

Minutes of Fulmer Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at the Cricket Pavilion, King George V Fields, Fulmer Common Road SL3 6JN at 8.00pm

PRESENT:

Mr D Brackin (DB)	Chairman
Mrs S Simkins (SS)	Deputy Chairman
Mr I Bocock (IB)	Councillor
Mr P Khanghura (PK)	Councillor
Mrs L Du Toit (LdT)	Councillor
Mrs K Robinson (KR)	Councillor (part of the meeting)
Mrs P Vahey (PV)	Parish Council Clerk


IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Santokh Chhokar (SC)	Buckinghamshire Council Councillor
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POLICE: Not present.
PRESS: Not present.
PUBLIC: Three members of the public joined the meeting at various times using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

- 1. Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 2. Apologies:** There were apologies from Buckinghamshire Cllr Paul Bass and Fulmer Parish Cllr Francesca Hall-Drinkwater. Fulmer Cllr Katherine Robinson left the meeting after item 6.
- 3. Police Update:** The following update and information from TVP Police had been circulated:
 - An open letter from the new Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police Jason Hogg.
 - Information of the national Alert Test to be carried out on 23rd April.
 - Chiltern and South Bucks Policing Issues Survey.
 - Invitation to the Chiltern and South Bucks Policing issues forum.
 - An invitation to share thoughts on the Structure of Local Policing from TVP.The Chairman reported the Police had closed Seven Hills Road and he had also asked Bucks Council to close Fulmer Lane. Both roads had pot holes which were dangerous in them.
- 4. Public Quarter Hour:** The Chairman welcomed Eunice Marimo from Bluebird Care to the meeting. She explained she was looking for opportunities locally for involvement of the people they cared for.

ACTION:

- Introduce Cllrs Du Toit, Robinson and Chhokar via email to each other.  **Action: PV**

- 5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 7th March 2023:** The Minutes having been previously circulated prior to the Meeting were reviewed and were accepted as an

accurate record of the business conducted at that Meeting and were recommended for signature by the Chairman of that meeting.

6. Buckinghamshire Councillors Report: In his absence Cllr Bass had circulated the following report:

1. His engagement with planning and enforcement continued and actions here are still live.
2. He commended the PC for their engagement with Bucks Highways regarding the condition of the local roads. In his opinion the response from the council had been generic and poor, however, he was hopeful the appointment of the new LAT would improve matters. He suggested a combined session with them as soon as possible. In the meantime, he would engage with Rosie Tunnard, LAT Manager to plan this.
3. He was keeping in mind the Community Board (CB) funded work with Bucks Highways that was currently in limbo whilst the transfer of contracts took place.
4. Finally. The LGA warding discussion for our Ward in South Bucks continues. Unfortunately, the Bucks Council working group recommended that the proposals from the Boundary review were accepted. As we know this takes Fulmer out of the GX warding and places Fulmer with the Farnhams etc. As we know from our own discussions, we believe this is a short-sighted position and for some reason the many established and named community links between Fulmer and GX have been ignored or provided minimal weight. I know the many representations will land well and are very well set out arguments. There are some strange and contradicting actions ahead, where at the Parliamentary level GX (with the exception of a sliver of GX east that matches the current LGA warding) will be taken out of what is currently the Beaconsfield constituency and placed into Chesham and Amersham. This means the TC and PC will contradict with LGA wards that will contradict with Parliamentary wards - not ideal for anyone.

Buckinghamshire Councillor Santokh Chhokar was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Chhokar requested that both himself and Bucks Cllr Hollis be informed of future Fulmer Parish Council meetings and Minutes.

ACTION:

- *Invite all Bucks Cllrs to future meetings.*

Action: PV

Cllr Chhokar reported the new Bucks Council budget included more funding for repairing potholes, Bucks had dipped into their reserves to add further funding to that provided by central government.

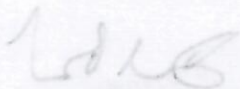
Bucks Council had been ranked third nationally for its efficiency in issuing enforcement notices.

The Highways contract was transitioning to the new contractors and the Community Boards had been briefed on the new arrangements.

He reported that whilst following the report of the Boundary Review Fulmer would move Wards for Local Government, it would still remain with the Denham and Gerrards Cross Community Board and current Parliamentary Ward.

Cllr Robinson asked when a LAT with responsibility for Fulmer was to be appointed? Cllr Chhokar replied it was imminent.

Cllr Bockock asked about the experience and length of contract of the new highways contractors? The Clerk replied Atkins also had a contract with Oxfordshire County Council and the Bucks contract was for seven years.



The Chairman asked questions of Cllr Chhokar about the outcome of the Boundary Review, in particular, since Cllr Chhokar had served on the Bucks Council Committee, how was the decision to support moving Fulmer been reached? Cllr Chhokar gave a recap of the process to date and why the decision that had been published had been reached. The Chairman pointed out the great strength of feeling the local residents had and asked why representatives from Fulmer had not been asked to participate and make representations to the working group?

It was noted regarding the CB funding for the verge car park that £11k of the award of £50k had already been spent in investigations by TfB.

The Chairman also asked about the efficacy of the operation of FixMyStreet and how residents had stopped believing it was worth reporting pot holes because of numbers that week not fixed but reported as 'closed' with no apparent action. The flooding in Fulmer Common Road that had been there for twenty-five years and nothing had been done. He asked how could Parish Councillors help Bucks Councillors ensure that Bucks officers listened to residents. Cllr Chhokar recommended that a formal complaint be made, copied to the Bucks Councillors.

Cllr Chhokar reported on the role of the CBs in co-ordinating and supporting initiatives and projects, citing the pony and trap racing on the A413 which had affected all communities locally. The CB was also involved in the day centre project in Denham, persuading Bucks Council who owned the building to allow Denham to use it. He also reported that he was trying to get the CB Action Groups restarted. On the evening of 9th June there was to be an event for the CB at the Gerrards Cross Community Centre where Pride of Bucks would be making their awards. It was also World Environment Day.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the purpose of the CBs and what they stood for. How were they providing localism for Bucks Council? Effective localism was needed and the problem would not be solved without money. The Unitary Councillors were the real representatives; however, should the CBs also be involved in advocacy and the lobbying of BC? Doesn't the CB need to engage more with voluntary groups and community associations?

Officers at BC were policy driven and that often led to conflict with what residents expected so wasn't the policy something that members should be influencing? Cllr Chhokar explained that while technically true, it was the Officers who drafted policy and it was subject to little scrutiny by the members when being adopted. There was a perception at Town & Parish level that BC Officers thought they knew better, despite the time spent by Towns & Parishes chasing BCs failure and getting them to carry out their job. Perhaps the CBs should be lobbying for a resolution? Reported failures were discussed at the Action Groups and the Cabinet members then questioned the Officers.

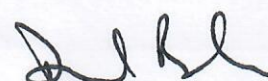
ACTIONS carried forward from January 10th:

- *Introduce Cllr Bocock to Bucks Highways.* **Action: PB**
- *Approach planning officers and ask them to engage with the Fulmer Chairman directly.* **Action: PB**

7. Communications:

- Cllr Simkins reported that she and the Clerk were following up on the welcome pack for new residents.
- The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit had recommended the Clerk be given access to the village website.

ACTION:



- Get quotes for a new Parish Council website. **Action: PV**

ACTION carried forward from February 7th:

- Find out the ownership of the land at Allhusen Gardens. **Action: PV**

ACTION carried forward from February 8th:

- Investigate which houses in Fulmer were not in the MailChimp database to find out whether they would like to be. **Action: PV**

8. News & Activity from Local Government & other Community Partners: The Chairman and Clerk had continued to attend Local Government and Community meetings, details of which were available in the Council Dropbox.

CB funding of £1000 had been proposed for approval which was given.

A request to complete a Community Resilience survey had been received by the Clerk, completion date 2nd May.

The Council wanted to send its condolences following the recent death of Naomi Arnold from Stoke Poges. Naomi had served in public life in many roles for decades including Parish and District Councillor, Trustee of the Horticultural Society and also the Stoke Poges Society.

ACTION:

- Send condolences to Stoke Poges Council and the residents of Stoke Poges. **Action: PV**
The Chairman reported he had met with local MP Joy Morrissey and discussed the current issues facing Fulmer specifically and its communication with Bucks Council.
The Chairman had a meeting planned with Simon Garwood, Bucks Council Senior Planning & Partnerships Officer.

9. Finance & Governance: The Clerk reported that the Annual Internal Audit report had highlighted the grant giving process of the Council, in particular the grant given to the FSCA.

The **COUNCIL resolved to make the next payment of the FSCA grant of £750 as budgeted whilst developing a grant policy. The grant supported a core community asset which was available for use by all the residents of Fulmer.**

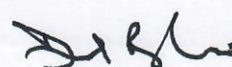
ACTION:

- Develop a Grant Policy and application process for the Council. **Action: PV**
The Clerk had previously circulated the Internal Audit report and consequent AGAR.
The **COUNCIL resolved to approve the Internal Audit report and AGAR for presentation to the External Auditors.**

The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Summaries, Budget Reports, Bank Reconciliation Reports and Financial Year Reports for all the Fulmer Parish Council Accounts for the periods ending March 2023 which were accepted by the Parish Council. Copies of the Bank Reconciliation reports for each account are appended to these Minutes.

