

**Minutes of the Buxton with Lamas Full Parish Council Meeting
held in Buxton with Lamas Village Hall on Monday 14th February at 7.30pm**

PRESENT

Councillors:

Mrs Nichols Mrs Charmley
Mr Shaw Mr Riley (Chair of the meeting)

Also in attendance:

42 Members of the public
District Councillor Lawrence
PC Gibbs
Clerk to the Council: Laura Apps-Green

22/123 WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –There were apologies for absence given for Mrs Kammoun, Mrs Powell, Mrs Warren and Rev Goodman.

22/124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – Mrs Nichols reference Buxton Village Hall and Cllr Riley reference planning.

22/125 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on January 10th 2022 were previously circulated, they were signed as a true and correct record.

22/126 MATTERS ARISING – None

22/127 ADJOURNMENT – The Chair stated that this adjournment should be for all items not related to the Jaguar House planning application. People will get a chance to speak on this under the planning item later on in the agenda.

A resident raised concerns about the Canoe Man taking bookings on his website for canoe trips from Aylsham to Coltishall which would encompass a Buxton stop/transfer. The resident stated that a few canoes have been left in the parish and that there is some evidence of adjustments made to railings around the river near the Mill. There is concern that maybe the Canoe Man might try to continue canoe hire on this stretch of the Bure and would therefore be in breach of planning.

A resident wanted to know what the Parish Council's action plan is regarding the Bure Valley Business Park. Cllr Riley confirmed that the Clerks notes from the PC meeting with Broadland District Council were forwarded to the resident for their reference. Cllr Riley stated that what has happened at the Bure Valley Business Park was not right and that the PC have been clear regarding their views on this and have written to Broadland District Council to state this. The PC has no jurisdiction on planning matters and no rights or powers. The PC has done everything it can to help on this matter.

22/128 REPORTS

PC Gibbs – Gave a brief report on crime figures for the parish. In the last month there have been 14 calls made. 3 of the calls were regarding road traffic collisions in the parish and this seems very high for the area. He stated that vehicle crime is high with work vans being targeted for tools. A number of arrests have been made. There is also a big concern with the rise in fraud being committed and people were asked to be vigilant and warn others.

Mr Riley asked where the road collisions had occurred. PC Gibbs will forward this information on to the Clerk.

Cllr Lawrence -

- There was no District Council meeting in January
- The DC have completed a carbon audit and are forming an action plan on how to reduce its carbon footprint
- The office move is being looked at and its merits evaluated, the central focus is that the service to the public must be optimised

- New recycling strategies are being looked at
- The Jaguar House planning application is going to planning committee

Cllr Riley -

- NCC meeting is taking place next Monday
- There is a proposal to raise council tax
- There are changes within the Highway service making it hard to move parish issues forward, e.g. 20mph in Lammas. Cllr Riley is working hard to arrange a meeting with the new officer and the PC regarding the traffic calming project
- There is a lot of work going on around adult services and some past failures

22/129 PLANNING

Jaguar House Badersfield – Chair opened up an adjournment to allow residents time to raise their concerns.

A resident stated the following –

“The majority of Badersfield residents are opposed to the planning application for the use of Jaguar Buildings as an assessment centre. We are not against asylum seekers and are empathetic as to their cause. However, we believe that Jaguar Buildings is not a suitable location. This rural area has very few facilities available to them and is totally unsuited to house asylum seekers who have already suffered greatly escaping from their troubled homelands. To house 180 males sharing a maximum of 90 rooms, which were built for single occupancy is unacceptable and inhumane for their complex needs and requirements.

Residents are concerned for their personal safety following the last occupation of asylum seekers at Jaguar Buildings. There were in excess of 50 crimes recorded and 39 investigations ranging from assault on a female, aggressive begging, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, urinating in public, shoplifting etc. Parents were also deeply concerned that their children were being watched and photographed in the park, and in Buxton there were several reports of attempted grooming of young females whilst swimming at the mill. Is this really the behaviour we should encourage in our lovely community? Over the same period since Feb 21 and Feb 22 there have been 9 recorded crimes and 3 investigations.

The government states in their own briefings, that asylum seekers should be housed in urban areas where facilities are freely available, transport links, multi faith religious centres, medical facilities etc. Badersfield has none of this and is nine miles from the nearest urbanisation.

