



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th June 2023
The Village Hall, Dinton**

Present: Cllrs O’Driscoll (Chairman), Usherwood, Vane, Cottman, Heath & White
31 Members of the Public Cllr A Waite (Bucks Council)

In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Vane made a record of the decisions of the Council.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and explained the process for public participation.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies for absence notified to the Chairman or Clerk
RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr Lamkin (prior commitment).

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest
To grant any requests for pecuniary declaration dispensation as appropriate

- No declarations made and no dispensations requested.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 9th May 2023 (Annual Meeting of the Council)

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 9th May as a true record.

4. Clerk’s Report

To receive a report from the Clerk on matters dealt with and taking forward for the parish council. No report given.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to adjourn the meeting to receive questions from the public and receive any reports/questions from cllrs on matters relating to council business.

5. Questions from the public & any reports/questions from Councillors on matters not already listed on the agenda.

- Parishioner raised the matter of a fence which had been erected alongside his property adversely affecting the view. He maintained that this was a vindictive act as a form of ‘punishment’. It seems this was a long-running dispute. The owner of the property, who had erected the fence was present. Accusations were made about commercial lessons being given and the erection of a light, both contrary to the planning consent. The parishioners present supported the complaints and there was a strong feeling that the views in and out of the Conservation Area had been adversely affected. There was a strong plea from an adjacent property owner for the fence to be removed as it had destroyed their views. There were further allegations of harassment with the

police being involved and it was stated that a crime number had been raised. This was news to all present. The owner of the property advised that they had been concerned about stalking and this was why the fence was erected. The parishioner owning the property was recording the discussion (not visually).

The owner advised that mediation had been offered to the principal complainant but this had not been taken up. Specifically, the owner made accusations, at the meeting, that poisonous plants had been planted and also that stalking by her neighbour was a serious issue.

The Chairman confirmed that the PC had no powers to intervene in domestic issues and the meeting was not the appropriate forum for the discussions of this nature and there was no purpose served by debating the issues now.

The Chairman asked if the planning authorities had been approached which would be the correct process. He further asked whether Cllr Ashley Waite (Buckinghamshire Council Member for the parish) could investigate the concerns raised about possible impact on the Conservation Area status and the possible adverse effects. Cllr Waite advised that the normal process would involve Planning, Heritage and Enforcement procedures. However, the emotion of the issue must be separated from the planning facts and whether there was a breach of regulations.

Cllr Waite asked for any correspondence from parishioners, photographs or other information in support of the complaints to be sent to him.

A parishioner suggested that the mediation route was the best option using a professional mediator. The existence of a police crime number should also be followed up.

- A parishioner raised the continuing problem of the footpath from Boot Lane to the old scout field which had been in a bad state of repair for some years. This was a hazard to school children as it was the main footpath to the school from the village. Nettles and brambles were also causing problems on the path between the old scout field and the Biggin Field.
- Following on from the query raised by the parishioner, the matter of responsibility for maintaining footpaths was discussed. Landowners were responsible and The Rights of Way Officer should be involved. The more important issue related to those who blocked footpaths.

The Clerk to be asked to write to the owners of the field from the old scout field to the Biggin Field requesting them to clear the footpath of overgrown vegetation.

- The sewage outflow near Hartwell Nurseries was discussed. 146 instances had been recorded and the contamination flowed into the stream running through Ford village.

The Clerk to write a letter of complaint and concern to Thames Water, copied to the local MP. [Cllr A Waite advised that Greg Smith should follow this up with a separate letter to Thames Water]

- Cllr A Waite (Bucks Council) asked if the road situation had improved or worsened. The consensus was that the state of the roads has got worse. Cllr

Waite reported that the number of repair teams had been increased from 6/7 to 13 so the situation should improve. Fix My Street was still the organisation to contact.

