

Old Buckenham Parish Council

MINUTES of meeting of the Old Buckenham Parish Council held on Thursday 1st July 2021 at 7:30pm at Old Buckenham Village Hall

Present: Councillors S Milner (SM)(Chair), A Joel (AJ), T Cook (TC), N Bailey (NB), M Farrington (MF)

In Attendance: R Noyes (Clerk), County Cllr S Askew

Also present: 5 members of the public

Minute		Action
21.07.01	Apologies for absence JH has resigned from the PC. Many thanks from everyone for the all the hard work he has put in to the Council over the years. SM will Chair this meeting. Will look at re-electing Chair at next meeting in September. BD and AN send their apologies.	
21.07.02	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2021 APPROVED (5 in favour)	
21.07.03	To receive reports of matters arising from those minutes: for update and information only None	
21.07.04	To record declarations of interests not already recorded in the current Members' Register of Interests None	
21.07.05	Financial Matters Community account balance: £30,050.77 Included in above is £500.00 OBVH loan repayment. AGAR forms submitted to external auditors before due date. Payments for approval: R Noyes (salary & expenses): £211.50 Gemini (fee & expenses): £271.99 Crispin de Boos (audit): £35.00 L Gedge (comm car): £141.95 NALC books: £8.99 PWL Services (various maintenance work): £594.76 Breckland Mowers (service): £266.00 J Frost (Comm Car): £11.80 TOTAL: £1541.99 APPROVED (5 in favour)	
21.07.06	Public Participation relating to agenda items only 3PL/2020/0578/O Appeal: a resident wanted to highlight the many issues with this application and appeal. They felt strongly that the PC should not approve the document up for approval due to its major differences with the original design and should be a new application. The resident also highlighted that this new documentation was only brought to public attention because they found it and highlighted the issue to the Planning Inspectorate. They had also personally organised a full traffic survey of the road which showed the majority of cars speeding as they travelled towards Attleborough, which contradicts the information in the original official traffic survey which was completed during Lockdown. - A resident highlighted the poor condition of the Recreation Area grass, which had grown too long to play football on and urged action to get it cut ASAP.	

	• A resident explained that they had tried and failed to request a road sweeper to clean the road outside the new development on Fen St as it had been left in a poor state. A drain was also blocked outside the new bungalow with mud etc. RN and S Askew to investigate. • A resident also explained that they were concerned that the new development on Fen St was slightly different to the original plan and had left a large plot of land on the end. RN to contact Breckland Planning to query.	RN RN
21.07.07	To consider planning applications and to receive Breckland District Council's decisions made on any planning applications received before the meeting: (All planning applications are available for viewing on the Breckland District Council planning portal – www.breckland.gov.uk/article/2933/Search-Planning-Applications - Parish Councillors have been asked by the chairman to view the new applications in advance of the meeting) a) New Planning Applications i)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0823/HOU PROPOSAL: Ground floor extension to rear/side of property and roof top extension partially within retained roof space to create an additional second floor of accommodation. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Albemarle House The Green APPLICANT: Mr and Mrs Charvonina No objections. Propose to support APPROVED (5 in favour) ii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0759/F and 3PL/2021/0760/LB PROPOSAL: Proposed single storey link extension to rear of property with entrance porch canopy and insertion of dormer window to form fire escape at second floor level to rear roof elevation. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: The Gamekeeper Public House The Green APPLICANT: Mr D Lohan No objections. Propose to support APPROVED (4 in favour, 1 abstain) iii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0908/F PROPOSAL: New cabin to replace existing poly tunnel for fitness and well-being centre LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Old Buckenham Country Park Doe Lane APPLICANT: Old Buckenham Country Park No objections. Propose to support APPROVED (5 in favour) iv) REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0742/F PROPOSAL: Change of use from agricultural building to office use. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Scales Farm APPLICANT: J A Askew & Partners No objections. Propose to support APPROVED (4 in favour, 1 abstain) v)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0830/O PROPOSAL: Erection single storey dwelling and two bay cart lodge (self build) LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Rear of 41 Hargham Road APPLICANT: Mr Mike Barnard Previously objected to development of this site. Cllrs felt there was not a sufficient entrance	

