

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at Burghfield Village Hall on Thursday 22nd July 2021, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Mr T Ansell (Chairman), Mrs J Ansell, Mr P Lawrence, Ms A Gallagher, Miss M Cresser, Dr R Longton, Mr B Neilson, Mr N Morse, Ms L Sharp, Mr D Godding, Mr C Greaves (arrived 19.15pm), Mr D Godwin (arrived 19.35pm), Mrs S Awberry, Mr I Morrin, Mr I Macfarlane,
In Attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council, 3 Members of the public
Apologies: Mrs C Jackson-Doerge.

Open Meeting

Mr Graham Harris advised of his intention to audio record the public participation section of the meeting. The following questions were raised:

Mr Graham Harris submitted the following question:

Last month, the Parish Council recently decided I had issued an unlawful instruction to a plumber and had breached my tenancy terms. You have now been provided with unequivocal evidence to disprove your allegations. Can you now please:

- a) issue an apology to me;*
- b) thank me for my actions on 3rd June 2021 saving gallons of wasted water and incurring unnecessary financial costs?*

The Chairman advised that neither an apology nor a thank you would be forthcoming as the matter had already been dealt with via email. The chairman clarified the allegations were made in response to the postings from Mr Harris on Facebook confirming the plumber had been asked to inspect the water trough at the Common allotments.

Mr Patrick Pearce submitted the following question:

Further to my e-mails of 23rd February 2021 and 28th June 2021 (neither of which have been responded to) in connection with serious infestation of rats emanating from the bank alongside the Chapel Path I would appreciate an up-date on the action taken by the Council to satisfy its responsibilities as the landowner.

Mr Pearce was advised to report the issue direct to West Berkshire Council via their online reporting platform where a case would be raised and investigated by the appropriate department. The Chairman reiterated that West Berkshire Council were the owners of the pathway, referencing the email correspondence received from Mr Pearce stating he had previously contacted West Berkshire Council regarding the matter.

Mr Pearce enquired as to why he had not received a response. The Chairman apologised, advising that the communication may have been misread, believing Mr Pearce to already be in contact with WBC.

Mr Glyn Townsend provided members with a brief overview of the application submitted in relation to item 9.0721 on the agenda.

1.0721 To report, approve and record apologies for absence (and the reasons) from members of the Parish Council

Apologies for absence were presented and approved from members Cllr C Jackson-Doerge, Cllr Greaves and Cllr Godwin.

2.0721 Declaration of any personal or financial interests

The following declarations were made by members in relation to a personal or financial interest in any specific matter on the agenda for consideration;
Cllr T Ansell, Cllr J Ansell, Cllr I Morrin and Cllr N Morse declared personal interests in item 9.0721 on the agenda.

3.0721 Applications for Dispensations

Request for dispensations were presented by: Cllr T Ansell, Cllr J Ansell, Cllr I Morrin and Cllr N Morse declared personal interests in item 9.0721 on the agenda.

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Cllr T Ansell disclosed a Pecuniary Interest in item 9.0721 advising of his withdrawal from the meeting at the appropriate time.

4.0721 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

The Chairman advised that he had not attended anything since the last meeting. However, progress at the village hall continued with a target open date of the beginning of September. An open day is to be scheduled for mid-August for members of the public to view the new facility.

5.0721 Questions to the chairman previously submitted in writing

No questions were previously submitted to the Chairman.

6.0721 To receive a report from a District Councillor

A written report was previously circulated by District Cllr G Bridgman. District Cllr R Longton presented members with a visual map highlighting the boundary changes to be implemented.

7.0721 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 June 2021 be approved as a true and correct record.

8.0721 To receive the revised Public participation at Meetings Policy

Resolved: To adopt the revised Public Participation at Meetings Policy for implementation with immediate effect. Proposed by Cllr P Lawrence, seconded by Cllr M Cresser and resolved unanimously.

9.0721 To grant permission for Burghfest 2021 to be held on the Common Recreation Ground and for the use of the Pavilion

Resolved: To grant permission for Burghfest to be held on the Common Recreation Ground and for the use of the Pavilion from the 25th to 26th September 2021. Proposed by Cllr R Longton, seconded by Cllr L Sharp and resolved unanimously.

10.0721 Financial Matters

- i) Parish Council Bank Account Reconciliation and accounts for payment as of 30 June 2021
The accounts reconciliation statements for month ending 30 June 2021 were noted. Items for payment were noted and as such sums are to be debited to the account of the Parish Council.
- ii) Village Hall Bank Account Reconciliation and accounts for payment as of 30 June 2021
The accounts reconciliation statements for month ending 30 June 2021 were noted. Items for payment were noted and as such sums are to be debited to the account of the Village Hall.
- iii) Accounts for Payment – Village Hall - Items for payment were noted and as such sums are to be debited to the account of the Village Hall.
- iv) To receive the revised Village Hall Hire Charges and approve for implementation
Resolved: For the revised village hall hire charges to be adopted and implemented with immediate effect in preparation for the reopening of the hall. The criteria for each of the categories is to be defined and circulated with the hire charges for clarification. Proposed by Cllr Macfarlane, seconded by Cllr C Greaves and resolved unanimously.
- v) To approve the cost of £3,745 for the immediate repairs required to the skate park
Resolved: Further to 2 companies advising the skatepark was irreparable, a company able to undertake the remedial work with a guarantee the work would last a set period of time, members resolved that the immediate repairs be undertaken at the cost of £3,745. Members also resolved that no further repairs would be funded. Liaison is to commence with the working party to establish sufficient funding for the refurbishment of the area. Proposed by Cllr J Ansell, seconded by Cllr A Gallagher, with 13 members voting in favour and 1 against. Resolved by a majority vote.
- vi) To give consideration to the grant application for the provision of a Band for “Proms in the Park” event
Resolved: To grant £500 towards the provision of a band for “Proms in the Park” in August. Proposed by Cllr N Morse, seconded by Cllr C Greaves and resolved unanimously.

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11.0721 To receive brief verbal reports from Parish Council Representatives attending meetings of Outside Bodies to which they have been appointed.

Cllr M Cresser advised of her attendance at a Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau.

Cllr R Longton advised of his attendance at the Wokefield Advisory Group meeting and AWE Liaison group.

12.0721 To note the minutes from the BMNAG meeting held 14th April & 9th June 2021

Members noted the minutes from the BMNAG meetings held on the 14th of April & 9th June 2021.

13.0721 To request items from Committee Chairman requiring any action by the Communications Committee

The following items are to be included within the next newsletter: Public Participation Policy, Skate park repairs and village hall reopening day.

14.0721 Matters for Future Discussion

Names for rooms at village hall.

15.0721 Items for information

Miss M Cresser expressed her thanks and gratitude to both Cllr N Morse and Cllr L Sharp for the loan of an iPad to access Zoom meetings throughout the lockdown period.

16.0721 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

To resolve, pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the following:

Close of meeting 19.55pm.