

Minutes

Meeting of Ambrosden Parish Council

Held online – 7:30pm

Thursday 20th August

Present: Mark Longworth – Chair, Gemma Jennings – Clerk, Maureen Cossens, Dawn Seaward, Phillip Blazdell, Vicky Rose, Tom Duff

Serial No	Issue
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555-20-21	Welcome
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556-20-21	Apologies
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Apologies were received and accepted from District Councillor Sames and Parish Councillor West

557-20-21	Declaration of Interests/Gifts
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No statements of gifts or hospitality were received.

558-20-21	Minutes of previous meeting
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The minutes of the meeting of 19th July 2020, meeting number 136, were received and approved.

559-20-21	Matters arising
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The action grid was received.

560-20-21	Public speaking
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Nothing raised.

561-20-21	District and County Councillor Reports
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Nothing raised.

562-20-21	Village Matters
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Issues with parking in the Birch Road area were raised, noting that there had been numerous problems with cars parking either in residents' allocated spaces or on communal grass areas. It was

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also noted that upcoming changes to Merton Road parking accessibility may further exacerbate the issue. It was highlighted that parking in the area was managed by Preim and the MOD (for MOD residents only). **Clerk to contact Preim representative to advise of the residents' issues and to suggest a meeting, in consultation with the residents of the estate, to discuss the problem and possible solutions** (eg painting of spaces, more signage). **Clerk also to make contact with MOD adjunct to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue as well as other highways/parking items.**

An issue with an overgrown hedge between Chapel Drive and South Meadow raised by a local resident was noted. It was highlighted that this had been communicated with the County Council but that they were unable to take action at this stage. **Chair to communicate with resident.**

Village Shop Car Park: It was noted that there was currently a dispute over permitted usage of the area of land behind the Village Shop, previously used as the shop's car park. It was noted that this had been referred to the enforcement office who were reviewing the case.

Usage of the land outside the school by local residents for mountain bike ramps was raised, noting that there were some concerns about their safety, given the proximity to the road. It was noted however, that the Council did not want to entirely remove their access to the area over the summer holidays. **Clerk to contact the Highways Department to raise the issue in September.**

563-20-21 Planning

New Applications:

20/01830/F

Graven Hill/Wretchwick Green

Proposed Roundabout Access To Graven Hill And Wretchwick Green, London Road

Agreed comment: Request the cycle way is widened to 3m wide all the way to Ploughley Road, as a sudden narrowing would risk cyclists/pedestrians going into the road

Chair to notify local residents of the plans via Facebook.

Application number: 20/01707/F

Proposal: Erection of 8 dwellings

Location: Parts of OS Parcels 1125 and 1621, North and East of Home Farm Close

Agreed comment: Request this is sent to Planning Committee, due to concerns that parcelling up the same landholding into small sections of development could be an attempt to get around required contributions to affordable housing and provisions of local amenities (eg playgrounds). The cumulative number of housing going on the land of the original landholding likely to be around 25. A further concern is that the site plan is inaccurate: staircases, skylights and overhangs of garages to front are not shown. Moreover, the relation of plots 6/7/8 to other housing already permitted is problematic, including staircases and overlooking garage windows. The Council also requests a planning condition- garage only permitted for purposes ancillary to main dwelling

Application number: 20/01762/OUT

Proposal: Outline consent, including erection of 5 dwellings

Location: Land to rear of Home Farm Close

Agreed comment: Request this is sent to Planning Committee, due to concerns that parcelling up the same landholding into small sections of development could be an attempt to get around required contributions to affordable housing and provision of local amenities (eg playgrounds). The cumulative number of housing going on the land of the original landholding likely to be around 25. The Council also requests a planning condition- garage only permitted for purposes ancillary to main dwelling.

Decisions:

Application number: 20/00907/F

Honesty Way

Proposed Garage Extension and Conversion. Loft conversion with associated internal and external works

Application Permitted

Awaiting decisions:

Application number: 19/01191/OUT

Proposal: Alexandra House of Joy

Location: Care home near Rodney House roundabout

Application number: 20/01684/F

Proposal: Front porch extension & rear 2 storey extension to dwelling house

Location: 25 West Hawthorn Road

564-20-21 Local Plan

The Council received and discussed the Cherwell District Council Local Plan 2040. Key areas of focus for the Parish Council were noted as a 'buffer zone' between Ambrosden and Bicester and improved transport links for the village. **All Councillors to review full Plan by 31st August and send feedback to Clerk, to be drafted into full Council response.**

565-20-21 Community Land Gym Equipment

The Council considered the installation of outdoor gym equipment on the community land on Springfield estate. Next steps were agreed as review by the Clerk of other local Parish provisions, equipment provide and land status. Council to meet in October to draw up annual survey of the village, to include questions about the provision and the neighbourhood plan. **All Councillors to draw up some suggested questions and send to Clerk by 30 September.**

566-20-21 Village Hall Update

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee had now held its AGM, formed a new Committee and was looking at forming a user's group. Key actions undertaken to date included the closure of the carpark due to safety concerns, electric and gas safe testing and administrative hand overs. Next steps were noted as undertaking asbestos and legionella surveys, a fire risk assessment, resolving any urgent concerns raised by these surveys and securing grants and funding moving forward. It was noted that depending on required works raised by the survey, and the implementation of covid-safe measures, the committee was aiming to re-open the Hall in October if possible.

567-20-21 Allotments Update

The Council received the Allotment Liaison officer report and Maintenance Plan Update. It was requested that the **Clerk conduct a brief informal inspection due to same issues noted on site one and communicate with relevant plots as necessary.** An issue with Mare Tails on plot 2 was noted.

Clerk to follow up with both contractors who had previously quoted on weed killing on the site to get this work completed as soon as possible.

568-20-21 Finance

- a. The reconciled accounts were reviewed and approved. Income of £275 from allotment tenants (one new tenancy of £20 and deposit of £25 and 9 tenancy renewals: 1 large plot at £50, 1 medium plot for £40 and 7 small plots at £20 each) was noted.
- b. Payments of wages £286.12 and £533.23 (including £26 HWA and £40 expenses (ICO), £48 plumbing fees and £528 Chairman's Allowance were reviewed and approved.
- c. Maintenance Works Quote: The submitted quote was reviewed and accepted. **Clerk to action. Chair to investigate the Jubilee Bench.**

569-20-21 Correspondence / News

The Council noted a concern about the surfacing on one of the Springfield Estate playparks, which was cracking and chipped in places. It was highlighted that the concern had been passed to Chamonix who were investigating.

The Council reviewed a communication from a local resident raising concerns about speeding by Jaspers Row. **Clerk to follow up with Councillor Sames and Highways on the development of the village's traffic calming plans**

A meeting to discuss the Local Plan with the District Council, taking place the first week of September was noted. It was noted that Councillor West would attend on behalf of the Council.

570-20-21 Matters carried forward for Next Agenda

Review of internal controls
Adopt a planter/ gardener quotes
Allotment carpark signage quotes
Decorative village sign quotes
Progress on S106 amendments
Village Bulbs costing (Councillor Blazdell reviewing)

Any agenda items for September Meeting to be sent to the Clerk by Monday 7th September

571-20-21 Next Meeting

Currently scheduled for 7.30 pm Thursday 17th September
Online via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 21:45

PC Meeting No- 137

Signed:

Chair of Ambrosden Parish Council