



## Akeley Parish Council

Email [parishclerk@akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk) website [www.akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.akeleyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Parish Clerk Helen Butcher

Minutes General Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

- 72/23 **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 and discussed at the next meeting if appropriate. Issues relating to the agenda will be taken into consideration when the item is discussed in the meeting
- 73/23 **Attendance and apologies;** Apologies accepted from Councillors Eastwood & Jones  
Present Councillors Holland (Chair), Hockley, Goodger, George  
1 Member of the public  
Clerk Helen Butcher
- 74/23 **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.  
Councillor Goodger on the Fairhive Housing issues  
Councillor Holland on the Village Hall and payment to John Holland  
Councillor George on the Village Hall
- 75/23 **Approval of Minutes;** Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the planning meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 and the general meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023
- 76/23 **ADMINISTRATION**
- a. The Clerks report was received
  - b. The recruitment for a new Councillor – Councillor Holland to speak to Councillors Jones & Eastwood about putting together a new Facebook post
  - c. The Civility & Respect policy. Council **RESOLVED** to adopt NALC's Anti bullying and Dignity at Work policies. All Councillors are to read these on NALC website plus the Training Statement researched by Councillor George, prior to the next meeting so that this can be confirmed. Council **RESOLVED** to take the Civility & Respect pledge at the November meeting.
  - d. To set a date for the clerks appraisal - end of October
  - e. Council considered a proposal by Councillor Eastwood to live stream Council meetings to the public. This option would only be available to the public as all Councillors must attend in person. Councillor Goodger highlighted that we would need to be mindful of confidentiality during any discussion. Council **RESOLVED** to explore the proposal further, asking Councillor Eastwood to look into equipment needed and any protocols/policies required.
- 77/23 **Review of Councils policies for 2022/23**  
co-option policy 2020 defer till next meeting  
appraisal policy and protocol 2020 defer till next meeting

Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 Councillor Holland confirmed the up-to-date policy is on the website

Social media policy from NALC to be reviewed for November meeting

78/23 **FINANCES;**

- a. Council received the financial statement: end August 2023 balance £8625.09
- b. Council noted the invoices to be paid in September 2023 see list of payments to be authorised Council **RESOLVED** to approve all the payments listed with the Wickes invoice approved up to £58.32 as there may be a refund on some unused products being returned
- c. Council reviewed the spending to end of August 2023 and noted payments made and received Council **RESOLVED** to chase up the outstanding rents due by end of next week
- d. Council was informed that a further extension has been sought for AGAR 2023 as the internal has not yet replied fully to the clerk.

79/23 **ENVIRONMENT;**

- a. Recreational Field; is looking good and being used
- b. Play Park
  - Old slide has been removed as deemed to be unsafe. The surface has been repaired to make it even following removal of the equipment.
  - Condition of school trees overhanging play area - Councillor Hockley to discuss with Head Teacher the condition of the trees and request they be assessed by a tree surgeon.
  - Council reviewed the quotes from the final two companies bidding to replace the play area equipment. Council **RESOLVED** to approve Sovereign as the supplier and request a meeting to finalise the design and clarify the payment terms. Council **RESOLVED** to include the maintenance contract offered by Sovereign.
- c. Council **RESOLVED** to plant a tree to commemorate the Coronation a budget of up to £150 to include stakes etc was approved. A crab apple was the preferred option as it will have blossom but also provide fruit the villagers can use and be good for wildlife.
- d. Scout Field; no outstanding issues.
- e. Grass Cutting; no issues reported defer discussing NO Mow May until November
- f. Wildflower area; has been cut
- g. Wildlife conservation
- h. Roads and traffic;
  - Community Speedwatch approx. 10% of vehicles monitored have been reported for speeding
  - 20mph response to email from CC Peter Cooper  
Council **RESOLVED** to identify Church Hill outside the school, Main Street where the road narrows from the junction with Chapel Lane to the junction with Leckhampstead Road and Leckhampstead Road as potential 20 mph zones. A reply to be sent to CC Cooper stating above and supporting his campaign.
- i. Footpaths -One of our wardens has moved from the area - Councillor Holland to speak to Footpath Warden about recruiting another. Councillor Goodger will also help check bridleways and footpaths.
  - Councillor Holland informed Council of the consultation process for the diversion of the footpath on Leys Field. A legal order will be made by Bucks County Council and the public will be able to comment on this.
  - condition of footpaths on Leys Field Clerk to send an email to Jonathon Clarke Buckinghamshire County Council, asking what progress has been made regarding the steep

path opposite the school with winter months approaching. An email has been sent to WE Black asking them to clear the footpaths across Leys Field as they are becoming overgrown.

