

RISELEY

PARISH COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT RISELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON THURSDAY 20th June 2024 AT 7:15 PM

PRESENT	Vice Chairman-Mr C Felce (CF), Mr A Gell (AG), Mr William Wallis (WW), Mrs Heather Jones (HJ), Mr R Toseland (RT), Mr G Davies (GD) Borough Councillor Martin Towler (MT)	
IN ATTENDANCE	The meeting was well attended by members of the public.	
<p>Chairman's Welcome The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at the new venue: Riseley Primary School.</p>		
	OPEN FORUM	ACTION
	Nothing was raised.	
	<p>A presentation of the possible development of part of the ex-Margaret Beaufort site and the ex-Riseley Lower School Playing Field site to be given by representatives of Bedford Borough Council.</p> <p><i>This presentation was given by- Mr Keith Maidlow and Frazer Hickling from Phillips Planning.</i></p> <p>The historical context was outlined from the Call for Sites and Neighbourhood Plan, where no sites were allocated in Riseley.</p> <p>This lead on to the borough Development Plan, where the proposed development site, which is outside the village SPA and therefore in Open Country, could be submitted under Policy 7S of the local Plan 2030 or as a Rural Exception Site.</p> <p>The proposal from BBC, for the development of the mainly playing field site, with a proportion of "brown field" redevelopment area, was for 30 houses with a density of some 30/ha.</p> <p>In keeping with the old Housing Needs Survey, 29 dwellings would be terraced, semi- or detached, rather than flats or bungalows; a percentage would need to be Affordable; there was a proposed provision of a school drop-off area within the site.</p> <p>The planning issues and concerns were discussed: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Sustainability Heritage Impacts – directly adjacent to village Conservation Area and historic buildings. Flood risk and Surface Drainage Foul Water – village sewer system is at capacity, but Anglian Water have a statutory duty to accommodate new developments. Loss of Playing Fields – this is much resisted nationally and may be considered by the enhancement of a similar area within the Parish to compensate: the old Lower School playing field was suggested. <p>Questions were invited and there was much concern from some residents about the sewer situation, increased traffic flow, access and flooding issues, as well as the position of BBC sitting in judgement of its own planning application.</p> <p>There was support from some residents for the possible enhancement of the old Lower School playing field to include the village Community Centre and access to the existing adjacent village playing field, with the transfer of ownership to Riseley PC.</p>	

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2406.01	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES	
	Chairman Mr D Jowett (DJ) & Cllr Paul Brown (PB)	
2406.02	TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	There were none.	
2406.03	TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING on May 16th, 2024.	
	It was AGREED that the minutes were a true and accurate record.	
2406.04	CORRESPONDENCE – any important items received after agenda published	
	There has been an email received about an issue on Bowers Lane where the vegetation from the High St up to the last house Greenfields is narrowing the lane and preventing many delivery vehicles from being able to access. This will be on next month's agenda.	
2406.05	To discuss the presentation by Bedford Brough Council.	
	<p>It was felt that the presentation implied that BBC are treating the proposed Primary School site and the old Lower School playing field as separate but related issues, which is as it should be.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Risley NP, which is in place, is key and should be carefully considered with any development however big or small, although it was also suggested that new applications deserved to be looked at afresh.</p> <p>The Parish Council had concerns that it is Bedford Borough Council that oversees and decides on this proposed application on Bedford Borough Council land, where they stand to benefit.</p> <p>There was agreement that the land should not be sold to a developer, but that BBC should manage any proposed application with a partner such as BPHA, to ensure commitments and constraints are observed.</p>	
2406.06	To consider any new planning applications	
(a)	There were none.	
(b & c)	<p>Decisions on planning TPO at The Lodge, Carriage Drive.</p> <p>Planning appeals No Appeals.</p>	
2406.06b	Administration and Finance	
(a)	To agree monthly report and Invoices to be paid. It was proposed and AGREED to accept the monthly report and invoices to be paid.	

