

PARISH OF RADNAGE

A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2018 AT 8 PM IN RADNAGE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: Chairman Mr Robert Nikiel, Mr Darren Ungless, Mrs Morag Wagstaff, County Cllr Carl Etholen and Clerk Mrs Lin Freeth.

There were 15 members of the public present for the meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs Alex Ryan, Ms Tamsin Addison, Mr Everton Merchant, and District Cllrs Shade Adoh and Saeed Saddique.

MEETING CLOSED FOR PUBLIC SESSION

The Parish Council welcomed Cllr Bill Chapple, Cabinet member for Planning & Environment at Bucks County Council and Claire Oakins, Bucks County Council Waste Reduction Team Leader who attended to discuss the proposed closure of the Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre.

A statement was made to explain the situation regarding required budget cuts amounting to £1.2m – Bucks County Council currently have an overall budget of £10m for the county of which £3m is currently spent on household waste across its 10 sites which serve the population in a ratio of 1.9 sites : 100,000 people. (The national average is 1.3 ; 100,000)

Cllr Bill Chapple explained that they have an extremely tough budget to meet from April 2019 onwards which means facing up to some difficult decisions. There certainly need to be changes but the aim is to retain a service that still works for the majority of people. An extensive amount of fact finding work has been done with Bledlow Ridge showing the lowest usage of the 10 sites, with less waste and less people, and 30% of visitors coming from across the border in Oxfordshire with no financial contribution from Oxon County Council, unlike the neighbouring county of Berkshire which does contribute to Buckinghamshire for Langley.

Various options were looked at for the proposal but some sites cannot be considered for closure eg. Buckingham is the only site in the north of the county with the next nearest being Aylesbury – a 36 mile round trip – and Chesham & Amersham are small and neither could be expanded or serve all residents.

The options under the proposal are to close one site (Bledlow) or two sites (Bledlow & Burnham); to close three sites for 2-3 days during the week; to introduce charges for the disposal of non-statutory waste (earth, rubble, tyres etc) – there would be no charge for genuine household waste; and to charge residents from outside of Buckinghamshire to use the sites.

The Bledlow Ridge site is believed to be unfit for purpose being small, tight for vehicles to manoeuvre and a Health & Safety concern. 'Talks' may be had in the future with developers involved in the expansion of Princes Risborough to fund a new site there but a possible location is yet to be identified. Concerns regarding an increase in fly tipping as a result of any closure were countered by statistics that show no increase occurs. Fly tipping is carried out by criminals and not residents! BCC have a zero tolerance approach to this type of crime with 1 in 38 (3-4%) being caught (The National figure is 1 in 638!!)

Income from sites such as Aston Clinton and High Heavens for upcycling of items with a further life are managed and received by the South Bucks Hospice Charity and currently zero funds are passed to the County Council. This is something that will be explored when re procurement for the new contract takes place.

The £1.2m saving could be met by charging for non-statutory waste (£700-800,000); closure of the Bledlow Ridge site (£200,000) and closure of other identified sites for 2-3 days each week (£300,000).

Several points were raised, and comments/concerns put forward by members of the public and by councillors with key points being: Why was there a need for two sites Chesham & Amersham?; some councils charge for kerbside collections for green waste but BCC do not – could this be a way of increasing revenue?; an Alliance was signed by Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Northamptonshire in 2014 but Oxfordshires refusal to contribute to the expenses at the Bledlow Ridge site, when 30% of the users are shown to be from their county, goes against this alliance; consideration should be made of the effect when a decision is made with regard to a single or dual Unitary Council for Bucks; the cost saving proposal to meet the budget requirement next year is not sustainable – what happens in following years? Where will the savings then be made?

The consultation runs until midnight on October 22nd and everybody is urged to put their ideas, suggestions and comments forward. Another discussion meeting is being held at the Princes Centre in Princes Risborough on October 18th at 7.30pm. Thanks are extended to Bill Chapple and Claire Oakins for attending this evening and to County Cllr Carl Etholen for his ongoing support. Those who do not wish to stay for the remainder of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council now leave.

MEETING REOPENED

2. To receive any disclosure of pecuniary interests by Members relating to items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

3. Acceptance and signing of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th September 2018.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2018 were approved as proposed by Cllr Wagstaff, seconded by Cllr Ungless, and agreed by all as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

4. Report on progress on items in the previous minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council not otherwise included in this agenda.

