



# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 2017 at 7.50pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, S Breese (Chairman), J Butler, P Castle, N Cox, A Lord,  
S Reading and A Sage  
County and District Councillor Carl Etholen  
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay  
Luca Guerzoni

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Blackwell.

2. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

Cllrs Reading and Castle suggested two slight amendments to the wording of the minutes. The adjustments were agreed and the minutes were then approved and signed by the chairman as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Sage and seconded by Cllr Castle.

3. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Luca Guerzoni provided an update of progress. The independent examiner has sent his report on the Plan to Wycombe District Council (WDC). The plan passed largely unscathed with only minor amendments, save for one policy which has been much reduced. At this stage it is the responsibility of WDC to respond to the examiner with the Parish Council acting simply as a consultee. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has proposed an alternative approach to the wording of this policy and WDC have been supportive of this and will make a similar proposal to the examiner. WDC have 5 weeks to answer to the recommendations of the examiner and at that point their response, along with the report of the examiner, will be published. It is anticipated that this will happen prior to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Assuming WDC propose the new wording they will need to conduct another 6-week consultation on the Plan.

4. **Planning matters**

Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

5. **Applications for grants**

There had been no applications for grants.

6. **Authorisation of payments**

The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Sage, seconded by Cllr Lord:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100646	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – December 2016	£458.33		£458.33
100647	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£18.39		£18.39
	<b>Total for month</b>		<b>£476.72</b>		<b>£476.72</b>

7. **Budget**

An updated budget was presented to the council by the clerk. The changes since the first draft were discussed and agreed. The 2017/2018 budget was then unanimously approved having been proposed by Cllr Castle and seconded by Cllr Bird.

8. **Unitary Authorities**

Cllr Breese reported that he had attended a conference in December regarding the proposals for Unitary Authorities. After considering all the information, including the presentations made to the parish council by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) and WDC, his view is that it would be best for Bledlow-cum-Saunderton if a single county-wide unitary authority was created. The council agreed and it was decided that Cllr Breese would write to Martin Tett, leader of BCC, to express these views (see letter attached). Cllr Cox expressed some reservations at being asked to decide on a proposal when the finer details are not yet known, especially in relation to education and social care. Cllr Etholen explained that those details

would be put in place by the relevant unitary authorities once they had been set up.

**Action: Cllr Breese**

## **9. Broadband**

9.1. Cllr Breese asked Cllr Etholen for an update on the broadband project. Cllr Etholen reported that he had attended a meeting in November with Jacqueline Ford of WDC where he had been shown a map of the areas due to receive high speed broadband. He had not been allowed to keep the map and was informed that a website would be launching in December which contained all the information. The website has not however materialised and he will follow up with Jacqueline Ford and WDC as soon as possible to find out when the website will be available. Cllr Etholen also informed the council that for areas which are not deemed to be commercially viable and therefore not included on the map of connectivity, WDC was investigating alternative technologies.

**Action: Cllr Etholen**

9.2. Cllr Breese expressed the council's displeasure at the delays given that the project has been ongoing for several months and asked Cllr Etholen to convey the message to WDC. Cllr Etholen agreed it was unacceptable.

**Action: Cllr Etholen**

9.3. Cllr Breese informed Cllr Etholen that the parish council had agreed to set up a working group for broadband. Cllr Reading highlighted the main aims of the working group and advised the council that the first meeting was due to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January and that there had been a lot of interest and a good mix of volunteers. Cllr Etholen said he would provide an update to Cllr Reading prior to the first meeting of the working group. Cllr Breese requested of Cllr Etholen that a map be made available to the working group as soon as the website has been set up so that they would not be forced to type in each of the many postcodes in the parish.

**Action: Cllr Etholen**

## **10. Speedwatch**

Cllr Lord informed the council that he was still planning on arranging training in Bledlow Ridge towards the end of January 2017. He will circulate the precise details as they are available and urged all members of the council to be present for the training if possible. It was agreed the clerk would continue to circulate a request for volunteers in the parish newsletters.

**Action: Cllr Lord and clerk**

## **11. Village Shop, Bledlow Ridge**

Cllr Butler informed the council that, as far as she was aware, buyers are lined up to take over the leasehold of the property and that details should be finalised in the next week. The clerk was still trying to confirm if the shop has been registered as a community asset.

**Action: Clerk**

## **12. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk**

12.1. Cllr Lord confirmed to the council that he had visited Peter Malaure of Orchard Farm, Haw Lane to discuss his request for a traffic mirror to be situated on a 30mph traffic sign opposite his driveway. Cllr Lord recommended that Mr Malaure's application be referred to BCC for clarification and that the PC had no objections to the proposal.

**Action: Cllr Lord**

12.2. Cllr Cox asked about the status of the repairs to the Bledlow entry gate. The clerk advised that she was still waiting to hear back from John Lawrence.

**Action: Clerk**

12.3. The clerk reported that she had received an email from Mary Uglow asking if the councillors had any objections to her organising the trimming of a whitebeam tree in Bledlow outside the Lions. It was agreed that the council had no objections and were grateful to Mary for taking on the task.

12.4. The clerk reported that she had held discussions with James Tunnard of BCC regarding hedge cutting in the parish. It had been agreed that James will provide the clerk with details to be included in the parish newsletters advising residents of the processes and procedures regarding

hedge trimming and also of their responsibilities. It was suggested that the notice be expanded to also include ditches, culverts and footpaths.

**Action: Clerk**

**13. Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 starting at 7.30pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....