April Payments

FPC	Budgeted	
Mailchimp subs	14.94	Y
Street light maintenance (April)	33.60	Y



Clerks salary, allowances & expenses	2161.18	Y
HMRC tax & NI	541.32	Y
Employers Pension contribution	48.69	Y
Payroll services	15.00	Y
Weekly Briefing	145.00	Y
Water rates the allotments	10.28	Y
BMKALC & NALC subs	92.68	Y
Roots Grass cutting	546.94	Y
ICO renewal fee	35.00	Y
Internal Audit	576.00	Y

TOTAL 4220.63

FSCA

Water rates the Studio	10.48
eDF electricity The Studio	496.52
The Studio rates	76.00
Digger Hire	130.00
Pitch maintenance	1588.80
Top dressing for pitch	2409.68
Mower maintenance	86.26
All-weather court quarterly maintenance	780.00

TOTAL 5567.26

TOTAL 9787.89

10. Highways Maintenance & Environment:

The Chairman asked for a list of repairs required to the roads to be compiled, in particular the most dangerous and persistent areas. It was suggested that traffic cones be dropped in the worst potholes to warn drivers. Cllr Du Toit volunteered the use of the cones at KGFF.

ACTION:

- *Plant traffic cones in worst pot holes.*

Action: IB

Cllr Bocock reported that he was drawing up a litter picking plan.

Cllr Hall-Drinkwater had sent in a report of potentially dangerous trees in Windmill Road, overhanging from the grounds of Fulmer Hall.

ACTION:

- *Send pictures to the Bucks Officer asking for action.*

Action: PV

Following the gating of the Beeches Way footpath and the flooding of Black Park Road the Chairman asked for meeting to be arranged with the owners of the relevant properties.

ACTION:

- *Arrange above meeting.*

Action: LdT

ACTION carried forward from January 10th:



- *Contact the owner of Fernacres Cottages to ask for an extra footpath to be included in the Planning Application to link up with existing footpaths in the area.* **Action: DB**

11. Planning and Enforcement:

Four new Planning Applications for Fulmer had been registered since the last Council Meeting.

PL/23/0987/FA Land adjoining Thatched Cottage, Fulmer Rise SL3 6JL

Diversion of private estate drive (part retrospective).

The Council **RESOLVED** to object to the application asking for the following to be taken into consideration: the similarity of the application to previously refused applications, no evidence that the road is busy or dangerous, there has been no drainage assessment in an area where there is persistent flooding, neighbours at Watersplash Farm require access to water services on this land, there has been no full tree assessment, much of this area is covered by a TPO, the proximity of the new driveway to the high pressure gas line maintained by Cadent, it negatively impacts the openness of the Green Belt and the moving of the roads seeks to increase the curtilage of the property and the potential for further ancillary buildings and residential paraphernalia detrimental to the Green Belt.

PL/23/1035/SA Hollydene House, Fulmer Common Road SLO 0NP

Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed rear box dormer, 3 front rooflights and internal works to form 2 bedrooms and bathroom.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to object.

PL/23/1000/SA Oakdene, Cherry Tree Lane SL3 6JE

Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed garage and pool house.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to object.

PL/23/0890/CONDA Fernacres Cottages, Fulmer Common Road SL3 6JW

Approval of condition 11 (Sustainable drainage Scheme details) of planning permission PL/22/1036/OA – Outline application for demolition of 7 dwellings and erection of 4 dwellings (matters to be considered: access, layout and scale).

The conditions had been accepted.

ACTIONS carried forward from December 6th:

- *Contact Bucks Council Enforcement Team re a report from Buckinghamshire Council Enforcement team for the next meeting showing which Enforcements were still on-going and those that were closed and the outcome – waiting on response from Bucks Council.*

Action: KR

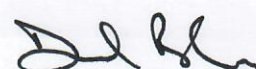
Cllr Khanghura had previously circulated an update on all planning applications received, outstanding applications still requiring a decision and the progress of other applications. Details of these can be found at:

<https://pa.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk/online-applications/>
or email: planning@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk

12. Community Matters:

- **FSCA & KGFF:** Cllr Du Toit had previously circulated a report on the progress of the developments at KGFF and the FSCA.

Cllr Du Toit reported that the approval for the Fulmer Common Road closure for the FFFD event had been received, however, the cost of the traffic marshal approved by the Council was now an extra £200 and asked for the Council's approval to fund the extra cost.



The COUNCIL resolved to approve the extra £200 for traffic marshal.

Cllr Du Toit reported that a farewell to the FSCA General Manager was being organised for Friday 7th July.

ACTION carried forward from 7th March:

- Write a letter of thanks to Andrew.

Action: PV

Cllr Du Toit reported that funding of £45,000 had been received to contribute to the refurbishment of the all-weather court and also asked for a contribution from the Council at a later date once a contractor was agreed.

Cllr Du Toit had also reported on the tree reports and asked for a decision on how to proceed especially those deemed dangerous. [post meeting note: a decision was made to proceed with a bat survey and subsequent felling, depending on the outcome of the survey, of a tree close to the Scout Hut at a cost of £800].

Cllr Du Toit also reported that Team Padel, having had their second SEIS application rejected, had made the difficult decision not to proceed further.

13. Date of next Meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting to be held would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 20.00hrs.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 23:00 hrs.

Signed.....
D Brackin Chairman

Dated..... 9th May 2023