

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 11.01.11.

1.

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th January 2011 at the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Mrs. Walker (Chairman), Mrs Fardon, Mrs. Olney, R Baily, D Fowler G Sansom, R Harris, R Saunders, M. Taylor, P White, the Clerk and 1 member of the Sports & Social Club

1. Public Open Session –

Representative of the Sports & Social Club advised that the Changing Rooms needed to be upgraded to FA standards and to provide facilities for girls. The works would cost approximately £40,000. Grants had been sought from Sport England and Bedford BC Access Improvement Fund, Club members had made donations and monies were available from Club funds but a shortfall of £5 - 10,000 remained. The Club therefore requested monies be included in the 2011/12 Council budget. Cllrs. suggested the Club apply to Sports Match and Bedford BC Rural Grants Fund.

Club also needed to replace youth goal posts with aluminium posts at a cost of approximately £1,500 and would submit a grant application to the March Council meeting.

The ORA intended to arrange a celebration for the Royal Wedding and asked if Council would be able to contribute. Chairman advised that Council, like other parish councils, intended to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and could not therefore contribute.

2. Apologies: J Saunders (personal)

3. Declarations of Interest: none

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2010

Resolved: to adopt the minutes.

5. Clerk's Report:

High Street Bus Shelter – bus stop signs and timetables had been placed on the High Street shelters

Lovell Road Phone Box – no further information re. replacement of phone.

Highways – no response from Borough Cllr. Roydon re. poor resurfacing of Church Lane and Lovell Road and unhelpful signage. Clerk had chased Highways re. Burleigh Place verge and had been advised that the work is not a priority and is unlikely to be done in the near future. Builders sign at crossroads had been removed.

Community Orchard – 2 more trees had been sponsored by the Brownies & Parrotts

Registration of Council Land – Clerk had requested registration check forms for Dewlands, The Green, War Memorial, Brockwell & HighStreet/Reynes Drive

February Meeting with Alistair Burt MP – no confirmation yet that meeting to be held

Proposed Gypsy & Traveller site at Stevington – Clerk had written to Bedford BC supporting Stevington's objections

6. Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2010:

Cllr. Olney reported that the new notice boards had yet to be fixed because of the weather.

Action

7. Reports:

CPRE Awards Presentation

Cllr. Olney reported that Linch Furlong had won a silver award in the Sustainable Living category and the Sustainability Group would apply again once the orchard and allotments were up and running. Cllr. Fardon noted that there were impressive projects in all the categories.

Action

8. Police Report:

Action

PC Tott and PCSO Underwood had been unable to attend. There was 1 reported crime in December, the theft of milk from the milkman and 1 report of anti-social behaviour at the Sports & Social Club.

- 9. Provision of Christmas Lights:** Action
- EDF box had still to be installed. Finance Advisory Group had proposed an additional tree and lights at the church in 2011 as this was a more public area. Chairman, Cllr. Baily & Cllr. White would discuss with lighting expert. Chairman to arrange meeting. RB/JW,
PW
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- 10. Street lighting at Lower School & on Pavenham Road:** Action
- Amey had advised that a light should be installed at the Lower School before the end of 2010/11 and had requested a letter from Oakley Lower explaining the need for the new light. Amey had met with Cllr. Sansom to discuss lights in Pavenham Road and would advise Council of proposed new locations Clerk

- 11. Budget and Precept for 2011/12:** Action
- Finance Advisory Group had recommended that precept remain at £50,100 given the continuing economic difficulties. £7,000 was recommended for the purchase of a new bottle bank as the repair is unlikely to last indefinitely. Cllr. Walker would also make enquiries as to whether the Borough Council would provide a new bottle bank. They had previously refused but had recently supplied bottle banks to other villages. JW
- £5,000 was recommended for a boule pitch at the ORA requested by residents
£3,000 was recommended for a new bus shelter at Station Road (or Dewlands if ASB becomes an issue at that shelter).
- £1,000 was recommended for an additional Christmas tree and lights at the Church
Provision had been included for an inclusive swing seat which was suitable for disabled children. Clerk advised that this would cost £450.00 and would fit on an existing 2.4m swing frame.
- Cllr. Fardon suggested that consultation on a range of projects be undertaken before funding was allocated to the boule pitch, therefore Council agreed to add an additional £1,000 to the boule pitch figure and reallocate it for sport and leisure facilities
Proposed by Cllr. R. Saunders, seconded by Cllr. Olney that budget be accepted as amended and precept remain at £50,100
- Resolved** Clerk
Chairman signed Bedford BC precept request form

