



# BLEDLow-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 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 (Vice Chairman)  
County and District Councillor: Carl Etholen  
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay  
Korinne Leney and Phil Roberts

## 1. Apologies for absence

None.

## 2. Dispensations

None.

## 3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The minutes were approved following a proposal by Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Bird. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

## 4. Payment to PA Spittles

It was noted that a payment of £5,938.80 due to PA Spittles Landscaping for work on Beldow playground had been erroneously omitted from the payment schedule for the December 2018 meeting. In order to ensure the payment was made on time and to avoid the accrual of interest the clerk utilised paragraph 5.5a of the Financial Regulations to authorise the payment and met with Cllrs Butler, Bird, Lord, Cox and Sage on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in order for a cheque to be signed.

## 5. Saunderton Parking Scheme

Following the vote at last month's meeting to not provide match funding for a parking scheme in Saunderton, Cllr Reading reintroduced the discussion as new information had come to light about how the project could proceed. Korinne Leney of Bucks County Council (BCC) advised that the project did not have to be black and white and that there was flexibility in how the LAF funding could be used. 2 options had been proposed for the Saunderton scheme: 1) if there are concerns around the implementation of the project an order could be raised just for the consultation part of the project or 2) the parish council could agree to match fund the entire scheme but add a clause whereby no work is agreed until the parish council has given approval. She also pointed out that match funding only asks for a funding commitment and no money is actually requested until the project is finished to the parish council's satisfaction.

The council decided that it would be necessary for any scheme to have the residents' approval. Phil Roberts advised that a feasibility study would be required in order to ascertain the view of residents as that was not included in the LAF proposals. Cllr Cox and Cllr Sage formally proposed that the Parish Council should fund an informal consultation of the residents of the Saunderton settlement area with respect to parking in the area. Cllr Castle seconded the proposal and a vote passed the motion with the majority in favour. Cllr Sage agreed to discuss the consultation with Cllr Blackwell and come up with a proposal.

**Action: Cllrs Sage & Blackwell**

## 6. Outstanding Actions

The clerk ran through an updated outstanding actions schedule. Not much progress had been made due to the Christmas holidays however items of note included:

6.1. The representative from Historic England who had been due to meet with Cllr Sage regarding the refurbishment of Bledlow Cross is now on maternity leave. The clerk will continue to pursue a meeting with her replacement as soon as possible.

6.2. The order for the SpeedWatch device had been placed with Unipar and the clerk is waiting to hear when the equipment will be received.

## 7. Broadband

Cllr Reading had no significant updates for the council. Cllr Breese reported that properties in North Mill Road were now connected to Fibre and are reporting speeds of approximately 7mbps which falls well below the projections made by BT and the country average of 10mbps. It was pointed out that this means BT are not delivering on the promises they have made to residents.

#### 8. Devolved Services Working Group

Cllr Sage had received all of the information from the clerk regarding parish maintenance and the devolved services agreement and will be putting together a document for circulation to other members of the group.

**Action: Cllr Sage**

#### 9. Planning Matters

9.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

9.2. Cllr Reading informed the council that St Congar would like to attend a parish council meeting to obtain the thoughts and concerns of the council in respect of developing the former Molins site on Haw Lane. It was agreed that a discussion about Molins would be added to the agenda for the February meeting in order to enable the formulation of a general viewpoint before inviting St Congar at a later date. Cllr Sage advised that he would circulate information gathered from residents during the Neighbourhood Plan consultation with regards to the Molins development. It was also agreed that, as a large amount of CIL money could be generated by any potential development, the council need to fully understand the rules and regulations surrounding how the money should be spent and therefore CIL money should also be discussed at the February meeting.

#### 10. Application for grants

None.

#### 11. Authorisation of payments

11.1. The following payments were approved following proposal by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Sage:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – December 2018	£458.33		£458.33
	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£10.00		£10.00
	TBS Hygiene	Bin emptying November & December 2018	£63.00	£12.60	£75.60
	<b>Total for month</b>		<b>£531.33</b>	<b>£12.60</b>	<b>£543.93</b>

11.2. Cllr Reading proposed a motion to include the following paragraph as an amendment to the Financial Regulations to remove a loophole whereby VAT avoidance could potentially be exploited:

*“The Parish Council will only authorise payments for goods & services when the Parish Council have contracted directly with the supplier of said goods and services. The Parish Council will not accept, or by action or precedent be assumed to have accepted liability or accountability for payments where the contractual relationship is between two or more parties not including the Parish Council”*

Cllr Castle seconded the motion and it was put to the vote where it was passed with 7 councillors voting for and 2 abstentions (Cllrs Breese and Cox). The clerk will amend the Financial Regulations accordingly.

**Action: Clerk**

#### 12. Standing Orders and Dispensations

Cllr Breese had asked for Standing Orders to be discussed as he was becoming concerned that “red tape” was preventing the parish council from operating in a responsible manner. He did however feel reassured that the issue with the PA Spittles payment had been resolved satisfactorily within the rules but continued to urge that the council be allowed to operate as freely as possible. In this vain he queried the rules on dispensations and what happens if a councillor is unaware of an issue before a meeting and therefore unable to submit a written dispensation. Cllr Castle and the clerk stated that the dispensation process was set in law and could not be altered however Cllr Castle offered to draft a template dispensation document that could be used at the start of meetings. It was agreed that this would be a good solution.

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

13.1. Cllr Cox suggested that the council consider looking into a subscription or licence for the clerk to have access to the Land Registry so that searches could be done as required rather than having to pay for each individual search. The council agreed this was a good idea and it was suggested that the clerk contact BALC for further guidance.

**Action: Clerk**

13.2. The clerk advised that notice had been received that district, town and parish council elections due in May 2019 had been postponed to May 2020 as a result of the new unitary authority being approved. Bledlow-cum-Saunderton parish council elections were due to take place in 2019 so will now take place in 2020.

13.3. Cllr Sage reported that he had received an email from the head of Bledlow Ridge school asking if the parish council would be open to using some of their CIL money to fund a new IT suite at the school at a cost of £11,000. It was agreed that further discussions need to be held with the school before any decisions could be made. Cllr Sage will continue to liaise with the school on this issue and the ongoing concerns over parking on Chinnor Road at school drop off and pick up times.

**Action: Cllr Sage**

13.4. Cllr Butler reported that there had been several break-ins and thefts in the area recently and that drugs paraphernalia had been found discarded on the bridal way off Haw Lane. Cllr Cox suggested a meeting with the local police was required and the clerk will look into setting this up.

**Action: Clerk**

**14. Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 starting at 7.30pm.