

BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held virtually at 8pm on Monday 14th September 2020.

Present:

Cllrs Bourke, Husband (Chairman), Horden, Jones, Pryor and Steed and the Clerk.

In attendance

Surrey County Council (SCC) Cllr Helyn Clack and Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) Cllr Simon Budd joined during item 8.

1. Apologies for Absence

(101) Cllr Cox and MVDC Cllr Paul Potter.

2. Declarations of Interest

(102) Cllr Jones declared a personal interest in MO/2020/1285, an application to undertake tree works at her home in Buckland Conservation area.

3. Requests for Dispensations

(103) None.

4. Minutes

(104) Council **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2020. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Open Forum

(105) No items raised.

6. Planning and Licensing

New Planning Applications

(106) Council **resolved** to ratify the decision not to comment on the following applications:

- (i) MO/2020/1236: Loft conversion with 1 No rear dormer window with gable addition to front elevation at 5 Tranquil Dale, Buckland, RH3 7EE;
- (ii) MO/2020/1285: Remove the overhanging branches from four trees of various species, reduce height of one Norway Spruce tree by 3 metres and remove one Norway Spruce tree at Larkrise, Rectory Lane, Buckland, RH3 7BH.

(107) MO/2020/1135: Erection of a single storey side extension at Little Court, Buckland Court, Reigate Road, Buckland, RH3 7EA. Council **resolved** to ratify the decision to submit a response to ask for the planning history to be clarified and for any approval granted to be consistent with planning policy.

(108) MO/2020/1174: Erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated landscaping, parking and access following demolition of existing barn on land South of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF. Council **resolved** to ratify the response submitted to MVDC that had queried the basis for allowing an alternative site for the proposed replacement dwelling on open Green Belt land.

Planning Notifications

(109) Council noted the following Local Planning Authority decisions:

- (i) MO/2020/0605: Various illuminated signage around site, on canopy, pumps shops and forecourt at Buckland Garage, Reigate Road, Buckland, RH3 7ED. Approved with conditions.
- (ii) MO/2020/0616: Reduce the crown of one oak tree by 1.5 metres at Dove Tree Cottage, Rectory Lane, Buckland, RH3 7BH. No objection.

- (iii) MO/2020/0793: Remove one Macrocarpa tree (T1 on Submitted Plan); remove one Spruce tree (T2); remove one Cypress tree (T3); raise the crown of one Oak tree (T4) to give 5 metres clearance from ground level and reduce over extended lateral on the southern canopy by 2 metres; raise the crown of one Beech tree (T5) to give 5 metres clearance from ground level; remove one Sycamore tree (T6) and remove all arisings; reduce the height of two Golden Macrocarpa trees (T8) by 4 metres; remove sixteen Elm trees (T9) and remove all arisings at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Buckland, RH3 7BH. No objection;
- (iv) MO/2020/0875: Reduce back one Yew tree (T1 on submitted plan) by 2 metres; reduce one Eucalyptus tree (T2) by 3 metres over the road; and reduce one Lime tree (T3) back to previous reduction points at The Towered Barn, Rectory Lane, Buckland, RH3 7BH. No objection.
- (v) MO/2020/1174: Erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated landscaping, parking and access following demolition of existing barn on land South of Betchworth Village Hall, Station Road, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7DF. Withdrawn.
- (vi) SCC/2020/0060 (MO/2020/0685): Details of Access Arrangements pursuant to Condition 12 of planning permission ref: MO/2017/1797 dated 30 May 2018 at Park Pit, Reigate Road, Buckland, RH3 7BE. Approved with conditions.
- (vii) SCC/2020/0075 (MO/2020/0986): Detailed design of fish tank, including associated viewing platform design pursuant to Condition 15 of planning permission ref: MO/2017/1797 dated 30 May 2018 at Buckland Park Lake, Reigate Road, Buckland, RH3 7FE. Approved with conditions.

(110) Council recorded the following notifications:

- (i) MO/2019/1688/1: Non-material amendment to allow substitution of the approved timber windows and doors with uPVC triple glazed windows and triple glazed external doors at 2 Garden Cottages, Reigate Road, Buckland, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 9RE. Approved;
- (ii) MO/2019/1709: Formation of access to land from A25 to land on the South Side of Reigate Road, Shagbrook, Reigate Road, Buckland, RH2 9RE. Appeal commenced;
- (iii) MO/2020/1239: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural buildings from agriculture to flexible commercial use (B1) at Kemps Farm, Rectory Lane, Buckland, RH3 7BL submitted. Prior approval granted subject to conditions.

