



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at 8pm on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Fairford Leys Centre, Hampden Square, Fairford Leys**

**Present:** Cllrs Cole (Chairman), Pattinson, Poland-Goodyer, Walland, Baughan, Blandford, Harper, Andrew, Wadlow  
K Gray (Clerk to the Council)

**1. Election of Chairman of the Council**

To elect a Chairman for a term of one year

The Chairman to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Proposed by Cllr Pattinson and seconded by Cllr Harper that Cllr Andrew Cole be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for a term of one year.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, that Cllr Cole be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

To receive and accept apologies for absence notified to the Chairman or Clerk

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr James (prior commitment).

**3. Declarations of Interest**

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest

Cllr Cole declared an interest in item 11, which is a formal acknowledgement of a previous council decision for the appointment of the Internal Auditor.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

RESOLVED: To receive, accept and sign the minutes of 7/4/22 as a true record

**5. Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for a term of one year

Proposed by Cllr Cole and seconded by Cllr Andrew that Cllr Sally Pattinson be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Unanimously that Cllr Sally Pattinson be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for a term of one year.

*Cllr Baughan arrived at this point in the meeting (8.07pm).*

**6. Clerk's Report**

To receive a report from the Clerk on matters dealt with and taking forward on behalf of the parish council.

- Grass cutting is underway and we have received many positive comments from residents on how the area looks well maintained. Some people have commented that they now realise why we carry out some of the works like cutting back trees and hedging strongly as they can see the re-growth and proper land management of the area.
- Summer planting has been ordered
- Bunting and flags are ready to be installed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- RoSPA report for the playgrounds annual audit has arrived and whilst there is no urgent matters to deal with there are a number of refurbishment and updating works to be carried out. The Council will need to weigh this work up alongside any new refurbishment plans they have for the playgrounds to ensure value for money. The Clerk proposed a series of working group meetings for the new proposals for the playgrounds so that a detailed plan can be drawn up and agreements made on what playgrounds are to be removed, refurbished and where the finances are to come from for these proposed works. Council agreed this should take place as soon as possible.
- Platinum Way Cycle Route (was Emerald Way) is to be refurbished by Buckinghamshire Council and all details have been copied to Councillors which their agreement for the plans and changes to be made. The clerk has notified Bucks Council that the parish council has no concerns over the proposed works to change the footpaths to allow easier access for cycles. The parish council has also given agreement that proposed works on their land be allowed.
- The June meeting of the parish council falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (Bank Holiday) and the council agreed that no meeting should take place in June unless there was urgent business to be dealt with. The next meeting of the parish council will be called in July 2022.
- The Ukraine flag has been ordered and paid for. Because of the increase in flag purchases, there has been a delay in production. As soon as it arrives, we will display the flag in a suitable place. The jubilee is coming up so the Union Jack will need to take prominence in the square.
- The clock is still being looked at and quotes are being sort for its possible repair.
- The tree report for Phase 3 of the land transfer has been received and works will be carried out accordingly.
- The last phases of the land transfer are to be handed over and the documentation is with the parish council's solicitors for approval and signature. We should have all the land transferred to us in the next month which will end years of uncertainty and the parish council will now be the main landowner of all open spaces and land areas within Fairford Leys and the riverine corridor.

***RESOLVED: Chairman to suspend Standing Orders (adjourn meeting) to enable questions from the public and any reports from councillors.***

## **7. Questions from the Public & Reports. To receive any reports from Parish or Unitary Councillors.**

- Cllr Blandford gave an update on the arrangements for the Allotment Competition. He explained his discussions with Hartwell Nursery who are sponsoring the prizes and their interest in becoming involved with the local community. They are planning to have a stall/lorry at the fair in the square which will sell plants. This will need to be arranged with Cllr James so we can let them know where to park on the day. Cllr Poland-Goodyer will update media site with relevant information about the competition. A suggestion was made about sponsorship of planting in the village. Council would be happy for planting to be sponsored but would need to agree any advertising as the council has a policy of not allowing lots of advertising in the main square otherwise it negatively affects the overall look of the area if there is too much advertising, especially on the bandstand which is near the highway and there are policies in place for advertising on the highway. The clerk would need to be consulted for advice before any advertising is allowed by the Council.
- Cllr Harper explained her frustration at not being able to get Thames Valley Police to engage properly with the parish council. She was asked if this was in respect to direct involvement with the parish council requests or Neighbourhood Watch. She explained it was both areas. She is pursuing the matter with officers. Cllr Poland-Goodyer suggested

that the Clerk may need to write or contact senior officers with a clear invite to the police to engage better with the parish council and or attend our meetings.

