

BUCKLAND DINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting at 7.30pm, Thursday 21 September 2017 in the Village Hall, Buckland Dinham

3359 Present: Councillors, Tamsin Aston, Will Phippen, Peter Corbett, John Reckless Paul Sherrin and Viv Street. Pauline Short, Clerk. 3 members of the public

3360 Apologies: Cllr Alan King

3361 Minutes of the last meeting on 10 August: Minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed

3362 Code of Conduct - Declarations of Interest: None

3363 Notification of an Appeal made by the Parochial Church Council to the Planning Inspectorate against the partial refusal by Mendip District Council of a proposal for works to the large yew tree, that is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, to the left of the church porch:

Council discussed whether they wished to modify their previous comments made at the time of the original application and decided that they should in the light of the appeal application contents. The following comments were agreed (proposed by Cllr Reckless and seconded by Cllr Aston):- Council reinforced their original comments and were happy with the decision of the Mendip Trees officer on the extent of pruning required. However they have noted that, in this application, the Grounds of Appeal included the suggestion that the yew tree could be causing damp problems in the church building, a statement that was not made in the original application. In their opinion there was no evidence that the damp problems in the church are due to the presence of the tree and considered that they are more likely to have been caused by limited maintenance to gutters, downpipes and soakaways over the years. In fact the Quinquennial Report of the church, prepared for the Diocese of Bath and Wells in 2104 also seems to confirm that belief as, although it gives a number of mentions of damp and its causes and solutions, it makes no mention of the tree as the source of damp. Council also wished to be represented at the appeal hearing and any relevant site visits

3364 Matters arising from the last meeting:

- 1. Investigations into the possibility of a 20mph speed limit in Buckland Dinham-** Judy Annan presented the results of the resident's survey of traffic in July and council would like to thank her, and those that took part in the counts, for all the work put into them
Cllr Corbett also related his progress since the last meeting. It was generally agreed that the 20mph speed limit possibility was only one part of the things to be addressed and that the challenge was more of a complete traffic management issue. It was decided that Cllr Corbett would write to Christopher Betty in Traffic Management Department at Somerset County Council and our County Councillor Philip Ham to request a meeting to discuss this
Cllr Sherrin had asked the police for the results of recent speed checks made in the village by the motorbike officers, but had been refused them. As a result he had made a freedom of Information request for them
- 2. Review of the procedure for planning applications concerning trees in the Conservation Area** – Councillors had re-read the guidance notes produced by Jon Swift several years ago and agreed that they were still valid for the decisions they have to make now
- 3. Removal of the BT phone box** – The clerk reported that she had made contact with Mendip District Council and been advised that the removal of the boxes is late because of the volume involved. However she now has a contact in BT to follow this up with

Action

Cllr Corbett

Cllr Sherrin

Ms Short

3365 Matters arising:

1. **Request to support the need for a 40mph speed limit extension across Buckland Down for the safety of the four properties in the area of The Paddocks** (n.b. this item should have read “double white lines” rather than “40 mph limit”) - This action had been requested by residents and council agreed that they would include this request as part of the traffic management scheme they hoped to achieve. See minute 3364.1
2. **Progress with emergency contacts list for the village - Cllr Corbett** updated council on his progress with preparing this list to help emergency services in any major village emergency and would be sending the draft out again for councillors to add other detail, including phone numbers known to them

*Cllr
Corbett*

All

3366 Clerks Report:

1. Since the last meeting council (Minus Cllrs Reckless and Phippen who had an interest in this item) had recommended approval for the felling of two cherry trees at Manor Farmhouse. On balance they had also recommended the elm in the same group to be felled but had asked for guidance on that from the trees officer at Mendip
2. Mendip had approved applications for:-
 - a. Felling of two willows at Hillside Cottage
 - b. Felling of an ash at The Bell Inn
 - c. The retrospective application for the development at 8 Rogers Close
3. Mendip had also refused an application for a non-material amendment to the plans for Park Bungalow Buckland Down. This one was not referred to the parish
4. Reports from the latest visit of the speed indicator device to the Bell Inn and Fountain House had been circulated

3367 Finance:

1. The clerk had followed up the application for a transparency grant for this years web site costs with SALC and had been advised that funds are expected early in October
2. Notification had been received that, from December, PAYE can no longer be paid by cheque through the post office and must be paid electronically or by direct debit or telephone banking. This will probably force the change to electronic banking but the clerk had not studied it fully yet
3. Cheques were signed for:-
 - i. Clerks salary July to September £813.94
 - ii. PAYE July to September £203.60
4. Transfer was signed to move £2000 from the bank to the building society

3368 Neighbourhood Policing:

Cllr Sherrin reported that he had attended the last PACT meeting where the quest speaker was Ian Glover Enforcement Officer for MDC Neighbourhood Services. Ian's main focus is on fly tipping, illegal traveller sites and abandoned vehicles. Our new police community support officer is now PCSO Michael Storey, reporting to Beat Manager PC John Gould

3369 Dates of next two meetings: Agreed as 2 November and 7 December.
This meeting closed at 8.55pm