	to the property. It is also located opposite a difficult junction with Fen St, which could cause problems. Propose to Object APPROVED (5 in favour) vi)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0947/HOU PROPOSAL: Single storey side and rear extensions LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: 42 Fen Street APPLICANT: J. A. Askew & Partners Cllrs were very concerned about yet more construction traffic on Fen St which has tested residents' patience recently. A full Traffic Management Plan (TMP) would be required in order to keep the road clear and clean at all times. Propose to support, subject to an approved TMP APPROVED (5 in favour) vi)APPEAL Site Address: OLD BUCKENHAM - Land west of Attleborough Road, north of the prop East View Description of development: Outline application for 5 residential dwellings Application reference: 3PL/2020/0578/O Appeal reference: APP/F2605/W/20/3264207 Appeal start date: 12th February 2021 The PC has been asked whether a new document, showing a new design for the development, should be accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. This document has only come to light after being highlighted by a member of the public, who has also sought a new traffic survey (see 21.07.06). The PC have only been given 1 week to provide feedback and needs to be submitted by midday on the 2nd July. Propose to object on the grounds that there are such significant differences to the original that it should be a new Planning Application. The new traffic survey data shows the true dangers of the road and the public should be given the opportunity to see all this new information in a new application. APPROVED (5 in favour). RN to submit report to Planning Inspectorate. b) Planning Decisions by Breckland Council The following applications have now been considered and the applications have been APPROVED. i)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0634/F PROPOSAL: Change of use of consultation osteopath clinic with 1 bedroom flat to one residential dwelling. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Laurel Tree Centre The Green APPLICANT: Julie Reynolds CASE OFFICER: Matthew Blackie ii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2020/1500/F and 3PL/2020/1501/LB PROPOSAL: Convert the existing barn into one dwelling to include the demolition of adjoining existing hen house and erection of side extension and the creation of a new access. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: West View Farm, The Green APPLICANT: The Cousins iii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0681/HOU PROPOSAL: The removal of the existing conservatory to the rear of the dwelling	RN
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	with a new single-storey extension and a new two-storey extension to the front of the dwelling. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: 45 Fen Street APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs Jody Barford CASE OFFICER: Richard Laws The following applications have now been considered and the applications have been REFUSED i)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0570/F PROPOSAL: To convert Clay Lump Barn to residential dwelling LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Westward The Green APPLICANT: Mr Andrew Bloom CASE OFFICER: Tom Donnelly	
21.07.08	Two Wheel Tuesday Complaint Breckland DC have been notified and are investigating if there have been any breaches of COVID rules. Need full report in order to make informed decisions. Will discuss at next meeting, if it is still appropriate. Also received complaints about noise and parking around village. RN to look up original agreement regarding rules including marshalling. SM will talk Ox and Plough owners regarding speed and noise.	RN SM
21.07.09	Working Parties Organisation and Participation With resignation of JH, the PC is down to 7 Cllrs. Would like to have a big push on recruitment for next meeting and the issue of Working Parties organisation will then be addressed once there are more Cllrs. All Cllrs to encourage residents to consider being a part of the PC. Push subject on website, Facebook and in Village Magazine. Will organise and print a leaflet that will be delivered to every resident. Hold co-opt interviews at next meeting on September 2nd. (MF had to leave meeting early)	SM
21.07.10	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Proposal from Green Working Party to consider planting of trees to mark the event. Will hold Village meeting in order to gather lots of ideas of ways to celebrate including any tree planting. Will decide on an overall, cohesive plan after this meeting.	
21.07.11	Handyman/Grass Cutting John Fernihough (GWP) has proposed a couple for small village maintenance jobs including strimming around signs, benches etc. They have experience of similar work and will work at the same rate of £12.50/hr. There may be a larger amount of work required initially but then will be about 1 days work a month going forward. John would also manage them and the work required. They also have the relevant Insurance in place. Propose to accept proposed workers APPROVED (4 in favour) The Recreation Ground is in urgent need of cutting. AN has proposed (via email) that S Barker has previously cut it and could do so again. May require several cuts initially but will then be cut once a month after that. Propose to accept APPROVED (4 in favour)	
21.07.12	Reports: a) Chairman's Report None b) Clerk's Report - Hargham Rd will be closed to traffic on 14th/15th July at junction with Ley's Lane. - Bill Wardman memorial bench will be installed outside Almshouses on Thursday 8th July. - A couple of queries about Welcome Pack that had been made by the PC. RN to go	