- Cllr Waite reported that the problems at Pond Cottage were not yet resolved but it seemed this had been badly handled by Bucks Council and he was hopeful the outcome would be to the applicant's benefit.
- Other matters covered included the Food Bank collections, Lending Library of Things, proposed new cycle routes under Bucks LCWIP from Thame to Haddenham and also to Cuddington. Cllr Usherwood asked that the Parish Council be kept in the loop with regard to the cycle route proposals.
- Cllr Waite raised the question of a Neighbourhood Plan. This would provide protection for the Parish although councillors were sceptical about this. There is a fund available from DLUHC to support the proposal.
- Progress on the Solar Farm at Ford was discussed. Cllr Waite advised that 98% of applications nationally had been approved. This suggested that the application at Ford was likely to go through.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to re-convene the meeting under Standing Orders

6. Finances and Orders for Payment

RESOLVED: To agree the following orders and retrospective orders for payment presented by the RFO and/or Clerk.

• S J Unwin	Grant – Coronation Party	£150.00	101181
• Playsafety	RoSPA - Playground	£94.20	101182
• MRA Garden Services	Grass cutting	£1,185.00	101183

RESOLVED: To Receive, accept and agree, the monthly Finance Report from the Finance Officer/RFO

7. Roads & General Maintenance

Any specific matters for discussion relating to road maintenance concerns raised with the County Council and other stakeholders.

RESOLVED: To note the discussion in the public forum part of the meeting.

8. Parish Notice Board

To receive designs and costs and to consider the purchase of a suitable notice board for Upton. Cllr Lamkin was not present at the meeting so no further discussion could take place.

RESOLVED: Unable to proceed as Cllr Lamkin not present with the relevant information or proposal.

9. Planning Enforcement

To consider the issues and concerns around the enforcement needed from the Planning Department for specific planning applications

Bigstrup Farm, Dinton: Conversion and restoration of redundant barns to create an Outreach Education Centre and Wedding Venue and alterations to Wychert and Byre Barn to provide self-catering accommodation.

The Bigstrup appeal had been lost but the complex was still operating on a ‘temporary licence’ basis. Those likely to be most affected were keeping a close watch on the situation

10. Spinney Maintenance / Tidy Up

To consider any proposals for works to be carried out in the Spinney.

The Chairman advised that he would be meeting Alan Floy, the appointed tree warden, to view the spinney and discuss proposals particularly the clearance of ivy.

11. RoSPA Playground Report

To consider any works required from the report.

A specialised playground repair company wanted £250 just to attend and look at what needed doing. Some maintenance had been undertaken to keep equipment safe but further maintenance was required. The position on the name Plaques to be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That these matter be looked at urgently and relevant decisions be made.

12. Parish Charter Survey

As part of Buckinghamshire Council’s commitment to work together to serve the people of Buckinghamshire, they want to better understand what is currently working well, and not so well, for parish and town councils, 3 years since the launch of Buckinghamshire Council.

Buckinghamshire Council have adopted a Town and Parish Charter to articulate and demonstrate their commitment to work together to serve the people of Buckinghamshire and have developed an action plan to help embed the charter, and its aims across the council. To help ensure that its delivery is monitored, and any arising issues addressed, it is important for them to hear from Parish and Town Councils.

Before completing the survey please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the Town and Parish Charter:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/parish-town-and-boundary-information/town-and-parish-charter/>

The survey is live as of today **Monday 22nd May 2023**. Please tell us your views by midnight on **Sunday 16th July 2023**.

RESOLVED: This was to be reviewed outside the meeting by councillors and any comments to be submitted by mid-July (**16th July**).

13. Planning Applications

To receive, comment and to either object, support or oppose the following planning applications. To accept and consider late applications presented by the Clerk.

To note any applications (decisions made and to be made) delegated to Councillors.

- **23/01552/APP** **The Spinney, Burgess Lane, Ford**
Householder application for Dwarf wall greenhouse
RESOLVED: No Objection

- **23/01553/APP** **The Spinney, Burgess Lane, Ford**
Householder application for replacement of 5 bar
wooden driveway gate with 5 bar metal driveway gate
RESOLVED: No Objection

- **23/01753/APP** Applefield, Gibraltar. Application to replace existing garage with larger 2 door garage.
RESOLVED: No Objection
- **23/01721/APP** Dinton Lodge, Dinton. Application to replace existing extension with new conservatory/orangery.
RESOLVED: No Objection

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Signed: _____ Date: _____