Planning Policy – Future Mole Valley

(111) Council noted MVDC had announced:

- (i) a change to the plan period for the new Local Plan to 2020-2037; to meet a legislative requirement for the plan to extend at least 15 years from the date of adoption;
- (ii) this change will require the identification of further sites to meet an increased demand for new housing across the extended period; and
- (iii) the target date for submitting a draft local plan to the Planning Inspectorate had been put back to at least summer 2021.

(112) Council noted the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had recently issued three consultations on reform of the planning system: Changes to the current planning system, Planning for the Future, and Transparency and Competition: a call for evidence on data on land control. Council **resolved** not to respond to the consultations.

7. Highways, Railways and Airports

Highways Code

- (113) Council noted the Department for Transport had launched two consultations inviting views on proposed changes to the Highway Code which aim to improve road safety for vulnerable road users and improve safety on pavements and that links to the consultations had been highlighted in parish updates. Council **resolved** not to respond to the consultations.

North Downs Line

- (114) Council noted GWR had announced an:
- (i) increase to services on Saturdays and during some off-peak weekday hours to three trains per hour between Reading and Redhill that had started this week;
 - (ii) aspiration to extend the three trains per hour service; in the first instance to include further off-peak weekday services and, once improvements to platforms at Gatwick Airport are complete, to extend the service to the airport and introduce additional peak services.

Airports

- (115) Council noted CAGNE had launched a new website (www.cagnepforum.org.uk), with the intention of highlighting consultations to parish councils and helping to foster a better understanding of aviation jargon.
- (116) Council noted receipt of a Gatwick Airport Community Engagement Team update and a GACC newsletter, dated August 2020.

8. Amenities and Volunteer Activity

Village Pond

- (117) Council **resolved** to record a vote of thanks to the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers (RACV) who had led a pond clearance event in Buckland on Sunday 13th September 2020, to the 4 local residents who had enrolled as RACV volunteers to take part and to Buckland Estate for the loan of a trailer.
- (118) Council noted:
- (i) the volunteers had focused on the area of the pond that had been mechanically cleared two years ago, highlighting the fact that removal of unwanted vegetation is a management task not a “permanent one-off task”;
 - (ii) the manual effort, whilst not easy work, allows vegetation to be selectively removed with minimal impact on the integrity of the clay puddling and the overall biodiversity within the pond;
 - (iii) RACV request for Council to communicate the fact that mechanical clearances should not be seen as “an easy or optimal solution”.
- (119) Council, on behalf of the local community, gratefully accepted an offer from the RACV to make a return visit to Buckland pond on Sunday 27th September 2020; noting that as an organised volunteer activity, the activity will comply with current government guidelines provided the total number of participants does not exceed 30.
Action: All to spread the word to highlight the opportunity for residents to register with RACV to take part in the follow up event.
- (120) Council **resolved** to make a donation of £100 to RACV funds as a token of the community’s appreciation for their much-valued effort supporting the health of our village pond.

Village website

- (121) Council **resolved** to continue publishing information relating to the parish council on the village website and to record a vote of thanks to the volunteer webmaster and all the contributors who help to keep this much valued village amenity relevant and up to date. **Action:** Clerk to invite the webmaster to draft an item to be included within a parish update to invite feedback from any residents who experience any difficulty using the village website.

9. Finance

- (122) Council noted a year to date cash book and bank reconciliation and analysis of current year expenditure against budget had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- (123) Council noted a payment of £414.00 including £69.00 Vat had been made to G. Burley & Sons Ltd in accordance with minute 2020:89.

Account Payments and Receipts

- (124) Council **resolved** to approve the following payments:
- (i) HMRC £19.39, PAYE liability re: July Salary payment, Employer NI £3.39, Employee Income Tax £16.00;
 - (ii) HMRC £19.39, PAYE liability re: August Salary payment, Employer NI £3.39, Employee Income Tax £16.00;
 - (iii) Society of Local Council Clerks £132.00 including £22.00 Vat, Online events: Annual Conference and webinars on Common Land, Village Greens and Rights of Way;
 - (iv) Society of Local Council Clerks £126.00, Annual membership fee;
 - (v) G. Burley and Sons Ltd £247.10 including £41.18 Vat, Grass cutting and hedge trim: July and August.
- (125) Council noted that the following amount had been received into the Parish Council bank account since the July meeting:
- (i) £8.00 refund of £16.00 Employee Income Tax less expenses £8.00 from Sheena Boyce on 20th July 2020;
 - (ii) £75.00 proceeds from the sale of walk booklets;
 - (iii) £8,627 second instalment of 2020/21 precept (£7111.00), concurrent grant (£1093.50) and council tax support grant (£422.50).

10. Formalities

- (126) Council, having completed a review of three **policy statements**, **resolved** to adopt each for a further 3-year period:
- (i) Statement on Health and Safety;
 - (ii) Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure; and
 - (iii) Statement of Commitment re Bullying and Harassment.