There were no items not included in this agenda to report.

5. Planning.

To note planning decisions:

- Case Ref: 18/06822/FUL - Ashridge Barn, Green End Road – Application for conversion of existing barns to 3 bedroom residential dwelling and associated car port along with demolition of part of existing barn and associated external alterations. Application permitted
- Case Ref: 18/07045/VCDN – Andridge Farm, Sprigs Holly Lane - Application for removal of condition 1 (agricultural occupancy) attached to PP WR/1235/63 Application withdrawn
- Case Ref: 18/06442/CLE – Boundary Farm, Sprigs Holly Lane – application for certificate of lawfulness for erection of a replacement stable block/tack and hay store. Application permitted

b) To be determined:

- Case Ref: 16/00482/OP Appeal Ref: APP/K0425/C/17/3185382 – Rear of Rose Cottage, Green End Road – appeal against Enforcement Notice – alleged erection of new building to rear.
- Case Ref: 18/06715/FUL – Boundary Farm, Sprigs Holly Lane – Application for change of use of existing single storey building to form a two bedroom home with parking, access & amenity space.
- Case Ref: 18/07131/FUL - Rose Cottage, Green End Road - Householder application for construction of two storey front, side and rear extension and detached outbuilding.

c) Current planning applications:

- Case Ref: 18/07233/FUL and 18/07234/LBC – Town End Farm, Horseshoe Road – Householder application for erection of orangery to rear.
Following consideration by Councillors it was agreed that they had no objection to this planning application. The usual, included request that should permission be granted any HGV's and site traffic wishing to access the property should plan their route carefully, as the village lanes are not suitable for such vehicles will be included with the submission to WDC.

d) Planning Control:

- There were no further updates at this time.
- Procedure in relation to any judicial review proceedings – without the full number of councillors present this matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Any planning comments are submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

ACTION: CLERK

6. Finance.

- a) The Clerk had circulated the latest budget summary and no questions arose from this. The Clerk advised that the second Precept payment had now been received (14.09.18) and that the accounts looked healthy although many of the budgeted-for expenses for the year were soon due for payment. These are for such things as the defibrillator, MVAS etc. As at 30th September 2018 the Business Account held a balance of £31,065.27 representing interest of £1.36 for the last month, and the Treasurers Account a balance of £43,155.39
- b) The Clerk advised that the monthly payment made to Southern Electric had increased from £52 per month to £62 per month. A comparison quote will be obtained to ensure that the current supplier is competitive.
ACTION: DU
- c) The payments for September 2018 were approved as proposed by Cllr Nikiel, seconded by Cllr Wagstaff and agreed by all. Cllr Ungless and Cllr Wagstaff undertook the signing of the invoices and cheques.
- d) The annual interim audit of the accounts completed by the Clerk/RFO and by the VH Bookings Clerk has been carried out by Cllr Nikiel, as Chairman of the RPC, to ensure that the agreed financial processes are being followed and to check various transactional and representative types. This is done in addition to the annual internal and external audits carried out at the end of the financial year. No problems were found and no recommendations were made. The written report will be held on file.
- e) Following the recent resignation of Cllr Turner a bank mandate form has been prepared to remove him as signatory. This is agreed by all and will be signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. **ACTION: RN**

7. Village Hall.

• Maintenance / electrics:

Quotations for remedial works to rectify the problem of previous power outages experienced in the main hall, entrance and toilets are being progressed. This may involve replacement of the fuse boxes and controls.

ACTION: RN/DU

The installation of WiFi required an extension of the telephone cable which has been completed. The defibrillator will require an additional power supply and will be sited on the external wall facing Green Lane.

• Fire alarm and fire extinguishers:

The paperwork held by Cllr Turner (now resigned) has been passed at this meeting to Cllr Nikiel so that the ongoing maintenance of the alarm and extinguishers can be checked, and new maintenance arrangements made if necessary to comply with current regulations.

ACTION: RN

8. Risk Assessment/Open Spaces.

- a) The Clerk confirmed that the monthly playground inspection report had been received which reported that the bins are still okay. Following the failure of part of the pull-up bars it was decided to remove the remaining pieces of equipment due to the potential H&S risk. This has now been done and the area is now clear. Consideration regarding a replacement piece of equipment will be discussed at the next meeting.

