

Butlers Marston Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 24th March 2021** at **7:30pm** via **Zoom video conferencing**

Present: Cllr Young, Cllr Corpe, Cllr Mitchell-Hilton, Cllr Forsyth, Cllr Crockett, the Clerk.

In attendance: District Cllr Mills and 2 member of the public.

34. Apologies for absence – County Cllr Williams.

35. Members declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Cllr Young declared an interest in planning application 20/03395/FUL so will leave the meeting when this is discussed.

36. Public participation session – None.

37. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 19th January 2021 – The minutes were proposed, agreed and duly signed.

38. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

38.1 Update on discussions with Highways re speed reduction in the parish – Cllr Mitchell-Hilton has been in touch with the road safety liaison officer and who advised that WCC have no powers of enforcement and suggested that any parishioners who notice road safety incidents should report them to 101 to build up a record of incidents. Vehicle Activated Sign's (VAS) are in review across the county and the criteria to be eligible for a sign is quite high in relation to volume of traffic and serious incidents. It is unlikely that Butlers Marston would be eligible and a survey to verify eligibility will cost £500. A Cllr asked if a survey and eligibility criteria would be required if the PC chose to fund their own VAS. **Cllr Mitchell-Hilton** will be attending a meeting in April to discuss speeding issues across the county with the Lead Commissioner for Safety and Engineering and **will try to find out more about the options available.**

38.2 Update on re-siting of 'bus stop' – The following information has been received from WCC: 'I've received the Road Safety audit back from colleagues in Traffic and Road Safety and, following a desktop-only exercise, they have concerns over insufficient road width, stationary buses at the identified points and a lack of tactile crossing points. As such, I've decided that the road width should be suitable, and the frequency of buses coupled with how many times they're likely to stop and pickup/set down that a relocation of the Stop from the existing shelter back towards a point in the direction of Verney Close can be accommodated. This will take the form of a new pole, sign (flag) and timetable case. I'm also agreeable to the same being sited on Bridge Rd. The latter would have to be behind the existing road sign so as to not block it. However, I'll endeavour to make a follow-up visit over the next couple of weeks to mark up the desired locations for our contractor and as soon as I have an idea of when the new facilities will be in place I'll be back in contact.

39. Village Green

39.1 Grass cutting – The Clerk has been doing some research about the status of the Village Green and associated areas of responsibility. It has been identified that the Village Green is a registered Village Green that has dual status making Warwickshire County Council (WCC) responsible for the maintenance of the Green therefore they should be organising and/or paying for grass cutting. If WCC agree to take on the costs of the grass cutting this will reduce costs for the Parish Council helping to keep the precept down. The Clerk has requested that WCC add Butlers Marston to their grass cutting schedule for this year. BMPC will then only need to organise additional cuts if the WCC frequency of cutting is not considered sufficient to keep the grass at a reasonable level. The grass needs cutting soon and it is not known how long it will take for WCC to make a decision so it was agreed that the **Clerk should arrange a 1 off cut asap and then put together and publish an advert for a casual/seasonal employee to cut the grass on an ad hoc basis.**

39.2 Concern raised about the impact of the Norway Maple on the adjacent property and request for the tree to be removed – Due to the dual status of the Village Green it has been confirmed by WCC that

Signed by Chairman.....

the tree in question is their responsibility. **Clerk to inform the correspondent that WCC are responsible for the tree therefore no action can be taken by the PC.**

A member of the public left the meeting at 8:01pm.

