

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting 2024

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Mr A White (Chairman), Mrs S Burgess and Mrs J Tofield

Also present: Pam Molloy (Clerk), Buckinghamshire Councillor Fealey and four residents.

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Period of Public Participation

Four residents attended the Annual Parish Meeting to raise concerns regarding the proposed development on the land at The Rise. Main concerns are: the access via the garages, reduction in parking spaces, access for HGVs to the site as feel it will be difficult to get through/passed the parked cars. Residents have compiled their own survey – 119 objections out of 120 so far received. With regards to the consultation on behalf of Fairhive, if residents object are they likely to listen – Councillor Fealey advised that it would not stop a planning application being made.

3. To receive updates from Buckinghamshire Councillors:

Councillor Fealey advised:

- Osier Way development – education should apply for funding and S106 monies should be allocated.
- Buckinghamshire Home Choice – over 4000 on the waiting list.
- Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy agreed for 2024-29 to meet the needs of residents, including aging and young families.
- Land at The Rise – Regarding the access, advised policies on highways which would include the width and the need to be able to get refuse and emergency vehicles through.
- Report also provided and circulated.

Councillor Stuchbury provided a report which had been circulated.

4. Apologies – Councillors Mr Ulph, Dugher, Mr Gibbs and Mrs Bate and Buckinghamshire Councillors Mr Stuchbury and Ms Cornelli.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th May 2023 where approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Chairmans Report:

- Thanks to all Councillors for their time, energy and support. Thanks to Jenny Tofield for filling the Councillor vacancy.
- Sincere thanks to Pam Molloy for efficiently taking on the Clerk and Responsible Officer role.
- Thanks to Buckinghamshire Councillors – Caroline, Patrick and Robin.

Planning/Transport:

- The usual number of planning applications over the year.
- In particular: the detailed design and layout of the 120 Osier Way homes has been approved. We await confirmation of start dates.

- Traveller-related planning applications and unauthorised development/change of use.
- Consultation about potential development at The Rise.
- Anticipate consultations with developers about a residential scheme close to the Buckingham Town Council boundary.
- Grendon Prison – a very regrettable grant of planning consent for the prison. Contact made with Martin Tett to ascertain Buckinghamshire Councils position regarding a judicial review.
- Keeping in touch with Buckingham Town Council regarding the new Neighbourhood Plan.
- HS2 – Gawcott traffic is generally lighter than for Edgcott but is an unwelcome intrusion.
- HS2 are poor managers of contractors vehicles not adhering to agreed routes. Poor 'route policing' and with providing appropriate prohibitory signage – promised 3 years ago on the A421.
- EWR Rail; works complete and repairs carried out – in some locations to a poor standard.
- We await the continuation of the preparatory consultations for the A421 route around/through Buckingham.

Environment/Highways:

- Insufficient investment in highway maintenance and so, many issues continue – little noticeable improvement with the new contractor regime from April 2023.
- Continual damage to verges and road edges caused by HGVs.
- Flooding before Christmas 2023 – subsequently a new drain has been provided from New Inn Lane to the outlet towards the pond.
- Drainage – Main Street culvert highlighted as a cause of flooding. Repair works are said to be planned soon to increase the restricted capacity of the culvert.
- Foul water contamination of surface water ditches continues.
- State of the C3 is deteriorating and some sections are a disgrace. New Inn Lane resembles a 'third world' thoroughfare.
- Awaiting the Speed Management Plan works financed by the HS2 Road Safety Fund.
- Thanks to Rhona for organising the MVAS data analysis.
- Traffic calming urgently needed: danger from speeding on Radclive and Lenborough Roads and through the Village on Preston and Hillesden Roads.
- Petition to Buckinghamshire Council in preparation requesting a 40mph limit along the entirety of Radclive Road.
- A new MVAS is on order.
- Buckingham Road footpath lighting still outstanding despite works to replace the solar lights.
- Street lighting repairs are ongoing.
- Continuing issues with parking – insufficient spaces particularly along Buckingham Road and Main Street.
- 'Rat-running' from A421 becoming more of a problem as traffic increases and delays occur through Buckingham.
- Verge cutting by Buckinghamshire Council improved during 2023 but reductions to two cuts per season are being considered for 2024. The Parish Council's contract to cut Main Street verges has been well received. Investigations are in hand to extend the areas being cut.
- Further support is required for the Speedwatch Group.
- Thanks to Jo Hall, Tom Goodman and others for keeping the planting boxes restocked and in good order.

Leisure/Community:

- Gawcott Community Group events – Christmas tree lighting and carols etc and the summer fete in 2023. Thanks, in particular to Nicky Blacker and the small volunteer team. The number of events will decrease unless volunteer numbers increase.

