



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm
On Tuesday 25th May 2021 in the Village Hall, Dinton**

Present: Cllrs Usherwood, Horn, Vane, O'Driscoll and Heath
K Gray (Clerk to the Council)

2 residents

Cllr M Caffrey (Bucks Council)

M Dunton (Ford Village Society)

C Lambert (Bucks Herald)

The Chairman asked for a minutes silence in respect of the recent death of John Owen, a resident and former parish councillor of the parish.

1. Election of Chairman of the Council

To elect a Chairman for the term of one year

The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Proposed by Cllr Horn and Seconded by Cllr Vane that Cllr Martin Usherwood be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that Cllr Martin Usherwood be Chairman of the Parish Council.
The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies for absence notified to the Chairman or Clerk

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies of absence from Cllr Heath (prior commitment)

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest

To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

- No declarations made or dispensations requested.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: To accept and sign the minutes of 13/4/21 as a true record.

5. Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the term of one year.

Proposed by Cllr Horn and Seconded by Cllr Usherwood that Cllr Dick O'Driscoll be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that Cllr Dick O'Driscoll be Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

6. Clerk's Report

To receive a report from the Clerk on matters dealt with and taking forward for the parish council.

- The clerk informed council that he will arrange for the internal audit to be carried out.

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

7. Questions from the public & any reports from Councillors or questions not on the agenda.

- Cllr Mick Caffrey (newly elected Buckinghamshire Councillor) introduced himself to the parish council and was welcomed by the Chairman.
- Chloe Lambert asked if the parish council would consider planting a tree in memory of John Owen who had been a parish councillor. She also thanked everyone for the community support taking place across the parish during the covid pandemic
- Cllr Vane reported that she had attended the Dinton Village Hall AGM and a report was given By Chris Vane who also attended the meeting. Various changes need to take place and discussion took place on the need for new committee members as well as an update on the governance of the village hall needing to be looked at in regards to the original 1928 Deed of Grant. Further discussions will need to take place regarding Trusteeship and Committee Management of the hall for the future.
- Cllr Horn raised the concerns the parish council have with the planning department and enforcement officers at Buckinghamshire Council (BC). A number of enforcement matters are still outstanding and this is causing a lot of frustration in the parish. Cllr Caffrey asked Cllr Horn to send him an email explaining the history of the problems and he will investigate further with BC officers. Cllr Horn also expressed concerns about the lack of BC Member involvement with the parish and asked Cllr Caffrey if all BC Ward members were intending to engage fully with the parish council on all matters relevant to us and especially the issues we have considerable concerns about. Cllr Caffrey assured the parish council that all 3 Bucks Council Members were committed to the parish and one of the 3 Members would make every effort to attend parish council meetings and assist the parish council.
Cllr Usherwood expressed concerns to Cllr Caffrey about the management, policy and procedures and structure of the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board and the opinion of the parish council that it is not as successful as stated by BC. The parish council wanted to see more community engagement from the board instead of constant presentations from BC and not enough discussions on matters related to and concerning parish councils and the communities they represent. Cllr Caffrey asked the parish council to give the new board some time to settle in and hopefully things would be different moving forward. Cllr Usherwood also pointed out the importance of the BC Parish Charter and that the parish council was looking forward to this being signed off by BC.
- Cllr O'Driscoll reported that the Dinton Cricket Club had started to use the parish field again, with approval from the parish council, for car parking on Friday nights and this was appreciated by the club. They have also been cutting the parish field grass as a way of thanking the parish council for the use of the field. He also reported that the Ramblers group had made representation to the parish council for a grant. The Chairman confirmed this was to be considered at the June meeting of the parish council. He also reported that a local farmer had recently had 9 sheep attacked by dogs and asked if another article could be put into the Bigg Issue about dogs needing to be kept on leads.
- Cllr Usherwood wished the minutes to show that it was totally unacceptable, and extremely difficult for many councillors, for parish councils to be forced back into community halls for face to face council meetings when the government were still having virtual meetings. The decision made by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet was not justifiable and could put many people into difficult situations regarding their own health.

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

8. Finances and Orders for Payment

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

Fairford Leys Centre	Remembrance Sunday Wreaths	£34.00	101001
Impact Signs	Playground Plaques	£17.48	101002
EoN	Parish Field Utilities	£9.14	101003
HMRC	Contributions	£1,057.09	101004

RESOLVED: To receive, and agree, the monthly finance report from the RFO

9. Outside Bodies, Organisations & Councillor Leads/Representatives

To agree the Parish Councillor Representatives to outside bodies/organisations

- **Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board** - Cllrs Usherwood, Horn & O'Driscoll
- **Cuddington & Dinton CofE School** Cllr Vane
- **Village Hall Committee** Cllrs Vane and Horn
- **Parish Public Footpaths / Bridleways** Cllr Heath
- **Parish Field & Spinney** Cllrs Horn and O'Driscoll
- **Devolved Services Agreement work** Cllr O'Driscoll
- **Roads & General Maintenance** All councillors
- **Community Led Plan** Cllrs Usherwood & Heath

10. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

The Council to review and approve its Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: That the current Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be approved.

11. Annual Internal & External Audits

Council to agree to the Internal Auditor appointment.

Proposed by Cllr Usherwood and Seconded by Cllr Horn that Mrs D Cole be appointed Internal Auditor for the parish council.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that Mrs D Cole be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the parish council and carry out the Annual Internal Audit.

