



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall car park on
Friday 27th March 2020 at 10:00am

Present: Councillors: S Breese; P Castle; N Cox; S Reading (Chairperson)

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 3.v Cllr Reading declared the meeting quorate

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Councillors Bird, Blackwell, Butler, Lord, Sage; County and District Councillor Carl Etholen; and the Clerk: Tracey Martin
- 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2020.**
The minutes were approved unanimously following a proposal by Cllr Reading and seconded by Cllr Breese. In due course Cllr Reading would sign the minutes as a true record.
- 3. Motion:** To consider and if thought fit to accept the recommendations of the meeting of councillors held by tele/video-conferencing on Tuesday 24th March 2020, as set out in the schedule presented to and to be appended to the minutes of the meeting, and signed by the chairman for the purposes of identification. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Orders 1e to 1n Cllr Castle proposed amendments to the motion to insert the words "and adopt the resolutions contained in" after the word "accept" and to permit him rather than the chairman to sign the schedule. The proposed amendments were approved unanimously.

Accordingly the amended motion to accept and adopt the resolutions contained in the recommendations of the meeting of councillors held by tele/video-conferencing on Tuesday 24th March 2020, as set out in the schedule presented to and to be appended to the minutes of the meeting, and signed by the Cllr Castle for the purposes of identification was proposed by Cllr Castle, seconded by Cllr Breese and carried unanimously

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:07am

SCHEDULE



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Councillors held via Zoom Video Conferencing on
Tuesday 24th March 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors, J Butler, N Cox, A Sage, S Bird, P Castle, S Breese
S Reading (Chairperson) and A Lord (Vice Chairperson)
Clerk & RFO: Tracey Martin

1. Cllr Reading welcomed everyone, noting that the meeting was occasioned by the current Covid-19 pandemic and stated that there were a number of items that need to be agreed in order for them to be ratified at a formal parish council meeting scheduled for Friday. He noted that things are moving quickly and legislation changing all the time so we are awaiting updating on local authority meetings.

Cllr Reading reported that the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Village Support Group had grown organically and had been running for around 2 weeks with Cllr Breese chairing. Cllr Breese gave a short presentation summarising the likely impact of Covid-19 on the Parish and the group's activities to date and projected

2. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed to establish a Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Village Support Working Group ("BcSVSWG") reporting to the Parish Council. The purpose of BcSVSWG is to co-ordinate support activity for vulnerable residents during the course of the Covid-19 crisis. The Working Group will comprise three Councillors (currently Cllr Breese, Cllr Sage and Cllr Reading) and co-opted individuals representing the wider community. **Recommendation:** that the parish council resolves to establish a Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Village Support Working Group reporting to the Parish Council*
3. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed to allocate a budget of £10,000 to BcSVSWG in support of its activities, and to pre-authorise expenditure up to this limit, provided that all items of commitment to expenditure will be reported to the council's RFO as soon as incurred. Possible uses of the budget could include the hiring of premises, stocking of essential foodstuffs and other supplies for emergency relief and paying for transport, whilst noting that residents facing financial hardship will in the first instance be directed to Bledlow Consolidated Charities. Payment of suppliers to follow established parish council procedure. **Recommendation:** that the parish council resolves to allocate a budget of £10,000 to BcSVSWG in support of its activities, and to pre-authorise expenditure up to this limit provided that all items of commitment to expenditure will be reported to the council's RFO as soon as it is incurred.*
4. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed to exercise its right under Standing Order 3d to exclude members of the public from all future Parish Council meetings for so long as the government, PHE (Public Health England) and the NHS are advising self-isolation and social distancing. **Recommendation:** that the parish council resolves to exclude members of the public from all future Parish Council meetings until further notice*
5. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed to cancel the April parish council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting pending advice from the government. Items that are time-limited such as responses to planning applications and payment authorisations can be agreed by ward councillors or a quorum of three councillors as appropriate. Arrangements for the May meeting (at which the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are appointed) will be agreed prior to the May meeting date. **Recommendation:** that the parish council resolves to cancel the April parish council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting*

6. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed: (i) not to amend Financial Regulation 4.1; and (ii) to retain the discretionary spending limit available to the RFO (in conjunction with the chairperson) at £500*

7. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed not to allow the RFO to hold a limited number of pre-signed cheques.*

8. *After detailed discussion it was unanimously agreed: (i) not to amend Standing Order 3.s, which is a statutory provision; and (ii) that Cllr Castle be requested to draft a new standing order to cater for voting at non-physical parish council meetings, pending further advice from NALC.*
Recommendation: *that the parish council resolves to request Cllr Castle to draft a new standing order to cater for voting at non-physical parish council meetings*

Meeting Closed at 8.41pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to be written in cursive.