

# AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes

**Minutes of a general Parish Council Meeting of Akeley Parish Council held VIRTUALLY on Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

Pursuant to the 1960 Public Bodies Act (amended), the Chairman advises that the participants & proceedings of this meeting may be reported upon (filmed, recorded, photographed, blogged, tweeted or streamed) but verbal reporting may not take place whilst in session. Non-participating attendees not wishing to be subject to such media should indicate this by sitting to one side.

**Present:** Cllrs Caz McCall (Chair), Terry Cavender, John Hockley, Cara George, Gerry Millard

**Clerk:** Ruth Millard

**Members of the public;** to be co-opted Debbie Coxall & Sherri Holland. Bucks Council Cllr Billy Stanier & Warren Whyte. Residents of the Parish; John Tibbetts, Angela Hawker, Ellen & Andy Sayer, Anthony & Jenny Glover, Brian Coxall.

**62/20 Public Open Forum (under adjournment);**

for members of the public to bring issues to the Council's attention. Any issues not on the agenda cannot be discussed but will be noted. Issues relating to the agenda will be taken into consideration when the item is discussed in the meeting.

**Comments were made by those attending, none were pertaining to the items on the agenda.**

**63/20 Apologies;** None received.

**64/20 Members Interests;** Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Akeley Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Interest declared by Cllrs J Hockley & D Coxall to 66/20 a. as their property is adjacent to the development site.

**65/20 Approval of Minutes;** Members agreed the minutes from the Closed Meeting on the recreation field on 28 July 2020, the Chair will sign the minutes and return them to the Clerk.

**66/20 Co-option;**

a. Members of the Council to agree to the Co-option of Debbie Coxall & Sherri Holland. They had previously signed the Acceptance of Office in the presents of the Clerk, and completed their Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest form (DPI). **Action;** the Clerk would send PDFs of the DPI documents to Buckinghamshire Council.

**67/20 Planning;**

a. **20/02433/APP** / Land adjacent to Leckhampstead Road Akeley Buckinghamshire / Erection of five detached dwellings, and associated garaging, parking and amenity space, served off two new private drives, a replacement access for existing stabling/paddocks and the widening of Leckhampstead road to also incorporate a new footpath (revised re-submission of 18/03471/APP

**After a short discussion the members voted, 6 to oppose and 1 member abstained to vote. Akeley Parish Council RESOLVED to Oppose 20/02433/APP for the material reasons set out below;**

1. It represents destruction of the village's identity, and its development over hundreds of years around a pleasant rural field.
2. It destroys a long-established hedgerow which is home to bountiful wildlife.
3. The control of surface water will be aggravated with the addition of extensive impermeable surfaces.
4. It is sited alongside a narrow village lane and the addition of three additional access points will be a significant danger for pedestrians.

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5. The elevated situation of the proposed dwellings will be an oppressively dominant and unwanted addition to the village.
6. The additional traffic that will result from a potential of 20 additional vehicles, together with deliveries etc. will create further blockages along Leckhampstead road which already sees much school traffic including a number of coaches daily.
7. You will note that there are numerous objections already logged onto this application and such is the feeling within the village community that not one is in any way in support of it.
8. The addition of these houses compromises the setting of listed buildings on both the north and south sides of the field.

**In addition, if planning approval were to be given Akeley Parish Council will require that the following conditions are included with legal effect;**

1. That some kind of Management Plan be written into all contracts for house sale that ensures proactive responsibility on a continuing basis for, and control of, the full and effective removal of all surface water including any existing ditches used for that purpose.
2. There is to be no holding, offloading or parking of construction related vehicles on Leckhampstead Road, Church Hill, Manor Road, nor on the A413. All deliveries to be held off site and called forward when space on site permits.
3. There is to be a fully effective provision of equipment that ensures that no surplus spoil or mud is deposited on roads leaving the construction site areas, and that any water settlement pits are properly emptied without further mud or slurry on the roads.

