site resident had every right to speak her mind on issues relating to the University.

Minute 57/15 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2015, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record with the following minor amendment; the speed limit referred to in minute 38.2 directly outside the school had reduced by 3mph but that a slight increase in mph had been recorded away from the school.

Minute 58/15 Community Reports: To receive reports, and agree any action from:

58.1 Warwickshire Police – No report received

58.2 County Councillor – Kenilworth Abbey

Cllr Whitehouse reported on a consultation which had commenced on 23th June on proposed changes to school transport provision within the County. The proposals aim to achieve substantial savings and much discretionary spending provision was under threat including subsidised transport to grammar schools and transport provision for special needs cases. Residents who wish to make comment were directed to the County website and were advised that the consultation was open until 17th September 2015. For Burton Green the consequences may not be significant as residents were unaware of any children that may be affected by the reduced transport provision.

Cllr Whitehouse reported on merger discussions with other sister authorities in line with the proposed merger of West Midland's authorities. This to take advantage of opportunities for devolved powers such as those proposed for the unitary Cornwall authority. This to be debated – it is anticipated that difficult decisions will have to be made.

Residents were advised about a consultation on proposed charges for car parks associated with Stratford Greenway. Local residents are worried about overspill from walkers seeking to avoid charges. It was pointed out that the introduction of such charges may set a precedent for users and residents associated with the Greenway in Burton Green and parking associated with the new village hall.

Cllr Whitehouse reported that the police were unwilling to support the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on Red Lane unless appropriate engineering works were carried out to support this lower limit. He suggested the installation of a larger “please drive carefully” sign.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders to allow Tony Smith to comment on speed controls in the village. He is of the opinion that speeding remains a problem in the village and that an assessment needed to be carried the results of which would be used to review signage. Cllr Whitehouse advised that routine measurements continue to be taken to measure the impact of signage and revised speed levels, and that average speeds will be obtained that will allow for such assessment to be made. Cllr Whitehouse advised that legal issues associated with the use and number of signs will have implications for any future provision. He will also consider suggestion from Cllr Gibbs to move speed sign closer to the junction with Westwood Heath Road.

58.3 District Councillor

Cllr Illingworth reported that the newly formed district council with a large intake of new Cllrs was still finding its feet. He advised the effect of combining authorities will have implications for the “Local Plan” but is unclear as to what these might be at this stage. He reported that Cllr Coker was meeting with the minister this evening and that housebuilding figures going forward were the subject of disagreement at local and national level such that it was causing a delay in progressing planning on such issues.

58.4 Burton Green C of E Primary School: no report received

58.5 Burton Green Village Hall Committee: in the absence of Cheryl no report received

58.6 Burton Green Neighbourhood Watch:

Cllr Exton reported that there was little apparent support for a Neighbourhood Watch in the village and that any proposals to take this matter forward would require input from the new neighbourhood police officer who commences work on 10th August. Cllr Exton will ensure that a dialogue with the newly appointed officer will commence as soon as is possible. A discussion was held on the possibility of recommending that residents purchase speed signs which can be applied to bins. Cllr Whitehouse advised that signs on bins can be effective.

58.7 Burton Green Residents Association

With Standing Orders suspended Rona welcomed Cllr Green’s involvement with the Residents Association and invited all to an afternoon tea at the village hall on 8th August and to the annual general meeting on 5th October which was also an opportunity to celebrate 60 years of service to the village. It was reported that overgrow hedgerows obscuring traffic signs had been reported to the Highways Authority. Continuing issues with the hearing loop needed to be addressed

RESOLVED: that the Clerk be tasked with improving the system.

58.8 Kenilworth Greenway Trust:

Cllr Whitehouse reported that the AGM would be held at the village hall and that the main focus would be working with residents on HS2 mitigation with Cllr Whitehouse providing a coordinating role with HS2.

Minute 59/15 Public Participation

Peter Stanworth advised that he was having difficulties hearing what people say and that perhaps the batteries needed changing to the mike. He also expressed concern about the delayed arrival of the minutes and agenda.

A long discussion was held regarding the relocation of truck movements associated with works to HS2. Cllr Gibbs offered to discuss this issue with Alan Cox, a concerned resident, after the meeting, and suggest how he might make his views known by petition. Cllr Gibbs advised the meeting that petitions needed to be submitted by 17th August.

Vaughan Owen advised that he had received the letter from Curdworth Parish Council and disputed its contents. Tony Smith suggested that an independent review be conducted regarding the reading out of the Curdworth Parish Council letter at the April meeting and associated issues. Cllr Exton suggested it would be a good idea to resolve this matter once and for all. Cllr Illingworth suggested taking this matter up with the monitoring officer at WDC and seek advice.

RESOLVED: That Vaughan Owen's complaint is dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct and that the Chair and the Clerk, who were due to attend training in the coming week, would raise this matter with the monitoring officer and that the clerk would seek advice from WALC.

