

Minutes of the Buxton with Lamas Full Parish Council Meeting held in Buxton with Lamas Village Hall on Monday 22nd November at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

Mrs Nichols	Mr Riley	Mrs Warren
Mr Shaw	Mrs Powell	Mrs Charmley

Also in attendance:

7 Members of the public

Cllr Lawrence

Clerk to the Council: Laura Apps-Green

21/91 WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were apologies for absence given for Rev Goodman & Mrs Kammoun.

21/92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – Mrs Nichols reference Buxton Village Hall and Mrs Powell reference Buxton Village Hall. Mrs Warren reported to Council that she is now a school governor at Buxton Primary School.

21/93 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on October 11th 2021 were previously circulated. All agreed to a small amendment around requesting a meeting with Phil Courtier as well as writing a letter. They were signed as a true and correct record.

21/94 MATTERS ARISING – Mr Riley raised the Bure Valley Business Park, which was discussed in the PC meeting in October, and a letter he has received from Phil Courtier of BDC. Mr Riley read the letter aloud to council. The letter stated that the outcome of the legal investigation is that the B2 businesses currently operating at the business park are allowed to. The Ombudsman is also looking into this matter and their outcome is yet to be announced.

Mr Riley confirmed to council that these B2 businesses have gained the right to be there by stealth. It was highlighted that when Paragon went in, in around 2005 a BDC officer concluded that this was ok. All 3 officers that have made decisions about this site have left the council. B2 businesses operating from the site are there by default.

The draft notes of the internal meeting held with Cllr Riley, Rev Goodman, Laura Apps-Green, Phil Courtier and Nick Howard are being prepared and can be brought to the January PC meeting. At the meeting the PC stated that this is not an appropriate location for B2 businesses. BDC are responsible for this mistake and need to acknowledge that. Planning permission should have been sought for B2 usage; this would have then been subject to call in by the Councillor. BDC have been aware of this issue all along and should have resolved things earlier.

There is still a concern that more B2 businesses could be added to the site going forwards. It was agreed that a letter should go back to BDC from the PC stating that no more B2 businesses should be allowed onto the site going forwards.

A resident concerned with this matter requested to speak and the chair allowed it. They expressed that they feel let down by the whole system, that things have been done wrongly and that it's been an emotional trauma and could result in them losing their house.

21/95 ADJOURNMENT – None

21/96 REPORTS

Cllr Lawrence – Reported the following:

- The Accommodation review of Broadland and South Norfolk District Council is being scrutinised
- Footpath closures in parish – Cllr Lawrence stated that working out who is responsible for the footings under the bridge is going to take time to clarify. Footpaths Officer clarified the situation and informed council that the ground under the bridge footings is an integral part of the bridge and therefore NCC are responsible for making good the ground.

- NCC are working on the issue of Ash die back and are trying to ensure that healthy trees remain. Unfortunately, this is difficult and the area will lose around 200 trees.
- Cllr Lawrence was aware of the recent correspondence with BDC and the Parish Council regarding the Bure Valley Business Centre

Cllr Riley – Reported the following:

- The collaboration of Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils – Cllr Riley gave some background information on the progress so far and that a member's working group has been set up to oversee and scrutinise the process and the options put forward. The working group's recommendation is to not pursue an office building on Broadland Business Park, but to renovate Thorpe Lodge and address parking issues.
- NCC brought in new rules to restrict meeting times and motions put through
- Cllr Riley had a meeting with Highways regarding white lines at Feoffee Cottages and Church Close
- Regarding the 20mph zone – the Officer at Highways said that this initiative would be very costly and that there is a big budget constraint. The PC will continue to try to arrange a site meeting with Highways to look at this and Cllr Riley may be able to contribute to this project from his NCC budget.

21/97 PLANNING

Greater Norwich Local Plan – Cllr Riley informed council that there is to be an update on this in March.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering group – Mr Curtis gave an update on the project to date. The group have worked hard to gather the views of parishioners and done the vast majority of the leg work, but now is the time that a consultant is required in order to pull the plan into shape and ensure that it is a robust and fit for purpose document.

The NP group were in attendance to request two things:

- 1) To approve the preferred consultant as chosen by the NP group (this paperwork had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting)
- 2) To agree to the PC applying for funding from central and local government in order to fund the final stage of the NP development

The first point above was discussed in terms of value for money and hourly rate. The preferred supplier seemed on the surface to be the more expensive option, but it was felt that the second supplier had under quoted on time needed and would therefore end up being more expensive.

Mrs Nichols proposed to agree to the NP group's preferred consultant, seconded by Mr Shaw, all AGREED. Mr Riley requested copies of the NP documents to be e-mailed to him. Cllr Lawrence will arrange this.

Mrs Nichols proposed that the PC should agree to apply for central and local government funding to fund the consultant fees, seconded by Mr Riley, all AGREED.

