

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00pm on THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT BUCKHURST HILL LIBRARY

PRESENT

Cllrs: Mr S Neville (Chairman)
Mr S Heap (Vice Chair)
Mr G Chambers
Mrs A Hall
Mrs S Goodfellow
Mrs A Redelinghuys
Mr D Saunders
Mrs J Share Bernia
Mr M Vance
Mr M West
Mr K Williamson

Press: D Jackman

In attendance: Mrs E P Petyt-Start (Clerk)

Public: 9 members of public

District Cllr A Patel

033/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received. It was advised two members were running late.

034/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests received.

035/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(Cllrs Share Bernia and Heap arrived during this item)

There was public participation from six members of the public.

A resident made a request representing three shop keepers to be permitted to open and close the RVH car park gates on behalf of the Parish Council.

A resident spoke in support of the request.

A resident requested support of the council for a Jumble Trail.

A resident spoke about discussions with TFL for repurposing the Old Station Masters house and advised councillors may attend a meeting regarding this. Cllrs Williamson and West expressed an interest.

A resident asked the Chair to set out the vision for the parish council, the setting of its precept and the library. The resident expressed opinion there had been no halls progress to date, a waste of precept money and would like to see the council's reserves invested back into the community. He questioned the apolitical and transparent nature of the council.

The Chair gave a response i) the precept is to be decided ii) he agreed there is a new council with 8 new members iii) the reserves are currently ear marked to the Halls Development.

A resident spoke about potholes, surface defects and a sink hole in Roding Lane,

noting these had been reported to Essex Highways yet not deemed to be a priority to repair. She expressed the opinion these items were an accident waiting to happen. In addition the speeding along Roding Lane was having a detrimental effect on the properties and reducing speed in this road was required.

Another resident suggested average speed cameras for this area.

The Clerk was requested to write to the Cty Cllr on the Highways issues on behalf of Council. Cty Cllr Vance agreed to communicate directly with the resident who raised the highways concerns.

036/21 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARTICIPATION

District Cllr Share-Bernia informed the meeting she was noticing more planning applications referring to the Clean Air Zone. She noted the Place Committee is looking at supporting High Street recovery following the pandemic.

Cty Cllr Vance advised the county has also supported the Afghan crisis looking at housing and employment for the refugees.

District Cllr Patel informed there are two weeks left on the Local Plan Main Modification Consultation. EFDC has supported the Afghan resettlement programme with two houses. The Communities team have supported events across the summer and the Civic Offices has opened a Community Hub. The Epping Forest District Museum has been hosting a Holocaust Survivors exhibition and linked this to the newly placed Blue Plaque which was unveiled at Holmehurst in Buckhurst Hill this past week.

District Cllr Williamson stated since election and becoming a District representative it had been a steep learning curve and he was grateful for the opportunity of being a District member.

037/21 MINUTES

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 1 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign them.

038/21 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following committee meetings were noted:

- Finance & Establishment: 1 July
- Planning & Environment: 8 July; 5,19 August; 2 September

039/21 CHAIRMAN'S AND CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

As advised by the Clerk:

the Roding Valley Hall Car Park had received three offers to key hold and one request for the car park to be closed;

the parish magazine feedback was noted;

the plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebration was shared;

a letter from the BHRS regarding Highways issues was brought to the attention of members;

feedback on the idea of a statue to commemorate Prince Philip was noted;

a request from a resident to consider repurposing the Old Station Masters House and speeding was noted

040/21 HALLS DEVELOPMENT

- i) The proposals discussed at Accommodation Committee were reviewed. A range of opinions and thoughts were shared by members:
- The QS cost plan report has a number of price exclusions in its sum i.e. builders profit, asbestos, fees
 - Original estimate of build from options appraisal was understated in comparison to QS costing
 - Missing costs, aesthetics concern, re-design and functionality should be reconsidered by the Accommodation Committee
 - Design and use to be re-considered
 - Some concerns with placement within the building
 - Use of building to be considered a priority
 - Should not go back to beginning and start design again
 - Spaces should be flexible particularly on first floor of design
 - Remove offices to be able to have council meetings
 - Progress should be made
 - Accommodation Committee to review the design
 - Can't build what can't afford
 - Design brief has followed direction of the previous proposals
 - Costings will change and should go back to the design
 - Covid has changed the world and this will alter what is required from the design
 - Different options should be considered and then voted upon
 - The library should be considered as an option for development
 - Library should be developed as a community hub
 - RVH should be rebuilt like for like
 - The Woollard Centre must not be sold
 - ECC owns the library
 - ECC has responsibility for the library

Information was received regarding the future County Library strategy and it was noted the current library building was unlikely to be sold by county. Members were encouraged to be part of the library strategy consultation.

A query was raised regarding the ongoing nature of the Expressions of Interest for a Community Library.

The library should be invested in and developed, the council should invest from its funds.

There should be public consultation on any hall expenditure.

The library will be staffed by County five days a week in the future.

- ii) Following the discussion and noting the QS report and the next stages of the project, it was agreed to refer this item back to Accommodation Committee to provide recommendations to Full Council for future decision(s).

041/21 POLICE REPORT

- i) There was no update provided by the Epping Forest Community Police Team, due to the team going through personnel changes.
- ii) It was advised and noted the current PCSO had moved to a new location. Recruitment is advanced for his replacement and a dedicated new PCSO is expected in the parish by mid-November.

