# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on

Thursday 3rd October 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors M Blackwell, S Breese, N Cox, S Bird, J Butler, A Sage

S Reading (Chairman), and A Lord (Vice Chairman)

County and District Councillor: Carl Etholen

Clerk: Tracey Martin

Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown

Residents of Maycroft, Chinnor Road

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Castle

1. **Dispensations**

None.

1. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2019.**

Cllr Cox recommended an amendment to point 5.5 to clarify the locations. 5.5 was amended to: Painting of Gatepost (Princes Risborough Side Bledlow & Bus Shelter on Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge.

Cllr Sage pointed out an error in the minutes point 12.1 Bledlow School was amended to Bledlow Ridge School. The minutes were approved following a proposal by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr Butler.

The Chair signed the minutes as a true record.

1. **Outstanding Actions** 
   1. **Salt Bins:** The Clerk reported that James Tunnard had agreed to the 3 locations – Church Lane, The City and the Anderson Cross Road and a replacement at Haw Lane. These are being ordered and will be onsite in the next few weeks.
   2. **New Rubbish Bins:** The Clerk reported that she had sent an email out to Councillors asking them to confirm bin locations and whether new bins were required. Cllr Butler commented that she had missed one of her list - bin on Routs Green by the Bus Stop.
   3. **Verge Gardening:** Clerk reported this through FixmyStreet. Still no progress.
   4. **Princes Risborough & Chinnor Railway:** This will be deferred to the next meeting.
   5. **Bus Shelters:** This will be discussed later in the meeting.
   6. **Parking Solutions Saunderton:** Cllr Reading confirmed that he’d had a constructive meeting with the Network Improvement Team. Cllr Etholen added that the consultation will commence at the end of the month up until the 20th November. Input has been received from Cllr Blackwell, Cllr Reading and Cllr Etholen on options available. Cllr Etholen confirmed to cut down costs TfB are going to print the forms and Cllr Etholen will deliver them personally. Residents can then complete online or post to Cllr Etholen to collate. Cllr Cox asked if Emergency Services will be consulted. Cllr Etholen responded they should be. Cllr Reading stated that a lot of progress had been made which is positive. **Action: Cllr Etholen**
   7. **Bledlow Cross:** Ongoing
   8. **Extending Saunderton Burial Ground:** Ongoing **Action: Clerk**
   9. **School Zig Zags Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge:** Cllr Reading stated that zig-zags may or may not be the answer and this needs to be followed up with the LAF Officer to check she has our application. Cllr Cox added that the mobile bollards that Cllr Etholen paid for are being used at the school and seem to be effective. **Action: Cllr Reading**

7.45pm Cllr Breese and Cllr Bird arrived.

* 1. **Bledlow Churchyard Wall:** Cllr Breese confirmed that one quote had been received, the Clerk reported that she thought two quotes had been received, Clerk to check this. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Breese reported that the problem with the churchyard wall is the trees, as the roots will carry on growing and will continue to damage the wall. Cllr Lord asked if the trees are pollarded. Cllr Cox added that the trees down the footpath at the side had been previously. Cllr Cox stated that a previous suggestion made had been to cut down every other one of the trees and set new ones 1 metre back but unfortunately there had been an objection to this. Cllr Reading asked if there were TPO’s. Cllr Cox confirmed that there no TPO’s on the trees however, all of the trees are protected and need planning permission. Cllr Breese and the Clerk to relook at quotes.

**Action: Cllr Breese / Clerk**

* 1. **Planning Enforcement Meeting:** This is going ahead in October.
  2. **50% Grass Cutting Charge Saunderton Burial Ground:** Ongoing **Action: Clerk**
  3. **CIL Report:** Clerk has contacted Cllr Lord regarding this as she needs information on whether CIL money was spent on any projects. Cllr Lord suggested maybe Cllr Castle could assist with this.

**Bus Shelter Quotes:**

The previously circulated bus shelter quotes from Ian Darkins were discussed and it was agreed to proceed with the works quoted. Cllr Blackwell proposed and Cllr Sage seconded.

1. **Dell Quotes:** Cllr Reading moved to item 7 on the agenda: Dell – Approval of quotes.

Cllr Reading confirmed that we had received 3 quotes from companies for dealing with the dangerous trees. The residents of Maycroft stated that the trees are hanging over onto their garage and hut and also asked about the general ongoing maintenance of the land.

Cllr Lord stated that anything that overhangs Maycroft as the homeowners they are allowed to cut it back as its on their land however, Cllr Reading added that it had been agreed that the Parish Council will cut the overhang back. Cllr Lord stated that the Parish Council has no intention to clear the Dell however, the Parish Council do want to make sure it is accessible.

