



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 4th
January 2018 at 7.30pm

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

County and District Councillor: C Etholen
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mike Blackwell.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2017

The minutes were approved following a proposal by Cllr Butler which was seconded by Cllr Bird. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

3. Broadband

3.1. Prior to the meeting, Cllr Breese had proposed the following motion:

"To authorise a Freedom of Information request that shall be made at the Chairman's discretion on the advice of the Broadband Working Group to Wycombe District Council and others in support of the work of the Broadband Working Group."

Cllr Breese explained the reasoning behind his motion stating that whilst there had been lots of cooperation from Jacqueline Ford at Wycombe District Council (WDC) following her attendance at the Parish Council meeting in November, the Broadband Working Group (BBWG) were still waiting to receive the postcode level data they had requested and been promised. This may be because WDC do not have the information or it may be because BT have not provided the information. The BBWG are not yet at the point of needing to implement a Freedom of Information (FOI) request however, due to the working processes and timings of the parish council, they would like prior approval in place should a request be required. Cllr Breese assured the council that a FOI request would not be applied unless it was needed and that this motion was merely delegating the FOI to the BBWG. He stressed the importance of the BBWG continuing to be assertive if they are to continue making progress.

A lengthy discussion ensued whereby the pros and cons of pre-approving a FOI request were debated. Cllr Breese formally proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr Sage. Cllr Reading put the motion to the council and it was approved with 4 councillors voting for, 1 against (Cllr Lord) and 2 abstentions (Cllrs Cox and Castle). Cllr Reading did not vote.

3.2. Cllr Reading informed the council that BT had turned on cabinet 2 before Christmas and that BT had been advertising fast broadband to some residents when they were not able to receive it.

4. Planning Matters

4.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

4.2. The clerk mentioned that Cllr Blackwell had expressed concerns that he felt he was not qualified to judge new planning applications against the Neighbourhood Plan and that he thought the council should consider employing someone on a case by case basis to help. The council, whilst fully understanding of Cllr Blackwell's concerns, agreed that it would not be necessary to employ anybody and that they were all willing to offer support and advice to Cllr Blackwell where needed.

4.3. The clerk reported that she had spoken to the planning enforcement officers regarding the outbuildings at Rocworth House, Bledlow Ridge. They agreed that there should have been an investigation into the outbuildings however could find no record of it on their system. They advised that the clerk report the issue again. The clerk has done this.

5. Application for grants

An application had been received from the Chilterns Conservation Board for £500 to help with their work in protecting and enhancing the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cllr Lord proposed that the grant be supported, seconded by Cllr Sage. The council unanimously supported the decision.

6. Authorisation of payments

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – November 2017	£458.33		£458.33
	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£69.97	£4.19	£74.16
	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£33.50	£6.70	£40.20
	John Law rence	Grass cutting	£64.00		£64.00
	Total for month		£625.80	£10.89	£636.69

7. 2018/2019 Budget

The draft budget was discussed with the following issues covered:

- a) The clerk reported that the Transparency Fund grant application to NALC had been submitted asking for approximately £2,000 of funding towards a PC and scanner for the clerk and WordPress training etc. The conditions of the grant state that a parish council must have had an annual turnover of less than £25,000 in order to be eligible. Since Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council's accounts have shown a turnover of more than £25,000 in recent years it is unlikely that the application will be successful however the clerk has explained the annual accounts to NALC, specifically that the Neighbourhood Plan, amongst other items, had inflated the councils financial position. It was agreed that provision should be put in the budget for the £2000 so that the items can still be purchased if the grant is not provided.
- b) The clerk had received notification from WDC that there are S106 monies available to be spent. £1,005 is available for Environmental Improvements and £4,835 is available for Open Space. It was agreed that the Open Space funding would be ideal for the Bledlow playground improvements.
- c) The LAF have money available for non-transport related projects. It was agreed that the clerk would apply for funding towards the Bledlow Playground and also towards the purchase of community SpeedWatch equipment.
- d) £1000 should be added to the budget for each bus stop the parish council owns as several are falling into disrepair and require renovation.
- e) It was proposed by Cllr Breese, seconded by Cllr Lord, that the overall precept level in the parish remain at the same level as the previous year, £18,144 plus whatever CTS Grant is available.
- f) £1000 should be allocated in the budget for the maintenance of Bledlow Cross.