042/21 **SPEEDWATCH**

The Clerk advised the Speed Watch group was looking to re-start but is in desperate need for new volunteers and a co-ordinator. This has been advertised in the Parish magazine and social media channels.

043/21 **DISABLED PARKING AT RECREATION GROUND**

The complaint regarding lack of disabled parking at the Recreation Ground was discussed.

It was noted there is no parking at the grounds and the parish council does not have the powers to change the private land opposite the entrance into a car park. EFDC owns the land and the highway is enforced by ECC and this is unsuitable for disabled bays.

It was suggested to encourage residents to park around other entrances and use these since parking on Roding Lane is unsuitable.

044/21 **RODING VALLEY HALL CAR PARK**

(this item was brought forward on the agenda but for consistency has been recorded in its original order)

- i) Following some discussion and noting comments of the residents in public participation, members AGREED to change the car park opening/closing times to Monday to Saturday 8.30 am to 6.30 pm with a period of review in the future. (to fall in line with the shop keepers request and the shop opening times)

During this discussion the Chair advised it was the Proper Officer's right to make delegated decision for the assets and employees of the Council at short notice, not ideal, but a decision had to be made and this was completed for some days in August only. Reference was also made to occasions when the car park may not have been locked at the advertised times.

Comment was given that closure of the car park meant that businesses lost income and it was disappointing five members had requested a special meeting to discuss this matter which had not been convened.

Cllr Share Bernia commented the closure was catastrophic and the decision should not have been made.

- ii) The Clerk informed the meeting, the council's insurer had agreed to the principle of volunteer key holding as long as the volunteers were suitably trained, aware of the responsibility and fulfilled the role as set out by council.

Members AGREED for the three shopkeeper volunteer key holders to be given responsibility for opening and closing the car park gates when there are no other hall activities/parish duties taking place. The Clerk was requested to liaise with the shopkeepers and implement this process.

The opening times shall be reviewed after six months.

045/21 **COMMITTEES**

- a) The requirement for Committees was considered, reviewed and discussed
- b) Members agreed to changes to the committee membership as detailed in appendix A to take effect from the next meetings (16th September 2021)

Finance & Establishment

Cllr Chambers proposed by Cllr Williamson, seconded by Cllr Vance

Planning & Environment

Cllr Neville proposed by Cllr Redelinghuys, seconded by Cllr Goodfellow

Accommodation

Cllr Saunders proposed by Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Williamson

Personnel

Cllr Chambers proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Vance

Cllr Hall proposed by Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr West

046/21 AFGHANISTAN CRISIS

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Chambers, seconded by Cllr Share Bernia to provide a donation of £1000 to the Red Cross Charity to be allocated from the members allowance budget.

Members UNANIMOUSLY agreed to the proposal.

047/21 DEFIBRILATORS

Following a brief discussion, it was UNANIMOUSLY agreed to fund the provision of defibrillators within the Parish. The Clerk was requested to supply a report for the next meeting.

048/21 COVID MEMORIAL

Following a discussion it was UNANIMOUSLY agreed for the working party to meet. Members forming the working are detailed in appendix A

049/21 FULL COUNCIL ITEMS OF CONCERN/NEXT AGENDA

Items of concern

- a) Bank Mandate update progression

Items for next agenda

- b)
 - i) Request from the Head of Policy of the Japanese Local Government Centre to become a partner council with Japanese local government event.
 - ii) Old Station Master House listing as a community asset

Recreation and Community – The Jumble Trail

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20.46PM.

Chairman

Date

APPENDIX A

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2021-22 – revised 09/09/21

Council Chairman Cllr Steven Neville
Council Vice Chairman Cllr Simon Heap

FINANCE & ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mr M West (Chairman)
Cllr Mr S Heap
Cllr Mr S Neville
Cllr Mrs A Redelinghuys
Cllr G Chambers

RECREATION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Cllr Ms S Goodfellow (Chair)
Cllr Mr G Chambers
Cllr Mrs A Hall
Cllr Mr S Neville
Cllr Mrs A Redelinghuys
Cllr Mr D Saunders
Cllr Mrs J Share-Bernia
Cllr Mr K Williamson

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs A Redelinghuys (Chair)
Cllr Mr G Chambers
Cllr Mr S Heap
Cllr Mr M West
Cllr Mr D Saunders
Cllr S Neville

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mrs A Hall
Cllr Mr S Heap
Cllr Mr S Neville
Cllr Mrs A Redelinghuys
Cllr Ms S Goodfellow
Cllr Mr M West

ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE

Cllr Mr S Heap (Chairman)
Cllr Mr G Chambers
Cllr Mrs S Goodfellow
Cllr Mr S Neville
Cllr Mrs A Redelinghuys
Cllr Mrs J Share Bernia
Cllr Mr M West
Cllr Mr K Williamson
Cllr Mr M Vance
Cllr D Saunders

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Cllr Mr S Neville (Chairman)
Cllr Ms S Goodfellow
Cllr Mrs A Redelinghuys
Cllr A Hall
Cllr G Chambers

COVID MEMORIAL WORKING PARTY

Cllr S Goodfellow
Cllr J Share Bernia
Cllr S Neville
Cllr D Saunders
Cllr K Williamson
Resident L. Green

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mrs Liz Petyt-Start

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER/DEPUTY CLERK

Mrs Kim Lumb