The number of service users will also be disproportionate to the number of permanent Badersfield residents, increasing the adult numbers within the community by 67%.

In January 2021, the government closed this same centre following demonstrations and hunger strikes by the asylum seekers who cited poor accommodation, inadequate facilities, limited transport opportunities, inappropriate choice of meals etc. At this point there were only 80 service users housed there, now the future borders and immigration minister Kevin Foster MP and his predecessor Chris Phipps MP, have determined it suitable to house more than double that amount without any change in facilities or housing, in fact it is much worse.

The residents have not been publicly consulted in this matter, which was previously promised by the immigration minister. The roads, footpaths, and infrastructure are privately owned and maintained by our resident management companies. However, the government, planners and owners of Jaguar Buildings expect us to allow unrestricted access across our manicured grounds. The owners of Jaguar Buildings have never attempted to integrate with the community, their demands and flouting of planning have all been swept under the carpet by the District Council.

I would therefore urge the Parish Council to support the residents and oppose this application.”

A resident stated that Hautbois Road is 40mph and not a safe route to walk on. Filby Road is owned and managed by the residents association and it costs £800 per year in maintenance costs. Previously, there was a big increase in litter in the area, people urinated in residents' gardens, took photos in peoples gardens. No right of access across this private road has been agreed. There is very poor access to public amenities in this area.

PC Gibbs did challenge the figures given in the resident's statement on crimes committed in the area and felt that not all stated were committed by asylum seekers. PC Gibbs confirmed that the Police are a consultee on this planning application.

A resident raised a concern about the asylum seekers not being vetted prior to arrival.

A resident raised the fact that when the previous asylum seekers and homeless people were housed at Jaguar House there was a constant police presence. Why was this needed if there were no problems? PC Gibbs did agree that maybe there was too much of a police presence at the time and that perhaps this caused undue concern in the community. The aim of the police action at the time was to try to build community relations and reassure people.

A resident raised a concern about public comments being removed from the planning portal, including the comments from the Police as statutory consultees. Cllr Lawrence suggested that this could be because the BDC officers are trying to focus concerns down to planning law.

Residents felt that all comments should be kept on the portal because it is a public document and all voices should be heard. A resident stated that the police comments were taken down as they were being amended and will go back onto the portal shortly.

Cllr Riley confirmed that officers can legally summarise comments, but in the past has requested that his comments on some other applications remain unchanged.

Clerk was asked to write to BDC to state that residents have complained that some of their comments are not being shown on the portal.

A resident said that more things happened than were actually reported to the police during the period of time that previous asylum seekers were housed in Jaguar House. Women were afraid to walk or jog in the area. The new proposal is to have 2 people man the building in the night and 3 in the day, for 180 occupants, and with no authority. The building was closed last year as it was declared unfit for purpose. This year double the occupants are proposed with no changes made.

A resident stated that this development cannot be called economically sustainable when it is temporary.

Cllr Riley stated that planning law looks at benefits against harm and vice versa.

A resident stated that in actual fact the building would see in excess of 2000 visitors over the year because each asylum seeker should be processed within 28 days. They stated that the location of the site is inappropriate and that there is nothing for people to do. They also stated the impact on the designated green space amenity, which is a conservation area and cannot be built on.

A resident raised the issue of the unsecure temporary fencing, which has been in place for 12 years and in spite of numerous warnings to the management company to install appropriate permanent fencing, this still has not been done.

Adjournment was closed.

Cllr Nichols stated that the area is not suitable for this purpose, that there are numerous access issues and private road in the area, the green spaces should not be used for organised games as they are listed and maintained by BDC and any employment is temporary and therefore not sustainable.

Cllr Charmley stated that the traffic flow is already very busy and not suitable for this development. There is no agreement of access to the site with local residents.

Cllr Shaw said that there have been no changes made since last time and it was closed down therefore this should be a no.

Cllr Nichols proposed to object to this planning application, Cllr Shaw seconded and ALL AGREED, with one Cllrs abstaining.

The planning objection will cite the following reasons:

- Amenity issues – What people can do outside of facility is very limited

- Extent of impact to the local community
- Management System is not adequate
- No agreement in place for access down Filby road
- Very hard to get to other locations – poor transport links
- Temporary employment only – No long-term economic benefit
- Green amenity space is covered under planning policy as designated open green space, an amenity, landscape and setting for the area
- No suitable permanent fencing for 12 years in spite of numerous warnings, therefore failed to rectify security issues.