40. Parishioner safety issues in relation to the overgrown hedge near the War Memorial – Concerns have been raised about the safety of parishioners needing to walk in the road to get around this. **Clerk to contact Orbit to request that they trim the hedge.**

41. Concerns raised about the inability of the Butlers Marston Water Treatment Works to manage the quantity of sewage in the system – The following report was provided by Cllr Corpe: '**Severn Trent Sewage System Update** - I spoke to Paul Gallagher who is our area manager for Seven Trent and he is aware of the issues we have been raising with regard to the sewage treatment plant at Butlers Marston and associated accessories (pumping stations). Paul said effectively the Butlers Marston Sewage Treatment plant is very old and overloaded which is exacerbated when there is high rain fall. However, the plan is to decommission the BM sewage treatment plant and to replace it with a large storage facility and pumping station that pumps the waste to Kineton. Severn Trent are currently spending millions on upgrading the Kineton site with the aim that there will be extra capacity to enable them to transfer the Butlers Marston's and Radway's waste to Kineton which should be in the next three years. I raised the current known issues as follows:

Pumping Station

Issue: Overflowing raw sewage from two manholes during Storm Bella (26-27 Dec 20) and Christoph (6-8 Feb 21) running over residents garden into the BM Brook.

Reason/Resolution: Paul explained that when the pumping station was inspected after storm Christoph it was confirmed the pump had not reached capacity so it was not an issue with the pumping station but an issue with the drain network likely to be a blockage. However subsequently it has come to light that this might not be the case when the engineer came out they confirmed it had reached capacity during these storms as the station had signs of sewage overflowing inside. An engineer has also been out to check the network and everything seems to be fine. It was also confirmed by a Severn Trent engineer that there was not confirmation on when the pumping station was last serviced and therefore it could need parts replacing or upgrading. For information Severn Trent outsourced the system accessories (Pumping stations) to a third party called Amey and they were responsible for monitoring, maintaining and upgrading the sites. But this does not appear to have been done well and Severn Trent have been forced to take these back.

Suggested Action: Inform the resident and will continue to monitor this site and raise the issue with Severn Trent/Environment Agency and will inform the Parish Council on a regular basis.

Sewage Treatment Plant

Issue 1: Raw sewage overflowing from the primary collection tank between the wall and the coping stones due to mortar damage resulting in sewage pouring onto the ground.

Reason/Resolution 1: Paul explained Severn Trent are aware of this and will look to get it repaired in the summer and that they are aware that it can overflow completely at the primary collection tank with high rainfall. Apparently there is a collection system around the primary tank to collect any overflow which is pumped back into the system. Separately Paul confirmed that the reason the primary tank is struggling is because the pipe that goes to the filtration system and boom is damaged and needs replacing. These works are scheduled to be done in the summer when the water levels are lower.

Suggested Action: Continue to monitor and make the residents know so that any future issues can be raised with Severn Trent/Environment Agency alongside updates to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

Issue 2: Water from the reed lagoon is overflowing across residents land into the river waterlogging the land and potentially killing the trees in the wood due to water saturation.

Reason/Resolution 1: Paul explained he was aware of this issue and they thought they had rectified the issue by reducing the level of the water in the lagoon. However as I explained it now appeared the bank of the lagoon has slipped away and water was just pouring through the side and across the field. Backed up by the fact that the main outlet into the river appeared to not be working. Paul said he did not think it was this bad so would ask for a the pipework to be checked and he will come out in the coming weeks to check the site. To resolve the issue they will need to reduce the water level in the lagoon and identify the leak to fix but they have to be careful not to disturb the effluent at the bottom. So although this water is not technically treated there is sewage/effluent present so could escape from this leak.

Signed by Chairman.....

Suggested Action: Inform the resident and will continue to monitor this issue and confirm when work is complete raising any future issues with Severn Trent/Environment Agency and will inform the Parish Council on a regular basis.'

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact neighbouring parishes to make them aware of the issues and the actions they should take to report any issues they are having. Cllr Corpe to provide details of how parishioners can/should report issues to be published on the Facebook page.

