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Parish Clerk Helen Butcher

Minutes General Meeting 13th March 2023

15/23 Public Open Forum ; 2 Members of the public present

16/23 Attendance and apologies; Councillor Holland (Chair) Councillors Hockley, George, Goodger, Jones (left at 20.55) & Eastwood present

17/23 Members Interests; none declared

18/23 Approval of Minutes; Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the general meeting held at Akeley Village Hall on Monday 9th January.

19/23 ADMINISTRATION

a. The Clerks report verbal report given. Council was informed that witness statements had been submitted to the Planning Enforcement Officer dealing with the Leys Field development.

Eon are still being chased for the refund agreed in January 2022 but they seem to have lost their corporate memory since the member of staff dealing left.

b. Councillor Holland gave an update on the recruitment for a new Councillor Council **RESOLVED** that Councillor Eastwood would put adverts onto FB to try to recruit a new councillor

c. The Council is committed to signing up to the Civility & Respect policy – Councillor Eastwood is looking into what training is actually required by each member and whether any can be shared. Innovations offered to share their Dignity at work policy for guidance.

d. To set a date for the clerks appraisal – no date confirmed as not all feedback has been received.

e. The WhatsApp Group has been set up. It is just to be used for reminders about meetings, to organise dates etc. Not to discuss issues that may arise between meetings

f. Council **RESOLVED** to make Councillor Eastwood admin for Facebook group and any other social media engaged with in the future

g. Council **RESOLVED** to make Debbie Coxall a volunteer for maintaining the website and thank her for her ongoing support in this. Copies of approved minutes to also be sent to Councillor Eastwood so that a link can be put onto Facebook

h. Council **RESOLVED** to host a BYO picnic lunch at the village hall on Sunday 7th May. A flyer is to be produced by Councillor Jones & distributed around the residents of Akeley. Prizes to be given for best decorated table and Crown.

Council **RESOLVED** to buy commemorative bookmarks and seed packs for children of the village and some more bunting.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the use of the Councils debit card if required to purchase these items.

Council **RESOLVED** to plant a tree, preferably an oak tree in the autumn

i. S106 training Councillor Holland gave feedback from the training she recently attended. Key point was to ensure the Parish Council states its request early on for any section 106 money even if objecting to a proposed plan. A neighbourhood Plan is required for the village

j. Community Board meeting Councillor Holland gave feedback from the Community Board meeting including - Banking hub project plan underway

Bart bus & car available for booking

4th May community engagement event Buck Uni 6-8 pm all councillors to be invited

20/23 FINANCES;

a. The financial statement to end February 2022 was reported current balance £5571.38

b. Council **RESOLVED** to pay the invoices due to be paid in March 2023 see list of payments authorised below

c. The spending to end of February 2023 was reviewed. There are several outstanding incomes still being chased.

d. The budget proposed for 2023/24 was confirmed as now shows a healthier balance than previously

e. Payments from Community Board have had to be invoiced for again as they apparently hadn't received them.

f. Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor George as temporary Internal Controls Officer in the absence of a Councillor who is not a signatory on the account but is willing to undertake the role

g. Council **RESOLVED** to pay the back pay on the clerks salary to bring them up to date with the agreed pay rises. Also, to pay the clerk monthly by standing order from now on rather than waiting for bi monthly invoices and subsequent payments to be set up. The clerk thanks the Council for resolving this issue

h. New information has come to light regarding the acceptable going rate for a one acre field so Council **RESOLVED** to keep the rent at £175

i. The Escapes Quote 2023/4 still does not detail the required changes, clerk to chase

j. Council reviewed the devolved services contract and **RESOLVED** to accept it. The contract was signed at the meeting .

21/23 ENVIRONMENT;

a. No updates regarding the Recreational Field

b. Play Park

- Councillor Holland gave an update from the working group looking at the play area refurbishment.

- The two companies who provided the preferred quotes for refurbishing the play area have been approached and asked to submit revised plans meeting the agreed refined remit.