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(b)	<p>It was AGREED to renew the insurance on a 3 year agreement.</p> <p>Parish Councillor Vacancy The Parish Council agreed to decide on a candidate to fill the Councillor vacancy at the July meeting. This will be by a ballot vote. There has been some interest and it was AGREED to have the closing date for applications 1 week before the July meeting.</p>	
2406.07	Riseley Village	
(a)	<p>Noticeboards repairs Following the Clerk's report that the Noticeboards need attention, especially the one opposite the shop, it was AGREED to ask the Village handyman to assess with a view to paint and repair as required.</p>	
(b)	<p>Village Litter Pick Because BBC will not support this outside the 30mph limits, it was AGREED to leave the Village litter pick for now, but review before the winter.</p> <p>Bus shelter drug use Following some discussion, the Parish Council felt that the drug use paraphernalia found by a resident in the bus shelter was an isolated case, although they will continue to monitor the situation. It has been reported to the police and it was suggested to alert the school. The redecoration of the bus shelter is imminent.</p>	
2406.08	Riseley Recreation Association (RRA)	
	<p>The ROSPA report is due and HJ requested a hard copy, which the Clerk will organise. AG will liase with Joe Heast about the quoted tree work. RT will organise the installation of the replacement bench and contact helpers. AG reminded the PC that the 60-year agreement for the use of the playing field needs renewing this year and he will prepare a short summary.</p>	HJ/AG
2406.09	Rights of Way	
	<p>Report from DJ - the ROW team continue to clear paths (including some 500m of FP35) and have responded to requests for areas of overgrown vegetation which have been raised, although there are some outstanding items.</p>	DJ
2406.10	Tree Warden, Ross meadow & Allotments	
(a)	<p>Tree Warden RT will shortly be starting on the tree work identified by the tree survey.</p>	RT/CF
(b)	<p>Ross meadow Grass cutting is being carried out to the marked perimeter.</p>	
(c)	<p>Allotments To assign a Parish Councillor Responsibility for the Allotments Since it is a requirement to have a Councillor hold overall responsibility for the allotments it was proposed and AGREED that GD be appointed to this position and he will liase with Mr Cooper who is continuing as a volunteer.</p> <p>WW reported that the accumulated rubbish from the allotments has been cleared to the bulky waste collection with the help of Mr Wady.</p>	

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2406.11	Children and Youth			
	It was AGREED to include a Hub report as an agenda item going forward.			
2406.12	Brook			
(a)	Nothing to report			
2406.13	Highways & Footways			
	WW advised that the work on the footbridge by the Police Station is slowly ongoing. There has been NO progress with the High Street wall & fence - Borough Councillor Martin Towler will chase this with BBC, if the Clerk sends him the details.			
2406.14	Lighting			
	Nothing to report			
2406.15	Village Hall			
	The village hall committee have AGREED to hang the new portrait of the King.			PB
2406.16	Grass Cutting			
(a)	PB has requested John Maddison to cut outside the 30mph zone again. GD reported that Grangers are working on the new areas which will be added to their regular cut and will also strim Washbrook.			PB
2406.17	Newsletter			
	Nothing to report			
2406.18	Website			
	Nothing to report			
2406.19	Environment & Village Appearance			
	The hedges opposite the Primary School have been trimmed back and access is much improved.			
2406.20	Bedford Borough Council			
	No report			
2406.21				
	OUTSTANDING ITEMS			
Minute No	Description	Action By	Waiting For	Notes
02/22	CIL Payment	All Pcs		GD will investigate what CIL money can be used for.
	Field by old Lower School	BBC		To remain on the agenda for updates
	Crest stickers for Riseley sign	BBC	MT	Clerk to chase this.

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	Footbridge by the Police Station High Street wall & fence	WW	MT	MT to chase. To remain on agenda for updates.
	Procedures & Protocols	DJ, CF & Clerk		To commence after the training session with BATPC.
	NP documents	Clerk		Clerk will ask BBC about storage
	PC Training	Clerk		To be re-arranged

Open Forum

A resident expressed his disappointment that the Parish Council felt the drug use in the bus shelter was an isolated case. He felt strongly that the PC should be acting as the anti-social behaviour is ongoing and the bus shelter is owned by them. RT will take a look at the shelter to see if it can be adapted to make it more open, although he would liaise with the resident who kindly built the shelter.

A resident expressed her opinion that the BBC offer of enhancing the old Lower School playing field to alleviate the loss of the Primary School playing field seemed like bribery to try and persuade the PC to support the proposed development.

Following the recent burglaries on the High Street, it was suggested that the Police & Crime Commissioner might respond to an invitation to attend a future PC meeting.

2406.22	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 18th July at 7.15pm	
	The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 21.32	

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