The residents of Maycroft questioned the tree report which stated that cutting back of branches had not helped and that no maintenance had taken place for 6-10 years. Cllr Reading added that the tree report would have only been factual.

Cllr Sage asked what actions the residents would like. The Maycroft residents responded that they would like general maintenance and for the trees to be cut back so they do not overhang.

Cllr Reading proposed a vote on the 2 cheapest quotes:

South Bucks Tree Surgeons: 4 votes

Four Seasons Tree Care: 2 quotes

Cllr Reading confirmed that South Bucks Tree Surgeons are appointed to deal with the tree’s highlighted within the tree report and for the overhang onto Maycroft once the 3rd quote has been received.

Cllr Lord added that a letter will be going out to residents in surrounding properties stating that if fly tipping is seen to contact the Parish Council.

Cllr Cox offered to visit Maycroft on Friday 4th October at 11am to view access issues and will report back to the Parish Council.

**Meadow Styles Hedges:** The Clerk presented the previously circulated tree quotes which Cllr Cox had obtained but the work couldn’t be carried out due to the time of the year.

Cllr Reading asked Councillors their opinion on quotes. Cllr Lord asked if it was G Spratt who has been appointed as the contractor for the Parish Footpaths and Grass as he sees no reason to go elsewhere.

It was unanimously decided with no objections that G Spratt would be appointed to clear the hedges at Meadow Styles.

1. **Broadband:** Cllr Breese reported that plans are in progress to put a repeater on North Mill Road and that progress had been slow at Caladown Farm and Shivells Farm which are not stops but everything looks like it is going ahead as per the previously circulated report.
2. **Speedwatch:** Cllr Lord reported that there had been an issue with the previously discussed Speedwatch signs. This is due to the fact that the poles which they will be attached to are different sizes and / or signs are attached to gates. Cllr Lord to continue to look into this. Cllr Etholen requested the Clerk send bank details for his contribution to the signs.

Cllr Breese reported that as you do drive into Bledlow Ridge you can hardly see the flashing sign,

Cllr Lord responded that he will personally cut it back. **Action: Cllr Lord & Clerk**

1. **Planning Matters:**

Saunderton Station: Replacement of footbridge. Cllr Sage reported that this is just a prior notification that it is happening. Cllr Breese added that the primary source of light pollution is the railway. Cllr Breese asked if we could request discreet lighting. Clerk to comment on the planning application. **Action: Clerk**

Holy Trinity Church: Installation of Wireless Broadband. No objections

16 Fords Close: No objections, comment submitted

Corham Stables Sandpit: No objections

OS Parcel – Installation of telegraph pole: Cllr Reading reported that this is actually a mobile phone antenna. Miv Hughes contacted Cllr Reading regarding this. Cllr Sage asked if this was replacing or a new one. Cllr Reading confirmed it’s a new antenna. Cllr Sage asked if the issue was the once the mast is there and static or the work itself. Cllr Blackwell responded they would have to destroy a good 30% of the bushes to put the mast in. Cllr Lord suggested that ward councillors discuss amongst themselves and prepare a comment. **Action: Saunderton Ward Councillors**

1. **Application for Grants**

None

1. **Authorisation of Payments**

The following payments were submitted for approval:



All payments were approved following a proposal by Cllr Lord and seconded by Cllr Sage.

1. **Approval for new council account and debit card:**

The clerk requested the meeting: to note that pursuant to minute 12.2 of the council meeting held on 1 August 2019 a Treasurer's Account has been opened at Lloyds Bank and a debit card issued for use solely by the Clerk for single unrelated items of expenditure up to £500, in all circumstances subject to the relevant provisions of council's Financial Regulations; and to authorise a credit balance in the account of £1000. The card would only be used for payments which could not wait until the following meeting.  A cheque would be raised at each meeting to restore the credit balance to £1,000.    
Cllr Breese proposed and Cllr Sage seconded.  A cheque was raised and signed for £1,000

1. **Correspondence, reports and issues from Councillors and Clerk** 
   1. **LAF Funding:** Cllr Etholen reported that LAF funding was still available for transport projects as the deadline has been extended and the Clerk has the application form.

