



Akeley Parish Council

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Parish Clerk Helen Butcher

Minutes July 2023 General Meeting

- 58/23 **Public Open Forum (under adjournment);** Councillor Hardcastle from Maids Moreton, 1 Member of the public
- 59/23 **Attendance and apologies;** apologies Councillor Goodger,
In attendance Councillors Holland (Chair), Hockley, Eastwood, Jones, George
Clerk Helen Butcher
- 60/23 **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. None were declared
- 61/23 **Approval of Minutes;** Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15th May 2023 and the planning meeting held on 19th June 2023 with the recommendation to add Mr Hardcastle's name to minutes of 19th June
- 62/23 **PLANNING;**
- a. New Planning applications – None**
- b. Pending Consideration by BC planners**
- 22/04319/VRC 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 APP/J0405/W/19/3237395). Land Adjacent To Leckhampstead Road Akeley Buckinghamshire
 - 22/03762/AOP 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

Appeals

Application Ref: 20/00510/APP Appeal Ref: 23/00047/CIPA Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/V/23/3322305 Land West Of Moreton Road And Castlemilk Buckingham Buckinghamshire Proposal: Erection of 130 dwellings, associated access and parking, landscaping and amenity space and the change of land from agriculture to use as sports pitches/recreational open space and informal open space.

Council **RESOLVED** to object to this on the grounds detailed at the end of these minutes

22/00154/ENFNOT | 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 - **ongoing**

d. Decisions – nil since last meeting

e. Other -Neighbourhood Plan -

Councillor Pat Hardcastle from Maids Moreton PC has been invited to talk through the process of writing a Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hardcastle discussed how Maids Moreton had developed their Neighbourhood Plan. It must reflect the needs & aspirations of the community and has to follow legislation

Points to consider

- What area is to be covered? Date boundary was registered and map can be obtained from AVDC
- Whether to have a Sub committee which has to be run in same way as PC meeting, or a working party can meet separately and report back

Can use a Professional Adviser, grants are available from Locality - check out road map sent previously, advised setting a cap for professional fees.

- Vision for the plan for what sort of community you want to be? Aims and aspirations
- Physical characteristics of village, use latest census data ONS data
- Open meetings to engage public to identify everyone's needs and wants
- Identify areas suitable for development, what types and sizes of houses required
- Heritage statement
- Consultation statement
- Legal statement/assessment
- Cross reference policies to VALP - get hold of paper copy from Buckinghamshire Council
- Ordinance survey maps UK maps Centre website 1;12.5, 1;25 jpegs, in colour
- Keep records of all comments and attendance at meetings, make copies available at pub, school, village hall
- Track changes made
- Need an Independent examiner

Other useful contacts/ references Rachel - Bucks CC, HELA housing economic land assessment
Call for sites exercise.

Thank you to Councillor Hardcastle for attending and sharing all of this information and his experience.

Council **RESOLVED** to run an appeal on FB highlighting the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan and the need for help in order to take it forward. Ask volunteers to contact the Clerk and attend beginning of September meeting.

This is a one-off opportunity to influence development in & around village

63/23 Review of Councils policies for 2022/23

co-option policy 2020 Councillor Holland to review

appraisal policy and protocol 2020 Councillor Holland to review

Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 – need updated version circulate to councillors 2021

Social Media policy to be reviewed

64/23 ADMINISTRATION

a. Clerks report noted – see details at the end of these minutes

- b. Update received on the recruitment for a new Councillor. Councillor Eastwood to write post about how & why he joined
- c. Update received on the Civility & Respect policy from Councillor George
 - Councillor interest forms need checking to make sure still relevant and then ongoing at annual meeting
 - Code of Conduct 2021 to be adopted
 - Dignity in Work policy needed from NALC
 - Check social media policy against NALC policy. Advised Councillors to write statement on social media stating that any opinions expressed on their own pages are their opinions alone and not reflecting those of the Parish Council.
 - Councillor George will put together a training statement
- d. To set a date for the clerks appraisal more feedback still required
- e. Update on the future of Akeley News Letter – There has been no response from public so Council **RESOLVED** to put info sheet on Notice Boards, website and Facebook. Revisit if any members of the public express an interest in compiling a newsletter in the future

65/23 **FINANCES;**

It was noted that the internal auditor has not yet sent the final paperwork. Clerk to chase and extend deadline for PC to submit AGAR documents to the end of September.

