

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 23rd November 2021, 7pm. Remote meeting via Zoom

Present: Parish Councillors June James (Chairman), John Ashworth, Paul Gaskell, Pauline Hedges, Gareth Wilson; Clerk Susan Turner; Guest: Ward Cllr Mark Ruffell

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Thanks to Pauline Hedges for hosting the meeting. Thanks to all for attending. Apologies Chris Alliston, Nick Walker, County Cllr Elaine Still

NOTED Decisions from this meeting to be ratified at next in person meeting.

2 COUNTY AND WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

*Report forwarded by County Councillor Elaine Still: (FURTHER REPORT AT **APPENDIX I**)*

- .1 'East of Basingstoke'** (Approved site for development for total of 900 – present local plan 450 houses, LPU the additional 450 – no development started as yet.)

Context – BDBC is seeking for HCC to bring the site forward for 900 homes, in line with the capacity of the site, to support local housing supply. HCC is progressing the preparation of a planning application for 900 homes, subject to the whole site being identified for allocation in BDBC's Reg 18 version of the Local Plan Update (LPU) to be published for consultation.

Current progress – HCC is proposing to submit an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Assessment before the end of the year. We also meet with BDBC officers on a regular basis to discuss the project and programme. There is expected to be public engagement and consultation in 2022 but the timings are yet to be confirmed, and will be appropriately co-ordinated with periods of consultation associated with the BDBC LPU.

Taylor Wimpey/Kings Fund – The neighbouring site – known as Lodge Farm – is promoted by Taylor Wimpey on behalf of the Kings Fund. This site – if selected for allocation for housing by BDBC – would require access through Land East. Therefore BDBC has asked us to make sure that we share information with Taylor Wimpey. There was a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to do this for the BDBC 'Issues and Options' LPU Consultation but this has not yet been extended to support future working. 'Land East' is being progressed as a standalone site which will deliver housing and a quality environment whether on not Lodge Farm is selected for housing.

- .2 Community Broadband project** Following enquiry by Newnham resident regarding the apparently stalled voucher scheme application, Elaine reported that:

'Following further investigation it transpires that Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has implemented a new procedure into the approvals process without notifying local authorities (HCC). The new process requires suppliers to ask local authorities for authorisation, HCC has notified BDUK and Openreach that the project in questions should receive funding as per the standard guidelines, and so the project should now move forward as expected. HCC would be happy to attend future Parish Council meetings with updates on the project as and when it would be appropriate / beneficial.

Report from Ward Councillor Mark Ruffell

- .3 Introductions** – this being the first meeting Mark has attended as Ward Councillor. He has lived for 21 years in Tunworth and been a borough councillors since 2002. He has previously been Portfolio holder for Planning & Infrastructure, which then became P&I and the Natural Environment. Now being portfolio holder for the newly created 'Natural Environment and Climate Improvement' he has less direct involvement with the Local Plan.
- .4 BDBC** – Mark drew attention to the Climate Change toolkit and Budget proposals.
- .5 Newnham's inclusion in the LPU Settlement Study** Mark has been in contact with Joanne Brombley who confirmed the situation, in general as understood by the Parish Council (see item 5.1).
- .6 Housing numbers** The Local Plan Update brings major challenges. BDBC needs to challenge numbers which have been overly high for the last few decades. From Newnham's perspective there is a very real possibility of being enveloped by housing – from Hook in the one direction and from Basingstoke in the other, both up the hill and along the A30. But what we're threatened with now is what other parts of the borough have had for years – such as Bramley and Oakley – and their councillors are willingly pushing development to the South and East of Basingstoke.

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Cllr Ruffell noted that his portfolio is the counterbalance to this: 'We must stand up to protect the natural environment. We must do something about this.'

Re action groups for South and East of Basingstoke, the Loddon unites in a common cause – the J6 Moto application being part of this same threat – from this part of the headwaters the outflow is via Crabtree and to the Fen above Sewage Treatment Works. Need to accept the River Loddon as chalk river of major importance whose ecology is under threat – from its aquafer to the river valley beyond the sewage works, it is all interlinked. Cannot keep putting this ever expanding pressure onto one small river. If we take further development it has to be somewhere that doesn't impact on the Loddon. However Mark noted the constraints also on other areas, not wanting to be in the position of attacking other areas.