42. Finance

- 42.1 Confirmation of the bank balance as at 19.03.21 of £1,672.20 – Cllr Mitchell-Hilton confirmed the balance stated is correct.
- 42.2 Proposal to add additional councillors to the bank mandate as signatories – It was proposed and agreed that all councillors who are willing to be added to the bank mandate as signatories and online users should be added to ensure there are always 2 signatories available to authorise payments.
Clerk to update the bank mandate.
- 42.3 Confirmation of the Clerk's salary increase to SCP 14 on 1st April 2021 as per the Contract of Employment – Proposed and agreed.
- 42.4 To review the spend against budget (included proposed payments) to the end of the financial year – The PC confirmed receipt of the report.
- 42.5 To approve payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

01.03.21	WALC	Chairmanship skills training	£30.00
15.02.21	BJ Unwin Forestry	Tree inspection report	£240.00
01.03.21	Kirsty Buttle	Salary February	£94.20
01.03.21	HMRC	Tax February	£23.40

- 42.6 Proposal to make the following payments: Proposed and agreed.

Kirsty Buttle	Salary March	£94.00
HMRC	Tax March	£23.60

- 42.7 To note the following receipts: Noted.

19.01.21	Faulkner	Donation re bus shelter repair	£650.00
19.01.21	Western Power	Wayleave	£21.22
28.01.21	Heartstart Acct	Heartstart/Defib maintenance funds	£296.51
02.02.21	HMRC	VAT refund	£87.19
18.03.21	S Corpe	Sold laptop	£200.00

43. Planning applications received

Cllr Young left the meeting at 8:20pm

20/03395/FUL - Agricultural Building, Court Fields, Bridge Road, Butlers Marston. Full application for the demolition of the three residential units approved under Class Q and a redundant agricultural building and the erection of three new dwellings and a detached garage. (Response made using delegated powers).

Butlers Marston Parish Council support this application for the following reasons:

- The new proposed redevelopment will be far more in keeping with the surroundings and the village aesthetics than the current approved planning permission.
- The roof lines will be much less imposing and the drawings suggest that materials would be more sympathetic to the local area.
- The redevelopment of this site will provide better road safety access in terms of a better junction and a better form of traffic such as smaller vehicles rather than larger farm machinery which can be dangerous at this junction.
- The current barns are in a dilapidated state and it would improve the local area to build some attractive, less imposing houses.

Signed by Chairman.....

- Having a small group of houses would enhance the existing community spirit of the village.

The PC have been notified that this application will be going to the Stratford District Council Planning Committee for consideration and the PC have the option to send someone to speak at the meeting on behalf of the PC and it's supporting response to the application. It was agreed that Cllr Mitchell-Hilton should attend the meeting on behalf of the PC. **Clerk to register Cllr Mitchell-Hilton to speak at the meeting.**

Cllr Young re-joined the meeting 8:30pm.

21/00141/LBC – Blacklands Farm, Butlers Marston. Repairs to barn to include addition of insulation.
(Response made using delegated powers). **No objections.**

44. Planning decisions received - None

45. Plans for Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting considering coronavirus restrictions –

The PC is required by law to hold it's annual meeting in May. The allowance for PC's to hold electronic meetings expires on 6th May therefore any meetings held after 6th May electronically (unless the government extends the rules allowing electronic meetings) will be considered unlawful. The coronavirus restrictions do not allow for the parish council to hold an in person public meeting during May. In order to ensure compliance with both requirements the PC agreed to plan to hold their Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting electronically on Tuesday 4th May. If an extension to the lawfulness of electronic meetings is provided before 27th April 2021 the Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on the originally planned date of 12th May. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 4th May regardless of any changes to the rules on electronic meetings.

46. Information exchange – Cllr Mills provided a report which can be found on the PC website with the minutes along with the written report received from County Cllr Williams.

Cllr Crockett is trying to find out dates and names in relation to the history of the bus shelter to include the information on a plaque in the bus shelter. Cllr Young will have a look through old minutes for information.

It was agreed that the Clerk should put details on Facebook advising how parishioners can register for postal voting for the upcoming elections, and how they can respond to the government consultation re broadband connectivity in rural areas.

**Date of next meetings – Annual Parish Meeting – 4th May 2021 (Time TBC)
Annual Parish Council Meeting 4th or 12th May 2021 @ 7:30pm (see item 45)**

Meeting closed @ 8:52pm

Signed..... Date.....