Action: Clerk to refresh review dates and publish updated versions.

- (127) Council **resolved** to appoint Cllr Jones to represent Council at the forthcoming virtual AGM of SALC, the Surrey Branch of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Mole Valley Chamber of Commerce

(128) Council noted that the Leatherhead & District Chamber of Commerce had recently, with the support of MVDC, extended its remit to incorporate Mole Valley as a whole and changed its name to the Mole Valley Chamber.

(129) Council **resolved** to accept Cllr Horden's offer to

- (i) accept an invitation from the Chamber to attend a virtual meeting on 16th September 2020 to explore what membership of the Chamber might offer to any of Buckland's businesses;
- (ii) explore the potential to establish a support network between businesses operating within Buckland or being operated remotely from Buckland.

Mole Valley Neighbourhood Police Team

(130) The crime report advised one crime recorded in Buckland between 13th July 2020 and 14th September 2020: damage to a wooden electric gate to a private residence.

(131) A further 14 incidents were recorded: three of concern for safety, two highways disruption, two road related offences, two road traffic collisions (damage only) and individual recordings of road traffic collision with injury, suspicious circumstances, rowdy inconsiderate behaviour, vehicle nuisance and domesticated animal/pet issue.

(132) Council noted

- (i) several residents had recently complained about "noisy motorcycles and flashy cars" travelling at speed through the parish and asked whether the local police are aware of "this problem";
- (ii) The Clerk had sought up to date advice from the Mole Valley police team and included the following advice in a parish update:
 - The reality is that incidents need to be reported at the time of the incident to enable the information to be reviewed by the incident handling centre" with a reminder that "if it is not reported Surrey police will not know about it;
 - Incidents should be reported to 101 (or online) unless there is an emergency, an offence is in progress or you believe there is a safety issue in which case you are advised to call 999;
 - Issues reported will be shared with officers on the ground and be taken into consideration when patrols are being briefed and/or proactive police activity is being planned;
 - All information provided feeds into decisions to undertake targeted policing activity and joint working with other agencies.

Action: All to ensure concerns are reported on a timely basis.

(133) SCC Cllr Clack advised Council:

- (i) residents across her division and more widely across the county are raising similar concerns about noisy and speeding vehicles;
- (ii) Surrey Police are aware of these concerns and, given resource constraints and performance targets set by Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner can be expected to continue to allocate resource in response to reports submitted by residents;
- (iii) When MVDC recently convened a Joint Action Group meeting concerns expressed across the SCC Dorking Rural Division were fed into the meeting;
- (iv) Any reports sent to SCC Cllr Clack are shared with the relevant SCC officers.

Action: Clerk to invite residents to share any concerns with SCC Cllr Clack to complement reports being submitted to Surrey Police.

National Government Devolution to Unitary Local Government

(134) Council noted:

- (i) the Government had confirmed that a Recovery and Devolution White Paper would soon be published that it is understood will set out National Government's thinking on the future shape of local government in England;
 - (ii) SCC, in advance of the publication, had written to Government to propose a single Surrey-wide unitary council be established to serve Surrey's 1.2 million residents;
 - (iii) the eleven District and Borough Councils had responded by announcing an intention to develop a counter proposal for Surrey to be served by two or three unitary councils;
 - (iv) updates that include relevant links are being posted to the village website.
- (135) SCC Cllr Clack suggested to Council that notwithstanding the different views held as to how many unitary councils there should be it is broadly acknowledged that the government is prepared to devolve more power to unitary councils than the current two tier structure in Surrey.
- (136) SCC Cllr Clack provided reassurance to Council that the need for any proposed Unitary Council to set out, at the earliest opportunity, how its relationship with parish councils would be facilitated and managed is recognised to be particularly important. **Action:** SCC Cllr Clack to provide Council with a copy of a recently produced relevant working group paper.
- (137) **Updates** issued by **NALC, SALC, SCC, MVDC, Surrey Community Action, the Surrey Faster Broadband team** and **Came and Company** had been circulated to Cllrs and key information published within Parish Updates.

11. Forthcoming Meetings

- (138) The **Parish Council** confirmed the next full Council Meeting will be held virtually on Monday 9th November 2020 with subsequent virtual meetings scheduled to be held on Monday 11th January and Monday 8th March 2021.
- (139) Cllr Horde will attend a virtual meeting of the **Mole Valley Chamber of Commerce** on Wednesday 16th September 2020.
- (140) Cllr Jones will attend the **Surrey Climate Action** Online Day Conference on Wednesday 30th September 2020.
- (141) Cllr Pryor will attend a virtual meeting of the **Surrey Hills Byways Forum** on Monday 5th October 2020.
- (142) Cllr Jones will attend the **SALC AGM** on Thursday 22nd October 2020.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Sheena Boyce, Clerk

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