
Filkins and Broughton Poggs Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd July 2008

Present: R. Martin, C. Bristow, K. Perry, P. Clark, M. Hambidge, T. Poole

24. *Apologies:*
None
25. *To Receive Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest:*
R. Martin declared an interest in discussion on Millennium Signpost
26. *Adjournment for Public:*
None
27. *To accept minutes of last meeting:*
Minutes were accepted and signed
28. *Matters arising from minutes:*
Bridge Cottage: sale appears to be going through. Clerk has consulted with S. Clarke on sale of land. They have asked if they can build a garage on the lay-by- this cannot be done as the land is under licence. . Payment will be made on completion, the offer was made so it could be purchased up to 6 months after the completion date but this should now be concurrent with the purchase of the house.
29. *Planning and Cemetery Committee:*
Furzey Hall Farm- modern plan granted.
Pear Tree Farm Barn- granted against advice
Pear Tree Farm- five units: refused. We must be pro-active if we wish something to happen and see if this can be granted another way. Not much liaison between developer and Council. The allotment site not being in the applications is an issue; also the offer to give more land to allotments at the rear of the development did not help the application. We should talk to planners and applicant and see if the parameters can be bent if we work together. Some local objection to live/work units maybe resolved with more detail. Can the social housing be anywhere else? Only other place is on B4477 at Gassons green. We have supported this application twice and it has failed as it is still outside the Local Plan. We do still need social housing; there are three steps we could take: approach Goodenough's, ORCC or WODC. ORCC could negotiate for us and find out what needs to happen to get this passed. OCC are asking for social housing but not with speculative. The only way forward maybe as a rural exception site but this will only involve LCH, infrastructure will not be paid for without speculative part. The housing association is probably in favour and the over all look of the plan is good. If the landowner is prepared to develop to include LCH, not under a Trust, we are not exceeding our powers to go to ORCC. Structure Plan is under review and goalposts may be changed. Worst scenario is the Structure Plan is accepted, the parameters move and speculative housing would be allowed.

We will write to ORCC Ref WODC application numbers- here is the site- lack of communication, see what can be done. This can also be copied to Cover Construction and Goodenough's.

Cemetery: Plastic flowers have been stopped at Langford what are our rules. We have no objection to plastic flowers.

30. *Centre Committee:*

Playground bark has now been laid 47 cu metres were needed. Note of thanks to Ian Grey for organising the team.

Macventure has also done work he was required to do.

Village Centre Flat- Confidential Item

31 *Treasurers Report:*

Cheque Paid List: This was distributed and approved.

Audit: Internal Audit was carried out by Mandy Scott. Only one item brought to our attention, Sleemans do not split their VAT on each invoice. Clerk has approached them and asked them to do this but it is difficult when the invoice is taken from the shop. She will ask if it can be done again. Clerk does check before payment if certain items include Vat or not.

Section 2: Annual Governance statement was read by Chairman and completed this was approved by the Council and signed. Section 1: Statement of Accounts was read and approved by the Council and duly signed by the Chairman.

Financial Regulations:

Clerk has re-drafted and circulated regulations. 11b £50k in draft from NALC is current with EU regulations. 6.1 Cash Payments: C Bristow cannot agree to this Clerk subsidises cash payments and reimbursed as in 6.5. This is OK at moment but if there is a new clerk this may not be acceptable. It is not possible to pay for postage etc with a cheque as it has to be signed by two councillors and the receipt is needed before the cheque can be signed. After re-draft can these be accepted? Wait until next meeting.

Village of the Year:

Two actions came from the meeting: a tree survey of the Parish and the Environmental Project. Ian Bailey is in touch with Nick Dalby at WODC and this is progressing. F. Cowburn, K. Perry, I Grey, N Hitchcock and L. White are planning a meeting with Ben Pollard from The Haven reference surveying the area at the top of Rouses lane. We need to find out what is there before we create anything new, also the community allotment suggested by R. Bailey may progress. This is the first step which will allow us to apply for grants elsewhere.

How will the groups report back? Who is responsible? Is it a group/village or Council project? It is a village project we have to be careful to facilitate proceedings but remain removed. Who makes the decisions? When they are ready to discuss decision we will hold a meeting with both groups and ourselves along with Nick Dalby if required.

Anti flood devices may also be combined with the Environment project. Ben Morley has been in contact with the Clerk and is willing to help where he can. There is also one villager who may contribute towards the cost.

S. Saunders ground works are starting to blend in and some snowdrops are back. Can we register the land? Is it likely that ECT will register the land? WE will ask Nick Owen to look into this and see if the land is registered to anyone. The stinging nettles

are very high at the moment C Maunder will be asked to cut them down also around the edge of the out house behind the flat,

32. *Flood Report:*

What do we want to take forward? What is likely to happen- clear drains in village- Clerk is trying to get this done now- ensure drains are not broken. We need to take a view on some items Nick Hands recommend kerb height lifted to 150mm, is this good idea- maybe done when repairing highway. We could make private recommendations with Broadwell Brook at the Mill and Peter Cooks, Cheveau's field and A361 where the water comes out of the arm and accumulates in the field and goes across the road. Bund should be put back by the landowner. N Hands recommends the field entrance be moved- we could approach landowners. The best way forward is to have a village meeting. We will deliver one copy to each household with a letter announcing the meeting date then we can decide as a village which options we want to prioritise. Councillors can decide before the meeting 4-5 priorities to start with; these maybe different from private individuals and must be achievable. The meeting will be in village hall on 28th July 7.30pm Councillors lists to Clerk by 12th July. Some that can be included: drainage through the village, Broughton Poggs Bridge, Balance Pond at Morley's, A361 culvert. We may be able to afford some jobs ourselves with the money we receive from the sale of Hardcastles field. The weight of opinion at village meeting may help us. Now Nick Hands has gone who will be co-ordinating the work. Street Scene will be taking this on. Can we clear ditches ourselves. Probably not. Need to ensure it is the right thing to do. Ditch survey was included in flood report work.

