

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.05pm on THURSDAY 27 JULY 2023 AT BUCKHURST HILL LIBRARY

PRESENT

Cllrs: Mr D Saunders (Chair)
Mr G Chambers Bagshaw
Mr R Church
Mrs J Forker Clark
Mr S Heap
Mr M Vance
Mr A Weinberg
Mr K Williamson

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

7 Members of Public

022/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs: Kaul and Neville and lateness apologies from Cllr Vance.

023/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Williamson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 13 as the District Councillor responsible for the Technical Services Portfolio.

024/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4 member present spoke regarding the recent changes to the operational times of the car park at Roding Valley Hall. The public requested the operational times of the RVH return to 8.30 am to 18.30 pm Monday to Saturday.

(Cllr Vance arrived during this item)

025/23 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARTICIPATION

Cllr Williamson advised the refuse contract is up for renewal in October 2024, currently with Biffa and as a result of being badly let down the District Council has made the decision to take the operation in house and will set up a subsidiary owned by the council to carry out refuse collection post October 2024.

He is also involved with the Harlow and Gilsden Garden Town Development which will provide 4,000 new homes in Epping Forest District

Cty Cllr Vance update the meeting: the local highways panel has a number of agreed schemes but limited funding to meet them all, although the St Johns High Road pedestrian scheme is still progressing; he has agreed with Highways a number of pavement and road works to be completed, Westbury lane pavements and potholes are being completed currently, Queens Road will be completed next, Victoria Road will be soured and cleaned up, Loughton Way will be resurfaced, 12 footpaths will be completed.

Following these works there will be another priority 36 works undertaken which are to be decided.

Currently devolution is being discussed at county. There will be a public consultation in due course.

Whipps Cross Hospital development is going ahead but it'll be scaled back.

County is consulting on the proposed development at the GGSK school site.

Locality Fund awards is being considered.

026/23 MINUTES

An amendment was made to indicate Chair is the Chair of the Personnel Committee.

With amendment to Appendix, the minutes of the annual council meeting held on 25 May 2023 were agreed as a correct record and the Chair authorised to sign them.

027/23 CHAIRMAN'S AND CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reported

- i) Two requests had been received from shop keepers of Station Way one to change the opening times back and the other to be allowed to have a key again.
- ii) A request from a resident had been made to repair the road surface in Lower Queens Road and remove tree branches from the allotment overhanging the road from the Clerk or Chair.
- iii) A resident has requested the parish council fund the cost of repair to the Linder's Fields Gates. Items ii) and iii) to be considered at the next R & C committee meeting
- iv) The land owner of the green in front of Roding Valley Station has refused to tidy the area and requested the parish council to take this on

The Clerk advised the order for the new Historic Plaque for Violet Friedlander had been placed since the residents of 16 Loughton Way had agreed for it to be erected on their property.

028/23 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

029/23 FINANCE

The Council's financial position as at 30 June, circulated, was noted.

030/23 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The BHCA has been in contact regarding grant funding and they have been directed to the Community Initiative Fund.

031/23 FORWARD PLAN

A question was raised regarding the progress of Items 55 and 56. Chair responded this will be progressed at the next Personnel Committee, re-arranged for September.

Item 5 was queried. Cty Cllr Vance advised the Bus Shelter contractor will be appointed in September 2023.

The Forward Plan having been reviewed and noted.

032/23 RODING VALLEY HALL DEVELOPMENT

Chair advised members of the working party had met and much background work has been completed simultaneously to bring the different streams of work together. The last piece of work to be completed is the Valuation Survey of each Hall. This will be brought back to the F & E committee in September and then to Full Council for final decision.

The Clerk was requested to contact Stretton's and Savills to quote for the Valuation work.

033/23 CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

Chair select the Buckhurst Hill Money Advice Service as his charity for the ensuing year.

034/23 RODING VALLEY RECREATION GROUND – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Clerk was requested to seek confirmation from EFDC: that if the BHPC were to give notice to EFDC that BHPC will no longer be paying for this service as of end March 2024; the grounds maintenance arrangements regarding grass cutting and associated items would continue.

035/23 EPPING NEW ROAD SPEED RESTRICTIONS

Cty Cllr Vance advised the meeting the Dept. for Transport has identified the A104 to be in need to become safer and £1.3m funding has been allocated to bring the road up to standard. Essex County is in the process of putting a scheme together. There is no requirement for consultation.

036/23 MEETING SCHEDULE

- i) It was agreed the Clerk to poll members for preferred meeting start time with options of 6.00/6.30/7.00 PM.
- ii) It was agreed not to have back to back meetings wherever possible. Not to have Full Council along with another meeting on the same evening.
Noted there is a potential to have committee meetings on another evening also (standing orders would require changing)

037/23 WOOLLARDS KITCHEN

It was unanimously AGREED to increase support for the Woollard's kitchen, to provide a free let twice per month.

038/23 RODING VALLEY HALL CAR PARK

(this item was brought forward during the meeting but for consistency is recorded in its original agenda order)

i) Issues around not operating the car park to the agreed times were discussed and the comments of the shop keepers taken on board

ii) It was agree to revert to the former operating times of Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

It was noted the shopkeepers would discuss amongst themselves and agree a timetable of days for opening and closing. Once this is provided to the Clerk the hours will revert.

Council noted the right to withdraw the arrangement and that it was imperative to stick to the agreed times.

038/23 STANDING ORDERS

The revision to the Standing Orders allowing for substitute members was AGREED.

039/23 FULL COUNCIL ITEMS OF CONCERN

- a) Noted the landowner of the Village Green is now in communication with

EFDC since the tree was felled.

b) Items for the next meeting –

Pedestrian Crossing at St Johns High Road
Bus Shelter Albert Road

(Members may request agenda items at any time.)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.46PM.

Chairman

Date