Will BDBC challenge the housing numbers? Maria Miller is urging this, to build a case for exceptional circumstances for our wildlife and natural environment – according to our declared Climate and Ecological emergency. Cllr Ruffell urged everyone to write to the three Basing Ward Councillors to give them a mandate to challenge the housing numbers.

Mark noted that the Environment Act unlikely to have direct impact until we get guidance about how it should be implemented

The Chairman commented that chalk streams are precious as rain forests, how is it that the borough council can't see the importance, the global implications, of protecting this very precious ecological habitat. How can they say there is a climate and ecological emergency and then want to build over land and rivers.

Cllr Ruffell noted the justification was that there is a housing emergency too. But the current policy is causing people to move into borough because building new houses. Not building houses for those born and raised here who want to stay. For the latter 300 homes per year; 600 plus – the vast majority – is for those from outside. House building is about the great engine of the free market, not directed to the need to solve the housing emergency.

The answer is to reduce the figures to c300K per annum. At the moment are tinkering with mechanics of how the present Government calculation applies to Basingstoke, presently looking at 900; borough councillors would go with 700.

Cllr Ruffell stayed for the time being with the meeting – considering other items on the Agenda

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 1st September – agreed and to be signed.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda – none.

6 PLANNING

.1 LPU – Settlement Study – Background – Proposed SPB at **APPENDIX II**

i Meeting of 15th September (MS Teams) with BDBC Planning Policy to receive a briefing on the Settlement Study and Newnham's inclusion as a 'small Village' with a Settlement Policy Boundary. At present there is no housing allocation. Criteria for drawing up an SPB at **APPENDIX III**. Criteria for 'Category 5' Settlements at **APPENDIX IV**.

It was indicated that, as Newnham met the criteria, its inclusion was non-negotiable. The Parish Council was invited to comment on a draft proposal for the outline of the SPB. A report was included in the October *Villager*.

Parish Council responded in opposition to the inclusion of Newnham as a Category 5 settlement and questioned its suitability for an SPB. The Village of Newnham as it clusters around Newnham Green – at the heart of settlement and Conservation Area – is rural in nature and heritage.

ii Further meeting of 20th October (MS Teams). BDBC Planning Policy agreed regarding the rural nature of Newnham Green and surrounding settlement. However, suggested instead a smaller SPB to cover only development along Newnham Road rather than agreeing the settlement as a whole to be unsuitable for inclusion.

Parish Council further response questioning the criteria for and rationale of the SPB and also the Policy SS5 requirements for housing allocation (groups of 10 or more within SPB, or groups of five or more outside and adjacent to SPB).

iii Economic, Planning and Housing Committee (EPH) – Report to Committee The Officers' Settlement Study Report was due to be considered by EPH of 18th November, now postponed to 13th December. Extracts from Officer Report re Small Villages (now renamed 'Category 4' settlements) **APPENDIX V**.

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- 1 The Report indicates that other small settlements which meet the 'Small Village' criteria – including Mapledurwell – were considered but not included – Mapledurwell due to the dispersed and rural nature of its settlement, and narrow rural roads.
 - 2 The Report considers removing the present SS5 requirement for 'Small Village' housing allocations to be in groups of more than 5 or 10. Windfall figurers are sufficiently high that their target can be reached without counting any Windfall within or adjacent to SPBs. (This would alter the implications of an SPB. And arguably an assessment of its suitability – where it may be suitable for accepting the occasional one or two houses isn't the same as where is suitable for developments of more than five or 10.)
- Officers' Draft Settlement Study Part II report on Newnham at **APPENDIX V.**

QUESTION The best way to take this forward from here?

AGREED As advised by Cllr Ruffell – to take the argument in person to EPH of 13th December.

- iv Windfall. The Officers' Report included an Appendix D table of 'Windfall' figures for the present Plan Period from 2011 to March 2021 **APPENDIX VI.** The table appears incomplete. List of new houses approved in the Parish since 2011 forwarded to Planning Policy. Planning Policy subsequently advised that their data set for 'Settlement' only takes account of new dwellings within the proposed boundary. Parish Council requested BDBC uses 'within and adjacent to' for their 'Settlement' figure as this is the criteria for Policy SS5 – this was noted. (Also they had not accounted for the agricultural workers dwelling at Manor Farm which agreed should be included.)

