



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 2nd
March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese (arrived late), J Butler, P Castle, N
Cox, A Lord, S Reading (acting Chairman) and A Sage
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay
Luca Guerzoni
2 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

County and District Councillor Carl Etholen.

Cllr Breese had advised the council that he would be arriving late therefore Cllr Reading acted as Chair.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd February 2017

The minutes were approved and signed by the acting chairman as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr Blackwell.

3. Members of the public invited to speak

The members of the public introduced themselves as Anne Ley and Robin Eycott of the Bledlow Ridge Village Hall Committee. They made a proposal to the council for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the hall at an approximate cost of £12,000. They would like the council to consider funding 50% of the cost. The council advised that they would not be able to consider the application until the hall committee had further investigated the impact on their insurance costs and also if there are any grants available. It was suggested that the hall committee should work within their £2,000 per annum grant and that an advance may be considered. It was however noted that nothing would be offered from previous years' unspent grants as provision has not been made in the budget.

4. Neighbourhood Plan

4.1. Luca Guerzoni informed the council that a date for the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan was not yet known but Wycombe District Council (WDC) will be responsible for running it. The Parish Council however has the right to send out communication to residents prior to the referendum informing them of the process and why it is important. Since the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan is now closed, the Working Group would like to apply to the council to provide funds for this communication. The council were in agreement that this would be appropriate and that an amount of no more than £1000 could be allocated for communication purposes. The payment will be approved at a future meeting.

4.2. Luca Guerzoni reported to the council that on the morning of Thursday 2nd March 2017 he had been notified that WDC had received a pre-action protocol letter from St Congar in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan. At this stage it is not known what this will mean for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Group will meet to discuss the development and any action that needs to be taken.

5. Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lord stated that he had studied the Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan and that there was nothing of concern to Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish. Cllr Breese noted that the Plan contained details of a proposal by Thames Water for a large reservoir that would be very close to the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish and that the available drawings appeared to be at a more advanced stage than those seen before. At this point it is merely a proposal however the council need to be aware of it and any future developments. It was agreed that the Clerk will respond to South Oxon Council to confirm that the Parish Council has reviewed the Plan and has no concerns.

Action: Clerk

6. Planning matters

6.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

6.2. Cllr Breese informed the council that several complaints had been received regarding the work recently carried out on Perry Lane, Bledlow, to install a new access point into a field. The

development seems to be much larger and of a residential nature compared to the planning application that was approved last year. The clerk has already reported the issue to planning enforcement at WDC.

7. Applications for grants

There had been no applications for grants.

8. Authorisation of payments

The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Bird:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100653	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – February 2017	£458.33		£458.33
100654	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£32.92	£4.58	£37.50
100655	Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	6 x 2017 meetings @ £35 each	£210.00		£210.00
100656	John Lawrence	Footpath clearance	£475.00		£475.00
100657	John Lawrence	Meadow Styles hedge	£62.50		£62.50
100658	TBS Hygiene Ltd	Bin emptying	£29.20	£5.84	£35.04
100659	SLCC	Annual membership	£93.00		£93.00
100660	Derek Stone	N.P. - Wine as gift for QC	£110.00		£110.00
	Total for month		£1,470.95	£10.42	£1,481.37

9. Broadband

Cllr Reading updated the council on progress. He had met with Connected Counties and travelled around the parish to ascertain the location of all the BT boxes. It has been confirmed by Connected Counties that properties linked to the 4 boxes in Bledlow Ridge should see improvement by September 2017. Cllr Reading informed the council that there was potential for the Broadband Working Group to have access to the map that Connected Counties have in respect to the areas of future development if it is formally requested. Cllr Reading confirmed he would draft a letter for the clerk to send in this respect.

Action: Cllr Reading and clerk

With regards to other areas of the parish, Cllr Reading reported that properties in line of site of the church in Bledlow may be able to take advantage of a fast wireless signal provided by Rapid Rural. The Working Group are in the process of negotiating and testing the positioning of a transmitter on the church before committing to a specific plan.

