

BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Confidential

LOCATION

Bayford Village Hall

DATE

28th March 2022

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Parish Assembly Meeting

PRESENT

Michael Wainwright (Chairman), Alan Fitzjohn, Bob Orme, George Rowley, Maggie Broomer (clerk), Councillor Linda Haysey and 1 member of the public

CIRCULATION

Above listed + Ken Crofton and Jane Honeyman

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
1.0	Apologies	
1.1	Jane Honeyman	
2.0	Chairmans Report	
2.1	<p>All the usual tasks have been completed. The precept has been agreed, the audit carried out, litter picked, grass cut, meetings arranged, attended and minuted.</p> <p>Last year, after several onsite meetings and two aborted attempts, the outfall to the pond was finally unblocked and I am pleased to say that, during the heavy rain some weeks ago, the pond not overflowing.</p> <p>Alan has done some work to improve the bridleway south of Bayford House. This land is prone to flooding, largely due to the ditches being full. The reinstatement of these traditional ditches would be a major undertaking, as they are filled with trees. We may schedule a work party later this year to clear some of the less healthy trees on our verges.</p> <p>Jane has continued to pursue the issue of traffic calming, particularly with respect to Ashdene Road. Information collected from the road side DriveSafe speed monitoring, was successfully used in an application to The Road Safety Fund. Our application was successful in being granted a feasibility study co-ordinated by HCC and undertaken by independent consultants AECOM. The report (received Nov 2019), is a comprehensive analysis of our roads from which viable speed calming options are suggested specific to Bayford . The process due to follow this report has been severely delayed due to the effects of COVID on the County Council. At present we have no costings for the various schemes. We are awaiting discussions as to which elements will be implemented. The following were suggestions: A staggered speed limit along Ashdene Road suggested 60 - 40 -30 mph. An unmanned pedestrian crossing by the school with a possible 20mph speed limit at the school in the morning and afternoon busy times. Clearer markings at the rose triangle, anti-skid surfacing, and clearer bend signage for the sharp bend in Bayford Lane just down from the church. This process has taken a number of years and has required many hours of work and patience. But this is the path we have to follow in order to improve road safety in Bayford.</p>	

Bayford PC requested that the mobile police speed cameras be used in Bayford. This has happened a number of times, but necessarily this only last for a few hours.

The closure of Brickendon Lane for an extended period caused problems in Bayford as inevitably, traffic used Bayford Lane as a diversion. Discussions took place with A T Bone, whose yard is in Brickendon Lane.

Litter picking was another activity which was disrupted by the COVID restrictions and also by Paul Curson being out of action for some months. We hope to resume this worthwhile activity later this year. Meanwhile a number of ad hoc litter picking events have been held. We have now purchased some sets of litter pickers and hi-vis vests so we are not reliant on borrowing these from East Herts.

The managers of the Baker Arms resigned during the year, and we were concerned that the land might be sold and re-developed. This has not happened, as fortunately new tenants, Martin and Beverley, have come forward. We would like to wish them every success.

The sale of the Old Playground caused considerable consternation. Extensive discussions have taken place between this Council and the agents for the Diocese. It is not clear whether the land has actually been sold at this stage. We have had several communications with Gavin Nelson, of Bonnel Construction whose bid was chosen by the Diocese. Provisional plans have been made available, and Gavin has provided progress reports. The Council received £3,500 for the easement of services over its verge, plus £1,000+VAT for legal expenses.

Amongst other work, the Best Kept Village sign was reinstated, the bridleway south of Bayford House was improved, the hedge opposite 'Fourways' was cut back, the bus shelter roof was fixed and further maintenance to the hedges around the Village and School ponds was carried out.

Pot holes in Bayford Lane were (as always) the subject of a protracted exchange between this Council and Highways/Ringway. Having at first stated that no action would be taken, the pot holes were finally filled.

The precept was kept at the same level as last year.

Finally a tree has been planted on the village green to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We are grateful to all Councillors for their work during this year. Maggie's work as Clerk has also been more exacting, not least, trying to determine how and when meeting could take place. We are grateful to David Sitwell for acting as our auditor. Also, to all parishioners who have given up their time to make Bayford a better place.

3.0 Clerks Notices

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| 3.1 | Bayford Hall Farm woodland scheme – MB emailed the Forest Manager at Tilhill re funding for this project across the road from the bottom of the Bayford Lane - Forestry Commission would fund, plus depending on cost of plants and labour landowner may need to supplement the capital cost grant themselves The Carbon Code governments carbon scheme may fund. | Noted |
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ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
3.2	David Sitwell has accepted as our external auditor.	Noted
3.3	The large oak tree in the Old Playground now has a confirmed TPO.	Noted
3.4	Glendale has submitted its new contract for this year – there is no price change. All agreed to continue with this company grass cutting in the parish.	
3.5	Planning application for an Archery Range in one of the fields at Bayford Hall Farm – it was agreed to write to planning re our concerns for the safety of walkers on nearby footpath and in agreement with Herts Highways about the increase in traffic on Bayford Lane as there is proposed car park to hold 42 cars.	MB
4.0	Any Other Business	
4.1	Litter picking – Sunday 10 th April at 10am.	Noted
4.2	Rose Triangle – it was decided to replace some of the roses. AF to phone a company selling cast iron bell bollards for a price. These would be placed on the 3 corners of the triangle to stop lorries eroding the sides of the flower bed.	AF
4.3	Traffic Survey by The Old Playground – awaiting results. Gavin Nelson of Bonnel Homes is in regular contact with BPC re developments on the land . His recent email has asked for the parish to assist and confirm via an email their approval to the formal drop kerb/crossover.	MW
4.4	It was decided to set up a working party to cut the ivy at base on all the trees in the parish. Date set for Sunday 24 th April at 10am. MB to put a txt on the Bayford Whats app group.	Noted
4.5	AF to contact Whittakers re the broken sign on Ashdene Road.	AF
5.0	Date and Time of Next meeting at 8pm village hall May 16th September 19th November 28th Meeting ended at 9.00pm	

Signed.....

Date:.....