.2 Hart Planning Applications

- i Owen's Farm 21/01048/OUT (refused 13th October). Application for a retirement development of 160 units, community facilities, parking areas, plus SANG etc. Considered by Hart Planning Committee of 13th October. In summary: 'Nothing positive to say about this application.' Refusal unanimously agreed. The Chairman thanked the 20 members of public for attending. The live stream was viewed by 100 plus, double this 24 hours later. Newnham Parish Council sent thanks to Hook Action, Hook Parish Council, Hook Ward Councillors who attended the meeting.
- ii Solar Farms Hart Planning Committee of 10th November approved 49.9MW solar farms at
 1. Chosley Farm, North Warnborough, opposite RAF Odiham, 95.47ha (236 acres).
 2. Bunkers Hill, Rotherwick, 105.49ha (260 acres).
 In both cases, a recorded vote was taken. Only Committee Councillors associated with the Wards concerned abstained or voted against.

DISCUSSION The efficiency of the panels will deteriorate over time, tends to be 10 years then replace. Solar not efficient, requires large scale battery storage, the batteries themselves require power to air condition to the right temperature range. Not treating as an industrial application, no additional fire-safety requirement. No joined up thinking, no-one evaluating environment cost. Will continue to be reliant on imported gas, if going to decarbon need to included nuclear, option for fusion.

Re heat pumps, air or ground sourced. Need a modern building designed for them, works in Scandinavian houses, wooden construction, well insulated.

.3 Parish Planning Applications

See **APPENDIX VII** for current applications relating to the Parish.

21/03312/HSE (Validated 22 Oct 2021) Rose Farm Cottage, The Barracks. Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension. *Noted: neighbours will comment, no requirement for Parish Council comment.*

7 HIGHWAYS – ROAD SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

.1 Cycle paths Update from Paul Gaskell

Basingstoke Cycle Group, County initiative with some funding allocated, comprises interested parties, mainly volunteers. Looking for routes from Hook to Basingstoke, some of which have to use A30. Initial solution is just paint on the road, there is space; barriers too costly and causes build up of debris which then another problem to clear.

Can get through Crabtree and Eastrop Park to Basingstoke Centre. Also looking for route through new development East of Basingstoke. If can get cycling infrastructure right it can take a lot of cars off the road.

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- .2 20mph speed limit proposals** as promoted by Twyford and Dummer via HALC. Invited to respond to District Association (BDPTC).

DISCUSSION Support expressed for the principle, anything is good that causes drivers to think and slow down. But no practical or legal means to achieve a default 20mph limit. Also has to be enforced. London has density of both traffic and traffic cameras.

AGREED Response from the Parish Council would require Parish consultation. Councillors to respond individually if they wish.

- .3 Lengthsman funding** Recommendation from HCC's September 2021 Transport / Infrastructure Budget Decision Day was to stop funding as from end this financial year. Seems have stepped back from this due to opposition from County Councillors, but have determined to end the funding in the near term. A briefing note later issued to County Cllrs (8th November) included the following. Whether this means one more year of funding?

- '1. Parishes have two years to develop other funding streams, including from their precept. Parishes have more financial headroom than County.
- '2. In order to protect school crossing patrols and HWRCs, these difficult decisions have been unavoidable. The only alternative would be to close care homes and evict elderly and disabled people which we are not prepared to do.
- '3. HCC will continue to support.'

8 NEWNHAM GREEN

- .1 BVA working party** from Schröder, lighting company based in Chineham, will be supporting the 'Newnham Village Green and Ponds' project on 9th December. With thanks to Schröder, and also Pauline Hedges, and Mary Robinson from BVA, for organising. There will be up to 15 Schreder employees, supported by the Parish Lengthsman.

They will be scarifying and hand raking the 'triangle' by the pond prior to planting with wild flower plug; clearing areas of vegetation by the ponds, sections of the ditch banks and cutting back and planting bulbs in the tree covered section by Crown Lane. Also planting foxgloves in the ditch banks opposite the pub.

Particular thanks to Hatch Warren Nature Group for donating the wildflower plugs.

