



Minutes of Berryfields Parish Council Meeting

held at Roman park, Sir Henry Lee Crescent, Aylesbury, HP19 0YT

on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

Present: Councillors Arun Sekhar (Vice Chairman), Bindu Gundapudi, Gareth Lane, Laurilee Green (Chairman), Louise Rees, Lucy Harmes, Naser Habib, Paul Redshaw, John Yandrapati, Anthea Cass (Clerk), Angelika Opoka (Assistant Clerk), Hannah Cass (minute taker), Buckinghamshire Councillors Ashley Waite and Mick Caffrey.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hills.

2. Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda

None.

3. Open forum (under adjournment)

A member of the public attended the meeting to ask about the latest news on the Pharmacy. Cllr Ashley Waite was in attendance, and he explained the situation: the space has been rented out for two years and it is ready to go but the application of the license has been turned down twice. A survey was put out asking if there were enough pharmaceutical services in this area and concluded that there is not a need for a pharmacy in Berryfields, however there were not many responses, so it is not representative. The pharmaceutical board also did not approve. He said the process is broken and that the residents of Berryfields are being done a disservice.

Another member of the public attended the meeting to ask about the footpath that is closed on Collington Road. He saw an incident outside school where an elderly person was almost knocked down by a car when crossing the road. Cllr Waite replied that this is a complicated issue as there was always a plan to put flats there and the path has been fenced off due to health and safety due to construction. They have offered a diversion so believe they have done their due diligence. Cllr Redshaw asked if there was a possibility to put plastic matting over the grass as a different pathway. The Clerk said she will inquire about this.

Cllr Mick Caffrey attended the meeting and spoke about the budget. He said it will be just below 5% and with inflation he thinks they have done well to keep it at that level. He said that the council does generate electricity with the waste to energy plan and has made significant savings, but they still need to save substantial money. Cllr Redshaw asked about the council tax, and that the change from smaller district councils promoted that it would save a lot of money, but people are struggling to understand how this is now costing more. Cllr Caffrey replied that the savings were significant, but many factors have now meant that it has increased and although it is perceived that the council tax has gone up significantly, in context of inflation it isn't bad value. Cllr Waite explained that the biggest cost is adult social care; social care bill is over £300 million. Also 85% of the council budget is statutory so there is not much to play around with.

Cllr Caffrey also talked about schools and that each year Berryfields has more casework on schools, with people not being able to get into schools or having issues with transport. He informed that the council do have a good success rate in helping and that people should be directed to them as they can usually help. Cllr Yandrapati asked why we are bringing more houses when we have not sorted the traffic or schooling problems. Cllr Waite explained that most first-time buyers on Berryfields will have young families and children, which puts an abnormal amount of pressure on the three schools we have in the area. When the houses are sold more times, the average age increases, so his point of view is that they spend money on a school that may be redundant in 10 years' time when everyone has grown up. He explained that they are looking at a holistic approach to fill schools. He also said Buckinghamshire is attractive as it has a lot of land, so there will always be this battle.

Councillor Ashley Waite attended the meeting and spoke about several things as listed below.

- They are coming to the end of another year of Community Board and have spent all the grants. The Board in this area is under the highest level of contributory funding and have had another £215k in funding.
- Pride of Bucks nominations are now open – they are looking for an outstanding child, adult and group. He asked if any Cllrs would like to be on the panel and to email him if they are interested, or if anyone has any nominations.
- Helping Hands is still up and running and there is a review now relating to carparking. They are looking primarily at a variety of options: one option at the moment is that carparks closer to town should have higher costs to ones further out. Another option is whether it should be charged based on size of vehicle, or whether it should be done in hourly blocks. He asked that if anyone has any feedback on this then they should email him.
- Bernie Bus is still running; they had double the level of children over Christmas and have had a big intake of Ukrainian refugees and every child received a present, with money still left over.
- He also discussed the roads and said there is a lot going on in this area. He explained 'Onenetwork' which is a software which manages road licences.
- Lights near the Cotton Wheel which failed - temporary lights were put up. He explained that the posts on Facebook were inaccurate, the lights did not fail but there was an issue with a cable.
- Discussed HS2 and a meeting he attended about it – they do not have a big problem with East West rail, and they are strong in terms of managing their road licenses and closing roads at short notice – has given reassurance on that.
Road 41A from college to Bugle Horn - next five Sundays will be closed for vegetation clearance – 10am-5pm.
Between here and Waddesdon crossroads, will build temporary lane on each side for a six-week period.
Around 30th June, they are shutting A41 for three days. Should avoid running events over summer these days.

4. **Police report and Neighbourhood Policing**

No reports.