**Action;** the Clerk would upload the Parish Council’s comments onto the Bucks site by the 16 September 2020

**CLlr TC remarked that it was a shame that the villagers hadn’t proactively join in union to secure the remaining large area of the field for the Parish, when it was offered to them under a section 106 agreement, if they would agree to five houses being developed on the field in 18/03471/APP.**

- b. **20/02764/APP** / Pottery Farm Chapel Lane Akeley Buckinghamshire MK18 5HU / Existing agricultural building will be demolished. On the same site a new agricultural building will be constructed to be used for general purpose agricultural storage.

**After a short discussion; members RESOLVED no objections to 20/2764/APP**

**Action;** the Clerk would upload the Parish Council’s comments onto the Bucks site by the 17 September 2020

**68/20 Finances;**

- a. Members received the financial statement: to 31 August 2020

**Financial Statement to 31 August 2020**

**Account Balance**

<b>Nationwide Building Society</b>	<b>31 December 2019 including interest of £5.54</b>	<b>£10,218.25</b>
<b>Lloyds....5668</b>	<b>31 August 2020 – Statement</b>	<b>£6771.36</b>
		<b>£16,989.61</b>

- b. Members noted the invoices to be paid in September 2020

**September 2020 Online/cheque payments**

<b>BALC - subscription 2020/21</b>	LGA 1972, s143	<b>BP 77</b>	<b>97.17</b>
<b>PWLB – payment</b>	LGA 1972, Sch 13	<b>BP 78</b>	<b>396.06</b>
<b>ER Millard, reimbursement for Ducks Back Shed &amp; Fence Treatment - £28</b>	Small Holdings Allotments Act 1906 ss23, 26,& 42		

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<b>ER Millard, Reimbursement for Football net £23.98 &amp; Basket ball nets £7.99</b>	LG(misc prov)A 1976, s19	<b>BP 79</b>	<b>59.97</b>
<b>BALC, Cllr Training for Town &amp; Parish Councils x 2 tickets</b>	LGA 1972, s175	<b>BP 80</b>	<b>83.10</b>
<b>Hilary Jones, September 2020 Akeley News expenses</b>	<b>LGA 1972, s137</b>	<b>0008</b>	<b>10.00</b>

- c. Clerk - pay review, Members **RESOLVED** to pay the Clerk inline with the 2020-21 National Salary award issued on 26 August 2020. To be applied from 1 April 2020  
**Action;** the Clerk would enter the online payments onto the banking site ready for authorisation.  
**Action:** JH would be in Buckingham the next morning he would call on the Clerk, collect & sign cheque 0008 and hand deliver to the recipient.

## 69/20 ENVIRONMENT;

- a. Recreational Field;
  - i. Outdoor gym Equipment, CG gave a resume of the project to date and explained that what was needed was a survey of the residents to ascertain if the project, to purchase and install exercise equipment in the recreational field, was viable and wanted by the residents. When the Parish Council has confirmation that the residents want outdoor exercise equipment and also which type of equipment, funding can be sourced by grant applications and a further 2 quotes can be obtained. DC offered to research what was needed, put a face book page up, as well as a leaflet drop to gather the information.
  - ii. The condition of the Shed; the Clerk reported that she had purchased the paint needed to paint the shed and had delivered it to AG requesting that it is painted as soon as possible.
  - iii. Update of arrangements for the wildflower meadow. SH confirmed that she had checked the field and it was ready to be cut. **Action:** The Clerk would inform the grass contractor.
  - iv. Basket Ball board and net update; the Clerk reported that the residents had paid for the Basket Ball board, AG had put it up, she has not received his invoice for the labour costs. The Clerk had purchased the net which had been installed.
  - v. Football net, update; the Clerk reported that a net has been purchased and it will be installed soon.
  
- vi. SH report on tree work, email 02.09.20 regarding volunteers to work on the easier trees that they are insured to work on. A donation of £150 would be expected from the Parish Council. vii Escapes quote for all the tree work; to discuss.

vi & vii where discussed in conjunction with each other. The Parish Council had received a further quote from Escapes which he had sent to the Clerk that morning, giving separate costs of the areas, of trees to be worked on, the members had not viewed it. The Clerk reported that he had rang her just before the meeting and had said that if the volunteers were chosen to complete some of the work, he would have to visit the site when they had finished and requote for the work that was left and he would also factor in the extra cost of the shredding. Members discussed the viability of asking the volunteers to do some of the pruning/cutting of the easier trees initially. The Clerk said that the members were not fully informed of Escapes cost of completing the work if the volunteers were hired, to be able to make an informed decision. JH proposed that the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept Escapes original quote ES/1671/20 to complete all the work this winter. Members agreed with the proposal.  
**Action:** The Clerk to inform Escapes of the Parish Council's decision.