- .2 Ditching** – Also on 9th December, Lengthsman to bring digger to clear ditch bordering 'Pond Triangle' of Green by Newnham Lane, both sides Church Path, and along Ridge Lane, east of Tith Barn. Utilities plans show there should be no cables in this section of ditch.
- .3 Ponds** HIWARG working party planned for 21st November postponed. To re-schedule.

9 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

- .1 Payments since last meeting (September)**

17	Clerk	Salary Sept	£360.00
(LM)	PGGM	LM Sept 2021	£1,500.00
18	Roy Wood	Moles Sept	£50.00
19	GardenMate	Plastic sheeting for pond	£39.95
20	WEL Medical	Defibrillators & cabinets x 2	£3,000.00
21	Clerk	Salary October	£360.00
(LM)	PGGM	LM October 2021	£1,500.00
22	Roy Wood	Moles October	£50.00
23	PKKF Littlejohn	External audit	£240.00
24	Peter Brown	Internal audit	£50.00

- .2 External Audit 2020/21** (Smaller Authorities Audit) Completed 20th September.

APPENDIX VIII

- .3 Accounts to date APPENDIX IX**

- .4 Draft budget and Precept request 2022/23 APPENDIX X**

TO NOTE – Latest information from BDBC is that grass cutting grant will be usual 1% increase – from HCC that LM funding will be in place for another year.

Draft budget 2022/23 **APPENDIX XI** based on Precept increase of 5% = £12,525 a total increase of £301 on this year.

Precept for this year 2021/22 £11,929 / 259.8 = £45.92 per annum per band D household.

5% increase £12,525 / 259.8 = £48.31 per annum per band D household, increase of £2.39

Bearing in mind for a band H it will be double this and for a band A will be halved.

Precept request to be submitted for 31st January.

AGREED Provisionally a Precept request of £12,525. To be confirmed January meeting.

For signature

10 FURTHER REPORTS

1 Police Update – Barn Meet Hampshire Constabulary’s first ‘Barn Meet’ was organised by CountryWatch in October for Basingstoke Rural South, hosted by Candovers.

‘A district-led initiative inviting rural residents and businesses to engage with police and partner agencies – to discuss issues that affect the community and work together to problem solve.’ Report included in November *Villager* **APPENDIX XII** (and November *Rural Times*). Attended by Clerk.

It was made clear at the meet that Rural South will continue to police Newnham, and Mapledurwell & Up Nately, as needed.

(Hampshire’s next Barn Meet will be held in Hart.)

.2 Newnham Litter Pick of Saturday 20th November. Thank you to the Richmonds for organising and all who took part, a large amount of litter gathered. Thanks also to BDBC for collecting.

.3 Barracks

i Access track – All neighbours joined together to resurface.

ii Furze Platt New owner from Fosters Business Park, clearing site, has left established trees.

iii Ditching ‘Old Newnham Road’. To book Lengthsman for January.

.4 Water End

i Sign clutter – Road traffic signs put up by County, in each direction 12 signs approaching Water End. Plus estate agents signs selling park homes, Bridges in particular very aggressive in their approach. Attached their signs to the raised beds with 3inch screws. Pauline Hedges made complaint to Bridges. Plus no need for ‘sold’ signs, additional clutter.

iii Iron Bull Defibrillator – To be mounted on pub wall, with light over and roof overhanging.

.5 Parish Emergency Plan The idea is to ‘help Communities prepare for, respond to and recover from extreme weather events’. The focus is now on ‘Community Preparedness’. HCC supported by the Environment Agency held a ‘Community Preparedness event’ (MS Teams) on 9th November attended by the Clerk, with presentations from HCC Flood & Water Management, Highways, Emergency Planning, plus EA on Natural Flood Management, the Met office.

HCC offers support in preparing a ‘Community Emergency Plan’: **APPENDIX XIII**

‘- Template at the Emergency Planning Pages of HCC Website

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning>

‘- Support from Emergency Planning Team and LRF partners

‘- Community Resilience Workshops.’

Powerpoint presentations from meeting, Clerk to circulate. A project for 2022!

Pauline Hedges noted that Waterend now has a Facebook page for the Park.

11 MEETING DATES 2022 TBA

Meeting closed at 9.30pm with thanks to all present

For signature Date