

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL MEETING OF BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00pm on THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT BUCKHURST HILL LIBRARY

PRESENT

Cllrs: Mr D Saunders (Chair)
Mr R Church
Mrs J Forker Clark
Ms A Hall
Mr R Kaul
Mr S Neville
Mr M Vance
Mr A Weinberg
Mr K Williamson

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

3 Members of Public
2 Police Officers

040/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Chambers Bagshaw and Cllr Heap.
There was also an apology for lateness from Cllr Neville.

041/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Williamson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 as the District Councillor responsible for the Technical Services Portfolio.
Cllr Vance declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 15 as the proposer of the project.

042/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1 member of public spoke on behalf of herself and 2 other members of the public, requesting support for fellow Ukrainians who have found refuge in the UK under the Home Program for Ukrainians. She thanked Cllrs Church and District Cllr A Patel for their support for those in need.
(Cllr Neville arrived during this item)

043/23 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARTICIPATION

Cllr Williamson noted the waste contract change was in progress.

Cty Cllr Vance requested members and residents to join the consultation on the Waste Strategy and Buses. He advised Palmerston Road will be closed for four nights from 20th November between Stradbroke and Loughton Way. Also, Loughton Way will be closed for eight nights from 3 November between Greensted and River Roads. Diversion for both closures will be put in place. There will also be road repairs on Roding Lane between Rous Road and Loughton way. Date to be advised.

There will be a consultation on the Average Speed Camera introduction along the Epping New Road.

ECC is being offered tier 2 on the devolution programme.

The Luxborough Lane foot bridge closure is to be confirmed.

Improving the road access markings for Bridleway 66 is in hand.

044/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the full council meeting held on 27 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record and the Chair authorised to sign them.

045/23 CHAIRMAN'S AND CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reported

- i) ELHAP had written to Council to thank it for the charitable donation
- ii) The blue plaque for Violet Friedlander has been erected at 16 Loughton Way

046/23 COMMITTEES

The minutes of the committees were noted.

- **Planning & Environment:** 1st June and 22nd June; 13th July
- **Finance & Establishment:** 22nd June
- **Recreation & Community:** 29th June

047/23 FINANCE

The Council's financial position as at 31 August, circulated, was noted.

048/23 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Forker Clark provided an update for members about the work of the Roding Valley Nature Reserve.

049/23 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan having been reviewed was noted.

050/23 RODING VALLEY HALL DEVELOPMENT

Although there has been no further progress at this point in time, Chair noted there is a desire to progress the development but the issues are complex and the valuation of the Community Halls is part of the overall planning.

051/23 RODING VALLEY RECREATION GROUND – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Clerk requested EFDC to confirm, that if BHPC gave notice on the grounds maintenance contract, the grounds maintenance arrangements regarding grass cutting and associated items would continue. However no reply has yet been received.

Following a discussion Cllr Vance proposed, Cllr Weinberg seconded to give notice to cancel the arrangement for grass cutting across the Recreation Ground from 1st April 2024. **AGREED** by majority.

052/23 NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Cty Cllr Vance provided an update. He advised money has been set aside for the design; there are five stages and its intended implementation will be in the next financial year.

053/23 BUS SHELTER ALBERT ROAD

There was no recommendation received due to inquorate committee.

A suggestion was made for BHPC to fund a new bus shelter in the 2024/25 budget and for estimates to be obtained for this.

Cllr Williamson agreed to advise and confirm that the land location for the new shelter is owned by EFDC.

054/23 PARKING RESTRICTIONS ROEBUCK LANE

- i) A funding request for the scheme was received and discussed by members
- ii) Proposed by Cllr Williamson, Seconded by Cllr Neville it was AGREED not to fund the scheme.
However, members noted support of parking restriction measures brought forward for the benefit of residents by NEPP.

055/23 POLICE UPDATE

(item recorded in original order for consistency but it was brought forward in meeting)

PCSO Kitchen gave a verbal update of the first few months of service in the parish, noting support and welcome given by residents and the Council.

Members thanked the Police for their work and subsequently advised it would be good to receive statistics update in future meetings.

056/23 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- i) Draft revised terms of reference were received for the committees: Finance and Establishment and Recreation and Community
- ii) Proposed by Cllr Vance, Seconded by Cllr Kaul Finance and Establishment Committee TOR were unanimously AGREED
- iii) Proposed by Cllr Forker Clark, Seconded by Cllr Neville the Recreation and Community Committee TOR were unanimously AGREED

057/23 WASTE STRATEGY ESSEX

The strategy was discussed and it was AGREED to publicise and share consultation widely to residents.

Members were encouraged to complete the online Consultation.

A request was made to include the consultation link in the next magazine edition and for advertising via social media.

058/23 VALUATION SURVEY COMMUNITY HALLS

- i) Quotations were received and discussed
- ii) Proposed by Cllr Church, Seconded by Cllr Williamson to appoint Clarke Hillyer - AGREED by majority.

059/23 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

The results of the survey were noted that the majority of members voted for a meeting start time of 7pm.

Members requested a survey of meeting times for residents to be included in the next magazine.

060/23 PARISH OFFICES WORKING PARTY

The parish offices located in Warwick House was discussed. The rent increase was noted.

Proposed by Cllr Williamson, Seconded by Cllr Vance to use the Woollard Centre as the Parish Office at the earliest time it can be made workable.

AGREED

Following a discussion around arrangements and the potential impact on the halls development project;

Proposed by Cllr Saunders, Seconded by Cllr Williamson the working party to provide a scope terms of reference and meet as frequently as appropriate, to move this project along.

AGREED

It was agreed Cllr Saunders would be added to the working party and co-ordinate this work

061/23 LAND IN FRONT OF RODING VALLEY STATION

The poor state of land was discussed.

Members requested a quotation for maintain the land and specifically grass cutting be brought back to the Council for decision.

062/23 UKRAINE AID

(item recorded in original order for consistency but it was brought forward in meeting)

Members unanimously AGREED to support the work of Home Program for Ukrainians.

063/23 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

- i) Cty Cllr Vance explained the progression of the installation of the SID/VAS and requested Council to provide decision on the agreement
- ii) Proposed by Cllr Vance, seconded by Cllr Church it was AGREED to delegate authority for the Clerk to sign the agreement.

It was noted there is an EMR for the purchase of the devices and there is a requirement for an ongoing budget to operate and maintain. The Recreation and Community Committee will progress the implementation of the devices.

The remainder of the meeting moved into private session (Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960)

064/23 HORNBEAM ROAD PLAYGROUND

- i) A recommendation from the Recreation and Community Working Party was received, to approve the selected contractor for the Hornbeam Road new playground, following a detailed tender evaluation process.
- ii) It was Proposed by Cllr Williamson, Seconded by Cllr Forker Clark to appoint Proludic for the design and installation and all elements of the specification for the new playground at Hornbeam Road.
Unanimously AGREED.

It was noted the budget must be observed. Chair expressed a preference to visit playgrounds already installed by the contractor.

065/23 FULL COUNCIL ITEMS OF CONCERN

- a) Items of concern – Police strategy on drug use and dealing in the parish
- b) Items for the next meeting – (Members may request agenda items at any time)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50PM.

Chairman

Date