- Cllr Poland-Goodyer reported the concerns of Monks Path residents to Bucks Council to look at the pavements outside their properties. He also updated council on works taking place regarding the Platinum Cycleway.
- Cllr Pattinson reported that Coldharbour News (CN) was with the printers and she will notify people when it is ready to be delivered. She was asked to re-circulate the delivery list so everyone was aware of who delivers CN's and where.
- Cllr Cole reported on the recent Hs2 Representatives meeting he and others attend and focused on the concerns about flooding and traffic. Concerns were raised that the Environment Agency is not engaging properly with the parish council on matters relating to flooding and additional water flowing through Fairford Leys riverine corridor due to the planned works and land areas now managed by Hs2. It was also noted that a meeting had taken place with Bucks Council officers and the Environment Agency yet no parish councillors for the area had been invited.
- Cllr Poland-Goodyer shared the following information with the parish council in relation to Hs2 land management and environmental matters:

RE: Transport, Environment and Climate Change Committee Further to our recent attendance at Buckinghamshire Council's Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee on Thursday 10 March, please find below our responses to the outstanding queries raised.

**How many trees destroyed? What was their average age?**

Tree, hedgerow and woodland surveys were carried out to British Standard 5837:2012 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction) in advance of any clearance works. Surveys recorded individual trees, hedgerows, groups of trees and woodlands and included information on species and size of trees.

This information was used to optimise the design to avoid tree removal where practicable. A summary of the information recorded in surveys and number of trees that are planned to be removed is summarised below for the EKFB section of works in Buckinghamshire:

Total in LLAU (Limit of Land to be Acquired or Used)

To be removed: single trees 2,068 - 1,352 hedgerow 195km 133km tree groups 113ha 82ha woodland 45ha 21ha

**How many trees destroyed that had a TPO?**

We do not record this information as the Act supersedes any Tree Preservation Order that was in place. How many trees 'saved' by removal and replanting? The following trees and hedgerows have been saved by removal and replanting and/or protection in addition to those that have been retained by avoidance: • 8 veteran trees • 1.3km Important Hedgerow • 12 veteran trees retained and protected • 3.3km Important Hedgerow retained and protected

What is the loss of carbon sequestration based on the trees that have been destroyed? The Phase One ES reported emissions (dis-benefit) from land use change as 100,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

Removals (benefit) from carbon sequestration from tree planting were reported as 500,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**What is the dwell time between a tree being removed, the new tree being planted and reaching maturity?**

Advanced planting started in 2017 with over 700,000 trees and shrubs planted to date. Trees and shrubs will be planted as areas of construction works are completed and we expect the majority of new planting to be complete by April 2027. According to the Woodland Trust "a tree becomes mature when it starts producing fruits or flowers. A typical English Oak tree starts producing acorns at around 40 years old, in contrast, Rowan starts producing berries after around 15 years". Removal of trees and vegetation started in winter 2018 and therefore the dwell time from replanting to maturity is between 15 and 50 years.

**Planting 7m trees is not enough to sequester your carbon, what more will you do?**

We're applying the carbon reduction hierarchy. Our focus is to eliminate and reduce carbon emissions as far as possible, before considering carbon offsets. We intend to develop a carbon offsetting strategy for the residual carbon emissions that we cannot cut.

We intend to explore:

- (1) opportunities for carbon 'insetting';
- (2) the opportunities for carbon offsetting projects on the HS2 estate, including opportunities presented by our plan to contribute to delivering HS2's biodiversity net gain objectives; and,
- (3) opportunities to support offsetting research and development projects.

**When will the rest of the trees be planted?**

Trees and shrubs will be planted as areas of construction works are completed and we expect the majority of new planting to be complete by April 2027.

**What is the carbon offset for the rest of the carbon by 2035?**

This information is not currently available, this will be established as part of developing the carbon offsetting strategy. The amount of offsetting required will depend on the scope of activities being delivered and the extent of carbon reduction achieved. The Woodland Fund is applicable to areas up to 25 miles away from the route.

**How will funds be prioritised towards more impacted areas such as Buckinghamshire as opposed to areas within the 25-mile distance that are not affected?**

The HS2 Woodland Fund, administered by the Forestry Commission, is set up for anyone within 25 miles of the route to apply in order to capture a wide range of projects. The funds are not prioritised towards more impacted areas within the 25 miles. The fund relies on landowners getting in touch with HS2 Ltd and applying to the fund. The fund is large (£5million on Phase One) and we still have much of the fund to allocate; if Buckinghamshire Council have proposals on how to get more landowners from Buckinghamshire applying to the fund, we would be very keen to further discuss. Unfortunately, due to the terms of the fund, HS2 Ltd cannot proactively approach parties to apply to the fund.

