

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of a Meeting of the Cookham Parish Council held in the
Community Room, Cookham Library, Tuesday 6th June 2023, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr M. Howard (Chairman)
Cllrs L. Austin, C. Aisladie, M. Brar (arrived at 8.30pm), T. Caen, J. Edwards, M-L.
Kellaway, R. Kellaway, J. Moore, H. Pleming, A-L. Regan and L. Tull.

Also Present: Approximately 40 members of the public were present.
There were 5 members of the Bellway and Turley team.
No members of the Press were present.

OPEN FORUM:

Representatives from Bellway, Turley and associated partners presented an update on the plans for the Bellway development on Cannondown Road (BLP site AL 37). They discussed the Stakeholder Masterplan Document and how it is a process unique to the Borough and a requirement of the Borough Local Plan as an early engagement process.

The planning application is likely to be submitted in the near future and will contain more information on the specifics of the development and infrastructure surrounding the site.

A question and answer session followed. Traffic, school places, access to doctors and the length of time the development may take, were all raised. The Bellway team took further questions outside.

This section of the meeting finished at 8.10pm

A representative from Furze Platt Senior School came to discuss the skate ramp painting project and answer any questions.

With the approval of Cllrs, item 13: To approve the decision to work with Furze Platt Senior school on the skate ramp, was brought up the agenda.

Cllr M. Brar arrived at 8.30pm

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs E. Bune and B Perry
Cllr M. Kent did not attend.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr J. Edwards	item 13	Governor of Furze Platt Senior School
Cllr M. Brar	item 16	RBWM Development Panel Member

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting (including Part II), held on 16th May 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr M. Brar, seconded by Cllr L. Austin.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23rd May 2023, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr L. Austin, seconded by Cllr J. Edwards, subject to the removal of the sentence 'Cllr I Herd did not attend' in item 1, page 3061.
The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 30th May 2023, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr R. Kellaway, seconded by Cllr A-L Regan.

13. TO APPROVE THE DECISION TO ENGAGE WITH FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL WITH REGARDS TO PAINTING THE SKATE RAMP ON THE ALFRED MAJOR RECREATION GROUND WITH STUDENTS DESIGNS AND APPROVE A BUDGET OF UP TO £1000 FOR MATERIALS:

Following on from the representation in Open Forum, Cllrs unanimously approved the decision to work with Furze Platt Senior School (FPSS) on the designs and implementation of a project to paint the skate ramp on the Alfred Major recreation ground. There was one abstention. Cllrs also unanimously approved a budget of £1,000 for the supply of materials for the project. This will come from the General Fund. There was one abstention.

The representative from FPSS was asked to come back in time for the General Purposes committee meeting on 20th June with some more designs. At that meeting Cllrs will choose up to 4 designs, one for each side of the ramp as the approved schemes. FPSS have some 'Enrichment afternoons' in June and July when small groups of children can come and paint the ramp, this may be over the course of 4 days. The Teacher will prime the base, supervise the children and then seal the designs after they are finished for protection.

5. FINANCE: To approve payments / receipts:

The list of payments and receipts made in May 2023 were unanimously approved. The Clerk noted the payment of £5000 to RBWM which is an agreed contribution to running costs for Cookham Library to secure increased opening hours.

6. TO CONSIDER THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 (ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) PAGE 3 AND SEPARATE REPORT:

Further to the comments discussed and minuted at the Finance Cmte meeting on 30th May, on the recommendation of the Finance Cmte, the Council unanimously approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Annual Internal Auditor Report 2022/23 and the Internal Auditors Report and Assessment of Compliance. There were no further questions or comments.

7. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR THE FIN YEAR 2022/23 (AGAR SECTION 1, PAGE 4) WITH REFERENCE TO THE ASSERTIONS 1 TO 9:

Further to the comments discussed and minuted, at the Finance Cmte meeting on 30th May, regarding the assertions 1-9, on the recommendation of the Finance Cmte the Council unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement, Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). There were no further questions or comments.

8. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 (AGAR SECTION 2, PAGE 5):

Further to the comments discussed, and minuted, at the Finance Cmte meeting on 30th May, on the recommendation of the Finance Cmte the Council unanimously approved the Accounting Statement, Section 2 of the AGAR. There were no further questions or comments.

The large variance for 'total other receipts' and 'all other payments' to the previous year was due to the implementation of the play area improvement project. The Explanation of Variances report gives the detailed explanation as required by the External Auditor.

9. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022 (INCLUDED WITHIN AGAR AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS):

The Bank Reconciliation for Year ending 31st March 2023 was unanimously approved. There were no further questions or comments.

10. TO APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23:

The Income and Expenditure accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2023 were unanimously approved.

There were no further questions or comments.

11. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR B. PERRY REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WP:

Since the last Council meeting, developments needing report and/or approval are very limited, as the WP has not met since it was reconstituted. Following approval of the last report to Council in May, the next steps are still:

- 1 Troy Planning + Design to make changes such that the draft is fully as decided by the WP.
2. We await RBWM's input on the SEA and HRA position. Troy P+D to be asked to chase RBWM.
3. Write to landowners whose land has been included for potential designation as Local Green Spaces (Troy P+D has provided a template).
4. The WP needs to:
 - (a) place the draft before the large landowners group;
 - (b) place it again before the organisations originally contacted about it in 2020; and generally seek feed-back from residents (no feed-back received as yet as a result of the draft appearing on the Council's website);
 - (c) seek final feed-back from the attending groups (Cookham Society, Cookham's Footprint, Save Cookham, Shez Courtenay-Smith and WildCookham).
5. When responses to all the above are received the WP will re-consider the draft accordingly

12. TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A CORPORATE PLAN FOR COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND TO AGREE WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIP.:

The creation of a Corporate, or 5 year, plan for the council has previously been discounted. However, following a report commissioned by the council from SLCC's Local Council Consultancy to look at staffing levels, salary structure and future needs, a corporate plan is suggested as an invaluable tool. There are many advantages to having a plan, predominantly as it will help to shape the work we do, the budgeting process, manage expectations of what can be achieved in the life time of this council and the early stages of the next and help identify resource needs, particularly with regards to staff. A corporate plan will inevitably evolve as projects come to light and priorities change but the framework gives the council a professional outlook and structure and a method of communicating its plans to residents.

Cllrs Edwards, Regan and Moore along with the Clerk, will take this forward. A draft will be bought back to council in September or October.

14. TO REVISIT THE DECISION MADE REGARDING THE SOUND ELEMENT OF THE UP AND AROUND PLAY EQUIPMENT INSTALLED IN OCTOBER 2022:

Following the installation of the new play equipment on the Alfred Major recreation ground, the council received a number of complaints about a noise element of the new equipment. This was discussed at the Full Council meeting in December 2022 and the decision was to leave the equipment in situ but review the situation again in June 2023.

Since that time one further complaint has been received, making a total of four since the installation. Cllrs unanimously decided to leave the equipment as it is but review the matter again at the October Full Council meeting.

15. COOKHAM SCOUT VILLAGE SUMMER FAIR ON COOKHAM MOOR - SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023: TO AGREE THE DETAILS OF CLLR INVOLVEMENT AND THE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE:

Cllr J. Edwards agreed to coordinate the preparations for the stall. Cllrs were asked to volunteer some time during the day. Clerk to provide maps and various council related items.

Cllr M. Brar left the meeting at 9pm.

16. TO REVIEW THE BELLWAY PRESENTATION:

Cllrs had the opportunity to ask more questions and learn about the Parish Councils involvement in the process over the last few years.

Questions from Cllrs and residents will be fed back to Turley, and they will build a frequently asked questions section on Turley's Cannondown Road website: www.cannondownroad.co.uk

Cllr M. Brar returned to the meeting at 9.25pm.

17. OUTSIDE BODIES, BOROUGH CLLR AND CLERK'S REPORTS:

Cllr M. Howard Borough Cllr Report: Provided by email. Borough Cllrs took office on 24th May, the new Council Leader is Cllr Simon Werner. Information was provided about the Brgh Cllrs new responsibilities on various cmtes.
The new Chief Exec of RBWM is Stephen Evans.
There has been corresponding with Borough Officers about the lack of grass cutting.

18. TO REVIEW THE FULL COUNCIL ACTION LIST:

The Action list was not reviewed.

The Turkey Housing application on switchback road, will be determined at the Maidenhead Development Committee in June.

19. CHAIRMAN'S SUBMISSIONS:

The Chairman reminded Cllrs to use the RBWM 'Report it' system. This helps with issue reporting and means problems are dealt with efficiently, by the correct teams.

Cllrs were reminded that decisions of the council are made by the whole council and only at meetings, no individual Cllr can make decisions on behalf of the council.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm