

## Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 8.00 pm by the Zoom video meeting facility.**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mr T Dugher, Mr P Fealey, Mr T Goodman, Mrs S Hetherington, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman].

Buckinghamshire Councillor: Mr P Fealey.

Other attendees: Mrs R Bate.

### 1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman thanked everyone for calling in to the meeting and Councillor Ulph and Mrs E Ulph for organising and administering the Zoom session. At this stage, no issues were raised.

### 2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Fealey

Councillor Fealey reported variously:

- A Flood Management and Reporting meeting has been held in the Village being part of the s19 flood investigation. The Preston Road ditch/stream has been inspected and the culvert in Main Street and to the junction with Buckingham Road is being assessed. Some potential points of cross contamination with foul water have been seen in CCTV surveys. Investigations continue. The jetting and clearing of road gulleys is expected soon. *Note: Anglian Water were on site on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> March inspecting gulleys at New Inn Lane and the Preston Road ditch.*
- Road closures – the potential 'conflict' between Anglian Water works in Buckingham Road and EW Rail in Lenborough Road has been avoided.
- HS2 Traffic Management lights have been installed at Radclive Road.
- The Planning Enforcement team has reported on George's Farm situation [see para 10].
- HS2 HGV vehicles are being attacked [although not in this immediate area] and so badging is problematic. However, HS2 has been requested to provide a listing of contractors so that the vehicle routings through the Parish can be checked.
- HS2 has been requested to provide 'No access for construction traffic' notices at either end of Buckingham Road.
- Vehicle numbers may exceed those agreed at the Select Committee hearings. This is being checked. However, considerable amounts of stone are being brought in by rail.
- The Buckingham Road footpath and the A421 road crossing for pedestrians are being assessed by BC for improvement being part of the Active Travel drive by the Government. This will include a scheme to improve the defective highway and footpath drainage which is a problem for pedestrians.
- A revised BC budget has been agreed – approx. 3.99% uplift in Council Tax.
- Covid cases are reducing but there remain problems with infections within households. The vaccination programme is going well - 185k with first doses.
- The local Rapid Test facility will be moving to Buckingham Library in the near future.
- Schools have returned: 97% attendance rate at junior schools.

### 3. Commencement of formal meeting

### 4. Apologies: None.

### 5. Minutes of the conference call meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

The Minutes were approved subject to the addition of the following note at para 16, bullet 4: *Subsequently, Councillor Hetherington indicated that she would not take up the role of Facebook overseer or investigate grant availability given the proximity of the local elections.*

**6. No matters arising****7. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fealey made a declaration of interest about the consideration of planning matters and took no part in discussions about specific Parish planning issues.

**8. Finance**

<b>PC Balances</b>	<b>Deposit A/cc 00165984</b>	<b>£35,576.22</b>
	<b>Current A/cc 00152092</b>	<b>£2,259.97</b>
	<b>Current A/cc 00672967</b>	<b>£1,828.48</b>

Councillors agreed to the payment of the following invoices: Mrs K Richards: £120 – pavilion cleaning; Cartwright: £3868.70 – Field cutting 2020; e-on: £1028.58 – Field/pavilion electricity; PKF Littlejohn: £360.00 – audit fee; Perceptive creations: £30 – balance of increased fee from January 2021; I Taylor: £150 – repayment of damage claim resulting from Christmas tree dismantling. Councillor Goodman expressed continuing concern about the electricity charges for the pavilion.

It was agreed in principle to purchase Scribe software to manage accounts for the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman confirmed the receipt of £2,668.28 from e-on from the pavilion solar panels.

The Chairman and Councillor Ulph outlined conversations with Ms Jayne Cole, the prospective new Parish Clerk. After some discussion, a proposition to employ Ms Cole, subject to the agreement of a satisfactory contract, was unanimously agreed. It is hoped that the new Clerk will take up the position from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

**9. Highways and Transport**

The poor quality of pothole repairs was again discussed. As before, the holes repaired were haphazardly selected and the repairs very poorly executed. The narrow road sign requested for Back Street has not appeared. The Local Area Technician seems to ignore any requests coming from the Parish Council, so the requested approval of the location for a MVAS pole at Preston Road remains unanswered. Councillor Fealey was asked to follow up on this long outstanding issue.

The following HS2 and EWR-related matters were discussed:

- Radcliffe Road traffic management lights. There has so far been no complaint about this traffic management measure. Councillor Fealey suggested that cones be placed outside Sunnyside Radcliffe Road to prevent obstructive parking.
- There continue to be regular breaches of the routing of HGVs so that unauthorised use is being made of Buckingham Road. The speed of these vehicles is a danger to all road users particularly to cyclists and horse riders.
- There is also an issue with EW Rail vehicles using Buckingham and Lenborough Roads.
- Councillor Goodman drew the attention of Councillors to the deteriorating highway surfaces in Hillesden Road and the substantial damage occurring to verges.
- Councillor Goodman questioned the works in Lenborough Road asking the extent of the works and why are they taking so long. The Chairman again made the point that the details of these works is almost certainly known to Buckinghamshire Highways which consistently ignores requests to pass any information to the PC.