Cllr Reading stated that we have already submitted one for school parking and raised an incident that had occurred on Slough Lane. Cllr Etholen responded that a cyclist was coming down Slough Lane and a resident was pulling out in their car and a collision occured and an air ambulance had to be called. Cllr Etholen suggested that they could look at clearing the foliage and also adding signage. Cllr Sage agreed that Slough Lane is blind and additional signage would be a good idea as it may slow cyclists down if they do not know the danger is there. Cllr Etholen to speak with Amanda Hayes of Bucks CC to investigate solutions. Cllr Reading agreed in principle to the suggestions. **Action: Cllr Etholen**

* 1. The clerk reported that PKF Littlejohn had completed the audit and it was all fine. Councillors wanted their thanks to Cllr Castle and the Clerk for their work on this to be noted.
  2. The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Stokenchurch Scouts requesting to put a sign up at the top of Haw Lane in November for their Christmas Pantomime. All Councillors were happy with this. Clerk to respond. **Action: Clerk**
  3. Cllr Reading commented that the first meeting in January 2020 would be on the 2nd and asked for Councillors opinions on deferring the meeting by 1 week.

Cllr Lord was in agreement. Cllr Breese didn’t agree with moving the meeting. Cllr Sage commented that there is an accountability case for moving the meeting as a lot of residents could be away.

Cllr Reading proposed the change of date and Cllr Lord seconded and a vote was taken.

In favour 4 councillors

1 councillor was against and there were 2 abstentions.

* 1. Cllr Reading reported that he is finishing work in 2.5 weeks’ time so will be more available.
  2. Cllr Lord stated that all Councillors are aware of the email sent regarding CIL on the 6-bedroom house. Cllr Bird asked if there was a planning violation. Cllr Lord replied that there was and it should be passed back to WDC. Cllr Sage stated that when Cllr Reading has his meeting with Wycombe District Council he really needs to push the fact that there was a clerical error and they need to defend their decisions and that the Parish Council is owed an apology.
  3. Cllr Lord confirmed that he had reported to WDC the extra staircase on the outside of the garage at Evesden Court and they have acknowledged and commented that it will be dealt with.
  4. Cllr Cox reported that a letter had been sent to the residents at Dragons, The City regarding the hedge being over their boundary to which resident has come back asking for a face to face meeting at the property. Cllr Sage suggested that we should follow the process with sending of the letters and then refer to TfB.

Cllr Etholen stated that a letter can be sent instructing the homeowner take action and if not 28 days later send a 2nd letter and then 56 days later Bucks CC can take action by cutting back the hedge and send the bill to the owner.

* 1. Cllr Cox reported signage on county boundary which has been knocked down and also some pot holes. Cllr Sage suggested these are reported through FixmyStreet.
  2. Cllr Cox reported the cleaning of street furniture which we are responsible for under Devolved Services. Cllr Cox felt this was a job which could be carried out over the winter and asked if the Parish Council could consider this. Cllr Reading confirmed he was happy for Princes Risborough to go ahead with this. Cllr Breese stated that we need to find out the frequency of sign cleaning and schedule it in.

Cllr Sage asked if we could get the clerk to obtain prices for street cleaning outside the 30mph areas. Cllr Reading stated that as a test case he will put a request on FixmyStreet and see if it gets actioned. **Action: Cllr Reading**

* 1. Cllr Sage stated that he had reported a missing street sign on Haw Lane through FixmyStreet and had then received an email saying this has been remedied however, it wasn’t fixed. Cllr Etholen requested Cllr Sage forward email from FixmyStreet and he would look into it.

**Action: Cllr Sage / Cllr Etholen**

* 1. Cllr Bird reported Angel has been evicted and left the site and that they were currently erecting steps and a platform in order to get to the 2000 bags of rubbish.
  2. Cllr Etholen informed the meeting that £8,000 had been raised to date for the Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre and thanked the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council for their contribution. Cllr Etholen stated that he and Cllr Bendyshe-Brown had gone out to 3 consultancies for planning and one has been selected, so they are now in negotiations with Bucks County Council with regards to the rent for a period of 25 years on the existing site of ½ an acre but will have the whole four acres with ½ an acre operating solely as a household recycling centre.

Cllr Reading added that he was detecting through social media that enthusiasm is dwindling a bit as people think about the traffic and where does the 4 acres come into it.

Cllr Reading added that we are the only Council that this has a negative impact on so when the planning permission is presented to us we need to be considerate about how we respond. Cllr Sage commented that on the face of it on the existing ½ an acre it looks quite tight and could restrict its future use. Cllr Cox raised the issue of Burnham Recycling Centre closure being rescinded. Cllr Etholen replied that this was discussed at the County Council meeting and can be viewed on the webcast.

1. **Members of the Public Invited to Speak**

No members of the public present

1. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 7th November 2019 starting at 7.30pm. Meeting closed at 9.25pm.

**Signed…………………………………………….. Date…………………………………………..**