8. Bledlow Charities

Cllr Castle explained that, prior to the December meeting, he had stood down as a trustee of the Bledlow Consolidated Charities. The Chairman of the charities had acknowledged Cllr Castle as a parish council trustee and therefore it was thought a replacement was required and Cllr Sage was nominated and elected at the December 2017 meeting. Upon further investigation however it appears that Cllr Castle was a co-opted trustee, not a parish council trustee, and therefore the election of Cllr Sage was erroneous. In order to unwind a valid motion, written notice is required by three councillors and this was provided prior to the meeting by Cllrs Castle, Reading and Sage. Therefore, Cllr Castle proposed *“to reverse the resolution passed at the December 2017 meeting of the Parish Council to appoint Cllr Sage as a Parish Council Nominated Trustee of the charity”*. The motion was seconded by Cllr Bird and unanimously approved.

9. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

9.1. The clerk reported that she had received confirmation from the Carington Estate that they would be open to a volunteer group conducting annual maintenance work on Bledlow Cross. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Historic England to find out if there were any guidelines as to the kind of work that could and should be done in these situations.

9.2. The clerk informed the council that she had been in touch with Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC) regarding work being undertaken in 40mph zones as advised by Cllr Bendyshe-Brown at December's meeting. PRTC confirmed that work may be undertaken only if risk assessments are

conducted and satisfactory. The clerk will collate ideas from councillors for work in 40mph zones and request risk assessments from PRTC.

- 9.3. The clerk had once again been contacted by John Lawrence regarding the bin he is holding for the council. It was agreed that, as it is a concrete bin, it is probably out of date and should be disposed of. It was also agreed that the clerk would continue to find out how to add new bins into collection routes so that more bins can be installed in the parish. Cllr Etholen provided some useful contact details.
- 9.4. The clerk reported that she had received notification from WDC that 3 residents and Lacey Green Parish Council had applied for a Local Governance Review for a minor adjustment to the parish boundary involving moving the boundary to follow the A4010 and the addition of 3 properties to the BcS parish. No further action is required at the moment.
- 9.5. The clerk advised that she was still waiting on guidance notes to be issued from BALC regarding the Data Protection changes that will be coming in to force in May but that there does not seem to be anything major that effects the parish.
- 9.6. Cllr Cox raised the issue of the overgrown hedge that is hanging over the verge outside Meadow Styles. He offered to meet John Lawrence at the site in order to discuss what clearance was required.
- 9.7. Cllr Sage suggested that the parish council should have its own Facebook page. It was agreed that this was generally a good idea however concerns were raised over maintenance of the page. It was agreed that the clerk would contact other parishes to see how they manage their Facebook pages.
- 9.8. Cllr Lord reported that he had received confirmation from Thames Valley Police as to the recommended SpeedWatch equipment that the parish council could purchase. Cllr Lord was now investigating the suggested equipment and asking for quotes and will report back to the council. Cllr Lord reported that PC Turnham was due to return to his SpeedWatch duties at the end of February.
- 9.9. Cllr Butler reported that security at the Molins site seemed lax and the children were using the property as a skate park. It was agreed that the all the parish council can do is report the issue to the landowner St Congar.
- 9.10. Cllr Butler reported that the car park at Bledlow Village hall had several large potholes and that there were lots of potholes in general on the roads at the moment.
- 9.11. Cllr Etholen reported that the decision on a Unitary Authority had been delayed until later in 2018.

10. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 1st February 2018 at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....