



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday
6th April 2017 at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese (arrived late), J Butler, P Castle, N
Cox, S Reading (acting Chairman) and A Sage

Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

Mr & Mrs Luca Guerzoni

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Anthony Lord.

County and District Councillor Carl Etholen.

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

Cllr Cox queried the use of "agreed" in paragraph 3, this was amended to "noted" and the minutes were then approved and signed by the chairman as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Blackwell and seconded by Cllr Bird.

3. Neighbourhood Plan

Luca Guerzoni provided an update for the council. Thursday 4th May 2017 has been set as the date for the referendum. There are strict rules surrounding correspondence regarding the referendum and councillors need to be careful to avoid "campaigning" as the result of the referendum can be affected if the rules are broken. Residents will be made aware of the referendum via the parish newsletters and also with an email to the parish mailing list. Leaflets will also be posted on the parish notice boards but will not be delivered to all households as planned therefore the previously agreed funding for this purpose will not be required.

The referendum will be decided by a simple majority i.e. 50% of the vote cast plus one vote and, if it passed, the next stage will be for the Plan to be adopted by Wycombe District Council (WDC) Planning, most likely in June or July 2017. Once the referendum has been approved WDC cannot reject it and they must adopt it. Counting for the referendum will take place on Friday 5th May 2017 at Wycombe Leisure Centre and by law there needs to be a counting agent. If the Parish Council does not provide a counting agent then WDC will. Cllr Sage agreed to attend in the morning and Cllr Breese agreed to attend in the afternoon if required and the clerk will need to inform WDC of the counting agents. The result of the referendum will be known on Friday 5th May 2017.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Castle asked how this affected the situation with Molins and St Congar. Luca informed the council that WDC had sent reasoning to St Congar in response to the letter received last month and that nothing further had been heard.

4. Planning matters

4.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

4.2. The clerk informed the council that appeals to the Secretary of State had been made by Tudor Stud Farm with respect to the enforcement notice for the removal of temporary structures and by 68 Haw Lane with respect to a refused application for a triple garage. No further action is required by the council.

5. Applications for grants

5.1. An application had been received from the Chilterns Conservation Board for £150 towards their Beacons of the Past project on hillforts and prehistoric heritage across the Chilterns. It was unanimously agreed that this would be a good cause for the council to support.

5.2. The clerk had received notification from Anne Ley of Bledlow Ridge village hall that, following on from her application last month for a contribution towards solar panels, the insurance costs for the hall

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would increase by £15 a year and planning permission is not required for the panels. Opportunities for grants had also been investigated and it was determined that none are forthcoming. The village hall committee had however reconsidered the amount they are able to commit to the project and as such the amount requested from the parish council is now £4,500. It was agreed that approval of this application would be added to the agenda for the May 2017 meeting.

Action: Clerk

6. Authorisation of payments

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – March 2017	£458.33		£458.33
	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£132.79	£1.40	£134.19
	Chilterns Conservation Board	Beacons of the Past project fund	£150.00		
	BALC	Annual subscription	£364.37		
	Princes Risborough Town Council	Sign cleaning	£120.00	£24.00	£144.00
	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£26.80	£5.36	£32.16
	John Lawrence	Fixing entry gate at Bledlow	£125.00		£125.00
	BCC	LAF – Sandpit Lane	£4,000.00		£4,000.00
	Bucks Playing Fields	Annual subscription	£20.00		£20.00
	Total for month		£5,397.29	£30.76	£5,428.05

7. Village Hall Funding Policy

Cllr Cox queried the comments made during March's meeting stating that the village halls could not retrospectively apply for unspent annual funding from previous years. The clerk read out a letter from Anne Ley of Bledlow Ridge village hall explaining that in the past the council had allowed the hall to use unspent funding from previous years. A lengthy discussion followed whereby the councillors agreed that it seemed practice had changed and how best a policy could be formalised going forward. Cllr Breese asked Cllr Castle to look at the financial regulations of the council and how they could be amended for such situations. Cllr Castle agreed and will report back to the council.

Action: Cllr Castle

8. Broadband

Cllr Reading updated the council on progress which so far has been good. The installation of a Rapid Rural transmitter on the church tower at Bledlow has proved successful and work is under way to get the facility fully approved and installed on a more permanent basis. There is also the possibility that other locations could be identified for further Rapid Rural installations within the parish. Connected Counties have been working on the cabinet at Picts Lane/Shootacre Lane. This is believed to be part of the first phase of their roll-out. Timescales for upgrading the 4 cabinets serving Bledlow Ridge remain unclear. Cllr Reading has contacted Connected Counties requesting an update.

9. Devolved services agreement – Footpaths

The clerk informed the council of the contract with Bucks County Council (BCC) for the annual clearance of several footpaths in the parish. As no information had yet been received from BCC on the subject it was agreed to postpone discussion of this item to the May 2017 meeting.

10. Wycombe District Council Draft Play Strategy

The council had been asked for comments on WDC's draft play strategy. The only comment from the council was how the strategy affected the playground at Bledlow given it is currently out of action. It was agreed that Mike Britnell, Chairman of the Bledlow Village hall committee would be asked for his comments in that respect.

Action: Clerk

11. Trees at Hillview, Saunderton

Cllr Blackwell again raised the issue of trees on the verge at Hillview, Saunderton that have damaged a property on Chiltern View. Despite numerous phone calls by both Cllr Blackwell and the occupants of the property all bodies have denied responsibility including BCC. Cllr Blackwell asked if the council could write to BCC with a Freedom of Information request asking who owns the trees. It was agreed that the clerk would do this.

Action: Clerk

12. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

12.1. Cllr Butler raised the issue of a house at the bottom of Haw Lane which is constructing a porch and queried whether this required planning permission. The clerk will investigate.

Action: Clerk

12.2. Cllr Butler also mentioned that the hedging along Chinnor Road and Haw Lane needed attention as it was very overgrown. The clerk will report this.

Action: Clerk

12.3. Cllr Butler reported that a resident of The Crest was in the process of arranging the removal of a tree from their garden and that the roots of the tree had caused the pavement alongside the property to be raised. It was questioned whether or not the resident would be able to fix the pavement. The clerk will forward on the devolved services agreement to all councillors as it makes mention of footways being the responsibility of the parish council under the agreement.

Action: Clerk

12.4. Cllr Butler reported that the footpath sign along Haw Lane still need replacing – BCS/48/1. The clerk will report it to BCC Rights of Way.

Action: Clerk

12.5. Cllr Blackwell reported that Thames Water are replacing the new pipes at Saunderton as they have failed.

12.6. Cllr Blackwell reported that the chemical clearance firm had been called back to the West Yard site in Saunderton to clear around the perimeter hedging.

12.7. Cllr Blackwell informed the council that he had attended a meeting on HS2 on 30th March. The A4010 has been designated an LGV access route which means 178 lorries a day will travel along the route for approximately 7 years. The bollards in the road at Saunderton will most likely be removed as currently the road there is too narrow for the vehicles. Cllr Blackwell has been asked by BCC to be the local observer at Saunderton for the HS2 traffic.

12.8. Cllr Cox reported that the work by Thames Water on the Chinnor Road had been postponed.

12.9. Cllr Bird reported works taking place at Pickles Farm on Lee Road and whether or not planning permission was required. The clerk will report the issues to WDC.

Action: Clerk

13. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd May 2017. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.30pm immediately followed by the ordinary parish council meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....