	through and update any information and ask residents to notify the PC of any new neighbours that will require it. - Concerns received about the oak trees on Hargham Rd by new development site and whether they need to have Tree Protection Orders. RN to email Breckland Tree Officer to enquire about the process. - Query received about whether Ragg's Lane is an official footpath and if not, how to adopt it. Enquiry was passed to TC. The Parish Councillor was being advised by the Countryside Access Officer. The Officer could not find the relevant documentation and came to the conclusion that the relevant documentation was not available online. Therefore, the advice to the Councillor was to contact the Legal Orders and Register Team. This has been undertaken but no response has been received. - Planning Application 3PL/2021/0544/PIP has gone to the Planning Committee on 5th July. The PC can send a representative to speak. The PC decided it was not required. c) Green Working Party (GWP) GWP meetings have resumed. Reports of these meetings will be attached to PC minutes. Proposed Jubilee tree planting discussed in 21.07.10 d) Road Safety SAM Sign moved. Slight issues with the programme producing graphs. e) Play Area - Old Tractor removed by P Little - Meeting with Playdale on Wednesday 7th July on site to ensure everything is ready. - New Tractor to be installed on week of 12th July by Playdale. Exact date will be provided week before. RN will publicise closure of the Play Area on this date. f) Recreation Area See 21.07.11 above regarding grass cutting. g) Councillors Reports S Askew: - PPS work outside High School for footpath and flashing signs still on track for completion over Summer Holidays. - Grass has been cut on Puddledock Corner to help drivers visibility. Will receive second cut. - Chasing up pothole work and any new street signs that are required. AJ: - Reports of rat poison around allotments but none found when visited. - There have been some break ins to sheds recently and some damage. Have been reported to police. TC: Meeting took place between 3 Highways representatives, 2 NCC reps (1 from Trusts Estates and Infrastructure and 1 from Children's Services), 2 reps from Sapientia Trust, County Councillor, 2 Village Hall reps, 1 Primary School Parent rep and 1 joint Parish Council and Village Hall Rep to discuss the condition and responsibility of the road that leads to the Primary School and VH. After much discussion, it was concluded that the Sepientia Trust were responsible for its maintenance and would need to arrange repair work. NCC still need to ascertain who has responsibility for the ditch at the side of the access road. When the Sapientia Trust have made further enquiries into parking and traffic measures they will be feeding back. NB: 16 Scarecrows signed up so far, however some still to return paperwork. Reminder that trail takes place 24th July till 7th August. - Have made good progress on posters and information for phone box. Have contacted GWP for help with information about tree and flower species found	RN RN
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	on Green. Have completed information about Windmill and Green. Airfield and General History of the Village to be included too.	
21.07.13	To consider items for next agenda None	
21.07.14	To confirm date of next Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 2nd September 2021 at 7.30pm to be held at Old Buckenham Village Hall Confirmed. Please note that there is no meeting in August.	

