



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday
5th October 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

County and District Councillor Carl Etholen (arrived 8.15pm)

Members of the public: Mr and Mrs Tony Freeman, Will Streule, Linda Cannon Clegg

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Councillor Stephen Reading. Vice Chairman, Councillor Simon Breese, chaired the meeting in his absence.

2. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 3rd August 2017 and Thursday 7th September 2017

2.1. The minutes of the 3rd August meeting had been queried at the September meeting. Following an amendment to paragraph 7 regarding broadband the recirculated minutes were unanimously approved after being proposed by Cllr Sage and seconded by Cllr Blackwell. The acting chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

2.2. The minutes of the 7th September meeting were unanimously approved following a proposal by Cllr Blackwell which was seconded by Cllr Sage. The acting chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

3. Members of the public

3.1. Mr and Mrs Freeman of Wycombe Road, Saunderton attended the meeting to raise the issue of traffic safety on the A4010, specifically in relation to speeding. The councillors were aware of the problem and supportive of Mr Freeman's concerns however advised that they have limited powers in terms of highways management. Mr Freeman enquired about the possibility of gates to mark the boundaries of Saunderton on the A4010 and it was agreed that the option could be pursued with potential funding available from the Local Area Forum or HS2 funds. Cllr Breese also advised Mr Freeman to contact Cllr Etholen with his concerns.

In relation to speeding, the clerk updated the council on recent attempts to purchase "Your Speed Is" indicator signs as the devices are no longer approved by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB). The clerk will continue to pursue this issue with TfB and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC). Cllr Lord also advised that the SpeedWatch scheme that had been running in Bledlow Ridge was currently and indefinitely on hold as PC Turnham who had been operating the process has moved to another role.

Action Clerk

4. Planning matters

4.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

4.2. The clerk advised that a letter had been received from Stephanie Penney, Principal Development Management Officer at Wycombe District Council, in response to the objection the parish council made to the application for a new dwelling between The Orchards and Crofters on Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge. Ms Penney's letter indicated that the objections made by the council were not significant enough to justify a refusal however offered the opportunity of a meeting to discuss the issue further. It was agreed that the clerk would arrange a meeting between Ms Penney and the Bledlow Ridge ward councillors, Cllr Sage and Cllr Etholen.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Breese advised that when contentious planning applications, such as this, are made, the council

needs to ensure that reference is and continues to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan so that control is kept. Cllr Etholen agreed and advised that councillors should inform him of any contentious planning applications so that he can ensure process issues do not prevent the council's views being made.

- 4.3. The clerk reported that an application had been submitted by EE for a transmitter to be placed on Deanfield Studios in Saunderton. Cllr Blackwell declared an interest in the project. It was decided that no further actions were required.
- 4.4. Will Streule and Linda Cannon Clegg from the Risborough Area Residents Association (RARA) attended the meeting to discuss Wycombe District Council's Local Plan and the implications for Princes Risborough and the surrounding area and to ask the council to repeat its comments and concerns during the next round of consultation which is happening imminently. The council agreed with many of the concerns of RARA and will comment on the Plan accordingly.
- 4.5. It was noted that the application for Judicial Review of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) had been rejected by the High Court and that St Congar had not reapplied.
- 4.6. It was noted that the Molins appeal had been rejected by the Secretary of State. Cllr Etholen congratulated the NP team as he believed the NP had been instrumental in preventing the Molins development from being approved.
- 4.7. The clerk reminded the councillors that the deadline for comments on the Longwick-cum-Ilmer Neighbourhood Plan was 9th October 2017. Cllr Sage agreed to collate any responses and submit them to the clerk.

Action: Cllr Sage & Clerk

5. **Application for grants**
None had been received.

6. **Authorisation of payments**
The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Bird, seconded by Cllr Blackwell:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100698	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – September 2017	£458.33		£458.33
100699	Zurich	Annual Insurance	£728.89		£728.89
100700	Dial-a-Ride	Grant	£259.00		£259.00
100701	Wel Medical Ltd	Defibrillator 10 year warranty	£595.00	£119.00	£714.00
100702	Stephen Reading	Broadband Group – 4G SIM top up	£30.00		£30.00
100703	Buckinghamshire County Council	Replacement for bounced cheque	£4000.00		£4000.00
	Total for month		£6071.22	£119.00	£6190.22

7. **Broadband**
Cllr Breese summarised that the main purposes of the Broadband Working Group (BWG) had been to:
 - i. acquire 4G equipment to enable residents to “try before they buy” and also to identify “not spots” within the parish;
 - ii. look into wireless broadband solutions;
 - iii. work with Connected Counties regarding fibre installation in the parish.

Cllr Breese reported that both 4G and wireless aspects were now up and running but that the Connected Counties project was proving extremely frustrating as they have not cooperated with the BWG at all and they refuse even to publish a map showing where upgrades will take place. The BWG need an additional level of detail so that they can identify where the inevitable gaps will be and devise alternative solutions, be they an extension of the wireless pilot at Bledlow Church or in the worst case an interim 4G broadband solution. Cllr Breese strongly expressed these frustrations towards Cllr Etholen stating that the BWG had been asking for details for over a year and that the group felt it did not have his support. He stated that the BWG need a confidential copy of the map and further information of the roll out, due to continue for the next two years, down to 7 digit postcode level if they were to achieve their objectives. He suggested that if Cllr Etholen was unable to provide it then the group may need to submit a Freedom of Information request

or go to the local papers. Cllr Etholen said he empathised with the situation and, when pressed, committed to attending the November meeting with the details requested.

Action: Cllr Etholen

8. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

8.1. The clerk highlighted the fact that Cllr Reading had recently attended a LAF meeting and that a summary had been circulated.

8.2. The clerk advised that, by law, as an employer, the Parish Council had to submit a declaration of compliance to the Pensions Regulator regarding the provision of pensions to its employees. The clerk confirmed that there are no eligible employees and that the declaration of compliance had been completed.

8.3. The clerk advised that she had attended a cemetery management course and that there are several areas the council need to address over the next few months with respect to burials and the management of burial grounds as currently the council has no policies.

Cllr Breese mentioned the fact that the burial ground at Saunderton is about to run out of space and that the council should look into how it can be extended. The clerk agreed to contact the owner of the land next to the cemetery and investigate some options.

Action: Clerk

8.4. The clerk advised that the BALC AGM would be held on 10th November and that volunteers were needed to attend.

Action: All Cllrs

8.5. The clerk updated the council on progress regarding Bledlow Cross. Historic England had been contacted and had advised that the cross could be registered as "at risk" if required. The Carington Estate had agreed to look at the current state of the cross but advised that they are keen to avoid promoting the site as a place of interest due to problems with littering and unsociable behaviour in the past. It was agreed that no further action would be taken at the moment with Historic England and that the Carington Estate need to be encouraged to ensure the cross itself is not becoming damaged by vegetation even if the surrounding area is left overgrown.

8.6. The clerk informed the council that there are new rules regarding Data Protection that are coming into law in May 2018 and that she would update the council at a later date if any action was required.

Action: Clerk

8.7. The clerk advised that John Lawrence had enquired about a concrete bin that is currently in his possession. It was agreed that Cllrs Cox and Butler would look into where best this could be situated.

Action: Cllrs Butler and Cox

8.8. The clerk reported that, following concerns raised at the last meeting, the overgrown verge at West Lane, Bledlow, had now been cut back.

8.9. The clerk reported that some Japanese Knotweed had been found in Bledlow and that she would look into what actions needed to be taken.

Action: Clerk

8.10. The clerk advised that, following a request from Cllr Cox, she had been able to find out from Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC) that they are responsible for the cutting of the grass in a 40mph zone in the town (near the entrance to The Holloway). This raised the question as to why PRTC are not able to cut grass verges in 40mph zones in the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton parish. Cllr Etholen agreed he would look into this.

Action: Cllr Etholen

8.11. Cllr Cox reported that Midsomer Murders had recently been filming in the parish. He also reported that the BBC had been doing some filming and had installed temporary traffic lights on Wigans Lane as part of the process but that notification had not been given beforehand. It was agreed that the clerk would look into who had been responsible and what the correct procedures are.

Action: Clerk

8.12. Cllr Blackwell provided an update on the West's Yard development as disruption is still being caused by the building works.

9. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....