#  BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Thursday 2nd January 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors, J Butler, N Cox, A Sage, S Bird, S Breese, P Castle

M Blackwell and A Lord (Vice Chairperson)

Clerk: Tracey Martin

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr S Reading (Chairperson) - Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 3.p the meeting was chaired by Cllr Lord (Vice Chairperson)

1. **Dispensations**

None.

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

Cllr Bird pointed out a typo in point 10 should be were and not where

Cllr Cox stated that point 4.8 was not clear as to the location. It was decided it should state Bledlow Ridge School. Chinnor Road.

The minutes were approved following a proposal by Cllr Bird and seconded by Cllr Castle.

The Vice-Chairperson signed the minutes as a true record.

1. **Outstanding Actions**
	1. **Installation of Salt Bins:** Clerk reported that all Salt Bins are now in place.
	2. **Installation of new bins in the Parish:** Ongoing **Action: Clerk**
	3. **Verge Gardening:** Cllr Lord reported that a letter has been sent to the residents asking them to remove the bollards.
	4. **Princes Risborough & Chinnor Railway:** Ongoing. Cllr Breese has asked for assistance from Cllr Cox to try and move this along. It was decided that this would be removed from the outstanding actions and then put onto the agenda in May for the new council.
	5. **Parking Solutions Saunderton:** Cllr Etholen reported that he was expecting an update prior to Christmas but as yet has not received.
	6. **Bledlow Cross:** Ongoing **Action: Cllr Sage**
	7. **Extending Saunderton Burial Ground:** Ongoing **Action: Clerk**
	8. **Parking Solutions - Bledlow Ridge School, Chinnor Road:** Cllr Lord stated that he felt that the bollards in place have created a solution. Cllr Breese raised the question of a walk to school system. Cllr Sage responded that the majority of families who live locally do walk to school and the parking has been displaced to other areas where its more dispersed. Cllr Etholen advised that he will contact John Paitment and Tara Rutland for an update on the LAF funding and confirmed that it is in the TfB budget and also stated that the parish would need to match fund.
	9. **Bledlow Churchyard Wall:** Ongoing. **Action: Clerk**
	10. **50% Grass Cutting Charge Saunderton Burial Ground:** Ongoing **Action: Clerk**
	11. **CIL Report:** This has now been completed and will be removed from Outstanding Actions.
2. **Speedwatch:** Cllr Lord informed the meeting that he now has 4 volunteers outside of the Council to assist with Speedwatch. Cllr Lord also raised the additional invoice from New Leaf Landscapes which was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting for approval under agenda item 9.
3. **Devolved Services and Parish Maintenance:**
	1. **Local Council Devolution Agreement:** Cllr Lord referred to the previously circulated agreement from Bucks County Council for 2020-2022. Cllr Castle proposed and Cllr Sage seconded. Cllr Cox abstained as he had not seen the agreement.

Cllr Lord proposed considering original agenda item 7 before continuing with agenda item 6.2 Meadow Styles Quotes for the convenience of a resident who was in attendance.

1. **Planning Matters:**

Cllr Bird reported that she had been contacted by a resident regarding the planning application at Holpenny Barn and had brought this to the attention of the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

The resident attended the meeting to raise concerns with the planning application and discussions were had on the application. Ward Councillors to submit their comments to the Clerk the deadline for which is 9th January, although the Clerk has requested an extension to the deadline. Clerk to remind Councillors if not had comments by the 7th January. **Action: Clerk**

1. **Devolved Services and Parish Maintenance**

**Meadow Styles:** Cllr Lord referred to the previously circulated quotes for Meadow Styles.

Clerk reported that unfortunately due to annual leave she had received quotes for the equipment but not for the Grounds Maintenance and General Repairs.

Replacement of the basket swing and log walk: Quotes were considered from Reids Playground Maintenance, Sutcliffe Play and Kompan.

All councillors were in agreement to proceed with the quote from Reids Playground Maintenance at a cost of: Log Walk: £320 and Basket Swing £1310 excluding VAT to supply, deliver and install as they were recommended by Wycombe District Council and the quote was the most competitive.

1. **Planning Matters**

Planning applications where discussed and comments made.

1. **Application for Grants**

Cllr Lord reported that he had been in contact with Raj from The County Store and it was mutually agreed to defer the grant application to the February meeting.

Cllr Lord stated that as a Parish Council we need to discuss and decide how we approach this including the ownership options. Cllr Lord stated that an email had been circulated by the Clerk with quotes which Raj had submitted and Cllr Lord suggested that councillors review and comment via email prior to the next meeting due to the request from Raj not being received in time. Cllr Castle was not in agreement with this approach as he felt that there was no action required by Councillors until Raj attends the meeting and requests a grant for a specific amount and councillors then take a view on it.