- viii. The Beacon; JH reported on the good condition of the Beacon. He explained the difficulty of painting it in situ. He said that as it was made of robust metal it would not harm it to leave it unpainted for a few years. He therefore proposed that it is left alone until after the next event and then repainted. Members agreed with the proposal and **RESOLVED** to leave the Beacon as it is until after the next event when it is lit, before repainting it.

- b. Play park;

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- i. Members discussed the May 2020 Rospa report, JH reported that he had visited the playground and completed some of the tasks namely; the bolt cap that needed replacing, mole hills flattened.  
**Still to do in the playground; the trip points on surface under the main gate opposite the Village Hall, needs smoothing out with cement, and the worn area under the internal gate which needs filling and re-grassing.**  
**On the slide; the laminate damage needs the edges sealing with lead free paint & the edges on the plastic rounding off to a minimum of 3mm radius.**  
**Playground; signage showing who the owner/operator is, telephone/email address & dog exclusion notice, as a minimum requirement by law.**  
**Goal post; the worn area needs filling in.**  
**Warning notices on the Basketball Backboard; Do not climb on the framework, do not hang on the ring, do not wear rings or jewellery as these can get caught & cause injury.**
- ii. Members voted on reopening the area once the playground was Rospa and Covid safe. Akeley Parish Council **RESOLVED** to re-open the play area 4 members to 3. The members who voted to re-open the area were Sherri Holland, Debbie Coxall, Cara George & John Hockley.
- iii. Members assessed the risks involved and agreed the Covid risk assessment which the Clerk had circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. This will need to be reviewed at each meeting to meet any changes in the law relating to Covid 19
- v. To discuss the work that needs doing and who is going to do it. As time was short and the meeting was coming to an end, the clerk suggested that the Councillors organise a working party to proceed with the work. SH said that she would ask DP, JH and CG to form a working party, members agreed.

**Action:** The Clerk will inform Zurich when the work has been done and the play park is reopened to Covid 19 regulations.

**As time was short for the 2 hour meeting the Chair decided to defer all other items except for 70/20 a & d**

- c. Scout Field; discuss any updates; *deferred*
- d. Grass Cutting; to discuss any issues; *deferred*
- e. Roads and traffic; To discuss;
  - i. A resident's concern regarding the speeding out from the village along the A413. *deferred*
  - ii. Also, the amount of litter in the verges going out of the village. *deferred*
  - iii. Hedge boarding Leckhampstead Road – Update. *deferred*
- f. Allotments;
  - i. 3 New hirers have applied to discuss whether to accept their requests. *deferred*
  - ii. The Allotments shed; to agree a Risk Assessment for volunteer work painting & re-felting. *deferred*
- g. Street lighting; Update regarding renewing the street lights in the village to LED lights. *deferred*
- h. Bus shelter; to receive an update. *deferred*
- i. Dog Bin, SH proposed the provision of a dog bin in the Manor Road area. *deferred*
- j. Broadband; residents query regarding an update on the provision of super-fast Broadband in Manor Road. *Deferred*

## **70/20 Administration;**

- a. Parish Council email addresses for Councillors; DC proposed herself to help the Clerk set up email addresses and be responsible for updating the village side of the website. Members **RESOLVED** that Cllr DC could help with the administration and setting up of Council email addresses.
- b. Community Emergency Planning; To discuss; *deferred*
- c. Website; to receive an update; *deferred*

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- d. Parish Council meetings; SH proposed that because of the high volume of items on the agenda that the PC could meet monthly instead of bi-monthly. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to meet next month 12 October and review the proposal again at the November meeting.

**71/20 CORRESPONDENCE; To note and discuss;**

Resident's email regarding finding a permanent position for the 'Rock Snake'. *deferred*

**72/20** Date and time of next meeting; 12 October 2020 at 7.30pm - TBC

**Meeting Closed at 21.32**