**The Committee was advised that HS2 Ltd monitor supplier compliance with their contracts (for instance checking that wheel washing takes place and that lorry signage is correct) however there was little detail on this. Can more detail be provided?**

All Main Works Contractors across HS2 have their own internal processes, involving logistics managers, security managers and duty-access managers, who all carry out assurance of wheel washing and other mud mitigation measures daily as part of their compliance checks. Additional inspection of adherence to HS2 commitments involves both desktop assurance (reviewing, approving, and checking the contractor's processes for management and maintenance of these measures) in addition to on-site assurance carried out by our construction assurance managers, logistics managers and traffic managers. HS2 use a rolling programme to ensure every site compound is covered, but also feed in information relating to complaint hotspots and construction activities to carry out targeted assurance, where required. Continued failure to observe the processes detailed within the driver's information pack, and the standards set by HS2, can lead to subcontractors being removed from the project.

**Additional actions raised:**

**• Investigate Highways concerns raised by the Cabinet Member for Transport.**

Current correspondence ongoing between Cllr Steve Broadbent and Rohan Perin.

**• Consider increasing the meeting frequency of the Traffic Liaison Group.**

Will be further discussed with Buckinghamshire Officers and at the Traffic Liaison Group to establish viability.

**• Ensure 'In Your Area' part of HS2 Ltd.'s website is up to date.**

HS2 is currently reviewing the materials within the 'In Your Area' pages to ensure they contain the relevant content and the user benefits from clear signposting to the local information required.

• **Consider what information can be shared at this stage with Members and Parishes regarding flooding concerns in Wendover and Fairford Leys, Aylesbury.**

We are in dialogue with the Environment Agency around the Wendover hydrogeology and Stoke Brook, and will provide further updates to elected members and community groups at the appropriate time.

• **Circulate where public information on the Independent Design Panel can be found.**

HS2 IDP panel chair reports are here. Reports / minutes from workshops with the IDP remain confidential until S17 stage when a copy of their report is included in the Design and Access Statement for the Key Design Element. These have been produced for the Wendover Dean Viaduct (in C23) and can be found here: Schedule 17 stage - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

• **Assurances that the Environment Agency's flood consents along the Great Ouse date back to 2019.**

Schedule 33 part 5 of the HS2 Act ensures that any flood consents (or other water related consents) required to facilitate temporary or permanent works to build HS2 will be submitted and approved by the regulatory authority. This includes any schedule 33 part 5 (flood consents) required when working in the vicinity of the River Great Ouse from the Environment Agency.

• **Responses to ecological queries. As covered within previous responses.**

We hope the above responses have suitably addressed the outstanding queries, but should you require any more information please let us know and we will work to resolve. Many thanks for inviting us to the Buckinghamshire Council Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee. Should it be of interest, we are happy to return next year and, hopefully, demonstrate the progress made across the project and within your local communities

***RESOLVED: Chairman to reconvene meeting under Standing Orders***

**8. Outside Bodies & Organisations**

To agree the Council representatives to Outside Bodies & Organisations, if necessary.

RESOLVED: That the following groups be represented by Cllrs listed:

- |                             |   |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Aylesbury Community Board | - | Cllrs James, Poland-Goodyer and Cole  |
| • Local Police Liaison      | - | Cllr Harper                           |
| • The Joyce Trust           | - | Cllrs Walland, Cole, Harper and James |

**9. Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

The Council to review and agree its current Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: That the current Standing Orders remain in place with no amendments but that the Clerk updates the Financial Regulations in regards to the government advice on EU/Brexit matters.

**10. Council Policies and Procedures**

Council to formally approve its current policies and procedures.

RESOLVED: That the councils policies and procedures remain in place with no changes unless there are specific new changes to be made to ensure adherence to government/legal and good guidance advice.

**11. Internal Auditor**

RESOLVED: To appoint an Internal Auditor to audit the Parish Council accounts as per procedure. Proposal that Mrs D Cole be the Internal Auditor for 2022/2023 End of Year Audit/Annual Return.

**12. General Powers of Competence**

To resolve to take on the General Powers of Competence and to agree that the Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility relating to its Electoral Mandate and Qualified Clerk.

RESOLVED: To take on, with the relevant criteria adhered to, the General Powers of Competence.