33. *Millennium Signpost:*

As agreed at the last meeting T Poole and K Perry have looked into history of the millennium signpost, and brought back the recommendation to the Council. Initial information reported on 3rd March was incomplete. The minute's state that £2600 was obtained from Hayes Palmer Trust this was for a signpost and bench, monies were to be split between the two- the files and minutes state there was no clear design at the time. The minute's reference states £564 for the wooden post. Hayes Palmer money has accrued interest and is now valued at £3242. £1256 was paid for the wooden signpost from Ray Holloway compared with the £564 estimate. There has been no invoice or payment made for a bench. Therefore there is £1968 left in the account from HPT. Invoice for stone work is £2253 plus VAT = £2647 therefore there is only £680 to be paid extra. VAT will be reclaimed at the end of the year. Both K. Perry and T. Poole recommend that the invoice is paid to enable the sign to be erected. In recommending this they wish to state that the standards have fallen short, no quotations were available and the Standing Orders and Financial regulations had not been met. There are limitations in the minutes which are inaccurate and incomplete; there is also no record of prejudicial interest with supply by the Chairman. The Chair acknowledges and apologies given that standards have not been met.

C. Bristow: Not correct at all and in his opinion stone was not mentioned, he remembers applying for HPT money for a wooden signpost only. Rules of the Council have been disregarded. In his mind the design was clear and the Council had been asked what was to go on the arms. Other Councillors at the time will agree stone was not discussed- the minutes were accepted by the Council so must have been correct.

Expenditure was never discussed/approved or minuted. Must operate within the rules expenditure should have been approved and minuted. The letter to HPT was for £1250 for wood sign. Minutes are clear.

P. Clark: Account has to be taken for spiralling costs, this was discussed a few years ago.

M Hambidge: Is the stone being forced on us- is it necessary.

T. Poole: Stone is not being forced on us but the sign is designed to sit in the stone base and cannot be erected without it.

K. Perry: We are critical of the Council then on the way this was handled, however HPT money is in bank account to be spent on the millennium post and has accrued interest so only £600 is required to complete project.

R. Martin: Other members of the Council are willing to testify that the stone base was discussed, he bitterly regrets this has happened

Clerk: Template for base has been at Bus Shelter since last July and Chairman asked for Councillors to place it where they wanted it.

M. Hambidge: Will it blend in with old stone. Consult village as to placement, not too close to road

T. Poole and K. Perry recommend we approve payment.

P. Clark: Accept bill for stone base whether ordered correctly or not. With reservations we must draw a line and ensure we are never put in this situation again.

M Hambidge: Not on Council at time- no opinion.

Clerk: Money has been applied for from HPT this must be spent on the project applied for.

K. Perry: Reading back through the records has changed his mind £2700 for millennium events £1256 spent so far.

C. Bristow: against payment.

The majority agreed the stone will be paid for and erected. Clerk will ask Filkins Stone Company to submit invoice.

34. *Village Plan:*
Postponed until next meeting

35. *War Memorial:*
Quotes have been obtained:
2005 quote Highworth Memorials £2317.80
March 2008 Banbury Memorials £1468.75
May 2008 Joslins £1383
All quotes are to clean, re-cut and paint.

Banbury Memorials have not been used before. Joslins work has been seen in Minster Lovell. British Legion are not in favour also English Heritage and British Heritage of War Memorials. Memorials should be allowed to age and if the stone is re-cut it will wear quicker each time. If it is re-cut in 20 years it will be worse than it is now. It does depend on which stone it is and ours is not Portland, Joslins have suggested cutting a small piece and see how it works. The WWII letters were carved with a pantograph and are not straight this will look very bad if blackened in.

M Hambidge: What are we going to do then. Why are War memorial Society giving grants if they do not recommend this.

Depends on the type of stone some can be re-cut. There is a list of the war dead in two places in Church- a stone or brass plaque has been suggested before, British War Memorial Society approve of this and allow the memorial to decay.

M. Hambidge: Cleaning ruined the Memorial no one looks after it.
Clerk reminded the Council that Andy Hoad cleans around it every year and re-pointed after it was cleaned.

T. Poole: Plaque behind would be fitting tribute.

K. Perry: Ablington have a plaque near their memorial which looks good, suggest we look into both options

P. Clark: Can we replace some of the stone on the memorial
Very big job, not recommended.

Clerk: Will look into both options and report back at the next meeting.

36. *Next Meeting:*
Tuesday 9th September 7.30pm in Village Hall.