Cllr Blackwell asked about the awning which Raj has also requested funding for. Cllr Lord responded that the Parish Council would not be considering the awning as this is not a benefit to the community and is something that needs to be addressed to the landlord. Clerk to write a letter. **Action: Clerk**
Discussions were had on what would happen to the furniture / equipment if the current owner was to leave. It was decided that it would transfer to the new owners if within 4 years, past this time the equipment is of no value due to depreciation.

Cllr Lord summarised that we have resolved that the quote is less than £1000 and that Raj must make representation himself.

1. **Authorisation of Payments**

The following payments were submitted for approval:



Cllr Castle pointed out an error on the reinstatement of balance for the Lloyds accounts. Clerk apologised for the administrative error.

An additional payment of £75 to New Leaf Landscapes for the installation of Speedwatch signs as reported earlier in the meeting by Cllr Lord was also presented for payment.

All payments were approved following a proposal by Cllr Blackwell and seconded by Cllr Breese.

1. **NS&I Account**

Clerk reported that she had been sent the incorrect form so this would be deferred until the February meeting.

1. **Motion:** To consider and if thought fit to approve setting up standing orders for the payment in arrears of the Clerk’s salary and IT allowance on the 10th of each month, and for the payment in advance by direct debit of the 1and1 (ionos) ISP charges.

Cllr Castle presented the above motion.  It was agreed, at the request of Cllr Castle, that for the purposes of Financial Regulation 6.7 an ISP is a utility.  Cllr Breese proposed and Cllr Butler seconded, and carried unanimously.

1. **Approval of Budget 2020/2021:**

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated draft budget and explained how the precept had been calculated. Cllr Castle approved the budget and Cllr Sage seconded with no councillors objecting and the budget was passed.

1. **Discussion of Gender-Neutral Standing Orders**

Cllr Castle referred to the previously circulated 2 variants – De-Gendered and Alternative Gender.
Cllr Castle suggested that councillors could vote on their preference and then subsequently vote on the use of the word Chairperson or Chair.

Cllr Lord stated that he is happy with the use of the word Chair but has an issue when a verb is attached e.g. The Chair signed a cheque.

Cllr Bird commented that she felt the alternative variant – he / she is very complicated and hard to understand.

All councillors voted on the De-Gender variant and it was unanimously decided to use the word Chairperson. Cllr Lord thanked Cllr Castle for his efforts.

Cllr Castle to draft a resolution for the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Castle**

1. **Correspondence, reports and issues from Councillors and Clerk**
	1. The council considered a complaint from a resident concerning the conduct of the December meeting; After discussions it was agreed that no breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred but a formal response to the letter was required. **Action: Cllr Lord**
	2. Cllr Lord referred to the previously circulated email from Matthew Wargent with regards to participating in Neighbourhood planning questionnaire which Cllr Lord felt that the Parish Council should complete. Discussions were had and Cllr Breese has agreed to speak to Luca Guerzoni to see if he can assist. **Action: Cllr Breese**
	3. Cllr Etholen reported that he had received an email from Eliot Baker from NCR property with regards to plans for a care home in the parish.
	4. Cllr Etholen stated that a response was received from Dave Johncock with regards to the Princes Risborough expansion which all councillors should have seen.
	5. Cllr Etholen reported that there have been a number of Corporate appointments made for the Unitary.
	6. Cllr Breese reported that he received a complaint regarding Warren Cottage and the nature of their lighting. Discussions were had on the dark sky’s policy and whether it is enforceable. It was agreed that Cllr Breese will draft a letter to Wycombe District Council and forward to the Clerk to send to planning. **Action: Cllr Breese**
	7. Cllr Blackwell reported that the bungalow which he had previously informed the Parish Council about is being marketed by JNP and the question was raised again as to whether the property is registered and paying tax.
	8. The clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a CIL payment of £7089.49 for the land between Medeway / Ridge View Shootacre Lane.
	9. The clerk reported that the current bank mandate is incorrect. Form was circulated for signing.
	10. The clerk informed Councillors that they had received a nomination from Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party should any Councillors want to nominate for past service as Chairman. Councillors suggested Councillor Breese as a nomination.
	11. Cllr Cox requested that the clerk talk to Princes Risborough Town Council about devolved services and what they have done this year and the previous years.  **Action: Clerk**
	12. Cllr Bird reported that the Culverton Link response from David was positive.
	13. Cllr Bird stated that a few meetings ago she had been asked to look at Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments. Cllr Bird stated that it is multiple choice questions which she will go through however, felt it was difficult to give a response on behalf of the whole Parish Council but will complete and circulate prior to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Bird**
	14. Cllr Bird reported that Bledlow Village Hall has had some work carried out to tidy it up however, there is an issue with the boiler which could potentially cost the hall around £6,000.
	15. Cllr Bird stated her concerns with the flooding in the Upper Icknield Way under the railway bridge and suggested that maybe flood signs could be useful to warn drivers. Cllr Etholen reported that at the LAF meeting in December Cllr Reading raised this and TfB have plans to get to this rectified.
2. **Members of the Public Invited to Speak**

No members of the public were present

1. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 6th February 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

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