Mr Riley minuted his thanks to the volunteers involved in the NP plan project for all their commitment and hard work.

Planning Applications – None received

21/98 FINANCE

Bank reconciliation – October bank reconciliation had been sent to the Scrutineer for sign off.

Receipts and payments schedule – payments made or pending were presented:

Cheque	Name	Description	Amount
BACS	Buxton PCC	Annual Contribution	2600
BACS	Lamas PCC	Annual Contribution	800
BACS	Lamas Village Hall	Annual Contribution	300
BACS	Buxton Village Hall	Annual Contribution	300

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BACS	Norfolk Cleaning Co	Cleaning Balay	100.80
BACS	Scribe	Annual Fee	345.60
BACS	Poppy Appeal	Wreath x 2	34
BACS	Barnwells	Round	275
BACS	Laura Apps-Green, Norfolk Pension, HMRC	Pay, phone, mileage, tax, pension	1105.81
Total			5861.21

Qty Finance Report – Clerk presented council with a report of all income and expenditure to date for the financial year.

Draft budget for 2022 – 2023 – Clerk presented the draft budget and went through each budget heading with council. One element was reduced by £100 in order for the precept request to be the same as the previous year. All AGREED to a precept request of £30,740.

21/99 HIGHWAYS (and FOOTPATHS) RIVERS & VILLAGE MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Dangers of swimming at the Mill Pond and Anti-social behaviour – Clerk reported the graffiti on the concrete block at the Mill pool and under the bridge on Mill Road. PC Ward has been out and tried to remove it but had no joy. Clerk asked to contact NCC to ask for help with its removal at the Mill Pond and BDC for the graffiti on the bridge.

Drainage issues in the parish and flood risk areas update – Cllr Lawrence confirmed that the RDB are responsible for clearing the area at Camping Beck. NCC Highways are responsible for the drainage clearance on the highway. Clerk was asked to get Highways to blast both drains under the bridge on Mill Street as water collects there and the water table is already high. Footpaths Officer pointed out that the water is high due to the water being held back at Horsted Mill by the Water Board.

Footpaths and closures – This had been covered in Cllr reports

Long term plans for traffic calming measures – This had been covered in Cllr reports

Dangerous and inconsiderate parking in village – Mrs Nichols pointed out that the white lines outside the village hall had been put back in the wrong place following resurfacing. They need to be in line with the entry point to the village hall carpark. It is dangerous as it is.

Mrs Warren informed council that at the weekend vans and cars were parked right on the pavement on Mill Road and it was impossible for pedestrians to get past and were forced onto the road.

Buxton village hall play area – Clerk and Mrs Nichols reported that the installation of the play area is well underway and looking really good. The safety surfacing will go down around the equipment the following week. It was noted that the contractors work very efficiently on site.

Highway matters –

Mrs Charmley raised the fact that there is still temporary fencing around the bridge at Little Hautbois and that it has been like this for months. Clerk was asked to write to BDC to raise this issue with them.

21/100 LAMAS VILLAGE HALL LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

The draft lease drawn up by Birketts had been circulated to councillors. It is a standard lease setting out who is responsible for what. Lamas Village Hall management committee had not had a chance to properly read the contract as it was only sent on 22nd November, but a member of the committee raised a couple of initial concerns. Firstly, the fact that the contract states that the village hall management committee would be responsible for insuring the hall annually. There is an ongoing agreement that the PC would pay for this but that the insurance would be arranged and managed by the village hall management committee. Mr Riley moved that the PC makes an agreement at this meeting to refund the village hall management committee for the cost of insuring Lamas village hall in perpetuity. Mr Riles proposed this and Mrs Nichols seconded, all AGREED.

In order to give the village hall management committee time to read and comment on the contract, it was agreed to bring this item back to the PC meeting in January for agreement.

21/101 BALAY PARK SIGN REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION

It was pointed out by Mrs Warren that the sign at the entrance to the park is looking very tired. All AGREED to the Clerk getting some quotes for a new sign.

21/102 COVID MEMORIAL PLAQUE – Nobody wanted it placed anywhere.**21/103 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MATTERS**

Mr Riley informed council of the work he has been doing with BDC around developers and what PC's should expect from them and are entitled to. Some governance training is being developed to help PC's understand the process and ensure that they get what they are entitled to.

21/104 CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED – Mrs Warren had attended the police meeting. The police are keen to get involved in the local area. Overall the crime rates in the area are low.**21/105 LATE CORRESPONDENCE & AGENDA ITEMS – Mr Riley read a letter from Phil Courtier of Broadland District Council regarding the Bure Valley Business Park with the outcome of the barristers' findings. Mr Riley, Rev Goodman and Clerk to respond via a letter.****21/106 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING – There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:21pm.**