5. **Planning**

To consider any planning applications submitted for consultation to the Parish Council and any other applications received after publication of this agenda:

22/04046/APP | Householder application for installation of a domestic air source heat pump to provide hydronic heating & cooling | 25 Topaz Lane Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP18 0ZP
Full details at : <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RM7CY0CLHX400&prevPage=inTray>

Proposed by: Cllr Redshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Lane

23/00059/APP | Householder application for front roof light windows and two rear dormers | 10 Alma Street Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP18 0FU Full details at :
<https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RO7UQVCLJ8000&prevPage=inTray>

Proposed by: Cllr Sekhar

Seconded by: Cllr Yandrapati

Agreed unanimously to remain neutral in respect of all of the above applications.

6. **Minutes**

To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th November 2022.

Proposed by: Cllr Redshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Lane

Agreed unanimously.

7. **Land & Facilities**

Roman Park & Village Hall

Youth club for Roman Park Hall

The Clerk and councillors discussed running a youth club for 12–18-year-olds. They suggested it could possibly run once a month and if it becomes more popular it can be more regular. They discussed the possibility of computer games, use of the MUGA when it is built, tennis courts, as well as groups coming in to do taster classes for activities like dance and crafts. They discussed whether this is something that funding could possibly be given for. The Cllrs asked if a Facebook poll could be posted asking people if this was something residents would be interested in. It was also agreed that specific safeguarding policies are needed. Cllr Harmes and Cllr Gundapudi offered to help with it.

Hall update

The Clerk explained that the Roman Park Facilities management settlement has gone through. She talked about the events so far that have been successful, and that she is looking to do a few community events, such as the Quiz Night in February. Also looking at a comedy club once a quarter, for adults only. It was also discussed that memberships need to be sorted out, and whether to just wait until the end of the year and not continue them. She also said the hall has been very popular and that she is inundated with booking enquiries; lots of conferences booked in, NHS, fire and prison service using venue for training. A new member of staff has been taken on who is currently working part time. She also said that a surveyor came in last week and this week, to do an independent snagging of the hall and is going to put a report together to see what he thinks, although he has not noticed anything major so far. There have been lots of problems with the nursery building, the Clerk does not think the building will be fit for purpose for the 10 years it was proposed. The doors are leaking, so double glazed doors have been proposed. Cllr Lane advised that he had seen mould on walls. The Clerk confirmed she will look into this. These are issues that needs to be tackled quickly due to Ofsted.

RESOLUTION: To have double glazed doors put in.

Proposed by: Cllr Sekhar

Seconded by: Cllr Habib

Solicitor update

The Clerk explained that there is a lot of land coming over this year and she is keen to get it off the ground ASAP, but a new solicitor needs to be appointed to deal with this. There is a conflict of interest with the current solicitor, and the Consortium agree with this. A new solicitor has been recommended and she is happy to take this on.

RESOLUTION: to appoint Belinda Sinnott Senior Associate for Gateley Legal

Proposed by: Cllr Habib

Seconded by: Cllr Yandrapati

MUGA - update on positioning.

Clerk showed where the new MUGA has been proposed to be built and explained that the best the best place for it to go is beside the tennis courts as the other option would have been too costly due to the sloped ground. It will be smaller than planned but will still be fit for purpose. Will be open 24/7 and does not need to be booked, which is part of the specification.

RESOLUTION: MUGA to be built alongside tennis courts.

Proposed by: Cllr Redshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Lane

Versailles boxes: update regarding the lighting.

Clerk said she has discussed the possibility of solar lights as promised, she has spoken to



architect, builders and electrician but everyone has come back and said that solar lights are not the option - they are cheaper short term but long term they won't be. People can steal them or break them etc, if they are put in as electric, they will be there forever. It is a costly job to put plug in ones, but it will be worth it in the long run. Cllr Sekhar suggested that in the long term, bigger solar panels to run the building would be ideal, but this is looking much further into the future.

RESOLUTION: Resolved to go ahead with putting lights in.

Proposed by: Cllr Habib

Seconded by: Cllr Redshaw

Allotments

No update.

Tennis Courts

No update.

Park inspections and repairs

No update.

Cllr Sekhar asked about the new land and whether it will be extra parking for existing houses. The Clerk explained that the new land will be carparking for flats or will just be grassed over as open space, will never be extra parking for existing houses.

Regarding landscaping, the Clerk said all plants have been planted from the grant, and the hedge rows have also been trimmed.

8. Community grant applications

Review and ratify community grant new application form as circulated.

RESOLUTION: Agreed that this form will be the new form.

Proposed by: Cllr Redshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Lane

Councillors discussed the cheerleading grant application and decided that £200 each would be an appropriate amount to give as there is still plenty of money left.

RESOLUTION: Cheerleader grant will be £600, £200 per child.