- 12. Financial Standing Orders:** Action
- Council had resolved at December meeting to review. Clerk had circulated current Financial Standing Orders. Council agreed that figure of £10,000 for works requiring tendering should remain and Cllr. Baily suggested that to ensure like for like quotations a detailed specification should be produced for all works.
- Proposed by Cllr. Sansom, seconded by Cllr. Baily that Financial Standing Orders remain unchanged but detailed specifications be produced for all works
- Resolved** Clerk
Clerk to advise allotment and orchard groups of need for specification to be sent to Clerk Clerk

- 13. Calendar of Meetings for 2011/12:**
- Clerk tabled a calendar of meetings for 2011/12 as follows
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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 05.04.11. Annual Parish Meeting | 01.11.11. |
| 12.04.11. | 06.12.11. |
| 03.05.11 AGM. | 03.01.12 Finance Advisory Group |
| 07.06.11. | 10.01.12 |
| 05.07.11. | 06.03.12 |
| 06.09.11. | 03.04.12 Annual Parish Meeting |
| 04.10.11. | |
- Resolved** to accept

14. Highways Matters:

a) Bedford BC request for details of speeding issues in village

Clerk had put forward Pavenham Road, Lovell Road & Highfield Road and requested that any 20mph speed limit outside schools is restricted to 8.00am – 9.30am and 3.00pm – 4.30pm.

Clerk to report potholes at the Pavenham Road crossroads, Highfield Road and corner of High Street/Church Lane to Bedford BC and request entrances to Ruffs Furze and Dewlands be included in the 2011/12 works programme.

Cllr. White was concerned about parking on pavements and verges and councillors to report persistent problems to Clerk, who would request Bedford BC to arrange for the camera van to visit the location. Bedford BC could then pursue offenders.

Action

ALL

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b) Local Transport Plan consultation

Bedford BC was seeking comments on the key actions from the 2010 consultation and draft Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy. Councillors considered that apart from the Freight Strategy, which would attempt to keep HGVs off rural roads, the Plan was urban centred. The lack of competition on rural bus routes and problems caused by double decker buses on rural roads were not addressed and it was suggested Bedford BC look at more successful bus services in areas such as Lincolnshire. Bus companies should publish reliability data similar to train companies and villages should also be encouraged to produce their own transport plans which could then be fed into the Borough Plan. Clerk to advise Bedford BC.

Clerk

15. Oakley Sustainability Project:

Cllr. Olney reported that BRCC had requested an update on actions from the Village Plan. Except for a bridge across the weir most actions had been completed. Clerk to advise BRCC. Group would be visiting Milton Keynes Waste Recycling Centre on 12.01.11. and a Linch Furlong volunteers day had been arranged for 23.01.11. 1 ½ allotments remained unlet and hard standing needed to be laid. Allotment Group would forward a specification to Clerk. Mayor had agreed to open the community orchard on 06.02.11. Green food would be discussed at the next Sustainability meeting and a produce display involving local schools was being considered for the Carnival. Bedford BC had ordered information boards for Judges Spinney and Browns Wood and an open day might be held when they are installed. Individuals had volunteered to sponsor community orchard trees but because of the limited number of trees it was proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Sansom that Council should fund those not sponsored by organisations.

Resolved

Clerk noted that Clapham PC December meeting had been cancelled because of the weather and they would be discussing cycle paths from Oakley to Clapham and Oakley to Bedford at their January meeting.

