



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday
1st February 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Nigel Cox and County and District Councillor Carl Etholen.

2. Dispensations

Prior to the meeting Cllr Castle had requested a motion be added to the agenda regarding an appeal against the approval of planning application 17/08186/VCDN (land between The Orchard and Crofters, Bledlow Ridge). Cllr Castle had also declared a pecuniary interest in the motion and requested a dispensation to take part in the discussions and any vote on the matter. Cllr Reading explained the situation to the council and, following a discussion, asked the council to vote on whether or not Cllr Castle should be allowed to stay in the room whilst the motion was discussed. The vote was unanimous in agreeing that Cllr Castle could remain present. Cllr Reading then asked the councillors to vote on whether or not Cllr Castle could present his motion and have a right to reply following a debate. 5 councillors voted in favour of this with 2 abstentions. Cllr Reading then asked the council if they thought Cllr Castle should be able to vote on his proposed motion. The council were unanimous in their opinion that he should not be allowed to vote (Cllr Castle abstained from voting on this matter).

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th January 2018

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.

4. Broadband

Cllr Reading provided an update from the Broadband Working Group (BBWG) stating that little progress had been made since the previous meeting and that work was continuing with Jacqueline Ford at Wycombe District Council (WDC) in order to obtain further details from Connected Counties regarding the planned upgrade of Broadband provisions in the parish. The BBWG now had a contact at Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) that may be able to help further however it was anticipated that the previously approved Freedom of Information (FOI) request would be executed soon due to the lack of information received so far.

5. Planning Matters

5.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

5.2. There was a discussion surrounding the parish council's response to application 17/08186/VCDN (land between The Orchard and Crofters, Bledlow Ridge). The original deadline for consultee comments on the application had been the 27th December 2017 however the clerk had requested an extension due to the holiday period and late notice of amendments to the plans. The planning officer, Stephanie Penney, had agreed to grant the council until 17th January 2018 to submit a response. The Bledlow Ridge Ward councillors discussed the application via email and submitted a question to Ms Penney regarding the possibility of roof lights being installed at a later date without planning permission. Ms Penney replied informing the councillors that further planning permission would be required for roof light windows. The parish council received notification on 16th January 2018 that the application had been approved. The Bledlow Ridge Ward councillors had not formally submitted an objection to the clerk as they were still working to the 17th January deadline. However it was noted that the query regarding roof lights sent to Ms Penney via email had been included in the Officer's report and therefore taken into consideration when the decision was made despite not being logged separately on the website.

5.3. Cllr Castle, prior to the meeting, submitted the motion "*to consider and, if thought fit, to resolve to*

appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision of Wycombe District Council as Local Planning Authority to grant planning permission in respect of Planning Application 17-08186-VCDN on the grounds that such permission is in breach of specific provisions of the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Neighbourhood Plan”.

Cllr Castle stated that there were two purposes to this motion: to revoke the planning permission granted in respect of the application and to show that the parish council will not be pushed around by WDC overruling the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Cllr Castle also confirmed that the decision notice states that if any party is aggrieved by the decision they are able to appeal the Secretary of State under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. He referred to the site plan, his objection and objection by Derek Stone, all of which he had circulated to the council prior to the meeting.

An in-depth discussion took place covering whether or not the application was in breach of the NP in terms of size and impact on views. It was concluded that, although several councillors would like to be able to object to the proposed development, the plans actually conform to the NP. It was also noted that any appeal would be made against WDC rather than the developers and the council were reluctant to take this path given that WDC had generally been very supportive of the plan. An appeal would also be costly.

Cllr Reading asked for a seconder for the motion. No councillors were prepared to second the motion and therefore the motion was not taken forward to a vote.

6. Application for grants

None had been received.

7. Authorisation of payments

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

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – January 2018	£458.33		£458.33
	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£74.48		£74.48
	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying	£54.80	£10.96	£65.76
	Chilterns Conservation Board	Donation	£500.00		£500.00
	BALC	Book – Local Councils Explained	£17.99		£17.99
	Total for month		£1,105.60	£10.96	£1,116.56

8. 2018/2019 Budget

The draft budget was reviewed and proposed for adoption by Cllr Castle, seconded by Cllr Breese and unanimously agreed by all present.

