



**DRAFT Minutes of the Bury Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

**In attendance:** Councillors Champness (Chair), Davis, Daykin, Driver, Marconi, Morrison and Whyles.

**Apologies:** Councillors Labarte and Rudd which Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve.

**Also in attendance:** Mike Simpson (Clerk), District Councillor Alan Sutton and four members of the public.

**2. To Receive Declarations of Interest, Notification of Changes to Members' Interests and consider any requests for a dispensation.**

There were none.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 as a true and accurate record.

**4. Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to five minutes at the discretion of the Chair)**

The owner of Sandy Meadow Farm spoke about item 11(b) and stated that his land had been operating as a caravan and camper site for many years. He added that the new barn being built was the same size as the original one, which burnt down, but may appear bigger as the conifer trees surrounding it had been removed. Councillors questioned the use of the mobile home as they believed it was being used as residential space. However, the owner said this was not the case and confirmed it would never be used as a residential space. He added that any use of the land had been going on for many years without enforcement action and so could be addressed with a Lawful Development Certificate.

Another resident raised concerns about the integrity of the sunken lane outside Foxbury Farm. Councillor Daykin responded saying he believed there was nothing wrong with it but agreed to meet the resident to ensure they were talking about the same one.

**5. County Councillor reports**

There was no report.

**6. District Councillor reports**

Councillor Alan Sutton advised that, in keeping with pre-election arrangements, he would not give a proper update but informed the Council that WSCC was still waiting for the landowner's permission to make the necessary repairs to the A29 in Pulborough. Councillor Daykin said he could not understand why WSCC did not have the powers to access the land to which Councillor Sutton said it was on the advice of the WSCC barrister. Councillor Driver questioned whether there was any funding for long term solutions such as a bypass and Councillor Whyles also said he believed it was unacceptable for the road to still be closed whereupon Councillors **AGREED** to write a letter to WSCC outlining their frustration at the lack of action.

**7. Chair's announcements**

The Chair reminded Councillors that the two village hall consultation events were this week on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 17:30-20:30 and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 9.30-12:30.

**8. Planning Applications**

**SDNP/23/00713/SCREEN:** Sewage Treatment Works Houghton Lane Bury West Sussex

Proposal: EIA Screening Opinion Request for the proposed upgrade of wastewater treatment works.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to support this application.

**9. Finances**

**(a) To review the schedule of payments since 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and latest bank reconciliations.**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule and bank reconciliation for February 2023.

**(b) To review and approve the insurance premium for 2023-24**

Councillors reviewed the insurance premium, which was under long term agreement, and **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of £2,945.63.

**(c) To note any variances in actual vs budget for the current financial year.**

Councillors noted the report and **AGREED** to approve it.

**10. Village Hall**

**To receive an update on the redesign of the village hall and decide on the next steps.**

Councillor Whyles advised that the two drop-in sessions this week would conclude the Council's public consultation on the redesign and, along with various meetings with residents, he hoped the Council would get the required 30% support to start looking for funding and start the planning process. He added that he believed the project needed to be opened up to the wider community with working groups looking at specific aspects with a Councillor on each group. He suggested six working groups:

1. A client for the apartment that acts on behalf of the Squire's Cottages charity
2. Arranging funding from CIL and other grants, a public works loan and the Squires Cottage fund
3. Heating and energy strategy and liaising with the services consultant
4. Kitchen layout design
5. Local fundraising
6. Liaising with the community and potential users and keeping neighbours up to date with progress

Councillors Champness and Davis agreed that wider engagement was required but it was agreed to defer any decision on the way forward until after the new Council was formed.

**11. Grounds and Highways**

**(a) To receive an update on the A29 from the Road Improvement Committee.**

Councillor Morrison advised that the RIC had organised a conference for March 29<sup>th</sup> to look at the A29 from Bury Gate to Whiteways roundabout which included the local MP, Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Inspector of Sussex Police, Chair of SDNPA, Director of Planning at SDNPA, Norfolk Estate Manager, WSCC Director of Highways and District and County Councillors. The conference would look at 12 wide ranging initiatives to reduce speeding and also to acquire support for a landscape study of the A29.

**(b) To receive an update on planning breaches along Bignor Park Road.**

Councillor Daykin updated the Council on a meeting he had with CDC planning enforcement officials and District Councillor Alan Sutton at which he raised concerns about unauthorised use/development

at Bignor Park Nursery, Roman Hill Farm and Sandy Meadow Farm. The officials said they would visit the sites and report back. Bignor Park Road was currently subject to a planning application which had not been determined and were waiting for feedback on the other two. It was **AGREED** that the Council should inform CDC that the owner of Sandy Meadow Farm had stated the office on his land was not being used as residential.

**(c) To discuss the dog waste bins in the parish.**

Councillors discussed removing the dog waste bins in the parish as the litter bins could be used for dog waste and would save the Council approximately £800 per annum. Councillors **RESOLVED** to remove the dog bins subject to confirmation of extra litter bin collections from Chichester District Council to account for the additional dog waste.

**(d) To discuss a 20mph zone for the village.**

Councillor Davis and Whyles explained they had researched introducing 20mph zones in the parish and believed it would cost around £3,250 which would include terminal signs for the parish and the school, which would be subject to a separate application, as well as repeater signs on the road. If the Council paid for the changes, then the application would only take a couple of months to approve by WSCC. Councillor Davis believed the money should be raised from grants and not taken from the precept but the Council needed to get public support so it was **AGREED** to start the consultation process.

**(e) To discuss any issues relating to footpaths and open spaces.**

The sunken lane by Foxbury farm had already been discussed and Councillor Daykin said the heritage road signs still needed to be finished but the top part of the signs were difficult to source.

**12. Bury and West Burton Volunteers**

**To receive an update and consider any requests.**

The Chair of the BWBV reported that dates for future events had already been circulated and tickets for the coronation lunch were already on sale. She also said that between the volunteers and the Council there were quite a few contact lists and asked if they could be stored in the same place to which Councillor Davis said she could help.

**13. The Link**

**To discuss the Council's contribution to future editions.**

Councillor Daykin advised the Council that two residents would be taking on the publishing, printing and using an existing distribution setup of the Link from April and were keen to make it a community magazine rather than focused on church news. Whilst they believed advertising revenue would cover costs, they asked whether the Council could cover any shortfall. Councillors agreed that they would like to see the content of the Link more community focused but was unsure how much there would be. However, they would consider a request for funding from the Link via its grants application process.

**14. Gigabit Broadband Scheme**

**To receive an update.**

The Chair advised there had been slight technical delays but most of the infrastructure work had been done and would post a full update in the newsletter.

**15. Meeting Dates**

**(a) To discuss a date for the Annual Parish Meeting.**

Councillors **AGREED** to 31<sup>st</sup> May for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**(b) Next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The meeting ended at 8.05pm