



# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese, P Castle, N Cox, A Lord, S  
Reading (Chairman) and A Sage.  
County and District Councillor: Carl Etholen  
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor June Butler.

## 2. Dispensations

Cllr Castle requested permission to partake in discussions surrounding breaches of planning at the house between Crofters and The Orchard, Bledlow Ridge, an item where he has previously declared a pecuniary interest. The council voted unanimously to let Cllr Castle contribute to the discussions.

## 3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

3.1. The minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council were approved following a proposal by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Blackwell. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

3.2. The minutes of the ordinary meeting were manually amended following a request by Cllr Cox to add the fact that he had informed the clerk of the date when previous grants had been supplied to Bledlow Village Hall in respect of their playground works. Once amended, the minutes were approved following a proposal by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Bird. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

## 4. Outstanding Actions

The clerk worked through a list of all actions outstanding from previous meetings. Progress had been made in the following areas:

4.1. Salt bins – the clerk had ascertained that a new salt bin would cost £450 to be installed. Cllr Etholen offered to fund a new salt bin for The City from his ward allowance. It was agreed that further bins should also be installed at the Church Lane carpark and at the Anderson Crossroads (Upper Icknield Way/Lee Road/Bledlow Road). The clerk agreed to make these requests to Transport for Bucks (TfB) and establish the processes involved.

4.2. Cllr Reading and the clerk had met with Mark Averill, Head of Highways at Bucks County Council (BCC), to ensure that the devolved services contract was fully understood. It was a successful meeting and the parish council are keeping up with their obligations. The subject of “verge gardening” was raised with Mr Averill and his opinion was that there was little the Highways department could do about the situation however where actual planting had taken place, a cultivation licence should be obtained from BCC. It was agreed the clerk would investigate this further and ask for written clarification from Mr Averill.

4.3. Speedwatch – A former police officer, Les Owens, has offered to help with the SpeedWatch programme going forward.

4.4. It was agreed that information should be put into the parish magazines in respect of verge gardening, hedge and footpath maintenance etc.

4.5. Princes Risborough Town Council have stated that they will not be able to help with the parish grass cutting for the rest of the summer as they are short staffed. The clerk will find a replacement contractor ASAP for this season but a new working group will be formed to oversee the process of scoping a new contract and putting it out to tender in order to find a more permanent replacement for John Lawrence. Cllrs Sage and Bird asked to be part of the working group and it was suggested that

Cllr Butler would also be a useful member.

**5. Broadband**

Cllr Reading provided an update from the Broadband Working Group (BBWG). The Connected Counties roll out appears to have slowed down in recent months. The BBWG have written to Jacqueline Ford at Wycombe District Council (WDC) in relation to the slow progress and also to enquire about cabinets that are showing as being “live” online but which do not appear to be operational in reality. The BBWG plan to meet shortly with representatives from Holy Trinity church in Bledlow regarding the faculty application for a permanent wireless installation. Cllr Reading highlighted the fact that the parish council still have 4G equipment available for residents to borrow and trial.

**6. Planning Matters**

- 6.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.
- 6.2. It was noted that a new Prior Notification application had been submitted in respect of the Clare Charity Centre in Saunderton increasing the number of proposed flats from 59 to 85. The parish council had not been consulted on this as it is not a planning application. It was concluded that there is little the council can do until a formal planning application is submitted.
- 6.3. Work has been continuing on the new build house on the land adjacent to The Orchards, Bledlow Ridge. There has been concern from several councillors that work appears to be taking place that is against the approved plans and conditions, including: the way the roof is being built implies a living space has been created; roof lights in the house; dormer windows and an extra doorway in the garage; destruction of vegetation across the plot; the construction of a high wooden wall; and the fact that a new entrance was not made prior to construction commencing.
- 6.4. A discussion ensued more generally on the subject of planning enforcement. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to actively monitor developments to ensure that they adhere to the approved plans and conditions, and that any apparent breaches should be reported to the parish council for onward transmission to the Planning Enforcement Team at WDC.
- 6.5. The clerk confirmed that all of the issues had been reported to the planning enforcement team at WDC and agreed to follow up on the issue as soon as possible.