Some of the repairs to street lights have been carried out but four lights in the Main Street are defective together with the continuing situation along the Buckingham Road footpath. Councillor Goodman alerted Councillors to a 'flashing' streetlamp in Main Street by Buckingham Road.

The problem of parking in Main Street and pavement parking elsewhere was raised again.

## 10. Planning

The Chairman reported the approval of extensions at Woodville, Main Street. Considerable concern was expressed about the complete absence of an explanation from Planning Officers about this decision given the strong objections raised by the PC to the proposal.

Councillors considered the proposal to convert an agricultural building to residential use at Primrose Hill Farm, Preston Road. Although there was some concern about the visibility of the development from elsewhere in the Parish, it was not considered to be particularly detrimental. No observations were recommended.

There were no observations about the proposal for an external menage at Durrants Farm, Radclive Road. The application does not include lighting.

Councillor Goodman raised the matter of the 'agricultural' style building which has appeared behind the stables at Buckingham Road. The Chairman confirmed that the PC did not receive details of a planning application. Investigations will be made about a retrospective application.

Enforcement Officers have confirmed that the residential use of a narrow boat at George's Farm Hillesden Road has ceased. The occupation of the farmhouse by non-agricultural tenants is apparently not contravening the 1996 planning documentation which recommended a tie. A consent granted in 1997 did not include that condition. The latter does not appear to have been communicated to the PC at the time.

The activities of Repro Plastics in Radclive Road involving highway loading/unloading, are under consideration by Bucks Highways and the Planning Enforcement. It is recommended that Bucks Fire and Safety be approached regarding the considerable fire and safety hazards posed by both Repro Plastics operations in the Parish.

Works of repair are continuing at the listed Manor Farm Hillesden Road.

## 11. Environment

Councillor Fealey reported that flooding investigations continue.

Councillor Goodman reported that works are required at Hodding Wood once the site accessway becomes passable with drier weather. Members were reminded that there are works outstanding to thin the trees in the Wood as recommended by the Forestry Commission advisor.

Councillor Ulph will provide details of the Jubilee Tree Canopy due for publication in May.

The Chairman reported renewal of the Dog Waste contract at a fee of £550.

## 12. Leisure

It was agreed that the Field pitches and All Weather Pitch will re-open wef 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The Chairman reported that works to create the Netball practice area at the Field will be delayed until after Easter at least. In the meantime, it was agreed posts will be ordered at a cost of £782.82 inclusive of VAT.

The Chairman will liaise with the suppliers of the Osborn Memorial seat to ensure that the wording to be carved on the seat is in accordance with the family's and Councillors' wishes.

It was reported that repairs at the Rise Play area have been completed.

## 13. Community

The Community Group has decided that the Village Fete will be cancelled. A village garden party/competition in July/August has been suggested and will be considered, perhaps coinciding with a scarecrow event.

The Village Hall remains closed. Further grants have been received taking the total to nearly £20k. The first re-opening event will be for the election on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM will be held towards the end of May.

Councillor Ulph explained that consideration is being given by the Solar Farm to the mechanism by which grants are distributed. The PC will be given early notice of the next round of grant applications.

#### 14. Administration

The Chairman noted that the Standing Orders require updating and will include a section on the management of PC communications. It is hoped this will be on the priority list for the new Clerk.

The Chairman will be delivering election nomination forms to Aylesbury.

The Chairman noted that Census day is 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Councillor Dugher suggested that the new Clerk might consider organising an 'Induction Pack' for new members and also induction training. The latter is available via BALC.

The Chairman again reminded Members that the regulation allowing virtual meetings expires in May 2021. Thereafter, the PC must meet face-to-face. Arrangements have been made with the Village Hall Managers to facilitate the PC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May, including the cleaning and airing of the Hall beforehand. The Annual Meeting of the PC will also take place starting at 7.45pm, with the PC business meeting following on thereafter.

Councillor Goodman is making enquiries about the sale of the redundant gang mowers. The Chairman reported the formal transfer of ownership of the tractor to Councillor Goodman.

The problem of vermin in gardens adjoining the allotments was mentioned. Pest Services have been engaged by the Charity which manages the allotments.

#### 15. Emergency Business: None.

#### 16. Any Other Business

- Councillor Goodman was thanked for disposing of surplus chairs from the pavilion.
- The Vice Chairman and Councillors thanked the Clerk for 18 years of service to the PC which will be coming to an end shortly with the appointment of a new Clerk. The thanks were gratefully received. *Note: The Clerk subsequently discovered Minutes authored in 2001 so that the length of service is actually 20 years!*

#### 17. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 commencing at 8.00 pm using Zoom conferencing facilities. Full details will be confirmed with the Agenda for that meeting.

#### 18. Closure of Meeting. The business meeting concluded at 9.43 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Alan D White

27.03.2021.