



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday
3rd August 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

Mike Britnell – Chair Bledlow Village Hall Committee

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 7th July 2017

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

3. Application for grants

Mr Mike Britnell, Chair of the Bledlow Village Hall Committee had prior to the meeting circulated a report on the progress of the renovation project taking place at the hall. He briefly summarised the report to the meeting and stated that the project was progressing well, that the leak under the floor had been addressed and that the total cost for the first phase of the project would be approximately £56,000 including VAT. The Village Hall is now at the point of the project whereby it would like to request the £10,000 that the parish council has previously agreed to contribute towards the project. Following questions from the council Mr Britnell said that "phase 1" of the project was in reality approximately 85% of the entire plan and that it was nearing completion. "Phase 2" consists of minor items including repairs to the roof, a new audio/visual system and upgrades to the stage area. The Village Hall are not currently intending to ask the parish council for further funds towards the remainder of the project and the "phase 2" items are likely to be addressed individually as time goes on and be funded by hall profits. Mr Britnell reported that, following on from previous advice from the council, the committee had agreed to spend half of their long-standing reserves on the project, retaining the other half in order to provide an annual income. Mr Britnell requested that he be able to submit invoices to the council totalling £10,000 plus VAT and that the council could then claim back the VAT. The council agreed in principle to this following a proposal by Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Sage.

4. Planning matters

4.1. No new applications had been received although there appeared to be a discrepancy with the Wycombe District Council (WDC) online Planning Portal which the clerk will investigate.

Action: Clerk

4.2. Cllr Blackwell provided an update on the building works taking place at West's Yard, Saunderton. Cllr Blackwell informed WDC that the bunker on site has been filled in without notification however WDC have confirmed that a private contractor has been appointed to approve building regulations on the project and that they have no power over the project or to enter the site. Cllr Blackwell confirmed that there was no update from Network Rail following the incident being reported to them.

4.3. Cllr Breese provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan stating that everything had gone through and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group would set up a training day, for the councillors, with case studies, so that the new elements could be properly understood and applied.

5. Authorisation of payments

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – July 2017	£458.33		£458.33
	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses – July 2017	£142.93	£2.59	£145.52

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Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	John Lawrence	Grass cutting	£268.00		£268.00
	Princes Risborough Town Council	Grass cutting	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£87.10	£17.42	£104.52
	Bledlow Village Hall	Rent – 6 th July meeting	£36.00		£36.00
	Total for month		£1,192.36	£60.01	£1,252.37

6. Quarterly financial review

The clerk present the report for the first quarter of 2017/2018 which was noted by the council. It was pointed out that the £5000 loan allocated in the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum had not been requested by Wycombe District Council. Cllr Castle will now conduct the quarterly bank reconciliation.

Action: Cllr Castle

7. Broadband

Cllr Reading informed the council that there would be an imminent switch-on of high speed broadband in Bledlow Ridge as BT had been carrying out further work on the new boxes. Cllr Reading had recently attended a meeting with BT Community Fibre Broadband and it was noted that the commercial case for rural broadband is not strong however there is the possibility of forming a partnership with BT whereby the council would collect the details of all residents who would like high speed broadband, BT would calculate the cost and how much money they could make from the installation and then the council would be charged the difference. Cllr Reading concluded that this option, which has had some success in other areas, would be hard work for the council and expensive due to the fact that a central government grant for such projects is no longer available. Cllr Reading had also met with Cllr Etholen where he was informed of a new plan where all properties within the parish, apart from approximately 15, are within scope for delivery of high speed broadband within the next 2 years. The Broadband Working Group now will discuss this new information at their next meeting and consider what the next steps should be and to come up with a concrete plan for the next steps.

Cllr Breese expressed his concern that in the ten months since the budget for the Broadband Working Group had been approved, progress was still limited. While there had been some success with the wireless pilot from Bledlow Church subject to the granting of a “faculty” from the church, and BT OpenReach had fibre enabled cabinets in Bledlow Ridge, there was still no overall plan for the provision of broadband throughout the parish. Just as Bledlow-cum-Saunderton used to be part of the 10% of the nation digitally disenfranchised he was keen that progress should be made to ensure that the Parish Council did not leave 10% of the parish unprovided for.

8. Website and social media

Cllr Reading stated that he would like to look into the parish council having a presence on social media, in particular Facebook. Questions were raised around editorial control and the clerk’s time and it was agreed that the clerk would investigate how this is managed by other councils.

Action: Clerk

9. LAF

Cllr Reading attended a recent LAF meeting where it was announced that there is still money left for allocation in 2017/2018. Following a discussion it was decided that the council would like to apply for funding for one or two “YISI” speed indication devices which could be moved around the parish and which have been shown to work well in West Wycombe and Hughenden.

Action: Clerk

10. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

10.1. Cllr Cox reported that the clear up of rubbish on Wigans Lane had been very poor and that rubbish still remained at the site.

10.2. Cllr Cox reported that following the recent roadworks by Thames Water, the opening in Chinnor Road had not been closed properly.

10.3. Cllr Sage stated that the council had been recently been contacted by several people in relation to elements of the Neighbourhood Plan and how they could be implemented. He advised that

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all enquiries should be referred to the pre-application service provided by WDC as planning is under their control, not the parish council's.

10.4. Cllr Breese reported that the bridleway by The Lions in Bledlow is unpassable and suggested it be reported to the Carington Estate.

Action: Clerk

10.5. Cllr Breese reported that the Lyde Garden in Bledlow would be closing for approximately one year in order for overgrown trees to be addressed and also increased security to be installed following issues with drug users frequenting the garden.

10.6. Cllr Reading informed the council that he had attended a recent Princes Risborough Town Council planning meeting where the main topic of discussion was the relief road. The preferred route for the road should be known in September but the timescale of the project is very long.

10.7. Cllr Blackwell reported that he was expecting an imminent decision on the Floodplan project on the A4010 with work potentially starting in September.

10.8. Cllr Blackwell stated that there are ongoing issues with the West's Yard development and that Slough Lane would be closed at some point.

10.9. Cllr Blackwell reported that a large tree on the corner of Slough Lane and the A4010 had been lopped in preparation for the HS2 project.

10.10. Cllr Butler reported that she had taken a look at the railway bridge on Haw Lane following the recent bad flooding and that there appeared to be some damage to the brickwork which should be reported to Network Rail.

Action: Clerk

11. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 7th September 2017 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....