Minute 60/15 Parking

Cllr Green advised that persons parking up on pavements blocking access particularly for wheelchair users was an ongoing problem. Cllr Green will provide the wording to enable the clerk to print of leaflets which are to be used to raise awareness about poor parking.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that a leaflet would be produced for the purpose of raising awareness of poor or illegal parking.

Minute 61/15 Progress reports for information

61.1 Update on Red Lane Play area

With regard to the resolution to assess and agree the signing over of the Red Lane Play Area from Warwick District Council to Burton Green Parish Council, although Cllrs were minded to approve this exchange they require more information on the cost implications for the Parish Council including those associated with health and safety, maintenance and insurance. Such costs may have implications for the Precept. The clerk awaits a response from WDC's contractor regarding information on the cost implications of taking over the Red Lane Play area.

RESOLVED: To await information on and consider the full cost implications before taking over responsibility for the play area

61.2 Update on Levan site

Cllr Green advised of an appeal against an enforcement notice served by WDC against Levan for alleged unlawful development. Agreement was reached that the Parish Council needed to support WDC in this Appeal and read out a suggested response. Cllr Gibbs raised additional issues associated with lighting which was felt to be inappropriate to the rural nature of the site.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that Cllr Gibbs would update Cllr Green's response to reflect the additional lighting issues and submit to the Chair for signing and submission the next day.

61.3 Update on the notice board

The Clerk advised that the installation of the notice board would be progressed once the signatories on the bank account had been sorted out and money could be committed.

Minute 62/15 HS2: To discuss and agree any matters relating to HS2

Cllr Gibbs reported that AP2 had been release and that three weeks were left for petitioning. Key issues arising from AP2 report included; construction traffic moved from Hobb Lane; slight rerouting of Greenway to reflect current arrangement; cut and cover to extend 50 metres further at each end of the tunnel and that it had been accepted that the village hall would move to the field adjacent to the Levan site. Cllr Gibbs reported that a meeting was to be held tomorrow night to create a draft petition for circulation and that residents would be welcome to use this draft to formulate their own responses. Cllr Grant advised that she would also be acting to take forward concerns expressed by the University. Cllr Illingworth suggested that WDC be advised of petitioning intentions and pointed out that HS2 will affect Burton Green and the University more than any other areas. Cllr Whitehouse reported success on achieving an equestrian underpass for Cromwell Lane.

Minute 63/15 Housing: to discuss and consider matters relating to the parish council's approach to housing

A long discussion was had regarding the parish council's involvement in the development of local housing. The Chair advised of his intentions to keep informed of Carla Homes intentions and to also consider any potential development of the Peeping Tom site. In light of the rejection of the "Local Plan" and the need to consider potential presentations by other developers Cllrs considered that more information would be welcome.

Minute 64/15 Finance

64.1 Nothing to report

64.2 To consider and approve accounts for payment

Cheques were signed for the following:-

Paul Knight	Clerks Salary July/15 – (20/7 – 000224)	£250.54
Paul Knight	Tax and NI payment refund – (20/7 - 000225)	£187.80

The following matters were approved for payment but in the absence of a cheque book and ongoing issues with updating the signatories to the accounts these payments were approved and cheques will be made out, signed and sent once a cheque book becomes available.

Town Council of Leamington Spa	Training - Introduction to Planning control	£45.00
WALC	Good Councillors Guide X8	£12.00
WALC	Being a good Councillor and a Clerk	£45.00
Paul Knight	Private copying of agenda and minutes	£5.60

on 15th June 2015

64.3 To receive report from Internal Auditor, to agree the Annual Return for 2014/15 including the "Accounting Statement" and "Annual Governance Statement".

Councillors received and approved the report of the Internal Auditor (Appendix A).

RESOLVED: Cllrs acknowledge their responsibility for the preparation of the statement of accounts and for the Council's internal controls and confirm to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the Council's statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015, that points are agreed. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign and date.

Minute 65/15 Planning: to receive and consider details of planning applications

65.1 To consider and comment on W150884 - 316 Cromwell Lane – Demolition of bungalow and garage and creation of two houses. Although concerns expressed about lack of car parking provision, particularly for visitors, no observations were made.

RESOLVED: No objection

65.2 To consider and comment on W1501037 – 65A Red Lane – extension and raised rear patio After significant discussion and following presentations by both the applicant and the neighbouring property Cllrs agreed that an objection should be lodged on the basis that the new patio resulted in persons using the decking overlooking the neighbouring property.

RESOLVED: Clerk to draft, circulate, agree and submit objection to that part of the application relating to the decking, which is at a level that results in a loss of privacy at the neighbouring property due to "overlooking".

65.3 To consider Appeal by Avon Estates Limited against enforcement notice serve to address engineering operations resulting in increased land levels (see minute 61.2).

Minute 66/15 Communications To receive and discuss communications received (and comment/action as necessary:

RESOLVED: It was agreed to allow Clerk to respond to transparency code request from WALC – this may result in funding to assist with website development.

Minute 67/15 Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report

Minute 68/15 Confidential Matters: Staffing

To be discussed in private following departure of the public.

Minute 69/15 Date of next meeting

Monday 21st September 2015, 7.30pm at Burton Green Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 10:00pm