Old Buckenham Parish Council Green Working Party (GWP)

Report to the full Parish Council & Green Right Proprietors

June 2021

Objectives

Maintain the Green and keep it safe & attractive with defined areas for general amenity, recreation and conservation

Improve key features such as grass, ponds, tracks & paths over time

Engage with the Village – both in terms of meeting their wants & needs and getting local people involved with the work and conservation

Resource - use PC funding & ceded GRP income judiciously – obtain grant funding and sponsorship wherever possible

Actions completed and proposed since last report (linked to objectives)

- **Maintain - Main Green - Mowing:** Green has been cut (16th June). An area in the middle of the main part of the Green has been left long to allow wildflowers to continue flowering and set seed. The second and final cut of the year will be in the Autumn. John Fernihough has kindly been mowing the paths to ensure even areas where the grass is long will still be accessible – and attending to areas close to new tree plantings where the larger machinery was not used.
- **Improve – Trees:** Last November, Working Party members planted 80 trees supplied by NWT using the planting plan suggested by NWT and previously reported (see August 2020 report for full details including maintenance). 20 Oak trees went into the existing ancient woodland (from the junction with Mill Road along the South side - opposite the Hovis House and 30 each Field Maple and Hornbeam in two areas on the Pound and opposite the Gamekeeper. Using an auger to prepare holes for the saplings seems to have paid off and the trees appear to be growing well.
- **Engage:** Many residents have expressed an interest in tree planting on the Green and thinking ahead to the **Queen's platinum jubilee** next year, would the Parish Council like to consider a community tree planting activity – perhaps with residents sponsoring trees? The GWP suggest 25 new trees could be planted in the area South of the War Memorial and would be happy to provide a list of suitable species and designate areas for planting if anybody/a PC led group would like to organise the day.
- **Improve – Wildflower meadow:** There is a lot of interest from residents in designating part of the Green as a wildflower meadow. The GWP have taken advice and propose the following plan:
 - Designate & mark out a rectangular area of approx. 30m x 50m on the West side of the main Green
 - Harrow the area with a heavy-duty harrow
 - Sow seed before Christmas 2021
 - Mow in late March/early April if required
 - Mow again after mid-July and remove cut grass (not part of main green mowing schedule)
 - Mow with rest of green in Autumn but remove cut grass from the wildflower area (spinner & wind dry)

- Cost to PC (from Green budget) approximately £300 for seed – perhaps also some marker posts and fuel for equipment used.
- Expand the area in future years if successful
- **Maintain – Handyman maintenance:** The periodic general maintenance (strimming around ponds, benches, parking bays etc. has not been completed as promised. This activity was very successfully undertaken in the past - greatly enhancing the appearance and use of the Green and complimenting the other investment of time and finances by the PC and GWP. The GWP ask the PC to seriously consider reinstating the regular handyman contract to keep up this valuable work.
- **Engage:** A resident has proposed planting a wildflower meadow on the green outside the properties to the West of the shop – planting and maintenance at property owners' expense – supported by the GWP.
- **Engage:** The next litter-pick will be in September – date TBC.

Work in progress

- **Improve – Trees:** Working party member met with the Breckland Tree Officer recently who gave advice on trimming and pollarding. A costed maintenance plan will be proposed to the PC in due course.
- **Maintain – Ponds:** WP is aware of weed encroaching on Rod Alley Pond – if it does eventually need to be removed, a hired machine with a scoop likely to be required.
- **Engage – Green Information:** WP is considering information about the green which might be included in the village phone box – in particular, the list of plants and flowers is being updated (thanks to Susan Hunter). Trails/searches for children, pictures of ecology and wildlife and a map of key sites around the Green are other proposals to consider. WP members, another Councillor and NWT are working together on these).
- **Tree close to war memorial:** PC advised/approved (January) Breckland Tree Officer suggestion to plant some replacement trees, more hardwood varieties, and in 8/10 years fell the large tree which could threaten the memorial. WP will consult interested parties and research further.

Specific agenda items for discussion/approval at next Parish Council meeting

1. Consider whether a PC Group would like to organise a Platinum Jubilee tree planning event as noted above.
2. Please consider reinstating the regular handyman contract to keep up the valuable work of strimming around ponds, benches, parking bays etc. which was very successfully undertaken in the past - greatly enhancing the appearance and use of the Green.

Next Green Management Working Party meeting – September 2021 date and venue TBA.

Reminder: Green Working Party email address is greenworkinggroup@gmail.com