12. General Powers of Competence

To resolve to take the powers of the General Powers of Competence and to agree that the Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility relating to its Electoral Mandate and Qualified Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Council meets the criteria and takes on the General Powers of Competence.

13. Code of Conduct

Councillors to agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as advised by Government/NALC/SLCC and administered by the Monitoring Officer of Buckinghamshire Council.

RESOLVED: That the council agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct administered by BC.

14. Policies and Risk Assessments

Council to review its Policies and Risk Assessments.

RESOLVED: That all current policies and risk assessments remain in place, unchanged.

15. Community Led Plan

To receive any updates on the plan.

RESOLVED: That there be a discussion on the work required for the Community Led Plan.

16. Safe Walking & Cycling Project

To discuss the proposals for a safe walking and cycling way from Thame to Stone which will go through Dinton and Upton. Cllr O'Driscoll to lead discussion with any updates from Buckinghamshire Council and information from the Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group.

Discussion took place on the necessity, works required, cost and impact on the local and wider community and the landscape this proposed project would have.

RESOLVED: That this project was not viable at the moment and certainly more information was needed before any support could be given to this project.

17. Co-option of Councillors

The Council to consider any applications for co-option or to further advertise and decide at the June meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That an article be placed in the Bigg Issue to ask that people consider applying.

18. Parish Newsletter

The Council to consider a request for news articles to be used in the Church Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED: That the clerk send information on parish council meeting dates and an advert for co-option to the parish council, to Cllr Vane who will forward to the editor of the parish/church newsletter.

19. Devolved Services

To receive any reports, if available, and agree any specific actions in relation to devolved services. Nothing specific to report.

20. Roads & General Maintenance

To receive any feedback (if required) on matters relating to road maintenance concerns raised with the County Council and other stakeholders.

It was noted that road conditions remain poor especially Upton road which is full of holes and some of the ditches have had cut hedging left in them causing flooding.

21. Planning Enforcement

Council to receive an update on the enforcement, by Buckinghamshire Council Planning Enforcement Officers, of specific planning breaches raised by the Parish Council.

1. Willow farm, Ford 20/00261/C0N3
2. Ford field, Main Road, Ford - 19/00304/C0N3
3. Land between Hare Folly and Westlington Cottage, Gibraltar, 15/00448/C0N3
4. Shepherds Hut, Gibraltar - 20/00456/C0NB

RESOLVED: Point 1 can be removed from the list and point 2 needs to be taken further by sending a complaint to the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED: Cllr Horn to provide a detailed written report to be sent to the Ombudsman and the clerk will inform Bucks Council Planning Department that the parish council wishes to take this complaint further.

RESOLVED: Cllr Caffrey to be sent a detailed report, by Cllr Horn, of the problems and concerns over items 3 and 4 and he will also discuss the matter with planning officers and report back to the parish council.

22. 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.

21/01383/APP

Plumtree Cottage, Dinton

RESOLVED: To formally approve the decision of the Council's Planning Working Group in the Objection to the proposals made in the variations of conditions for the above property and that the following comments were sent to the Planning Officer on the instructions of the Council.

The Parish Council objects to the proposed variation of conditions on several grounds.

1. The original application 19/00990 was agreed to by the parish council, and most residents, as it was thought to be sympathetic in appearance, scale, height and in keeping with the characteristics of the Conservation Area. The height of the then proposed cottage was noted to be in line with that of the previous cottage, which was in a poor state of repair including the thatch.
2. The original application 19/00990 was for a thatched cottage whose roof was of thatch and unspecified pitch. The type of thatch material was also unspecified.
3. The subsequent two submissions for variations of condition 3 (materials) in October and November 2020 were never sent to the Parish council for comment. Thus the alterations to the ridge, type of thatch, pitch of roof and consequent height were not subjected to scrutiny by the Parish council nor by village residents. The failure of the Planning Department to ensure that these variations were properly consulted upon is extremely regrettable.
4. The proposed variation of condition is at complete odds with local understanding of the original proposals compatibility to similar adjacent buildings and their height and pitch of roof. The new replacement cottage and its roof beams were thus built outwith the approval to 19/00990 and seems to have been done to accommodate the opinion of the thatcher rather any official guidance.
5. The material suggested in the variation is not in keeping with the type of thatch used on other properties in the conservation area i.e. not long straw. This is not in keeping with the advice given to other thatch owners and is seemingly to satisfy the nonlocal thatcher on the basis of a longer life for Norfolk reed.
6. The height of the North/South extension is grossly in excess of the original proposal. The 2.00m extra height will lead to reduced light for neighbouring properties and seem to accommodate a second floor: not in the original application.
7. The admission of error and fault by the architect in not following the original drawings is not compatible the Parish council and Community views as to what was initially acceptable and did not stop construction starting several months before variations were requested.

A revision of the requested new conditions is thus needed. The Parish Council firmly rejects the proposals of 21/01383. Our opinions are strongly supported by the large number of parishioners comments as per the planning portal.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the above objection be formally agreed.

- **21/01924/APP** **Rose Cottage Farm, Gibraltar, Dinton**
External alterations and proposed first floor and single rear extensions.
RESOLVED: To be discussed at the June meeting of the Council.

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____