Action

Clerk

16. Borough Councillor's Report:

Cllr. Olney reported that Council Tax would not be increased in 2011/12. £1 million had been saved in 2010/11 but frontline services had been maintained. Following a senior management structure review there would be some redundancies and a further £10.9 million would need to be saved in 2011/12.

Action

17. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 7th December 2010

Application No: 10/02515/FUL – single storey side extension at 14A, High Street

Parish Comments: No objection

Decision/Date: Permission 02.12.10.

Application No: 10/02393/COU – change of use of grazing land to manage with associated fencing & drainage at Riverstone House, Westfield Road
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 03.12.10.

Application No: 10/02579/TPO – various tree works at Kenmore, Church Lane
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 06.12.10.

Application No: 10/02610/TPO – various tree works at land at Westfield Road
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Withdrawn 12.12.10.

Application No: 10/02668/TPO – fell one oak at Chestnuts, Westfield Road
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 14.12.10.

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Application No: 10/02752/TPO – re pollard 1 willow. Prune 3 apple trees not included in TPO at 55A High Street
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 21.12.10.

Application No: 10/02756/FUL – single storey rear extension at 45 Reynes Drive
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 23.12.10.

Application No: 10/02656/FUL – erection of detached house with new access & garage at 45, High Street
Parish Comments: No objection to the erection of the house but Council is very concerned that the ancient field hedge has been removed. These hedges were included in the Oakley Settlement Plan lodged with the Borough Council and Council therefore requests a planning condition requiring a formal landscaping plan which includes the replanting of a traditional native hedge.
Decision/Date: Refusal 05.01.11. because of inadequate visibility for vehicles entering & leaving the site

Applications received since last Council meeting – 2nd November 2010

a) Application No: 10/02864/LBC – replacement windows & installation of gas fired stove with balanced flue at Little House, The Drive
Parish Comments: No objection

b) Application No: 10/ 02704/TPO – crown reduce 6 horse chestnuts at Mellis, Church Lane
Parish Comments: No objection

c) Application No: 10/02934/TPO – reduce willow (silver birch not included in TPO) at Shires Fold, 55A, High Street
 Parish Comments: No objection

d) Application No: 10/03024/FUL – single storey side extension at 9, Parsonage Close
 Parish Comments: No objection

e) Application No: appeal against refusal of 09/01258/FULWME (energy recovery facility at Twinwood Business Park)
 Parish Comments: No additional comments

Chair noted that she would be meeting with Carlisle Group who were the new owners of the Twinwood Business Park on 24.01.11. and would raise the issue of the cycle track JW which had been promised around part of the site, the data centre and the closure of Twinwood Road

18. Correspondence:

- a) Bedford BC – Creating Low Carbon Future for Bedford meeting 20.01.11. – Cllr. Olney to attend
- b) BATPC – briefing on Localism Bill - noted
- c) Bedford BC – advising that charges will be made for naming/renaming/numbering properties - noted
- d) Oakley Rural Day Care Centre – thank you for grant
- e) BATPC – invitation to Chairmen/Town Mayors for consideration to attend Buckingham Palace garden party. Proposed by Cllr. Olney, seconded by Cllr. Fowler that Cllr. Walker be nominated

Resolved

Action

Clerk

19. Grant applications: none

Action

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20. Finance Matters:

a) Accounts for period up to 11th January 2011

Received since previous meeting

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|---|------------------|
| Spary - allotment rent | £12.00 |
| Pither - allotment rent | £12.00 |
| Jandu - allotment rent | £12.00 |
| Oakley Pre-School – orchard tree | £20.00 |
| Oakley Motorcycle Club – orchard tree | £20.00 |
| PMG Carpentry - Newsletter | £30.00 |
| Fun & Friendly Aerobics - Newsletter | £30.00 |
| Bedford BC – Ward Cllr. Fund grant for allotments | £4,849.01 |
| Interest | £0.55 |
| Total | £4,985.56 |