- The Section 106 money will be applied for as soon as the final quote is confirmed

- Councillor Goodger volunteered to monitor the condition of the playing field and will approach the member of the public who first raised the idea to see if he will assist

- Council **RESOLVED** not to power wash the play area at the moment but instead to monitor its condition and balance against likely start date for the refurbishment

c. Scout Field; no contact from the scouts or response as to whether they are proceeding with the concrete slab. Invoice has been sent for last two years rent.

d. Grass Cutting; no updates

e. Wildflower area; no updates

f. Trees: The work has been completed on the willow at the top of Church Hill and is due to be carried out on the one at the end of Manor Road within the next few weeks. Council **RESOLVED** to pay the invoice for the second tree as soon as received rather than waiting until the next meeting as it was agreed expenditure.

g. Wildlife conservation. An email was sent to the developer of the Leys Field asking for hedgehog highways in the garden fencing and whether they would consider creating a community orchard on the remainder of the field but their response was that all their fencing is post and rail so wildlife friendly and they declined the idea of the community orchard.

h. Roads and traffic; To discuss any issues, including

- Community Speedwatch – have now had the go ahead need to arrange meeting to plan dates etc

- Pavements- Council received a report from Councillor Hockley regarding the footpaths and pavements in the village. Reports have been made to the County Council regarding the footpaths across Leys Field which have been shut by the developer and now appear to be being diverted without consultation. Also, regarding the condition of the pavement on the A413 opposite the pub which is impassable.

i. Footpaths; Footpath Wardens reported public footpaths across Leys Field were in regular use prior to the development work blocking them off

j. Allotments;

- Councillor George is undertaking a risk assessment with Councillor Goodger

- The allotment fencing- E-Scapes to be invited out for another meeting

k. Andy Gibbs has completed the maintenance of Parish notice boards

l. Bus shelter; no updates

m. AED- awaiting an update on the lighting & signage to improve visibility of the defibrillator

n. Dog bin – A member of the public has requested another dog bin or two for Chapel Lane and the road out toward Buckingham as these are both regularly used by dog walkers. Council accepted both would be a good idea but it was considered that this years budget is too tight currently. Council **RESOLVED** that should there be an underspend in any area this would be reconsidered or failing that provision would be put into next years budget.

22/23 PLANNING;

a. New Planning applications – none

b. Appeals

Appeal against (1) the material change of use of the Land from agriculture to a mixed use of agriculture and residential by the siting of 6 touring caravans, the laying of hardstanding and the construction of an earth bund and (2) the laying of hardstanding and construction of an earth bund Lodge Fields Akeley Wood

Lodge Road Akeley Buckinghamshire Ref. No: 22/00154/ENFNOT | Received: Fri 30 Sep 2022 | Status: Appeal In Progress

c. Update on current applications

c.1 Variation of Condition 18 (footpath material) relating to 20/02433/APP (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 and P/J0405/W/19/3237395). APC 03/2223 Land Adjacent To Leckhampstead Road Akeley Buckinghamshire

Ref. No: 22/04319/VRC | Received: Wed 28 Dec 2022 | Validated: Wed 28 Dec 2022 | Status: Awaiting decision

c.2 Outline planning application for up to 4no. dwellings, with some matters reserved

Land Off Leckhampstead Road Akeley Buckinghamshire MK18 5HF Ref. No: 22/03877/AOP | Received: Thu 17 Nov 2022 | Validated: Fri 09 Dec 2022 | Status: Awaiting decision

c.3 Outline application for demolition of garage/store and erection of one dwelling (including details of access, layout and scale for approval at outline stage). Maple Tree Cottage Chapel Lane Akeley Buckinghamshire MK18 5HU Ref. No: 22/03762/AOP | Received: Tue 08 Nov 2022 | Validated: Wed 16 Nov 2022 | Status: Awaiting decision

c.4 Construction of a new structure and landscaped area within the footprint of a ruined church within the burial ground

Akeley Burial Ground The Square Akeley Buckinghamshire Ref. No: 22/03452/APP | Received: Mon 10 Oct 2022 | Validated: Wed 19 Oct 2022 | Status: Awaiting decision

d. Decisions made by Bucks CC Planning Dept none

e. Other planning Consultations

1. Settlement review response, was confirmed by the Council
2. Local Plan – Clerk to draft a response to Bucks CC

23/23 Date and time of next meeting; Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.30pm - Date to be confirmed

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

List of payments authorised