9. Quarterly Financial Review

The clerk presented the summary accounts for Q3 of 2017/2018. A discussion ensued regarding the importance of fully understanding and gaining control of the devolved services agreement with WDC and the clerk will look into this. The figures were noted by the councillors and the financial records passed on to Cllr Castle in order for the quarterly bank reconciliation to be completed.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Castle

10. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

10.1. Cllr Lord reported that a community clear up of Bledlow Ridge was planned for Sunday 4th March 2018.

10.2. Cllr Lord reported that he had received a letter from Mark Kemp, (Director Growth, Strategies and Highways at BCC) stating that BCC had no restrictions on community SpeedWatch schemes above those stipulated by Thames Valley Police. He also reported that PC Turnham would be returning to SpeedWatch duties during February. The clerk informed Cllr Lord that a request had been received from a resident for some SpeedWatch sessions to be conducted in the 30mph zone at the Red Lane end of Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge. The clerk also reported that she had applied to the LAF for funding towards the purchase of SpeedWatch equipment.

10.3. Cllr Breese complained that there had been several incidents recently of branches and trees

falling onto the highways, specifically along Perry Lane, Bledlow. Cllr Breese requested that landowners adjacent to highways be contacted in order to remind them of their duties in maintaining trees next to highways. Cllr Sage reported that there were similar issues on Radnage Lane, the clerk will report the obstructions to Transport for Bucks.

Action: Clerk

- 10.4. Cllr Sage advised the council that the Meadow Styles Playground Parents Group were intending on purchasing some new equipment and may require the council to process the payments using the funds that they hold for the group. The clerk advised that she was in the process of liaising with the Cricket Club in Bledlow Ridge regarding the installation of a new access gate at the Meadow Styles Playground but it was agreed that if progress was not made the council would write a letter supporting the request.
- 10.5. Cllr Sage informed the council that he had attended a recent "Chalk, Cherries and Chairs" event hosted by the Chilterns Conservation Board and that there are lots of planned projects that the parish council and local residents can get involved with, for example the set-up of a community orchard in Saunderton and the preservation of chalk streams in Bledlow.
- 10.6. Cllr Sage revisited the issue of the parish council setting up a Facebook page which had briefly been discussed at the previous meeting. The clerk reported that she had been in touch with Chinnor Parish Council to find out how they run and manage their page, they had been very helpful and had stated that the page takes about half an hour each day to maintain. The clerk was concerned about the amount of time it would take to manage a Facebook page and suggested an online presence that would be able to post important information onto other already established pages. It was decided that this would be set up as a first step and monitored to see if a full page would be feasible. Whilst discussing methods of communication, Cllr Breese requested that the parish council's website be updated to show less of a focus on the Neighbourhood Plan. He also requested that the information published in the parish newsletters should contain more of a summary of the parish council's work. The clerk agreed to update the website and provide a summary in the newsletters.
- Action: Clerk**
- 10.7. Cllr Sage reported that a previously-seen property scam had appeared again whereby small plots of land at the bottom of Haw Lane are being offered for sale despite having no access to the land.
- 10.8. Cllr Reading reported that the Hearing Dogs had displayed lots of notices advising they had applied for a licence for live music. It was noted that the parish council are not consulted regarding licence applications however local residents might like to have some input.
- 10.9. Cllr Reading reported that some white lines in Saunderton had recently been repainted. Cllr Breese mentioned that the previously mentioned white lines in Bledlow were still in need of being reinstated. The clerk advised that she had reported the issue to Transport for Bucks (TFB).
- 10.10. Cllr Reading notified the council that farmers had recently removed some old hedgerows in Saunderton. He had, prior to the meeting, asked Cllr Cox for some advice and Cllr Cox had provided some excellent information on the rules surrounding hedgerow management and had advised waiting to see if the hedge was going to be replanted before taking any action.
- 10.11. The clerk reported that she had asked for the S106 monies for Open Spaces projects to be used towards the Bledlow Village Hall playground renovation.
- 10.12. Cllr Blackwell advised that Slough Lane, Saunderton would be closed on 2nd February.
- 10.13. Cllrs Bird and Butler both enquired as the progress of bin replacement in the parish as it has been ongoing for several months. The clerk stated that she was still having problems locating contacts at WDC or BCC that could help despite utilising the contacts passed on by Cllrs Bendyshe-Brown and Etholen. The clerk will continue to work on this issue.

Action: Clerk

11. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 1st March 2018 starting immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Parish which will begin at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....