It is proposed that the existing large slide be restored in the same way as the other items recently completed, by repainting in brightly coloured paints, as part of ongoing maintenance within the play area. A quotation of £750 has been received for the work which will be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION: AR

- b) The Annual Play Area Inspection has been received from the Play Inspection Company for Wycombe District Council and details every aspect of the playground with colour-coding of any and all areas that have been commented upon. As previously the comprehensive report includes colour photographs of all equipment and the playground area. There are no areas of immediate concern and the general maintenance works that are needed will be addressed. The report is dated September 5th but no mention is made of the new pieces of equipment that were installed at the beginning of July and they do not appear within the photographs taken. This will be queried.

ACTION: CLERK/AR/RN

- c) Cllr Nikiel reported that the burial ground is all as it should be with no problems at this time and that the site continues to look neat and tidy. The 'next plot' marker seems to be moved from time to time and so it is suggested and agreed that it only be put in place when there is a forthcoming burial as the plot positions are mapped electronically and held on file.

The new statutory Environment Agency burial site guidelines and requirements to avoid ground pollution have been looked into and a draft document prepared. Cllr Nikiel will work with Linsay Welham, the Churchwarden and person responsible for the Churchyard, to produce a joint Risk Assessment for submission as required.

ACTION: RN

- d) An update on the bus shelters and noticeboards will be received at a future meeting. All noticeboards still need to be treated with wood preservative.

ACTION: RN

- e) A volunteer is needed to take on the responsibility for overseeing the war memorial moving forwards. At a recent meeting of the British Legion it was suggested that the memorial and the surrounding area may benefit from some attention with a tidy up and clean ahead of the Remembrance Day Service.

ACTION: RN

- f) Suggested dates and times for the Action Plan Working Group Meeting will be circulated to councillors via email and agreed at the next meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

- g) Suggested dates and times for the Budget & Precept Planning Working Group Meeting will be circulated to councillors via email and agreed at the next meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

- f) The review of Budgetary Control (Bookings Clerk and Clerk) was covered at Item 6. d)

9. Defibrillator – Village Hall.

The Clerk reports that the AED (iPAD SP1 defibrillator and Call Push Rescue training kit) has now been received by Cllr Addison and the fitting of the required cabinet is being progressed. Cllr Ungless agrees to liaise with Cllr Addison to coordinate the required electric supply to the outside wall of the village hall as part of the quotations for village hall electrical works.

ACTION: DU

A maximum budget of £500 for the cabinet plus £500 for installation and incidental costs was approved at the July meeting. The cabinet must remain unlocked and uncoded.

ACTION: TA

The inclusion of this equipment under existing insurance policy will be clarified.

ACTION: CLERK/RN

10. MVAS.

The production team for the ordered MVAS have rejected the batch of signs that they have received due to quality issues, with the required enclosures being remade this week. As soon as the device is received it will be put to good use at 4 identified sites within the village, with each site able to be used in both directions. All statistics will be recorded for analysis.

The inclusion of this equipment under existing insurance policy will be clarified.

ACTION: RN

11. Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre.

The public discussions regarding the current consultation were carried out at the start of this meeting.

12. Remembrance Sunday.

- a) Following an application to the Armistice and Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust we were delighted to receive 10 'There But Not There' silhouettes to be used in conjunction with St. Mary's Church, the Royal British Legion and Radnage 1st Scout Group to mark the Centenary of the Armistice. We hope that the symbolic nature of these silhouettes will reach out to everyone in the community in helping to remember those that have been loved and lost, not only this year, but also in years to come. There will be an extended service at St. Mary's and it is hoped to involve the school children in producing posters and/or poems for display.

Photographs will be taken and a report of the day sent to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to show our appreciation. As part of the award a KS2 Learning Plan was included which will be offered to Radnage CofE Primary School.

A National event for the lighting of beacons across the country - 'Beacons of Light' - is taking place on Nov 11th at 7pm and it is thought that perhaps Radnage could also mark the occasion with the use of the Village Hall recreation ground beacon. An email will be circulated to find a volunteer to coordinate this and to evaluate the practicalities and level of input and interest.

