



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Downley Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7:30 pm**

Present: Councillors M Lazenby (Chairman presiding), S Biggs, P Brooks, K Chandara, A Mann, W Monroe-West, and W Steneskog.

In attendance: eight members of the public.

Officers: G Tandy (Clerk)

### **1) Apologies for absence (8543/07/22)**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr K Ahmed, Cllr A Lenard, Cllr T Snaith and Buckinghamshire Councillor P Turner.

### **2) Declarations of Interest (8544/07/22)**

There were none

### **3) Minutes (8545/07/22)**

It was **RESOLVED** that the **Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June be received, approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.**

### **4) Public Participation Session (8546/07/22)**

A member of the public requested that minutes be published marked draft prior to approval at the next Council meeting. He also requested that the appendices to the agenda be published online and that the minutes of the annual meeting are published in draft form prior to approval.

A member of the public spoke about the land next to the Co-op asking if it could be taken on by the community as a gardening project and if the Parish Council could be party to that. It was suggested that the Environment and Climate Change Working Party investigate this in the first instance and that it should then be considered at our next meeting of Ful Council in September.

Several people wanted to discuss the proposal to site a 15-metre tall 5G mast at Jubilee Green. Members of the public were concerned that few people were aware of the proposal. It was agreed that details should go on our website, Facebook page and noticeboards together with other social media, to bring this to the attention of the public. It was pointed out that contrary to the National Planning Policy framework, the Parish Council had not been consulted on this issue. It was agreed that Cllr Brooks who chairs the Planning Committee would collaborate with the Clerk to prepare the Parish Councils response to the proposal.

### **5) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors (8547/07/22)**

Cllr Melanie Smith read through her prepared update:

Bins Background September 2020: Veolia took over the waste contract for the former Chiltern and Wycombe district areas (previously held by Serco). November 2021: Veolia took over the

waste contract for the former South Bucks district area (previously held by Biffa). May 2022: As part of the agreed contract, Veolia implemented a round reorganisation from Monday 9 May 2022. This reorganisation, is expected to secure a more resilient waste service with fewer missed containers and rounds that are completed earlier and closer together in order to reduce the impact if a vehicle breaks down for example. What then proceeded to happen was a 2 month nightmare for many residents in the above areas, particularly those with unusual properties/requirements resulting in missed bins, missed whole roads, missed collections for people with mobility issues etc. After a month we began to get briefings from the council, which are now weekly. The current process is: Reporting /Escalating missed bin queries VIP email address has been set up specifically for cllrs to use. Please encourage residents to firstly report a missed bin online. The mailbox can then be used to escalate cases/queries raised directly to the Cllr by residents if no resolution within 2 days. Officers are monitoring the mailbox and are working hard to deal with concerns asap. Reporting whole roads What do we do about whole road reports? It is not possible for residents to report a whole road miss. Please encourage residents to report their missed bin(s) online this allows each resident to receive an update once the rectification has taken place. This is usual practice and enables reports to be logged against households and collections of missed bins to be rescheduled. On instances of whole road missed collections; crews have been instructed to clear all waste on a road even if only one or two residents have reported the miss. Purple bags/sacks What is being done about missed bags/sacks? These can't be easily put away and re-presented for collection and leaving them out can cause litter to spread as bags are attacked by animals etc. Please continue to report missed bag/sacks online. We will aim to prioritise missed bags/sacks when raised as a VIP miss. VIP status also triggers a supervisory check for the next scheduled collection. While this isn't a 100% fix, it does help crews to become more familiar with these areas and enables us to monitor them more closely. There is a plan to try and move as many residents from bags/sacks to a bin, where appropriate. We will be writing to those residents as soon as possible. Looking at why the issues happened Should we have been better prepared? Disruption was anticipated given the scale of the change and mitigations which included additional call centre resource, a robust communications campaign and a 30% increase in waste operations were in place from the outset. Unfortunately, the magnitude of calls and attempted reports were far in excess of what we had been led to anticipate and clearly the initial mitigations which were implemented weren't sufficient. A full assessment of 'lessons learned' will be undertaken once the service is performing at an acceptable level. When do the charges for garden (green) waste in Wycombe come in? Has this been put back? In view of the significant disruption experienced by the round reorganisation, the start of the new subscription arrangements has been moved back to 26 September. More information is available online regarding the garden waste changes. We await the resumption of normal service and a full report from the council about how they allowed this to happen. I am pushing for no green bin charge as compensation for residents.

