# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Thursday 6th February 2020 at 7.30pm

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

M Blackwell S Reading (Chairperson) and A Lord (Vice Chairperson)

Clerk: Tracey Martin

13 members of the public were in attendance

1. **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Breese and County and District Councillor Carl Etholen

1. **Dispensations**

None.

1. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2nd January 2020.**

The minutes were approved following a proposal by Cllr Reading and seconded by Cllr Butler.

The Chairperson signed the minutes as a true record.

1. **Application for Grants**

The Parish Council had received a grant application from The Country Store in Bledlow Ridge for new seating outside the store.

Councillors discussed and were happy to support the grant application at a sum of £840 it was agreed that the seating would remain an asset of the shop, be insured and would be written off after 4 years.

Cllr Lord proposed the application and Cllr Blackwell seconded.

Cllr Reading advised The Country Store shop keeper that if he wanted to approach the council for assistance with the shop awning then he would be welcome to do so.

Cllr Reading referred to a letter which was sent to the landlords of The County Store at the beginning of January asking for them to support the shop with the repair of the shop door. Unfortunately, the response had not been favourable and it was decided the current tenant contact the landlord direct requesting support and copying in the Parish Council.

1. **Outstanding Actions** 
   1. **Installation of new bins in the Parish:** The Clerk reported that she had made contact with the person responsible for bins and would be arranging a meeting in a couple of weeks’ time. Clerk advised that they would be looking at new bin requests and also changing some of the existing bins to closed tops. **Action: Clerk**
   2. **Verge Gardening:** Clerk reported that she has requested from Bucks County Council their policy on verge gardening and the use of bollards / boulders.
   3. **Parking Solutions Saunderton:** Cllr Reading reported in the absence of Cllr Etholen that parking solutions had been proposed.
   4. **Bledlow Cross:** Cllr Sage reported he is working on this. **Action: Cllr Sage**
   5. **Extending Saunderton Burial Ground:** Ongoing **Action: Clerk**
   6. **Parking Solutions - Bledlow Ridge School, Chinnor Road:** Cllr Reading reported that there would be no action on this until the new Unitary Authority is formed.
   7. **50% Grass Cutting Charge Saunderton Burial Ground:** Cllr Reading reported that a letter had been sent to the PCC and they had responded that they would be happy to pay 25%. Discussions were had and a vote taken with 7 councillors for and 1 against. The Parish Council will cut the grass at Saunderton Churchyard and charge 25% of the cost to the PCC, the Parish Coucil will review this after one year.
   8. The clerk advised the meeting that the annual contract for grass cutting at Meadow Styles, Saunderton and Bledlow Churchyards and footpaths was to be awarded to Mr G Spratt as an extension to his existing contract (and thus, pursuant to the Financial Regulations, not requiring a re-tendering process), subject to the price remaining unchanged.
2. **Speedwatch:** Cllr Lord reported that 4 sessions had taken place today and that the remaining sites would be carried out next week. The prime site is the Telephone Exchange on Chinnor Road with 157 cars passing through in an hour and 23 passing through at 36mph or higher.
3. **Devolved Services and Parish Maintenance:** 
   1. **Wycombe District Council Parish Devolution Extension:** The Clerk referred to the previously circulated extension and stated that they had raised a concern with Wycombe District Council over the amount of money received as albeit a small area it takes the contractor time to get to and from the site and to set up. It was agreed not to sign the extension at this time and for the Clerk to discuss with Wycombe District Council and report back. **Action: Clerk**
   2. **Meadow Styles Ground Maintenance Quotes:** The Clerk referred to the previously circulated quotes. Discussions were had and it was agreed to proceed with the quote from PA Spittles as their quote was most competitive at £2270 excl VAT and included all the materials. Cllr Castle proposed and Cllr Blackwell seconded.
   3. **Meadow Styles Sign Quote:** The Clerk reported that new signs are required at Meadow Styles in order to update the phone number and email address at a cost of £20 per sign, 3 required. All Councillors agreed.
   4. **The Crest:** Discussions were had on what height the hedge should be cut to 8ft or 6ft. It was agreed that 8ft would be an appropriate height. Cllr Cox reported that we are still awaiting a response from TfB on whose responsibility the hedge is however, 3 quotes will be obtained in the meantime to avoid any delay. **Action: Clerk**
   5. **TfB Letters:**  This was discussed in outstanding actions.
4. **Household Waste Recycling Centre:**

Cllr Reading advised the PC that he personally was not in favour of re-opening the HWRC due to the anticipated increase in car and lorry traffic using Upper Icknield Way, however he wanted the Parish Council to make a collective decision.