- overgrowth of trees and hedges affecting footpaths - although the Highways Act 1980 doesn't specify any actual measurements for overhanging vegetation, the requirement should be met by:
  - For pedestrian areas, minimum headroom of 2.3m (7ft 6 inches).
  - For carriageway and an area immediately adjacent to it (for a distance of 0.45m (1ft 6 inches)) minimum headroom of 5.2m (17ft).

In both cases, all the vegetation should be cut back vertically. See the diagrams below.



Following advice from Buckinghamshire Council, Akeley Parish Council **RESOLVED** that all residents with vegetation overhanging roadways and footpaths that has been reported as causing an obstruction will be written to in order to make Akeley safer for pedestrians and road users.

j. Allotments; to receive any updates The allotment fencing completed and looking good

The risk assessment – Councillor George will circulate

k. The maintenance of Parish notice boards is being carried out

l. Bus shelter – Council noted they have been cleaned

m. AED- Council noted that the hedge has been trimmed back around the defibrillator improving visibility

n. Street lights – recently there was an issue with lights coming on during the day which was reported to Zeta and resolved

o. Fairhive- There are several ongoing issues with residents who are not being well served by Fairhive. Council **RESOLVED** to write to the local MP. Concern was also raised that some residents may be unable to get out of the buildings via the fire exits should an emergency occur. This is to be discussed with the residents first and involve the Fire Brigade if required.

- A To consider a response re Community Board funding for Buckingham Energy Efficient homes fair – this proposal has already been declined as several responders did not support it

81/23 **PLANNING;**

**a. New Planning applications**

23/02624/APP | Demolition of conservatory. Erection of part 1st floor side extensions and two storey side and rear extensions. Loft conversion. Changes to front fenestration. | Broadlands Leckhampstead Road

Council **RESOLVED** to report no objection but regret loss of another small property within the village

**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 – Council **RESOLVED** to make an additional comment pointing out the property edges onto the County Wildlife Area
- 23/02401/VRC | Variation of condition 2 (plans) relating to application 20/03648/APP (Erection of a detached dwelling with integral garage) | Old Village Hall Site Lillingstone Road Akeley Buckinghamshire – Akeley PC was unable to respond as not all responses from Councillors were received during the holiday period. However, a late submission was made following this meeting stating the Council have no objection.
- 22/B3491/DIS | Application for approval of details subject to condition 1 (biodiversity enhancement measures) of planning approval ref: 22/03491/APP - 22/A3491/DIS (appeal 22/00154/ENFNOT) | Lodge Fields Akeley Wood Lodge Road Akeley Buckinghamshire= Council **RESOLVED** that no comment was necessary
- 23/02709/ATC | European Mountain Ash - Tree A - Tree is rotting and has wood worm so propose to remove, we do not wish to replant as it causes issues over hanging driveway. Silver Birch - Tree B - Tree is rotting from the top down, we have employed a tree surgeon to remove top section to maintain and preserve tree if becomes unstable we would remove and replace. | 6 Cedars Close Akeley Buckinghamshire MK18 5HS

**c. Appeals**

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 – Split decision, concrete apron permitted to remain, earth bunds and caravan refused. – Council **RESOLVED** to check all is cleared by January meeting

**d. Decisions**

23/02063/CPE | Certificate of lawfulness application for existing use for Akeley House Farm in breach of occupancy condition 2 of permission 93/00676/APP – Certificate refused

Land Adjacent To Leckhampstead Road Akeley | Enforcement ref: NC/22/00583/BOC- further clarity has been sought from Planning Dept

**e. Other**

- Neighbourhood Plan – to confirm next steps  
Council **RESOLVED** to set up a Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee whose first tasks are to define area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan to submit for designation and terms of reference
- Shenley Park Draft Supplementary Planning Document Consultation - Council declined to comment

82/23 **Date and time of next meeting; Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 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.

**Payments authorised & paid September 2023**

Wickes J Holland	29.16
Akeley Village Hall hire	45
Contribution to Akeley Village Hall	500
E-scapes	744
A Buckland & Sons waste removal	48
Clerks expenses	52
Contribution to village hall for lighting	10

**Clerks Report**