The Downley School OFSTED report On 22/23 March OFSTED visited TDS for the first inspection in 15 years. In this inspection, they downgraded TDS from Outstanding to Inadequate. Whilst it can clearly be said that from the moment of the report, TDS became in a better place now the failures were formalised, and as we look forward to the future, questions must be asked about how this was allowed to happen in the first place. I am told by parents that they began to make complaints to the council in 2018 but improvements were not made. Given that 2018 was 4 years ago, many of the current cohort would have been

adversely affected by any provable lack of action on the council's part. I think that for the sake of TDS and any other Buckinghamshire school under the council's control this must be investigated. It would be unjust to not seek accountability and only look forward. To this end, I have submitted a FOI request to obtain all of the documentation relating to complaints, investigations and reviews since 2018 in order to understand the picture as a whole. It may be the case that all is in order but I believe as a councillor it is my duty to make this review

#### **6) Comments on Planning Applications (8548/07/22)**

Comments on planning applications as set out in appendix a) of the agenda were noted.

#### **7) Decision Notices (8549/07/22)**

The Decision notices made by Buckinghamshire Council in respect of the Planning Applications as set out in appendix b) were noted

#### **8) Councillor Vacancy (8550/07/22)**

The applicant was unfortunately absent through ill health and this item was therefore postponed until our next meeting.

#### **9) Community Events (8551/07/22)**

Cllr Lazenby reminded Councillors that where invited, councillors should attempt to attend community events and where unable to do so they should at least provide their apologies for absence.

#### **10) 5G Mast -22/06821/PNP16A (8552/07/22)**

This agenda item was discussed previously under the public participation section of this meeting.

#### **11) Downley Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility study (8553/07/22)**

Council discussed the feasibility study that had been previously circulated to them. DPC had requested that Transport for Bucks should investigate the feasibility of installing crossing points at Plomer Hill/Plomer Green Avenue and Plomer Green Lane/High Street. A range of crossings was considered starting from an Informal Uncontrolled Crossing which uses a tactile surface depth of 800mm with a buff colour blister surface to contrast with existing footways which are grey in colour. A simple zebra crossing was proposed as a second option. A raised Zebra crossing was a third option highlighting the crossing point & encouraging traffic to slow down. The final option being a signal-controlled Puffin crossing. Each of these solutions was proposed for each site. All of these options carry their own advantages & disadvantages and it

is worth noting that there have been no pedestrian incidents at either site within the past five years.

It was agreed that public consultation was required to consider the pros & cons of each option and to assess whether there is an appetite to fund the cost of any of these projects. It was **proposed** by Cllr Lazenby, **seconded** by Cllr Steneskog and **resolved** unanimously that the options be put out for public consultation. Prior to this it would be necessary obtain written permission from Ringway Jacobs Ltd to reproduce and circulate their report and the Clerk was tasked with seeking this.

#### **12) Risk Management Policy Annual Review(8554/07/22)**

An annual review of the Risk Management policy was conducted following a similar exercise at July's Finance Committee Meeting. The Finance Committee had suggested two minor amendments to the policy, that in item number 8) Lack of maintenance carried out on physical assets resulting in excessive repair costs was reassessed as medium rather than high risk. Point 14) suggested that VAT 126 claims be made on a 6 monthly basis and this was changed to an annual return. As many of the risks identified are addressed by our insurance policy the Clerk volunteered to forward pdfs of our policy documents to Council so they could check the adequacy for themselves.

#### **13) Memorials Policy Annual Review (8555/07/22)**

An annual review of the Memorials policy was conducted in the knowledge that it is becoming increasingly difficult to site a memorial bench in the village which is what the policy is geared towards. It was suggested that if the Community Garden discussed during public participation becomes a reality, then donations could be accepted in respect of this. It was accepted that some minor amendments were required to the existing policy to amend the contact details and update the quoted price of benches. Once these amendments were made it was **proposed** by Cllr Mann, **seconded** by Cllr Chandarana and **resolved** unanimously that the existing policy be continued.

#### **14) Privacy notice (8556/07/22)**

A draft privacy notice for our website had been previously circulated as an appendix to the agenda. It was **proposed** by Cllr Steneskog, **seconded** by Cllr Biggs and **resolved** unanimously that the policy be adopted.

#### **15) Invoices (8557/07/22)**

Invoices paid since the last meeting on 14/06/22 were noted and those received for payment since then were authorised.

#### **16) The Clerks Progress Report (8558/07/22)**

The Clerks Progress Report was noted

#### **17) Reports from other Committees and Working parties (8559/07/22)**

Clarification was provided on the working party for Sandpits Pond Gosling Grove which tends to take place on the first Saturday of the month but is not each and every month. The Clerk emails volunteers in advance to advise of the date. It was agreed that a meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Working party was required to consider the proposed Community Garden discussed during the public participation section earlier.

Cllr Lazenby reported that the Festival and Arts Show had both gone really well as did the concert on the Common. A different site close to a popular store such as the Scouts barbecue should be sought for Downley Day next year.

**18)** To note the date and place of the next meeting (8560/07/22)

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7:30 p.m Downley Community Centre**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:21 p.m.