In the absence of Cllr Etholen Cllr Reading provided an update on the Household Waste Recycling Centre as he had attended the steering group. Cllr Reading reported that £10k had been raised through crowd funding with the Parish Council contributing £500. The business start-up costs would be £30k so there is currently a shortfall which Cllr Etholen had approached Wycombe District Council for to make up the difference. Wycombe District Council have indicated that they would contribute but on a match funding basis. Cllr Reading reported that the CIC company had been incorporated and operators had been approached. The site would take household waste but would not be free to use and will be charged on a weight basis with an average cost of £10 per car.

Discussions were had and members of the public contributed their comments. All members of the public were against the re-opening of the HWRC and felt that the application was being pushed through too quickly. A member of the public raised a concern that houses around the HWRC had had to carry out environmental assessments but there are none on the planning application.

Cllr Reading asked Councillors if the Parish Council still support the reopening of the Household Waste Recycling Centre and a vote was taken with no Councillors in favour, 4 against and 4 abstentions.

The Parish Council therefore does not support and is thus opposed to the reopening of the HWRC.

Cllr Butler requested that it be noted that it was disappointing that Cllr Etholen was not here to discuss this matter.

1. **Planning Matters**

Cllr Sage stated that Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council had not been asked to comment on the Bledlow Ridge Household Waste Recycling Centre and that we should ask for an extension. Clerk to contact Bucks County Council and request. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Sage reported that there is a screening process which is carried out by Bucks County Council which says whether the Environmental Assessment and Ecology Assessment need to be carried out but we need to challenge this as it states that neither is required. Cllr Reading and Cllr Sage to construct a comment / response. **Action: Cllr Reading & Cllr Sage**

All other planning applications where discussed and comments made.

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. **Quarterly Financial Report – Q3**

Clerk referred to the previously circulated report. No councillors raised any issues.

1. **NS&I Account**

The Clerk reported that the address needs updating on this account. Cllr Castle asked why we have the NS&I account. Cllr Cox reported that it a legacy account. Clerk asked councillors who thought they were on the mandate to sign. Cllr Cox was potentially the only one and signed.

1. **Special Motion:** To consider and if thought fit to approve and adopt new (gender neutral) Standing Orders in the form presented to the meeting and initialled by the Chairman for the purposes of identification, and to publish the document as definitive and prevailing.  The Clerk confirmed that the requirements for requisitioning and tabling a special motion as specified in the existing Standing Orders had been fulfilled.  Cllr Castle proposed and Cllr Bird seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.
2. **Correspondence, reports and issues from Councillors and Clerk** 
   1. Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a contractor who had informed her that there was drug paraphernalia in the bus shelter opposite the golden cross. It was suggested that the Clerk report to TVP. **Action: Clerk**
   2. The Clerk raised the issue of the Council using her home address for correspondence and suggested a PO Box address which BALC have confirmed is okay to use. All councillors were in agreement to sign up to the service on an annual basis at a cost of £270. **Action: Clerk**
   3. The Clerk reported that she had received literature / posters for advertising for new councillors and asked Councillors opinion. Councillors were happy for this to be displayed on notice boards, posted on Facebook and also suggested adding to Contact and Messenger. **Action: Clerk**
   4. Cllr Cox reported that the new bench for Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge had been delivered, Clerk to arrange for installation. **Action: Clerk**
   5. Cllr Blackwell raised the issue with the bungalow previously discussed and stated that the property has been rented. Cllr Reading felt that this wasn’t an issue for the Parish Council.
   6. Discussions were had on the correspondence received on the Development of the Coal Yard and the hedges which had been removed. Cllr Reading to prepare a response. **Action: Cllr Reading**
   7. Cllr Reading reported that the Facebook page is now up and running.
   8. Cllr Reading raised correspondence which had been received and circulated prior to the meeting with regards to the neglect of Saunderton footpaths / highways. Clerk to respond that unfortunately the Parish Council is not responsible and advise the member of the public to report through Fixmystreet.
   9. Cllr Lord reported that he had attended Chairing Skills course.
   10. Cllr Bird advised that she had completed the Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments Consultation and will send to the clerk to be emailed. Councillors thanked Cllr Bird for her efforts in completing. **Action: Cllr Bird / Clerk**
   11. Cllr Butler asked the meeting if there was any movement with the Molins site where there is vandalism, cars parked nightly and skateboarders. Cllr Reading responded that there is no progress.
   12. Cllr Sage asked the clerk to chase for an update on Radnage Lane. **Action: Clerk**
   13. Cllr Sage reported that himself, Cllr Reading and Cllr Cox met with the Meadow Styles Parents group and it was a constructive meeting.
   14. Cllr Sage asked whether we could get the Neighbourhood Plan printed and bound for all councillors. Cllr Reading felt this was a good idea. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Members of the Public Invited to Speak**

No comments were made

1. **Next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 5th March 2020 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

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