- a. The financial statement: to end June 2023 was received, noted that the SSE refund has been received. Balance £9307.64 at end of June 2023
- b. Council **RESOLVED** to pay invoices listed on payments to be authorised proposed by Councillor Hockley, seconded by Councillor Holland
- c. The spending to end of June 2023 and payments made was noted
- d. To receive an update on Community Board priorities. To be circulated to Councillors. (NB four priorities for 2023-24: Health & Wellbeing, Youth, Economic Recovery and Road Safety)

66/23 **ENVIRONMENT;**

- a. Recreational Field; to receive any updates.
- b. Play Park
 - Council was happy with the quote received to date but still would like a comparison from Creative Play
 - The report for play area inspection was received and Council **RESOLVED** to accept it.
 - Council **RESOLVED** to ask Luke to look at the climbing frame and slide and quote for making good –(NB this proved to be too costly to do so there was no other option other than to remove it for the safety of the users of the play area)
 - Council **RESOLVED** to apply for section 106 money for the concrete bases for the benches to sit on
- c. Scout Field; no updates
- d. Grass Cutting; Fairhive have now cut grass
- e. Wildflower area; looking good, orchids have spread need to advise EScapes when it is ready to cut
- f. Trees: No updates
- g. Wildlife conservation remove from agenda
- h. Roads and traffic; To discuss any issues, including
 - Community Speedwatch update – see clerks report below
- i. Footpaths; no updates from Footpath Wardens. We need to appoint a new Volunteer Footpath Warden.
- j. Allotments;

- The risk assessment – Councillor George reported that a grid is required over water troughs. Sign will need updating once funds available, no smoking signs for outside of mower shed and shed adjacent to play area as a mower is stored in there for cutting the playground. Clerk to purchase 2.
- Two people had not renewed this year, everyone else has paid. The two allotments have been rented. Council **RESOLVED** to allow allotment holders to remove any self-seeding saplings
- Update re the allotment fencing – email sent to Escapes
- k. To receive an update on the maintenance of Parish notice boards. Board outside the school needs some more work.
- l. Bus shelter; it was noted that the bus shelter has been cleaned Thank you to Andy Gibbs
- m. AED- to receive an update on the lighting & signage to improve visibility of the defibrillator
Council **RESOLVED** to ask the school to keep the hedge trimmed back around the defib

67/23 **Date and time of next meeting; Monday 11th September 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.

Application Ref: 20/00510/APP Appeal Ref: 23/00047/CIPA Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/V/23/3322305 Land West Of Moreton Road And Castlemilk Buckingham
Buckinghamshire Proposal: Erection of 130 dwellings, associated access and parking, landscaping and amenity space and the change of land from agriculture to use as sports pitches/recreational open space and informal open space.

Akeley Parish Council opposes this planning application for a further 130 houses in Maids Moreton/Buckingham on the following grounds.

There is already approved development of 170 new houses in Maids Moreton, with no plans to increase provision of medical, dental or school services. A further 130 houses with the increase in population they will bring will further compound a growing problem. Basic services need increasing before any more large scale development to prevent current residents being further disadvantaged.

Traffic issues

The residents of these 130 houses will increase the traffic flow through Buckingham and the surrounding villages including Akeley where there is a bottle neck already due to the narrow roads. Again the local infrastructure needs improving before further development is approved. It would be inappropriate for the construction traffic connected to this proposed development to approach the site through Akeley along the A413 due to the narrow roads and the resulting pinch points they create. There are also insufficient footpaths through the village to keep pedestrians safely away from heavy traffic.

A proper detailed traffic management assessment is needed.

Clerks report July 2023

By the time of the meeting all the Coronation memorabilia will have been delivered to all those who have asked for it and the excess offered to the school.

Highways & footpaths

The bushes around the 'Beware of the horses' sign at the start of the village from Buckingham direction have been trimmed back. However, the 30mph sign just a short distance further on is obscured by bushes which cannot be reached, this has been reported to Buckingham CC.

Andy Gibbs has done an excellent job of trimming back bushes on the footpaths leading to and from Leys field. Unfortunately, the path leading from Main Street is too overgrown and has been reported to the CC.

Issues with the gates and stiles on the pathway from Leckhampstead Road towards Maids Moreton have been reported and dealt with by Bucks CC & the land owners.

The volunteers who have so far come forward regarding the Akeley Community Speedwatch have met and planned several dates throughout July to monitor speed through the village. More volunteers are needed and it is hoped that once people see the team out in action, more people will come forward.

A response was sent to the planners regarding the proposed Construction Traffic route via Akeley to Maids Moreton. Also, several residents have responded which has been good to see.

Consultations

A response was sent to Buckinghamshire Council regarding the consultation on charitable collections