

Old Buckenham Parish Council

MINUTES of meeting of the Old Buckenham Parish Council held on Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Present: Councillors J Hicks (JH)(Chair), S Milner (SM), A Joel (AJ), T Cook (TC), A Nicholls (AN), N Bailey (NB)

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

Also present: 3 members of the public

Minute		Action
21.05.01	A minutes silence was held in memory of ex-Parish Councillor Terry Cracknell who recently passed away. Election of Chair and Vice Chair JH elected Chair (5 in favour, 1 abstain) SM elected Vice Chair (5 in favour, 1 abstain)	
21.05.02	Apologies for absence MF sends his apologies. BD absent.	
21.05.03	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2021 APPROVED (4 in favour, 1 abstain) SM lost connection and was unable to vote.	
21.05.04	To receive reports of matters arising from those minutes: for update and information only None	
21.05.05	To record declarations of interests not already recorded in the current Members' Register of Interests None	
21.05.06	Financial Matters a) Financial Report Bank balance £40,191.69 Includes monies received from Breckland DC £11,155 and VAT claim £1,095.99. b) Payments to be approved R Noyes (salary & expenses) £240.28 R Curtis (comm car) £52.60 Gemini (fee & post) £202.55 Norris & Fisher (insurance) £554.32 D Kessler (comm car) £112.95 TOTAL: £1162.70 APPROVED (5 in favour)	
21.05.07	Public Participation relating to agenda items only None	
21.05.08	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/2021/0500/O PROPOSAL: Outline Planning Application for 5no. Dwellings.	

	LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Coal Storage Yard Road From Stacksford Lane To Hargham Road Old Buckenham APPLICANT: Mr Nigel Larkins Cllrs highlighted that the proposed plot is situated on a single track road with difficult and dangerous junctions at either end. It is also outside the settlement boundary and has the potential to result in the loss of a large amount of hedgerow. The proposed dwellings are mainly bungalows and would provide greater variety to the demographic of properties being built in the village. The main concern was that of road safety and how increasing the number of vehicles on this road could potentially result in an increase in accidents. Highways have not yet submitted their comments but Councillors were keen to see their opinion and whether any improvements would be suggested in order to make junctions safer. Propose to ask for an extension in order to see Highways comments and any potential improvements APPROVED (5 in favour) ii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0544/PIP PROPOSAL: Permission in Principle for a New Self Build Single Storey Residential dwelling for a disabled person (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Permission in Principle) (Amendment) Order 2017). LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Land at Poplar Farm Fen Road Old Buckenham APPLICANT: Mr Des Hunt Previous applications have been rejected by both OBPC and Breckland DC. Is on a narrow single track lane and is situated on a corner. Propose to object APPROVED (5 in favour) on the grounds of road safety. iii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0570/F PROPOSAL: To convert Clay Lump Barn to residential dwelling LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Westward The Green APPLICANT: Mr Andrew Bloom Cllrs had no objections with the proposed plans. Propose to support APPROVED (4 in favour, 1 abstain) on the condition that guidance on historic buildings is adhered to. b) Planning Decisions by Breckland Council The following applications have now been considered and the applications have been APPROVED. i)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0271/HOU PROPOSAL: Proposed garage extension to rear to provide workshop area. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: 22 Oaklands Old Buckenham APPLICANT: Mr P Reed CASE OFFICER: Sandra Bunning ii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0272/LB PROPOSAL: Replacement of structurally damaged roof timbers (including removal, storage and reuse of roof tiles) and associated repair works where necessary. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: The Gamekeeper Public House The Green APPLICANT: Mr D Lohan CASE OFFICER: Richard Laws	
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	iii)REFERENCE: 3PL/2021/0327/HOU PROPOSAL: Creation of first floor addition to existing single storey annexe which is part of main dwelling. LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Downmore Farm House Banham Road Old Buckenham APPLICANT: Mr Chris Kerry CASE OFFICER: Sandra Bunning The following applications have now been considered and the applications have been REFUSED. i)REFERENCE: 3PN/2021/0013/UC PROPOSAL: Prior Approval for Change of use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling (permitted development) The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Roughlands Farm Grove Road Old Buckenham APPLICANT: Mr R Richards CASE OFFICER: Naomi Minto ii)REFERENCE:3PL/2021/0091/F PROPOSAL: Erection of a 24.46m high radar tower and associated comms cabin (portakabin) LOCATION: OLD BUCKENHAM: Part of Anglian Water Drilling Unit site Abbey Road Old Buckenham APPLICANT: Hickman & Smith Architects Thanks to Cllr S Askew, AN and resident Alison Gilmore who spoke at Breckland Planning Committee regarding the Radar Tower Application. The clear facts were supported with passion and heart from everyone. The PC agreed that it was also a great example of a community making a stand and working together, from the residents up to the local MP.	
21.05.09	Working Parties Please see attached	
21.05.10	Tree Work on Green Green Working Party members met with Breckland Tree Officer to conduct a survey of all trees on the Green and any potential work required. Report was submitted to the PC asking what work the PC wanted to do. Cllrs struggled to make a decision as there was no detailed quotes comparing the price of completing all work now versus spread out over a time period. The PC also wanted a clear proposal, detailing what work was to be completed when. The PC were also aware that they have spent a significant amount of money in the last few years on tree maintenance and wanted to understand how much of the GWP budget remained. RN to request detailed quotes and proposals from GWP and a balance sheet update for their 5 year budget plan. Propose to set aside £1000 in budget for the PC to use for emergency tree work APPROVED (5 in favour)	RN
21.05.11	Playground a) Tractor The playground tractor is in a poor state of repair and, despite being repaired many times, now needs replacing. Quote from Playdale for new tractor and tunnel trailer is £5,205 +VAT. This includes delivery, removal and disposal of rubbish and installation. Grants may be available but it could take a long time to get and tractor needs replacing urgently, as it could	