### 13. Council Committees & Working Group

RESOLVED: To approve the membership of Committees and Working Groups

- **Resources & Personnel Committee (Finance, Budget, HR)**  
Cllrs Cole (Chairman), Poland-Goodyer, Wadlow & Blandford
- **Leisure & Services Committee (Events, Maintenance, Community)**  
Cllrs James (Chairman), Poland-Goodyer, Baughan, Andrew, Wadlow and Walland
- **MVAS – Lead Councillor (Highways, Traffic Calming)**  
Cllrs Poland-Goodyer and Cole
- **Ernest Cook Trust Covenant Working Group**  
Cllrs Wadlow, Pattinson, Cole, Andrew, Harper, Walland and the Clerk
- **Parks Refurbishment Working Group**  
Cllrs James, Poland-Goodyer, Baughan and the Clerk

### 14. Code of Conduct

Councillors to agree to abide by the Code of Conduct as advised by Government/NALC/SLCC and administered by the Monitoring Officer of Buckinghamshire Council.

RESOLVED: That the current Code of Conduct remains in place with all Councillors in agreement to abide by it.

### 15. Finances and Orders for Payment

RESOLVED: That the following orders and retrospective orders be accepted for payment:

• BHIB	Vehicle Insurance	£2,330.91	3494
• Robert C Yates	Tree Survey	£1,170.00	3495
• Specialised Canvas	Ukrainian Flag	£101.74	3496
• FLC Centre	Reimbursement / Broxap	£280.80	3497
• Briants of Risborough	Maintenance	£912.51	3498
• FL Centre	Grant from Precept	£17,500.00	3499
• Playsafety Ltd	Annual RoSPA Audit	£756.00	3503

RESOLVED: To receive, note and agree/accept the Councils Financial statements, income and expenditure report. Emailed to all councillors.

### 16. Internal Audit

Council to receive, agree and sign off the Internal Audit Report completed by the internal auditor and to agree and sign the AGAR for issuing to the External Auditor.

RESOLVED: That this be adjourned to the next meeting for formal approval.

### 17. Councillor Allowances

Council is asked to consider the payment of Councillor Allowances. Only councillors who stood for election can receive an allowance.

£900 - Chairman

£600 – Councillors

RESOLVED: All allowances to remain as they are.

### **18. Co-option of Councillor**

Council to note the current Casual Vacancy and consider co-option of councillor.

RESOLVED: Noted

### **19. Decisions by the Resources & Personnel Committee and Leisure Committee Meetings**

Council is asked to receive and approve the minutes & decisions of the above Standing Committees. Minutes of the committees have been copied to all councillors.

No meetings have met.

### **20. Riverine Corridor Update**

To receive an update and make such decisions, as necessary.

The clerk reported that the final land transfer documents are with the council's solicitors.

### **21. Playgrounds Refurbishment Working Group**

To receive an update report from Cllr James on the discussions and proposals from the working group for the refurbishment of the playgrounds. Council to consider any requests from the working group.

Cllr Poland-Goodyer reported that further meetings will be held to progress the plans. He also reported on the assistance of the River Thame Conservation Trust carrying out voluntary work along the riverine corridor to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam from the waterways. The Clerk has given formal Council approval for this work to be carried out as in previous years. The Trust also want to work with the parish council on other ideas and management of the riverine in terms of environmental matters and land management and the parish council were happy to discuss this. The trust was asked to contact the Clerk to arrange any further meetings, work groups etc. Cllr Poland-Goodyer will also liaise with the trust and the Clerk.

### **22. Gardenway & Aylesbury Garden Town**

To discuss any matters relating to the above project/scheme

Cllr Poland-Goodyer reported that there is no current government funding for these projects and we await further information on what plans are in place to either continue with these projects or make changes and decisions in terms of any proposed works.

### **23. Outside Gym**

To receive an update on this project.

Cllr Poland-Goodyer thanked the clerk for dealing with the installation of this equipment and the clerk is to meet with the contractors on 11<sup>th</sup> May to agree site installation. It was suggested that Hs2 volunteer staff could paint the railings around this outside gym and any other playground railings as part of the community volunteer project. Cllrs Cole and Poland-Goodyer will suggest this to Hs2 representatives at their next meeting.

### **24. Planning Applications**

To receive, comment and to either object, support or oppose the following planning applications. To consider late applications presented by the Clerk.

All applications are sent to councillors electronically and cllrs should look at the AVDC website for details of all applications prior to decision at parish council meeting.

- **22/01303/APP**

**21 Fairford Leys Way, FL**

Conversion of garage into store and study (retrospective).

RESOLVED: No Objections to the change of use based on the fact that the garage door remains in place and there are no negative impacts re change of the street scene

Ernest Cook Trust Covenant change of use is also permitted/granted for the above conversion of the garage.

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_