- Solar farm – Councillor Ulph is a non-exec Parish Council representative on the Management Board.
- Playing Field. Management/Caretaking is a big problem.
- Timber doors and windows have been replaced and a new signboard and noticeboard provided.
- The pavilion refurbishment is now in hand following the successful grant application by the Clerk.
- Drainage issues remain but further field drainage cannot be contemplated unless the outfall beneath Lenborough Road is improved.
- Dogs on lead strategy agreed for the Field. [Notices to be erected].
- Thanks to Abi Hall for managing the security of the main Field gates and checking the pavilion daily.
- Thanks to Pavilion cleaner, Karen Richards. Thoughtless users of the Field and pavilion cause much extra work.
- Cartwright maintenance contract at the Playing Field – costs approximately £5000 pa.
- Yearly ROSPA inspections of the Play Area. Recommended repair works largely completed.
- The defibrillator located at the pavilion is now owned by the Parish Council.
- Coronation seat waiting to be placed in the Field. New picnic tables to be acquired.

Hodding Wood:

- The lease runs to 2038. The Parish Council strategy is to purchase/recover ownership of the Wood when possible.
- Thanks to Mr Tom Goodman for overseeing maintenance and the condition of the Wood with Mr Phillip Ramsden.

Other issues:

- Newsletter – another successful year for this essential community service. Thanks to editor Jo Edwards.
- Village Hall – A full contingent of Trustees is now in place. The Tingewick Pre-School in occupation until the summer half term of 2024. Works of repair have been completed, financed by Covid grants. Estimates being obtained for the cost of insulating the roof for which a grant from the Solar Farm may be available.
- Parish Council Website content and design updated and revised. Thanks to the Clerk for orchestrating the redesign and updating the site and content. There is also a dedicated Parish Council Facebook presence.

Projects:

- Traffic and Speed Management: an application for third tranche grant from the HS2 Road Safety Fund to be organised.
- Signage on A421 to direct HS2 and HGV traffic away from Buckingham Road. Still not provided despite endless promises.
- Preston Road MVAS mounting pole.
- Management of the Field and All-Weather Pitch. Caretaker required.
- A defibrillator in the centre of Village.
- Richard Roper Playing Field – keep fit trail and keep fit equipment for adults.
- 'Reclaim' the ownership of Hodding Wood.
- CCTV at the Field.
- Caretaker for the Field.

Problems:

- Traffic volumes and speed of vehicles through the Parish.
- Traffic build-up through Buckingham resulting in rat running through the Parish.
- Insufficient residential parking.

- Village untidiness.
- Insufficient volunteers to organise Village activities.

Thanks to all who helped the Parish Council and the Village groups to function during the year.

7. Responsible Finance Officer's report

The annual audit for 2022-23 has been completed and work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2023-24.

As at 31st March 2024, Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £55,227.03

£34,138.52 in the Deposit Account
 £1,510.65 in the Playing Field Account
 £1,577.86 in the Current Account
 £18,000 in the Bond Account

Our income

In addition to the precept (£20,000) and regular income received, such as: the All-Weather Pitch hire fees (£4,965), feed in tariff from solar panels (£2,263.38) the Football Club (£5715), Cricket Club (£900) and Nxt Level Coaching (£1,480). We also received some funding towards the costs of the loft insulation at the pavilion (£1,500). Our total income for 2023-24 was £44,676.

Our expenditure

Our total expenditure for 2023-24 was £54,570 (which includes VAT where applicable). This covers the general day to day costs, such as: electricity, water and maintenance for the pavilion, playing fields, all-weather pitch and the playground, some of the village grass verges and village green and the emptying of both the rubbish and dog bins around the village. Some additional costs this year were: new windows and doors and loft insulation at the pavilion, a new sign for the playing field, a new noticeboard and a generator and pump .

Precept

After careful consideration, the precept for 2024-25 has been increased to £25,000, which represents a 25% increase, for those in Band D this equates to approximately an additional 28p per week (other rating bands will be higher or lower). This decision was based on the budget that was agreed for the next financial year.

Funding

We were successful with some funding applications, details as follows:

- HS2 Road Safety Fund – some traffic calming measures throughout the village which are due to be carried out this year. Details can be found on our website.
- Bee Green Grant - £1,500 towards the cost of the loft insulation at the pavilion.

Further funding applied for:

- £922.50 to go towards the generator and pump – via Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards
- £2,821.25 to go towards a new speed sign – via Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards
- £6,762 to go towards the refurbishment costs of the pavilion – via Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards

We are pleased to advise that the above applications have been successful and will be paid during the financial year of 2024-25

Meeting closed at 7.33pm

Signed.....Chairman / Date.....

DRAFT