



# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>  
March 2018 at 7.50pm

*(The meeting had been postponed from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March due to snow. The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held immediately prior to the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council)*

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

Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

County and District Councillor Carl Etholen (arrived at 8.50pm)

Mike Britnell

2 Members of the public

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Nigel Cox and Anthony Lord. County and District Councillor Carl Etholen had advised that he would be arriving late to the meeting.

## 2. Dispensations

None

## 3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Cllr Castle suggested some minor amendments to the minutes regarding some wording in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3. The clerk amended the minutes by hand. The minutes were then approved following a proposal by Cllr Castle, seconded by Cllr Blackwell. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

## 4. Broadband

Minutes from the Broadband Working Group (BBWG) had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Reading provided an update stating that there had been some confusion over a new cabinet that was being shown as active on the BT website for some residents however in reality this is not the case. It is anticipated that the cabinet will be switched in the next month. A 5<sup>th</sup> cabinet in Bledlow Ridge however is already operational. Cllr Reading advised that following last month's meeting a letter had been sent to John Rippon at Bucks County Council (BCC) asking for further information on the project. At the time of the meeting a reply was yet to be received however the clerk had received an acknowledgement of the letter and had been advised that a reply would be issued in the next couple of days. The issue of a faculty being applied for by Bledlow Church for the Rapid Rural installation had been raised at the Annual Parish Meeting and Cllr Reading confirmed that this would be discussed in more detail by the BBWG at their forthcoming meeting in order to determine what was causing the delay.

## 5. Planning Matters

5.1. Two members of the public were present to discuss planning application 18/05178/FUL on Shootacre Lane and in particular to question why the Parish Council had objected to the application. Cllrs Breese and Sage explained the planning application process and that the Parish Council is merely asked to comment as a consultee. They also explained the reasons why the objection had been submitted and advised that the owners of the property consult with Wycombe District Council's (WDC) planning department and their architect in order to resolve the issues.

5.2. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

5.3. Cllr Breese, during February, had reported to the clerk that work was being undertaken at Warren Cottage, Upper Icknield Way for what appeared to be foundations for a wall to the front of the property. As this is contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan the clerk had reported the issue to the planning enforcement team at WDC. Subsequently Cllr Breese had established that the trenches will be used to plant a laurel hedge. The council were concerned about this but admitted that there was little that could be done other than to write to the owners to encourage them to use native species and to consider the loss of view that would happen if a hedge is planted.

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5.4. Cllr Sage alerted the council to the presence of new barbed wire fencing that had been installed on the Upper Icknield Way. There was some concern that the fence had been positioned on public land several metres from the boundary with the result that the pathway was now much narrower and would cause problems for the upcoming Ridge Off Roader cross country running event due to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Breese had spoken to Rupert Carington about the fence who had stated that it had been installed in order to prevent fly-tipping. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Neil Taylor of the Carington Estate to ask if anything could be done about the fence prior to the running event and that a letter should also be written to BCC once the boundary line had been established.

**Action: Clerk**

5.5. Cllr Sage reported that he had notice a statement on the St Congar website which advised that a reduced development scheme was being worked on and would be submitted in late 2018.

5.6. During February it had been brought to the attention of the council that a prior notification application had been made with respect to converting the Clare Charity building in Sauderton into apartments. Due to the nature of the application, the council have not been asked to submit a comment. A discussion took place as to whether or not the council would object to the proposals based on loss of employment or if the plans would be welcomed as a way of creating new housing without impacting the parish. It was decided that Cllr Reading would draft a letter of support for the application but would also request a new public space in Sauderton to be considered as part of the plans. Cllr Breese queried whether the council would be eligible for CIL monies from the development, the clerk will confirm if this is the case.

**Action: Clerk**

## **6. Application for grants**

No formal applications for grants had been received however there were several areas of future financing that were discussed:

6.1. Mike Britnell of Bledlow Village Hall updated the council on plans for the refurbishment of the playground. He said that the committee had looked at various options and were leaning towards a refurbishment at a cost of around £3000 rather than a completely new installation which would cost approximately £30,000. The clerk reminded Mr Britnell that there was £4835 available in S106 monies for Open Spaces that had been earmarked for the Bledlow playground.

6.2. The clerk advised the council that she had met with Cllr Cox and Ian Darkin to discuss renovations of the bus shelters in the parish. Mr Darkin had submitted very thorough quotes totalling approximately £2,000 for the shelters in Sauderton and Bledlow. Mr Darkin had also kindly offered to renovate the Bledlow Ridge bus shelter for no charge other than the materials to be used (approximately £100) as a way to give back to the village where he lives and as a demonstration of his skills. It was acknowledged that £6,000 had been set aside in the budget for the work on the bus shelters but that 2 further quotes would be needed before a decision could be made on whether or not to go ahead with Mr Darkin's proposals. It was agreed however that the council would accept Mr Darkin's kind offer to restore the Bledlow Ridge shelter.

