

## **Minutes of Berryfields Parish Council Meeting**

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

**on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Present:** Councillors Laurilee Green (Chairman), Arun Sekhar (Vice Chairman), Bindu Gundapudi, Gareth Lane, Paul Redshaw, Lucy Harmes, Anthea Cass (Clerk), Hannah Cass (minute taker).  
Buckinghamshire Councillor Waite

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Rees.

Cllr Yandrapati.

Angelika Opoka.

Cllr Green announced that Cllr Hills and Cllr Habib have resigned. She thanked them for their hard work and said that they will be missed.

### **2. Declarations of interests in items on the agenda.**

Cllr Green declared an interest in the grant application from Greenridge School.

Cllr Sekhar declared an interest in the planning application, and the grant application from Greenridge School.

Cllr Gundapudi declared an interest in both grant applications.

### **3. Open forum (under adjournment):**

A member of the public attended the meeting and raised the issue of dog excrement on the pavements. He said that the previous Clerk had given him a highlighter spray of which he has run out. He asked for some more, and the Clerk agreed. He also asked about the parking issue, and asked if there was some way of persuading people not to park on pavements.

Another member of the public raised the issue of the path behind the Sainsbury still being shut off. He said this has now gone on for 7 weeks, despite no work being done. He also said that there was a delivery of pebbles that were spilt onto the road, so not only is the road sinking but it is now covered in grit. He asked if the council could send a letter to the people doing it. Ashley Waite was also in attendance and replied to this – he said the Council have had a constant stream of complaints from residents and they are currently fighting a battle with the Consortium. He said they feel they have done an adequate job to provide a diversion, but he does not agree with this in the slightest.

Cllr Waite also discussed several points:

- He spoke about the man residing in the layby and explained that he is refusing to engage with anyone for help, therefore his rough sleeping has become a lifestyle choice. Cllr Waite says as he is refusing to engage with the Council, he falls into a grey area – the level of antisocial behaviour is not bad enough for police to make an arrest and he

cannot be evicted because he is not in a house. The Council is trying to get an injunction based on antisocial behaviour, but it must be proven to a judge that there is antisocial behaviour. Cllr Waite asked Berryfields Parish Council to submit an email to Bucks Council detailing a couple of paragraphs detailing what the residents have said about the man. He said they are not trying to punish him. He also said that an injunction may be a trigger for him to receive help which he clearly needs. He explained that the downside of an injunction is that they cannot give him a blanket injunction for the whole estate, and so he could just move the problem elsewhere on the estate.

- Cllr Waite also explained that he is working with a farmer on Berryfields Lane which is a blackspot for fly tipping. He said they are going to clear it in the next couple of weeks, and signage and cameras are going up to see if they can spot what is going on. He said that the Street Work team came out and made a plan – they just need to execute the plan and see what happens.

#### 4. Planning

23/00738/APP | Householder application for single storey rear extension | 2 Comet Way  
Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP18 1AJ

**Proposed by:** Cllr Redshaw.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Sekhar.

**Proposed to remain neutral.**

23/00708/APP | Householder application for loft conversion with front and rear dormer | 7  
Benton Mews Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP18 0YE

**Proposed by:** Cllr Lane.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Harmes.

**Proposed to remain neutral.**

#### 5. Minutes

The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Lane.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Gundapudi.

**Agreed unanimously.**

#### 6. Land & facilities

##### **Roman Park & Village Hall**

No updates.

Cllr Lane asked about the kitchen, and whether anything else needs to be done to it. The Clerk replied that all that is left to do is get an oven for it.

## Hall membership

Cllr Green explained that there have been a lot of conversations about hall membership and how to move forward because membership does not work in the way it aimed to. She said it has been decided that members will be offered a pro-rata refund, in the form of vouchers to be used behind the bar - it would encourage people to come to events, whilst also feeling like they are getting something for their membership. The Clerk said that there is a new till and staff are currently looking into ways of doing it. Cllr Sekhar suggested sending another email out to members to tell them what is going on. The Clerk asked if any councillors have any ideas, they will be welcome.

The councillors also discussed the comment left on Facebook by the Roman Park facilities management about coming into the office to get a refund. The Clerk asserted that this is not the case and cash refunds are not being offered to anyone.

## Allotments Update.

The Clerk announced that the allotment invoices will go out on 31<sup>st</sup> March to all current plot holders and there is still a waiting list of about 20 people – she also said she suspects that a few people will hand their plots back.

## Park inspections and repairs Update.

The Clerk announced that the vandalisms have been dealt with. She informed the councillors that the zip wire in Roman Park is broken but ProLudic are aware of it and are going to get back to her.

## 7. Finance

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

Cllr Sekhar asked about the payment run and said that the figures do not match. The Clerk said the accounts are until the end of February, and these ones are to be authorised and made tomorrow.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Redshaw.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Harmes.

7.2 To agree the accounts to end February as circulated.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Redshaw.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Harmes.

## 8. Events

Update on Coronation community event 6th May.