Proposed by: Cllr Sekhar

Seconded by: Cllr Redshaw

9. Finance

9.1 To approve the payment run as circulated and to ratify budgeted payments made outside the Parish Council meeting.

BERRYFIELDS PARISH COUNCIL Payment run 18th January 2023				
Payee	Detail	Net	VAT	Total £
Staff salaries & expenses	Net salaries and expenses			£ 5,369.79
Nolan Support	Invoice 0364 Litter Picking, gritting and recycling collection	£ 510.00	£ 102.00	£ 612.00
Pickerings	Invoice 1056539 container lease	£ 176.00	£ 35.20	£ 211.20
Pickerings	Invoice 1056538 container lease	£ 105.60	£ 21.12	£ 126.72
Pickerings	Outstanding balance from June/July	£ 286.70	£ 57.34	£ 344.04
Agnieszka Alborzpour	Invoice PC001851 Park Inspections	£ 187.50		£ 187.50
RTM	Invoice Number 3839 Tree and shrub planting	£ 5,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 6,000.00
Shard	Invoice 3160 Office 365	£ 70.20	£ 14.04	£ 84.24
Baughan Pest Control	Invoice 5470 bi Monthly	£ 80.00	£ 16.00	£ 96.00
				£ 13,031.49

Proposed by: Cllr Yandrapati

Seconded by: Cllr Lane

9.2 To agree the accounts to end December as circulated.

Proposed by: Cllr Redshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Sekhar

9.3 Review and ratify the change in staff pension schemes to Local Government Pension Scheme.

Proposed by: Cllr Redshaw

Seconded by: Cllr Sekhar

9.4 Update on accounts package

Clerk explained that an DCK Accounting had recommended the use of the Rialtis package for the PC accounts. This is used in a lot of Parish Councils. She would like to use it and believes it is suitable. The accountant does not recommend RPH becomes a limited company, should keep it as a PC as they do not have to pay tax on profits. The Cllrs discussed whether they agree, and asked the Clerk to check if this new package will be cloud based.

RESOLUTION: Agreed that if the new package is cloud based then Clerk can go ahead with it.

Proposed by: Cllr Sekhar

Seconded by: Cllr Habib

10. Staff

Discuss and agree staff appraisal system.

Cllr Yandrapati wanted this raised and asked for an update. Cllr Redshaw explained that none of the Cllrs knew things such as what the notice period was, or who can access things if the Clerk is away. Cllrs agreed that a formal procedure needs to be in place if something goes wrong. The Clerk asked BALC for a staff appraisal template but cannot get hold of one. She explained that the rule is that the Clerk carries out appraisals for all her staff, Council

must decide two people who should appraise Clerk on an annual basis.

Regarding sharing information, the office has Dropbox, where all files are stored (SHARD Tech company also have access and have backup of emails).

Cllr Yandrapati said he will send an email with things he thinks needs to be in place, and Clerk will respond if these things are already in place.

Cllrs discussed whether company related things should be sent to a personal phone or a company phone, in order to prevent the problem of things being sent to the previous Clerk. Clerk said that this has been tried and it does not work for them. It was suggested that a company phone could be used just for verification purposes so codes etc can be sent to that and not personal phones.

Cllr Sekhar asked about Microsoft subscription, and asked if OneDrive can be used instead. It was discussed whether everything should be moved onto here. This is something that needs to be revisited.

11. Events

Report on 2022 Christmas events.

- All events were very successful.
- Thinking of giving a gift to Santa.

Update on 2023 Christmas Events. 24hr Santathon.

- Cllrs discussed the idea of a 24-hour Santathon next year. They suggested that there could possibly be a 24-hour Santa but being a grotto would not work – would support him doing something but maybe not the Grotto as no one will come to a Grotto in the middle of the night.
- Need to talk to Cllr Waite about next year's Santa run.

Discuss Coronation community event. Working party. Possible date. Book stands/entertainment.

Clerk suggested putting on a community event for the Coronation, similar to the Jubilee event.

- Cllr Redshaw suggested having an outdoor screen on stage to watch Coronation.
- Clerk explained that there is an issue as there is a hall booking on the day of Coronation.
- This is something that needs to be revisited.

12. Berryfields News & Communication

Berryfields News – agree deadline for the March edition and discuss the working party idea.

- Cllrs discussed that the middle / end of March would be suitable.

- Editorial group – Cllrs discussed that an initial meeting should be held to discuss what people want to do. Agreed that meeting will be held on Friday 3rd February at 7:30pm, and an email will be sent out to invite people, as well as another Facebook post about it.
- Need to push tennis courts in this News.
- No website updates.

13. Highways & Transport

MVAS & Sentinel

- Solar panel seems to be the best option and is used in other villages. Will prolong the life of the battery.
- Cllrs are happy to try this.

14. Meetings and matters of report

- Cllr Rees helped with the Santa run for Quainton and Waddesdon.

15. Date of next Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 15th February 2023.

Cllr Harmes gave apologies ahead of this meeting.