



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd
May 2017 at 8.00pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese, J Butler, P Castle, N Cox, A Lord,
S Reading (Chairman) and A Sage
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay
Derek Stone

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County and District Councillor Carl Etholen.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th April 2017

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

3. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Breese informed the council that the clerk had received notification that there had been an application for Judicial Review from St Congar's owners and that Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council had been named as an interested party. The paperwork was passed to Derek Stone for consideration and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will meet to discuss if any action is required. The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will still go ahead on 4th May unless an injunction is received.

4. Planning matters

4.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved. The application for a substantial extension at 4 Hillview, Saunderton requires further investigation due to its size and proximity to neighbouring properties. It was agreed that the Saunderton ward councillors would liaise and advise the clerk of an appropriate response.

Action: Cllrs Blackwell, Reading & Castle, Clerk

4.2. Cllr Breese reported that the hedge at Etons Piece in Bledlow had already been removed yet the planning application is still showing as awaiting decision. The clerk will investigate and report any breaches of planning to the planning officer.

Action: Clerk

4.3. Cllr Cox asked the clerk to follow up with the planning officer regarding the approval of the planning application for Wayside, specifically in relation to the high decking that was questioned by the parish council.

Action: Clerk

5. Applications for grants

5.1. The council resolved to approve the request from Bledlow Ridge Village Hall for £4500 towards solar panels. The motion was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Butler. Cllr Lord abstained from voting but all other councillors supported the grant. The clerk will inform the village hall committee.

Action: Clerk

5.2. The clerk explained that she had been contacted by the Rural Community Defibrillator Group (RCDG) asking for financial support towards a defibrillator in Saunderton, most likely to be positioned at the Golden Cross. A grant of £450 plus VAT was being requested to fund a 10 year service plan for the defibrillator as they had already secured funding for the equipment. If agreed then the defibrillator would need to be placed on the parish council's asset list for insurance purposes however there would be no other responsibilities for the parish council. The motion was proposed by Cllr Reading and seconded by Cllr Sage and agreed unanimously. The clerk will inform the RCDG.

Action: Clerk

6. Village Hall Funding Policy

The council considered the wording distributed by Cllr Castle prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the main principles of the policy are correct however Cllr Cox requested that the format be changed to be a bullet-point style. Cllr Cox also stated that the village halls should be able to roll forward their annual grants to be redeemed at a later date providing they inform the parish council of their intentions beforehand. It was agreed that Cllrs Castle and Cox would liaise with the clerk to amend the policy wording.

It was suggested that it would not be appropriate for the policy to be added to the standing orders or the financial regulations and that an "Appendices of Financial Policies" should be kept in addition to the financial regulations.

Action: Cllrs Castle, Cox & Clerk

7. Authorisation of payments

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100670	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – April 2017	£458.33		£458.33
100671	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£22.93	£2.59	£25.52
100672	DA Fane	Payroll services for 2016/2017	£120.00		£120.00
100673	Princes Risborough Town Council	Grass cutting	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
100674	Bledlow Village Hall	Hire of hall for March meeting	£36.00		£36.00
100675	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£60.30	£12.06	£72.36
	Total for month		£880.76	£51.29	£932.05

8. Annual Return – Governance Statement

The council considered the Governance Statement that is required to be completed as part of the Annual Return. Responses were recorded and the statement was signed by Cllr Reading, witnessed by the clerk.

9. Broadband

Cllr Reading updated the council with progress from the Broadband Working Group. The Rapid Rural installation in Bledlow continues to show excellent results however access is being limited until all the correct permissions have been received from the church etc. Locations for further installations are being considered across the parish.

The roll-out of fibre has begun in Bledlow Ridge with new cabinets being put in place. There has been some concern from Mr & Mrs Philpott in Bledlow Ridge over the positioning of one of the cabinets but they are liaising with Connected Counties and Wycombe District Council directly in an effort to resolve the situation.

Cllr Reading reported that the Working Group are now looking into the prospect of installing a significant community infrastructure however this would be a long-term (approximately 3 years) and costly project. Cllr Breese urged Cllr Reading not to forget that residents require solutions immediately and that a three year wait would be unacceptable. He advised that further Rapid Rural installations could provide short-term results whilst longer-term projects were put in place.

10. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

- 10.1. Cllr Lord reported that Bledlow now has a SpeedWatch group set up and in their recent session on Perry Lane caught 24 cars in 40 minutes.
- 10.2. Cllr Blackwell asked for a list of items in Saunderton that receive funding from the parish council.
- 10.3. Cllr Blackwell asked if the clerk had received a response to the Freedom of Information request made in respect of the trees at Hillview in Saunderton. No response had so far been

received.

10.4. Cllr Reading reported that there had been considerable works continuing at Hillview Farm in Saunderton and questioned whether planning permission had been granted. The clerk will investigate and report and breaches to the planning officer.

Action: Clerk

10.5. Cllr Breese mentioned that the white lines on the road approaching The Lions in Bledlow are wearing out and need repainting. It was also suggested that the white "SLOW" markings near the Sandpit Lane crossing of the Phoenix Trail also need repainting. The clerk will report the issues and ascertain the policy surrounding line-painting under the devolved services agreement.

Action: Clerk

10.6. Cllr Cox reported that there is a wonky sign in Bledlow where the entrance gate is situated. He also asked if the gate could be repainted following the recent repair work by John Lawrence.

Action: Clerk

10.7. Cllr Sage reported that an inspection had been done of the Meadow Styles playground by the parents group and that issues were in hand. Cllr Sage also mentioned that the grass needed cutting and asked the clerk to check with John Lawrence.

Action: Clerk

10.8. Cllr Sage reported that, following on from the council's donation to the Chiltern Conservation Board, they had now reached their target for their Hill Fort project.

10.9. The clerk reminded the council that there was a meeting on planning being held in Bledlow Village hall on Saturday 6th May from 11am to 2pm.

11. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 1st June 2017.

Signed.....

Date.....