ACTION: CLERK/RN

It is noted that on November 2nd from 7-9pm there will be a talk at the Stokenchurch Community Library, given by Radnage residents Pat Sanders and Sally Prentice, who have traced the families of the soldiers of WW1 from Stokenchurch and the surrounds. Tickets are available from Cllr Wagstaff or from the library at a cost of £5 to include a glass of wine / juice.

13. Local Crime.

The incidents of crime in recent weeks, including breaks-ins, attempted break-ins and car crime, in and around the village, were discussed. The police have been seen in the village and have confirmed that investigations on recent cases is ongoing. Editorial from Thames Valley Police has been included in Contact, and it has been suggested that the village hall hosts an event to raise awareness and have possessions security marked. A date for this will be obtained and circulated.

ACTION: MW

14. Councillor Election / Co-option.

The Clerk confirmed that the search for candidates to fill the Casual Vacancies by Co-Option is ongoing. The vacancy continues to be advertised in Contact, on the website and via the noticeboards. 1 candidate is attending this meeting and the expression of interest noted.

15. BCC / TfB Devolution of Services 2019-2022.

Highway services such as grass cutting, hedge trimming, sign cleaning etc have been taken on by 86 of the 168 Parish & Town Councils but the current arrangements expire at the end of March 2019. BCC & the District Councils wish to pass responsibilities to local Parish Councils. Taking on the provision of services with the promise of funding, but without any guarantee as to the longevity of any funding, would be a concern. Cllr Nikiel & Cllr Wagstaff plan to attend one of the drop in sessions being offered by TfB during October to discuss this further.

ACTION: RN/MW

16. Polling Districts and Polling Places.

Wycombe District Council are undertaking a review of the provision of Polling Districts and Polling Places, to be completed ahead of the elections in 2019. The consultation period runs until October 29th 2018. Details have been circulated by the Clerk to all councillors requesting their response to this and a reminder will be sent ahead of the closing date.

ACTION: CLERK

17. Clerk's Matters – including late received correspondence.

- a) Notice has been received that Horseshoe Road will be closed 12th-14th November from 9.30am to 3.30pm for overhead cabling works by Openreach. This will be included on Radnage.net **ACTION: CLERK**
- b) Cllr Nikiel reports that RPC comments for the survey, undertaken by TfB to gather opinion on the service provided by the Local Area Technician (LAT) for the area, have been completed and submitted. The results of the survey will enable TfB to ensure that a similar improving standard is received across the service.
- c) The Parish Council are delighted to have been informed that David Salisbury of Radnage Raiders, who the Parish Council put forward for consideration at the Bucks & Milton Keynes Sport Awards, has been awarded a Highly Commended Certificate in the 'Community Coach of the Year' category. Thanks were extended to him for his hard work and contribution to sport and physical activity in the county.

18. Meetings 2019.

The Clerk previously circulated the proposed dates for meetings in 2019 which were agreed by all. Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month. The dates will be posted on the website and sent to the VH bookings clerk for the diary.

ACTION: CLERK

19. Forthcoming Meetings and attendees.

Recently attended meetings.

- Parish Liaison and TfB Conference Update - 26th September 6pm for 6.30pm
Councillors were unable to attend this event.
- WDALC Meeting - 27th September, WDC
Councillors were unable to attend this event.

To agree and approve attendance at any forthcoming meetings:

- AVDC Chairman's Quiz Night – 19th October 7pm
Councillors are unable to attend this event.
- B&MKALC (BALC) AGM - 9th November 7pm Aston Clinton – Cllr Nikiel & the Clerk will attend.
- BMKALC Training - Demystifying Planning – November 27th 10am – Cllr Wagstaff will attend.

20. Date of Next Meeting:

The next **Ordinary Meeting** of the Parish Council is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 14th November at 8pm**, to be held in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.10 hours

PUBLIC SESSION

A local resident spoke of his experience as one of those householders who has been a victim of the recent cases of burglary in the village, having his garage outbuilding broken into with the loss of a number of high quality, and expensive, tools. Lesser value items were not taken. He has been advised to install CCTV equipment. We are all minded to be extra vigilant and to consider what additional measures we can all take to keep our property and possessions safe.

A local resident highlighted a recent determination of a planning application which may be challenged on legal grounds. The council are aware of this case and will be included on the Agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.30 hours.

Chairman's Signature: Robert Nikiel

Date: 14th November 2018