The remaining part of the parish which would not be impacted by the aforementioned projects (approximately 5% of the parish) currently have no proposals in place although there is 4G available in many of the areas. Connected Counties will have further stages to their project that may help and the Working Group will also look into whether there are any locations in those areas where the wireless solution could also be implemented.

10. Speedwatch

Cllr Lord informed the council that the training session that took place with PC Turnham on 23rd February had been successful with 4 attendees. Several other volunteers would like to help even though they could not make the training session. The next session will be a “live” session and will take place during March. Cllr Lord advised that now the scheme was operational it would no longer be part of Parish Council business, it would be run by the Speedwatch volunteers.

11. LAF Projects

The clerk had received notification that Transport for Bucks (TfB) had completed their assessments of the two projects submitted last year. The installation of bollards at Hillview, Saunderton has been costed at £3,600 with LAF asking the council to provide 50% match funding (£1800). The council agreed that, prior to agreeing to go ahead with the project, the residents of Hillview should be consulted as to their views on having bollards. The clerk will distribute a leaflet asking for opinions and will also inform Bucks County Council (BCC) that a decision cannot be made until residents have been consulted.

Action: Clerk

The second project, re-surfacing the cycleway along the A4010, was costed at around £70,000 and is therefore beyond the scope of the parish council. It was agreed that the clerk would inform BCC that this project would not be taken forward.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Reading updated the council on progress with the Sandpit Lane alterations to the Phoenix Trail. TfB will be commencing work next week on the second phase of the project whereby the crossing will be realigned. There will be potential disruption for cyclists and horse riders while the work is carried out and appropriate notification will be displayed beforehand.

12. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

12.1. The clerk reported that cleaning of all the road signs within 30mph zones in the parish had been completed by Princes Risborough Town Council. The clerk agreed to contact TfB with respect to cleaning signs that are outside of 30mph zones.

Action: Clerk

12.2. The clerk reported that she had received confirmation that the Country Store shop in Bledlow Ridge had been registered as a community asset.

12.3. The clerk read out an update regarding WDC and BCC from Cllr Etholen in his absence: "With regard to the Council tax for the forthcoming year 2017/2018 WDC has not made any increases. BCC has however voted that there shall be an interest of 1.99% plus a further 3% for Adult Social Care (which is a government directive) taking it to a 4.99% increase. This equates to an extra £1.11 per week based on a Band D property."

12.4. The clerk reminded councillors that a session is being run by WDC on 8th March in respect of the new unitary authority proposals. No councillors were available to attend.

12.5. The clerk reminded councillors that BALC are running sessions on the impact of HS2 in Buckinghamshire on 30th March. Cllr Blackwell agreed to attend and the clerk will register him for the session.

Action: Clerk

12.6. Cllr Castle reported that he had performed the quarterly review of the accounts and that all was in order.

12.7. Cllr Blackwell provided an update on West Yard, Saunderton. Very suddenly all clearance work has ceased and the site has been cleared. It is not known when work will commence again.

12.8. Cllr Blackwell reported that many drains along the A4010 are blocked resulted in water flooding the road when there is heavy rain. The clerk will contact TfB to request that the drains are cleared.

Action: Clerk

12.9. Cllr Cox informed the council that he had looked in the South Oxfordshire Mineral policy as decided at the last meeting and that there are no concerns for the parish and therefore no need to respond.

12.10. Cllr Cox advised the council that he had received notification from Thames Water that the water main along Chinnor Road in Bledlow Ridge will be replaced over the coming weeks and there may be some disruption to traffic.

12.11. Cllr Cox reported that hedge cutting had been undertaken by BCC on Chinnor Road towards Red Lane yet the hedges had not been cut back far enough. The clerk agreed to contact James Tunnard at BCC regarding the issue.

Action: Clerk

12.12. Cllr Butler advised that a wooden advertising sign had been erected by builders on the grass verge outside a house on Haw Lane. The clerk will follow up and ask for its removal.

Action: Clerk

12.13. Cllr Sage reported that the Meadow Styles Parents Group had completed a safety inspection of the playground and that they will attend to any issues identified.

13. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 6th April 2017. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place at 7.30pm immediately followed by the ordinary parish council.

Signed.....

Date.....