

PITSTONE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 19 May 2022
at Pitstone Pavilion, starting at 7.30pm and concluding at 9.40pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Cllr Nicholls (Chairman), Cllr Saintey (Vice Chairman), Cllr Blunt, Cllr Heyman, Cllr Mitra and Cllr McCarthy.
Parish Staff: Laurie Eagling (Clerk), Stephen Davies (Community Car Scheme) and Dave Burton (Facilities Manager).
Buckinghamshire Councillors: Derek Town and Peter Brazier.
Greg Smith, Member of Parliament for the Buckingham Constituency.
Mark Robinson of the Town Lands Charity.
Plus 14 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mrs Crutchfield, Cllr Weber and Cllr Mrs Dragon.

AA1/22 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

See above. The Chairman officially opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He explained that an 'Annual Parish Meeting' is a local community meeting, and not a constituted meeting of either the Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Council, or the other bodies presenting. So whilst no resolutions could be passed, any issues that were raised during the evening would be taken back to the respective bodies for consideration.

AA2/22 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY held on 14 May 2019

No meetings had been held in the intervening two years due to Covid restrictions. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and accurate record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as such.

AA3/22 PRESENTATION OF PITSTONE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

The Chairman presented Mr Howard Jones with the Volunteer of the Year Award 2022 for his outstanding contribution to the Pitstone Community Car Scheme. Reaching hospital and healthcare appointments was as important as ever to residents during Covid, but many previous volunteers were unable to assist during this time, and Howard handled over half of all the requests we received.

The Chairman presented Howard with a framed certificate, card and £50.00.

The Parish Council runs the Volunteer of the Year scheme to celebrate the unsung heroes within our community. If you know someone who goes that extra mile and provides an outstanding voluntary service to the residents of Pitstone, please submit your nominations to the parish clerk so that they can be taken into consideration for the 2023 award.

If, like Howard, you could spare some time to join the scheme as a volunteer driver, please do get in touch with Stephen Davies.

AA4/22 REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Unfortunately, no-one from TVP was available to attend the meeting, so they submitted a report which was read out to residents and is replicated below.

"Between the 1st of May 2021 & the 1st of May 2022, 89 incidents were reported to Police for the Pitstone area. Included in this figure were incidents such as Road Traffic Collisions, Concerns for Welfare, Assaults, reports of suspicious activity and Domestic incidents which are obviously not of note, but that was the overall figure for the area. The breakdown of the incidents of note:

Burglary dwellings and non-dwellings - 4
Theft Of Motor vehicles - 3
Theft from Motor vehicles - 4
Other thefts - 6
Hare Coursing - 1

Criminal Damage - 7

We are approaching the summer months when historically the Quarry area gets busy. We have put some extra things in place this year along with Buckinghamshire Highways. The grass area outside (the only bit of TVP land) is now a no parking zone which Buckinghamshire Council will enforce. The Quarry itself and the surrounding roads (excluding Westfield Road) are all Hertfordshire's area. Herts police are liaising with the owner of the quarry regarding extra measures being put into place. If you note anyone going in there, please ring Hertfordshire police as this is their area, not TVP. We will however, be monitoring.

We are receiving increasing amounts of reports regarding ASB in this area. We will be increasing our patrols and dealing with persons accordingly. Please report anything to us. The recreation ground area has been added to our patrol plans.

Drug use - we are aware that this is a big issue and we patrol the recreation ground and other areas frequently, sometimes overtly and sometimes covertly. We submit regular intelligence regarding this. Please report any activity you witness there. You can do this via webform on the TVP website. But please also feel free to email the team on - greatbrickhillwingivinhoenhpt@thamesvalley.police.uk

The Chairman asked if there were any issues that the public wished the parish council to feedback to TVP. There followed a general discussion about a lack of perceived police presence in the village and at public meetings.

AA5/22 REPORT FROM, AND QUESTIONS TO, GREG SMITH, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE BUCKINGHAM CONSTITUENCY

Greg Smith MP provided updates on the wide variety of projects that have been undertaken during the last year including HS2; the Expressway; policing issues; dealing with Coronavirus; legislation reforms including those relating to the environment, policing, Harpers bill and illegal immigration; the cost-of-living crisis; the Ukraine situation; and the energy security bill.

Questions were taken relating to regeneration/levelling up bill and planning reform including the push for communities to have the final say on development in their area; Neighbourhood Development Plans including the Government's support, the removal of pan regional spatial strategies and the street vote proposals; the constituency boundary changes that would come into effect ahead of the next election and the capping of unitary/county council funding which causes knock-on implications at parish level.

AA6/22 UNITARY COUNCILLORS PETER BRAZIER AND DEREK TOWN

Cllr Brazier advised the public of the structure of their three councillors (Peter Brazier, Derek Town and Chris Poll) and how responsibilities and committee duties were divided between them. He provided reports on the sound financial footing of Buckinghamshire Council, their performance relating to planning and the improved communications.

Cllr Brazier responded to questions relating to Northfield Road and how BC was working with HCC in this respect.

Cllr Town provided a report on Strengthening our Communities, Protecting the Vulnerable, Improving our Environment and Increasing Prosperity, along with the various Buckinghamshire Council initiatives that sit beneath these heading.

Cllr Town responded to questions relating to flooding at the junction of Westfield Road/Marsworth Road and the abolishment of fees at the Household Waste Recycling sites (date tbc).

There then followed a refreshment break, with the opportunity for the members of the public to visit the Community Car Scheme information stand and speak to members of the Parish Council, Buckinghamshire Council and the Member of Parliament on an informal basis.

AA7/22 REPORT FROM, AND QUESTIONS TO, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Nicholls provided a report on the key activities during the last three years since the last annual assembly including: changes to the number of seats on the council & recent member changes; council structure and representatives on the various bodies; the services provided by and duties of

the parish council; residential development in the parish; key projects that have been delivered including the new pavilion, recreation ground play space and the skate park; children's competitions and the jubilee; council finances and the precept; and the current council vacancy.

Cllr Nicholls responded to questions relating to the data centre site on Westfield Road; the Portland House site on Westfield Road; the commercial plots within the Pitstone Development Area; and the Business Rate Tax.

AA8/22 REPORT FROM, AND QUESTIONS TO, PITSTONE TOWN LANDS CHARITY AND WILLIAMSON TRUST

Mark Robinson, trustee for the charity, explained the history and purpose of the two local charities, how they were supporting the local community and how people could contact them if they were in need of assistance.

No questions were tabled for the charities.

AA9/22 REPORT FROM, AND QUESTIONS TO, PITSTONE PARISH CHARITY

Ben Blunt provided an update on the history and purpose of the Parish Charity including how it was in the process of being restructured to provide assistance to those in need, hardship or distress, but would be differentiated from the two above charities. Once the charity investments started to generate a revenue and the charity was in a position to offer assistance, it would be formally launched to the community.

No questions were tabled for the charity.

AA10/22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No further questions were tabled.

AA11/22 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting, especially the guest speakers for their contributions. There being no further business to be transacted, the chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

D Nicholls

18/5/23

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman