



# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Members of the public: Mike Britnell, Bill Bendyshe-Brown, Mr & Mrs Walker

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County and District Councillor Carl Etholen

## 2. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 & Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

2.1. The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> October meeting had been queried at the November 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 Bird. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

2.2. The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November meeting were approved following a proposal by Cllr Breese which was seconded by Cllr Sage. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

## 3. Broadband

The Broadband Working Group (BBWG) had met twice since the last parish council meeting but there had been no minutes to circulate. Cllr Breese provided an update to the council stating that Wycombe District Council (WDC) are cooperating but not yet delivering. For the moment the BBWG will wait and see what happens but in January they will be proposing a draft Freedom of Information (FOI) request ready to be used if any backsliding occurs. Currently the BBWG are finding any gaps in internet provision in the parish and planning for those gaps.

## 4. Planning matters

4.1. Members of the public, Mr & Mrs Walker, attended the meeting specifically to object to the application for 5 dwellings at the corner of Perry Lane and Chinnor Road, Bledlow. They specifically had concerns over the access onto the site and drainage from the site given the proximity of the development to a road junction. Cllr Sage assured Mr & Mrs Walker that the council shared the same concerns and had objected to the plans. Cllr Breese explained the planning process and that the Neighbourhood Plan should give more power to the parish council's comments but that frustrations still remain.

4.2. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

## 5. Playgrounds

5.1. Mike Britnell of the Bledlow Village Hall committee attended the meeting to present a proposal to resurrect and rejuvenate the playground at Bledlow as it has been out of action for over a year. Mr Britnell had, prior to the meeting, written requesting a provision in the 2018/2019 budget and letters of support had also been received from Mr Daly and Bledlow pre-school which the clerk had circulated to all councillors. Mr Britnell confirmed that the Village Hall was no longer holding any reserves for projects and that they currently only had £551 in their bank account. A discussion followed whereby it was agreed that a provision of £5000 would be put into the budget for 2018/2019 providing Mr Britnell investigates if any other grants are available and also consults with a ROSPA surveyor regarding what is required before obtaining any quotes for the works. The issue of maintenance would also need to be decided. It was suggested that Mr Britnell contact the Meadow Styles Parents Group for advice. It was also agreed that, as Bledlow Ridge and Bledlow both have playgrounds supported by the parish council, it would only be fair for Saunderton to also have a playground however it would require an approach from residents.

5.2. Cllr Sage raised an issue at Meadow Styles whereby access to the playground at the car park end is being prohibited by locked gate at the entrance to the cricket/tennis club area. The Meadow Styles parents group have had difficulty reaching a decision with the cricket club over the gate and it was agreed the clerk would write to the president of the club to request a solution be found.

**Action: Clerk**

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

7. **Authorisation of payments**

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – November 2017	£458.33		£458.33
	Simon Breese	Chairman's expenses 16/17 & 15/16	£200.00		£200.00
	Bledlow Village Hall	2018 bookings	£216.00		£216.00
	John Lawrence	Grass cutting	£268.00		£268.00
	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£26.80	£5.36	£32.16
	Princes Risborough Town Council	Grass cutting	£133.33	£26.67	£160.00
	<b>Total for month</b>		<b>£1,302.46</b>	<b>£32.03</b>	<b>£1,334.49</b>

8. **2018/2019 Budget**

The clerk reminded the council that the current level of reserves needs to be reduced however it should be noted that approximately £40,000 of the reserves is CIL money to be spent on local infrastructure and approximately £10,000 is hypothecated for Meadow Styles. It was agreed that some of the money should be spent in Saunderton but that applications were required as the council cannot invent projects. Cllr Reading explained that a £20,000 provision had been put in place for Broadband provision be it a further roll out of the wireless Rapid Rural solution or for offering grants to residents who may want to purchase a 4G router (not for associated subscriptions etc.) Councillor Bendyshe-Brown revealed that Princes Risborough Town Council are now able to work in 40mph zones and therefore it was agreed that this needs to be looked into further so that the council can fully utilise the devolved services money from Bucks County Council. It was agreed that a decision regarding the precept level would be made at the January meeting.

9. **Bledlow Charities**

Prior to the meeting, Cllr Paul Castle had resigned from his position as a trustee of the Bledlow Charities. Following proposal by Cllr Breese, seconded by Cllr Cox, it was agreed that Cllr Sage would replace Cllr Castle as the Parish Council representative. Cllr Reading thanked Cllr Castle for all his work with Bledlow Charities.

10. **Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk**

10.1. The clerk reported that a response to the Wycombe District Council Local Plan had been submitted.

10.2. Cllr Lord reported that there had been a successful SpeedWatch session which had resulted in a list of several speeding vehicles. The police community support officers that had attended the session with Cllr Lord will process the notifications to the drivers.

10.3. Cllr Cox asked if there had been any progress with the reported verge gardening at Rocworth House, Bledlow Ridge. He also asked about the retrospective planning permission for the outbuildings at the same property along with the state of the ivy on the verge near Meadow Styles. The clerk will follow up on all items as she had heard nothing after her previous enquiries.

**Action: Clerk**

10.4. Cllr Bird reported that a litter bin had gone missing from the Upper Icknield Way and that rubbish was now being left on the road. The clerk will investigate further.

**Action: Clerk**

10.5. Cllr Bird raised concerns over Hillview Farm as there has been a lot of recent development

with large unsightly sheds and high fences. Cllr Reading replied that he had been in contact with the Planning Officers and that a retrospective planning application could be expected soon.

10.6. Cllr Reading reported that he had had his picture taken along with Carl Etholen and Jacqueline Ford for an article in the Bucks Free Press regarding the implementation of high speed broadband in Bledlow Ridge.

10.7. Cllr Blackwell reported the bollards in the pedestrian island in the A4010 by the Golden Cross in Saunderton were not working at all and that it was dangerous. It was agreed the clerk would report the issue to Transport for Bucks as a matter of urgency.

**Action: Clerk**

10.8. Cllr Breese reported that the hedges at Trout Hollow were very overgrown and that the white lines by the Lions in Bledlow urgently needed attention. Cllr Reading added that the white lines on Lee Road were also in need of attention.

**Action: Clerk**

10.9. Cllr Butler reported that Thames Water had been carrying out extensive and ongoing roadworks on Chinnor Road and that there had been issues with leaks.

10.10. Cllr Castle reported that he had completed the Q2 bank reconciliation and that all was in order.

**11. Members of the Public**

Mr and Mrs Walker reported that the footpath from Bledlow Village Hall towards West Lane was very overgrown and needed attention.

Cllr Bendyshe-Brown asked for an update on Bledlow Cross following his previous requests for action. The clerk reported that she has twice contacted Neil Taylor from the Carington Estate to ask for an update but that no response had been received. It was agreed that he would be chased again.

**12. Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....