# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 7th February 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

1. **Apologies for absence**

The Clerk due to a medical emergency..

**Cllr Lord agreed to take the minutes.**

1. **Dispensations**

Cllr Paul Castle concerning The Property on the Land Next to the Orchard Bledlow Ridge.

Dispensation.

Proposed Cllr Blackwell seconded Cllr Cox.

It was mentioned that Cllr Castle had designed a form to apply for a dispensation. The Chairman will circulate to the other Councillors.

**Action: Cllr Reading**

1. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd January 2019**

Cllr Cox queried whether the paragraph on Saunderton Parking reflected the Council turning down LAF money. It was agreed without further issue that the PC had deferred acceptance as a project was not in place.

There is A LAF meeting on Friday 13th which Cllr Reading will attend on behalf of the PC.

**Action: Cllr Reading**

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

1. **Application for a Grant   
     
   Bledlow Ridge Village Hall Refurbishment.**Mrs Anne Ley presented a costed proposal regarding the replacement of failing equipment in the Kitchen as well as replacing paper towels in the Ladies with a hand dryer.   
   In response to questions it was stated that the kitchen is constant use with a daily breakfast club as well as periodic bigger events such as the Hort Soc Supper. The only reserves that the Village Hall has will be sufficient to replace the flat roof which is 25 years old and, therefore likely to need replacing shortly.

The Application was supported unanimously.

1. **Members of the Public.**

This item was brought forward to allow two members of The Board of Governors to present their information and not be held up by other PC business  
  
John Forsythe Chairman and Dirmuid Jennings member of the Finance Committee of the Bledlow Ridge Primary School Board of Governors presented the PC with detailed information about the School.

As a summary

The School has 164 pupils and is oversubscribed which is normal for this school but not others in the vicinity.

In order to maintain the school’s excellent performance there are challenges which include reductions in funding from Central and Local Government and other expense increases like a 7% increase in Teachers’ Pension contributions.  
Currently the school manages to balance the budget by supplementing with historic reserves and contributions from the School Parents and Governors through fund raising events. Recently the school has asked for some direct payments from Parents but are unsure if this will result in a lower voluntary contributions.

The current aim is to have 24 pupils in a class.

The Governors have recently undertaken a Strategic Review which has highlighted the infrastructure shortfalls and the IT department is in urgent need of updating.

Reserves at the current rate of attrition will probably last two more years.  
  
The Council thanked the Board members for the information.

1. **Outstanding Actions.**6.1 It was agreed that Salt Bins should be on the main roads where issues impact on ingress and egress are most severe. No further action.

6.2. The Council noted that progress on Outstanding Issues is taking far too long – certain items have been on the list over 18 months.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Broadband.**Cllr Reading updated the Council on the issues ongoing.   
   There are some residual issues with Open Reach installations which are largely being dealt with by the subscribers  
   The Outstanding piece of work to complete the Installation on top of the Bledlow Parish Church is being considered by the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee). Cllr Reading will undertake a Pre-Planning Application with WDC to ascertain any issue that might arise.

**Action: Cllr Reading**

1. **Devolved Services**Cllr Sage reported that no further information was to hand in addition to the email that he had sent out in the week. Thanks were given to Cllr Sage for his work.
2. **Planning Matters**  
   .8.1 Current applications were discussed and changes noted.  
    8.2 St. Congar will be invited to present their new proposal re Molins development at 7.00 next meeting date 7th March. It will not form part of the formal meeting.
3. **Authorisation of payments**
   1. The following payments were approved following proposal by Cllr Sage, seconded by Cllr Bird:

| **Cheque No.** | **Payee** | **Description** | **Net Amount** | **VAT** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jocelyn Cay | Salary –January 2019 | £458.33 |  | £458.33 |
|  | Jocelyn Cay | Expenses | £10.00 |  | £10.00 |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total for month** |  | **£468.33** |  | **£468.33** |

**Action: Clerk**

On request Cllr Reading will ascertain if the monthly expenses of £10 relate to the payment granted for personal equipment of the Clerk and if so should that payment be stopped after the supply of Council funded equipment

**Action: Cllr Reading**

1. **Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk**
   1. Cllr Cox noted the poor hedge cutting in the village by Bucks Council. Cllr Reading agreed and directed comments to Cllr Etholen concerning the ‘butchery’ of the hedgerows.
   2. Cllr Butler reported that, despite a notice that parking was not permitted, residents are parking on the grass on the Chinnor Road side of The Crest in Bledlow Ridge.
   3. Cllr Reading informed the Council that the proposed Contractors for the BR Recycling Centre have yet to put their proposal to Aylesbury. The opinion was voiced that it was unlikely that the handover will at the same time as the closure at the end of March.
   4. An email had been received about the state of the grass at the junction of Sandpit Lane and Chapel Lane.
2. The Parish Council accepted the resignation of Councillor Sage as Vice Chairman
3. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 7th March 2019 starting at **7.00pm**.