**7. Chilterns National Park**

The parish council have been asked to provide their thoughts to David Lidington MP in respect of recent proposals to make the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty a National Park. It was agreed that the discussion of this should be postponed to the July meeting. In the meantime the clerk will make further enquiries of David Lidington as to exactly what the proposals entail.

**Action: Clerk**

**8. Application for grants**

None had been received.

**9. Authorisation of payments**

The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Sage.

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100741	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – May 2018	£458.33		£458.33
100742	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£167.37	£29.14	£196.51
100743	TBS Hygiene Ltd	Bin emptying April 2018	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
100744	Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	2018 meeting rent	£210.00		£210.00
100745	Princes Risborough Town Council	Grass cutting	£226.60	£45.32	£271.92
100746	BALC	Annual subscription fees 2018/2019	£366.68		£366.68
	<b>Total for month</b>		<b>£1,456.98</b>	<b>£80.06</b>	<b>£1,537.04</b>

**10. 2017/2018 Annual Return**

The clerk presented the figures for the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The council approved the figures after a proposal by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Bird. The Chairman signed the Annual Return

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

11.1. Cllr Etholen reported that new software had been introduced by Transport for Bucks (TfB) to facilitate the reporting of issues.

11.2. Cllr Etholen updated the council on the proposals for addressing inconsiderate parking on the roads around Saunderton station. Cllr Etholen had met with Kirk Adams from TfB to discuss the issue and what would be required in respect of double yellow lines, parking bays and a resident permit scheme. The estimate for the total cost is circa £12,000 with £6,000 coming from the LAF to be match funded. Cllr Etholen has already provided £800 to the parish council from his ward budget and it is hoped the developers of the new Saints Hill houses will also contribute. Kirk Adams will finalise the costings and keep Cllr Etholen informed of the next steps required.

**Action: Cllr Etholen**

11.3. Cllr Cox asked why the gate post at the entrance to Bledlow on the Chinnor Road had not been painted when it was repaired. The clerk advised that this had been down to the cost of the repairs at the time. It was agreed that this would be added to the list of jobs to complete.

**Action: Clerk**

11.4. Cllr Cox asked about the tyre that is situated in the layby at Wigans Lane. It was agreed that the clerk would contact the Carington Estate to find out if it needed to be there.

**Action: Clerk**

11.5. The clerk raised the issue of parking on Haw Lane as she had received several complaints from local residents. The parish council discussed this issue and agreed that the current issues were resulting from lots of properties undertaking building work at the moment.

11.6. The clerk updated the council on the General Data Protection Regulations. The parish council has been registered with the information commission (iCo). The clerk believes the council is in compliance with all other aspects of the new regulations but will attend a training course in November to ensure this is the case.

11.7. Cllr Reading advised that he had been contacted by the Molins Action Group (MAG) for advice regarding remaining funds as the group is no longer active. Cllr Breese suggested the funds should be donated to Bledlow Charities which was unanimously supported by the other councillors. It was agreed that this was a good idea and Cllr Reading agreed to make MAG aware of the suggestion.

**Action: Cllr Reading**

11.8. The clerk reported that she had received notification from Bledlow Charities that Cllr Sage had been nominated as a trustee and that he would become Chair from August.

11.9. Cllr Sage enquired as to the progress with the bus stop renovations in the parish. The clerk advised that Ian Darkin had offered to refurbish the Bledlow Ridge bus stop over the summer free of charge other than the material costs. Once that refurbishment has been completed the council will be able to decide if they would like Mr Darkin to continue with the other bus stops in the parish.

11.10. Cllr Bird reported that some footpath signs had been installed in the wrong positions. She will liaise with the clerk so that the issue can be resolved.

**Action: Cllr Bird and Clerk**

11.11. Cllr Lord asked if the defunct phone booth in Bledlow Ridge could be removed. The clerk agreed to look into this.

**Action: Clerk**

**12. Next meeting**

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

Signed.....

Date.....