Cllr Green explained that the Coronation event has been discussed with the Clerk, and the initial plan was for it to be televised in the morning, then people can have a picnic, and attend the evening entertainment. However, they realised that either people won't come as it's too early or they won't stay until the evening. It was discussed that it could be changed,

so, there are no big screens, but just televise it on the screens in the hall, and then have an afternoon tea celebration so people are more likely to come for the evening. There will still be commemorative items and entertainment. Cllr Sekhar asked if there will still be stalls and donkeys and the Clerk replied that she is not sure if the donkeys would attend that late in the day, or whether stalls would want to set up for that little time. She said that the bouncy castles will still be there, and the band has been booked.

#### 9. **Community Grant Application**

To discuss/approve the following community grant applications as circulated:

Cllr Green informed the councillors that there is £400 remaining in this year's grant budget. Cllr Redshaw suggested giving £400 to the Telugu community as they have asked for £500, and then push the Greenridge application back to next year. The councillors discussed that they will likely need the money beforehand so it would be better to split it.

##### Green Ridge Academy

Councillors resolved to give £300 to the Green Ridge Academy.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Gundapudi.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Lane.

##### UKATC – Aylesbury Telugu Community.

Councillors resolved to give £100 to the UKATC.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Sekhar.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Harmes.

#### 10. **Policies**

To approve the updated Code of Conduct policy as circulated.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Sekhar.

**Seconded by:** Cllr Redshaw.

#### 11. **Berryfields News & Communication**

Cllr Green talked about the most recent editorial team meeting and said that there were continued discussions about content and who they can invite to put articles in. She said they are going to change the name to 'Your Berryfields' from the next edition. She also said that they decided on having a middle spread for children in each edition (e.g. colouring pages, competitions, pet's corner). The Clerk mentioned that if anything from the magazine is pulled out to be kept, then VAT would apply. Cllr Redshaw suggested that because the council is VAT exempt then it won't matter anyway. Cllr Green announced that the group is aiming towards a deadline of mid-May, and it will come out at the end of June. She also said that if the councillors knew anyone who would like to join the editorial team or want to include anything themselves, then let her know. The Clerk announced that this month's

edition will be out 24<sup>th</sup> March and has been approved. Cllr Lane suggested having a directory of all people who offer services in Berryfields. Cllr Green replied that they are trying to avoid free advertising and that they don't want to be recommending people in case there are any issues. Cllr Redshaw discussed smaller business sized adverts and said that if someone has paid for an advert, but then other similar services are listed then it is not fair.

## 12. Highways & Transport

### Road safety campaign for schools in Berryfields.

Cllr Waite spoke about the issues with parking around the AVA and Green Ridge school. He said the issues with parking around schools is not isolated to Berryfields, and that there are a number of options. The current status is to look to educate before committing and spending large amounts of money on road works to fix the problem. He said that there is the option of educating people from banners on parking and speed. He explained a scheme called Parking Promise, whereby parents sign a promise to park sensibly and receive a sticker to put in their car window. He also said that there are letters and leaflets that can be distributed, which have been approved. He then explained that another option could be to look at refreshing speed signage around the schools, and the council's sustainable transport team could provide maps with ideal routes. He suggested that sceptics would question whether this would change anything. He also discussed a scheme which looks at travel plans to schools and encouraging parents to walk to school. However, Green Ridge have submitted a gold level travel plan, but still have the biggest problem. AVA have not submitted anything and are not even registered on the scheme. He also explained that yellow lines are going to be challenging, and the chances of getting a traffic warden out to ticket people is unlikely. He then talked about the possibility of a lollypop person – he said the Parish Council can sponsor one for around £10k a year to cover term times. He suggested that finding a volunteer to do it would be considerably less, but there is still a cost due to insurance, equipment and training. He said that it is his opinion that there is a good opportunity now to do a parking/speed campaign across schools and suggested a poster competition. He also said that the Council will not entertain pelican crossings etc unless there is proof of an attempt at education beforehand that has not worked.

Cllr Redshaw suggested having yellow lines, and said that even if they are not enforced, they may still help because it may deter people. Cllr Waite replied that the problem with lines is that the cost of them is only £800, but the cost of legal enforcement is around £5k, and people are still parking on them anyway. He said that there needs to be enforcers out there, but this won't happen straight away. Cllr Redshaw also raised the issue of people parking their cars on the roadsides, so they do not have to pay at the train station. Cllr Waite replied that there is a possibility of giving stickers to Berryfields residents and pulling people up who are not displaying their sticker.

Cllr Waite said his viewpoint is that Berryfields Parish Council needs to lead on this, and he will support, and in the interim, he will try to get more enforcement out.

MVAS & Sentinel.

The Clerk announced that the MVAS frame is currently being built. She also said that she has not yet been able to locate the speed gun, and it was not found at Watermead either. Cllr Green suggested using the simple handheld guns.

**13. Meetings & matters of report**

None.

**14. Date of next Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday 19th April 2023.