6.3. Cllr Etholen explained to the council that parking around Sauderton station had become dangerous with roads being blocked, waste disposal lorries being unable to complete their rounds and access for emergency vehicles being compromised. He proposed to use £800 from his BCC Community Leaders Fund to pay for a survey of residents of Sauderton Vale, Slough Lane and Deanfield to ascertain if there was an appetite for parking restrictions (e.g. no parking between 10am-11am and 2pm-3pm, Monday to Friday) to be introduced in order to prevent commuters from parking around the station all day. Cllr Etholen will lead the project and organise the survey from Transport for Bucks (TfB) however, as he is unable to pay TfB directly from the fund, the payment will need to be made to TfB by the Parish Council and he had therefore arranged for £800 to be transferred in to the council's accounts from the BCC fund.

6.4. The clerk reported that the LAF had confirmed £1,033 of funding would be made available to the Parish Council towards the purchase of SpeedWatch equipment.

## **7. Bank Reconciliation**

Cllr Castle reported that he had completed the bank reconciliation for the third quarter of 2017/2018. All was in order apart from a discrepancy of £0.76 between the prepared accounts and the bank statement

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from the NS&I account which was due to the timing of the statement being received.

**8. Authorisation of payments**

The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Castle, seconded by Cllr Sage. A second payment of £4,533.90 to Windsor Solar in respect of the Bledlow Ridge Village Hall solar panel project was not approved as it was decided that Parish Council could only pay for the grant of £4,500 plus VAT that it had made towards the project. The remainder would need to be paid for the Village Hall directly even though they had agreed to refund the difference to the Parish Council.

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – February 2018	£458.33		£458.33
	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£10.00		£10.00
	Windsor Solar	BRVH Solar Panel Project	£2,590.80	£647.70	£3,238.5
	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Meadow Styles – new equipment	£1,708.55	£341.71	£2,050.26
	<b>Total for month</b>		<b>£4,767.68</b>	<b>£989.41</b>	<b>£5,757.09</b>

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

9.1. Cllr Etholen advised that it had been decided that BCC would be increasing Council Tax by 5.99% for 2018/2019 and that WDC would also be increasing Council Tax by the equivalent of £5 per household per year.

9.2. Cllr Butler reported that there was a large accumulation of rubbish outside the Molins property on Haw Lane. It was agreed the clerk would report this to St Congar and TfB.

**Action: Clerk**

9.3. Cllr Butler reported that the hedge at the bottom of Haw Lane was very overgrown, the clerk will report this to TfB.

**Action: Clerk**

9.4. Cllr Butler asked about progress on installing new bins in the parish. The clerk advised that she had been continuing to find out who was responsible for this, including liaising with Princes Risborough Town Council, but still had not been able to find out who could help. Cllr Etholen reported that a similar issue was present in Bradenham Parish Council and that they had been advised by WDC that installing new bins would encourage more rubbish. It was agreed that the clerk should investigate the cost of private bin installations and servicing.

**Action: Clerk**

9.5. Cllr Blackwell reported that death of Jeff Brooks of Hillview, Saunderton and that his widow was struggling to sell their property due to ongoing issue of the large trees alongside. Whilst the Parish Council were very sympathetic to her plight it was agreed that there was nothing they could do. Cllr Etholen agreed to contact the WDC arborculturalist regarding the problem.

**Action: Cllr Etholen**

9.6. In his absence, Cllr Cox had asked the clerk to raise the issue of timings that had occurred in respect of the planning application for a new property in Bledlow Ridge between The Orchard and Crofters on Chinnor Road. As discussed last month the planning officer had granted the council until 17<sup>th</sup> January to submit their comments yet the decision to approve the application was made on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the planning department at WDC to complain about the timings.

**Action: Clerk**

9.7. In his absence, Cllr Cox had asked the clerk to enquire whether PC Turnham had returned to his SpeedWatch duties. Cllr Etholen confirmed that a new date for his return had been set for May however there was still uncertainty as to if he would return at all.

9.8. Cllr Cox had asked the clerk to report that the hedge in Saunderton that had been reported as cut down last month had now been replanted.

9.9. Cllr Sage reported that the Chilterns Conservation Board had asked him if the Parish Council would write a letter supporting their “Chalk, Cherries and Chairs” project. It was agreed that the council

would.

**Action: Clerk**

9.10. Cllr Breese suggested contacting the chairman of the Princes Risborough to Chinnor railway to propose the reinstallation of the Bledlow halt on the line now that it had been expanded to Princes Risborough. The parish council could potentially give a grant towards such a project as it would encourage visitors to the cricket ground and The Lions public house. Cllr Sage commented that a similar idea was being considered by the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs scheme of the Chiltern Conservation Board.

**Action: Cllr Breese**

9.11. Cllr Breese commented that the latest Parish Council contribution to the parish newsletters was improved but that the formatting alongside information from BALC had been confusing. The clerk agreed to amend the formatting.

**Action: Clerk**

**10. Members of the Public**

Mike Britnell asked how the council were planning on reducing their significant reserves. The clerk highlighted the expenditure planned in the recently approved budget and also explained that much of the reserves were already ring-fenced for various causes such as the Meadow Styles hypothecated funds and CIL monies.

**11. Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....