All points listed above were agreed. Cllr Nichols proposed the objection on the above grounds, seconded by Cllr Shaw and ALL AGREED with one Cllrs abstaining.

There will be a public meeting on this matter on 25th February at 7:30pm at the Battle of Britain Hall.

Canoe Man – Clerk has raised residents' concerns with the District Council, they are looking into the bookings on the Canoe Man's website. At present the planning application has been withdrawn. Until a breach has been committed the PC can't do anything else on this at this time.

Greater Norwich Local Plan – Nothing to report

Neighbourhood Plan Steering group – All AGREED to conforming to condition 1 of the BDC NP funding offer.

22/130 FINANCE

Bank reconciliation – Clerk has yet to give these to the Scrutineer but will get them delivered asap.

Receipts and payments schedule –

Cheque	Name	Description	Amount (£)
BACS	Citizens Advice	Donation	50
BACS	Anglia Water	Water bill	28.49
BACS	SAFE	Membership	30
BACS	Norfolk Cleaning Co	Cleaning Balay Park	151.2
BACS	National Allotment Society	Membership	66
BACS	Michlmayr	Church Clock Service	135
BACS	Barnwells	Round publication	280
BACS	Laura Apps-Green, Norfolk Pension Fund, HMRC	Phone, pension, pay, Tax	1094.23
Total			1,834.92

Donation request from Fresh Starts New Beginnings – Cllr Nichols proposed a donation of £25, ALL AGREED.

22/131 LAMAS VILLAGE HALL LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

2 Cllrs signed that agreement. They were given back to the village hall management committee as they need one more person to sign them.

Clerk asked the committee to ensure that the PC is also named on the insurance policy as soon as possible.

Clerk reported that a low loader has crashed into a corner of the hall. The committee informed council that the insurance loss adjuster is coming out this week to assess the damage and also someone to check the oil line which runs along the wall.

22/132 BALAY PARK SIGN REPLACEMENT

Clerk informed council that the previous company which was agreed on to provide a new sign, has gone out of business. Clerk has found a new local provider and has been impressed with their service regarding the play area signs. Clerk to bring back an image of the new sign at the March meeting.

22/133 HIGHWAYS (and FOOTPATHS), RIVER & VILLAGE MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Proposal for a tree for the Queen's Jubilee – Clerk reported on a site meeting with a member of the WI, Cllr Shaw and herself regarding a location to the left of the Balay park entrance for a jubilee tree. The WI want to purchase the tree and the PC would get a quote for a bench to be placed around it. The tree needs to go in the ground before the end of March. Clerk to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to plant it. Clerk to bring bench quotes back to council. ALL AGREED.

Buxton village hall play area – Cllr Nichols reported the success of the play area opening on Friday 11th February. Refreshments were served and the children loved the new play area. Clerk to circulate some dates for maintenance training for all. Clerk to try to get a piece in the paper about the new play area opening.

Work is being done to make neat the hedge and fencing around the bowls club.

Long term plans for traffic calming measures – Cllr Riley reported changed in the Highways team and that he is pushing for an onsite meeting about the PC's traffic management plans.

Garden waste and disposal – Move to March meeting

Footpaths and closures – Nothing to report – Take to March meeting

Dangers of swimming at the Mill Pond and Anti-social behaviour – Nothing to report

Drainage issues in the parish and flood risk areas update – Camping beck has been cleared.

Highway matters –

- White lines outside village hall
- Bridge at Little Hautbois is not suitable for large vehicles, the temporary barriers are still up and the bridge has not been fixed. The sign in Coltishall saying that the route is unsuitable for HGVs is covered by a tree branch. Clerk to write to Coltishall Parish Council to ask them to arrange for the tree to be trimmed. Cllr Lawrence to investigate things with BDC regarding the bridge repairs.

22/134 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MATTERS - None**22/135 CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED – None**

[Standing orders extended by 5 mins]

22/136 LATE CORRESPONDENCE & AGENDA ITEMS – Editor of the Round asked if someone could purchase a half page advert as a one off initially to see how things go, as their business idea is being tested out. All agreed that as this is time sensitive it should be allowed and agreed upon at this meeting.

22/137 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING – There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35pm.