

BULWICK PARISH COUNCIL

472

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BULWICK PARISH COUNCIL held on 20th August at 6.00 pm in St Nicholas Church, Bulwick

Present: Councillors J Taylor (Chair), H Fisher (Vice Chair), M Beaton, L Vaughan and J Sanderson, Mrs Medwell (Locum Clerk) and eight members of the public

(1) APOLOGIES ACCEPTED: There were none.

(2) DECLARATION OF INTEREST OR CHANGES TO THE MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS:
There were none.

(3) TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 16th JULY:
It was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting
Proposed Cllr Taylor Seconded Cllr Fisher

(4) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:
There were none.

(5) MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

The Chair welcomed the visitors.

The matter of blocked drains was raised. The Council will report these to County Highways through 'Fix My Street' – using the link fixmystreet.com. It was suggested that this link be displayed on the notice board so that residents themselves may report any road or footpath related matters as they crop up (*action Cllr Vaughan*).

Concerns regarding the speeds of both cars and cyclists travelling through the village were raised. Options for traffic calming were discussed. The Clerk referred to a grant of up to £5,000 available from the Northamptonshire Safer Road Alliance to support initiatives for traffic calming in rural areas which could be pursued to fund a vehicle activated speed sign. The Council will take this forward (*action Cllr Vaughan*).

Overgrown trees on the road towards Southwick were identified which possibly belonged to Bulwick Estate. It was felt that these posed a hazard to motorists – the Council will endeavour to report these either to Highways through Fix My Street or to the Estate.

(6) ADVERTISING FOR THE ROLE OF PARISH COUNCIL CLERK:

Following guidance from NCALC and looking at parishes of a similar size, the Council **agreed** to contract a clerk for 22 hours a month at a salary scale of LC1, SCP 7 – 11, £10.44 - £11.53 per hour (negotiable upon experience). The closing date for applications will be 30th September.

Proposed Cllr Beaton Seconded Cllr Fisher Unanimously carried

The position will be advertised as widely as possible including on the website, notice boards in Bulwick and the surrounding villages, on social media and through NCALC (*action Cllr Vaughan*).

(7) BULWICK VILLAGE CENTRE:

Cllr Fisher updated the Council on the current position regarding the Bulwick Village Centre. It was hoped that use of this centre could be resumed once the electrics had been updated and a fire exit installed. The next steps would be to form a working party to assist with the issues that need addressing, such as ongoing maintenance and to organise various events. Funds of £10,000 are available to upgrade the electrics, work on which will commence in September, but it may be necessary to access larger grants to refurbish the building. Cllr Fisher asked for volunteers to join this group and to come forward with ideas for fund raising and events.

(8) PUBLIC WELL, THE SHAMBLES:

It had been brought to the Council's attention that the well in the garden of The Shambles, which used to provide water to the whole village, was protected and therefore should not be filled in. Heritage England had been contacted to establish whether this was the case. The Council will contact the landowners to see whether they are aware of any restrictions on whether it could be filled in (*action Cllr Taylor*). The Clerk informed the Council that it may be possible to list this well as a Community Asset.

(9) MEMORIAL BENCH, RED LODGE ROAD:

It was noted that this bench, erected in memory of Ken Kemp, was beyond repair. The Council **agreed** to defer the decision to replace the bench until it commenced the budget setting process later in the year. The Council **agreed** to remove the old bench (*action Cllr Fisher*).

Proposed Cllr Fisher Seconded Beaton

(10) VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR:

The Council discussed the need for a defibrillator. Cllr Sanderson will explore whether any grants are available to purchase the equipment or whether any local businesses may be willing to sponsor one (*action Cllr Sanderson*).

The Council considered the possibility of adopting the phone box as a possible location for the defibrillator. Cllr Vaughan will contact BT for further information on this (*action Cllr Vaughan*).

(11) PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

There were no planning applications for the Council to consider this evening.

The Council, as a statutory consultee, will contact the North Northamptonshire planning department in Thrapston to ensure that it receives notification of all new planning applications (*action Cllr Sanderson*).

(12) FINANCE:

Cllr Beaton advised that the Council was still in the process of changing the bank mandate to authorise all Councillors as new signatories for the bank account. The Council was therefore unable to raise any cheques for payment this evening.

(13) CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no additional correspondence to discuss.

(14) ANY LATE BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Overgrown Trees

Speeding

It was suggested that a note of the dates of meeting be put through residents' doors and also in the Stamford Mercury.

Cllr Sanderson raised local concerns regarding the Stable Block development on the Blatherwycke Road which did not appear to conform to its approved plans. The Clerk advised that concerns such as these should be referred to the Enforcement Officer at the new North Northamptonshire planning department at Thrapston. The Council will contact the landowners to see whether they are aware of any restrictions (*action Cllr Taylor*)

(15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Date of the next meeting: 6pm, 13th October 2021 confirmed.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed

Dated