	cause potential failure of Inspection. Propose to order tractor and enquire about delaying inspection until after tractor is replaced APPROVED (4 in favour, 1 abstain) b) Fundraising Due to the high maintenance costs of the playground, the PC have decided to look at fundraising ideas for the tractor and any future maintenance. NB suggested the idea of a scarecrow trail around the village, which villagers could pay to enter and sell maps, with a prize for the winner. Suggestion of having an Olympics theme and holding 23rd July – 8th August (during Olympics). NB to organise.	RN NB
21.05.12	Reports: a) Chairman's Report None b) Clerk's Report Resident contacted PC with concerns regarding traffic on Hargham Rd during SUE construction. Have emailed Breckland for confirmation that road will not be used and they have said that a Traffic Management Plan is currently being drawn up for Phase 1 for approval, which we will be consulted on. c) Green Working Party (GWP) GWP have sent report providing summary of the Green, the GWP and annual maintenance. Please see attached. d) Road Safety SAM sign moved to Attleborough road. Still having IT issues to analysing data but working on it. Will look at setting up Community Speed Watch group soon. e) Play Area • All playground bins to be emptied by Serco. There was some confusion about how many they were supposed to empty but clarified now. • Toddler swings replaced and concrete ground down after being notified by resident of trip hazard. f) Recreation Area Fence to be removed so that it is safe. Donation of 300 laurel plants offered from Besthorpe Garden Centre. Will look to plant in September. g) Councillors Reports Cllr Askew: - PPS on track for work to be completed during summer holidays - Grove Road pot holes filled in - Mill Road to Hargham Road pot holes filled in - One may have been missed, will chase up AN: The PC should highlight the work involved and success of preventing the Weather Radar tower from being built in the village. RN to write article for Village Newsletter.	RN
21.05.13	To consider items for next agenda AGAR forms	
21.05.14	To confirm date of next Parish Council meeting to be held on Thursday 3rd June 2021 at 7.30pm to be held at Old Buckenham Village Hall. Information regarding attendance in a Covid safe manner to follow Confirmed	

**Old Buckenham Parish Council
Working Parties 2021**

Personnel Committee: Steve Milner, Ben Devlin, Mike Farrington

Play Area Working Party: Jonn Hicks, Naomi Bailey, Kerry Talbot (resident).

Recreation Area Working Party: Jonn Hicks, Andy Nicholls.

SNAP: Steve Milner.

Old Buckenham Village Hall: Terry Cook

Allotments: Adrian Joel

OBPC website: Steve Milner, Rachel Noyes.

Old Buckenham Green Rights: Andy Nicholls.

Almshouses Trust: Ben Devlin.

Village Green Working Party: Andy Nicholls, Adrian Joel, Sarah Dye (Green Right Proprietor), Allison Frank (Green Right Proprietor), Lord of the Manor, John Fernihough (resident)

Eleemosynary Trust: Jonn Hicks.

Neighbourhood Plan: Steve Milner, Ben Devlin, John Hicks, Adrian Joel, Mike Farrington, Terry Cook, Andy Nicholls, Naomi Bailey

Public Rights of Way (PROW): Steve Milner, Terry Cook

School Liaison Officer: Naomi Bailey

The Green and the Green Working Party (GWP)

THE GREEN

Total of 42 acres, 7 woodland 39 rough grassland, ponds and tracks.

It is leased by the PC for about 25 years, from The Lord of the Manor and the Green Rights Proprietors

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

In accordance with the provisions of the Lease the committee comprises two Green Rights Proprietors, Representative of Lord of the Manor, two members of the PC and two parishioners.

FUNDING

The only income from the Green is about £500 from wayleaves (for electricity poles), £550 payment from Ox and Plough for Green usage, and a further payment (amount to be agreed) from The Gamekeeper for usage of the forecourt of the business. This totals just over £1000.

The GWP has an allocation of £3000 per year from the PC to spend on maintenance such as mowing and tree work, with any proposed spending over £200 to be agreed by the PC.

MAINTENANCE

GRASS

The Green is mown twice yearly and the grass under the trees annually.

The grass has no value, due to the poor quality, weed burden etc and contamination with soil from the multiple moles. There is also some rubbish contamination.

The cut grass is left to dry out, due to the cost of removing and disposing of it, as it is valueless.

Every year we look at the environmental issues, there are those who do not want the Green mown at all, some want it mown once, in July, and others who would like to see it mown monthly.

We take a pragmatic view and mow it twice a year. This year we are to leave a large central part of the main Green unmown until the autumn (mown once to encourage wild flower growth etc) but will undertake to mow footpaths through the long grass for the community to use.

The cost of the mowing will be £1000, covered by the Green income, as above.

TREES

Tree management has been an expensive item but we seem to be on top of it now, no trees blew over in this winter's gales etc.

We have just completed a tree survey with the Breckland DC Tree officer, to identify any trees at risk and will propose a management plan for the next few years.

Eighty "new" trees were planted last autumn at no cost to the PC

PATHS & PONDS

All that fall within the Green are in reasonable order, no spending envisaged.

We usually organise a village litter pick to remove rubbish etc but difficult at this moment!

Because of the Pandemic we have not had a meeting since last August, but the management continues at a distance