



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Wednesday 4th
May 2016 at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese (Chairman), J Butler, P Castle, N
Cox, A Lord, S Reading and A Sage;
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor and District Councillor Carl Etholen.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th April 2016

The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman as a true record. Acceptance was proposed by
Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Blackwell and carried unanimously.

3. Planning matters

- 3.1. *Rocworth House* – The clerk informed the council that Wycombe District Council's (WDC) Planning Officer, David Lomas, had visited Rocworth House to investigate the possible breach of planning permission by the new walled frontage and outbuildings. He reported to the clerk that he has asked the owners to submit retrospective planning permission for the outbuildings and that the walled frontage is not a problem as it lies within the boundary of the property and a new hedge has been planted along the front of the wall along the line of the previous hedge.

There was then discussion regarding the fact that the owners have continued work on the property by planting shrubs and situating wooden posts along the grass verge and that the verge is the property of Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC). The clerk informed the council that a report had already been submitted to BCC regarding this and that BCC had confirmed that a legal notice would be sent to the owners asking for the shrubs and posts to be removed.

- 3.2. *Tudor Farm* – The clerk reported that she had been informed by BCC that they had sent a legal notice to Tudor Farm asking for the removal of the wooden posts from the grass verge and that if the notice was not acted upon then BCC would be able to remove the posts.
- 3.3. *Bledlow Cars* – The clerk reported that she had received a reply from David Lomas, Planning Officer at WDC, to the letter sent regarding advertisements, light pollution and opening hours of the business. Mr Lomas believes that consideration of the planning merits of the case have been handled correctly and that the advertising flags are not causing any breach of planning. He has however agreed that the current operations constitute a material change of use of the land and has recommended that a retrospective planning application be submitted. The council discussed the ongoing correspondence from Mrs Pritchard and share many of her concerns however the council cannot legally do any more to help other than to wait for the retrospective planning permission and comment as appropriate at that time.
- 3.4. *Former Children's Home, Bledlow* – An email has been received by the clerk from Oakminster Homes asking for suggestions with respect to the naming of the new private access road to the properties and for two individual houses. Cllr Breese had emailed Bob Uglow (former Chairman of the Parish Council) to ask for his input as he has carried out a lot of research into the children's home. Mr Uglow suggested that, as was council tradition, the road be named after Perryfield, the name of the original field. The council agreed that this would be a good idea and the clerk will reply to Oakminster Homes accordingly. With respect to the individual houses it was agreed that the Cllrs for Bledlow ward would generate suggestions and send to the clerk in order for them to be included in the response.

Action: Clerk

- 3.5. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

Initial.....

4. West's Yard

The Chairman asked Cllr Blackwell for an update on the situation at West's Yard, Saunderton. Cllr Blackwell informed the council that he had been liaising with the Environment Agency and that everything seemed to be on hold at the moment as geological surveys needed to be conducted on the site and the results may take weeks or months. Following reports in the local press regarding the alleged presence of mustard gas on the site Cllr Blackwell stated that two further local residents had recalled the presence of mustard gas based on personal experience. Dandara, the developers of the land, have committed to improving the fencing around the site as it is still currently unsafe. It was Cllr Blackwell's opinion that there was little the council are able to do other than monitor the situation.

5. Applications for grants

5.1. Cllr Castle explained that the resolution made during the March 2016 meeting to contribute £500 to the Bledlow celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday had not been conducted correctly as the resolution and the request for funds had been made on the night of the meeting and law states that the council must have at least 3 days of proposals requiring a decision. In order to correct this error the council were asked again if it thought fit to approve the motion to contribute the sum of £500 towards the costs of the Bledlow Queens' 90th Birthday celebrations and £500 for each of the other two wards for similar events should they so apply for it. Cllr Lord made the proposal, seconded by Cllr Cox and the motion was carried unanimously.

5.2. The clerk reported that she had received a request for a grant towards the Bledlow Ridge celebrations of the Queen's 90th Birthday. Upon hearing the details of the event, which is to be held in September, the council decided unanimously that the request would not be approved as it falls outside the period of the nationwide celebration.

6. Financial Report

The clerk informed the council that it is her intention to submit a quarterly financial report.

7. Authorisation of payments

The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Castle.

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100589	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – April 2016	£458.33		£458.33
100590	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£20.00		£20.00
100591	Princes Risborough Town Council	Devolved services	£230.00	£46.00	£276.00
100592	DA Fane Accountancy Services	Annual fee for 2015/2016 payroll	£120.00		£120.00
100593	TBS Hygiene Ltd	March 2016 collections	£22.80	£4.56	£27.36
	Subtotal		£851.13	£50.56	£901.69
Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure					
100594	rCOH Ltd	Interim payment 3	£2,000.00	£400.00	£2,400.00
100595	Bledlow Village Hall	Rent for meeting 17/3/2016	£36.00		£36.00
	Subtotal		£2,036.00	£400.00	£2,436.00
	Total for month		£2,887.13	£450.56	£3,337.69

8. CIL Report

It was noted that WDC have transferred to the council's account an amount of £1,327.50 in Community Infrastructure Levy relating to funds collected between October 2015 and March 2016.

9. Appointment of new internal auditor

The clerk reported to the council that the previous internal auditor had decided to stand down and that a new internal auditor was required in order to complete the 2015/2016 Annual Return which will be submitted to the council for approval at the June 2016 meeting. The clerk suggested Mrs Esther Ruck, an acquaintance who works in the financial industry and who has agreed to inspect the council's financial processes if they so wish. The council agreed to appoint her as the internal auditor.

10. Dog Waste

Cllr Butler explained to the council that she is concerned about the presence of dog waste in the litter bin situated next to the bus stop at The Crest, Bledlow Ridge as it seems unsanitary and unhygienic. She had previously asked the clerk to obtain a quote from TBS hygiene for the installation and maintenance of a dog waste bin on The Crest which had come in at £359 plus VAT with a weekly charge of £2.50 plus VAT

for emptying. The clerk has also been making enquiries at WDC to see if it would be possible for them to install dog waste bins but so far had been unable to contact the correct department. It was noted that the issue of litter had also been raised at the April 2016 meeting and it was therefore agreed that the clerk would continue to chase WDC in order to find out about bins in general, including dog waste bins, and report back at a later date.

Action: Clerk

11. Register of Parish Council assets

11.1. The clerk reported that an email has been received from BCC who are conducting a review of property assets and have requested a list of all properties owned by the parish council. The clerk also informed the council that it is a requirement for the council to hold a register of all its assets. An incomplete list exists and it was agreed that the clerk would circulate the list to all councillors who should review and add any missing items. The completed list would then be reviewed to determine which assets are insurable.

Action: Clerk and Councillors

11.2. Cllr Cox raised the issue of Beat the Bounds and explained that it would be an opportunity for all councillors to be aware of what lies within the parish regardless of ownership. He suggested that a minibus be hired one evening and that a tour of the parish be conducted. The general consensus from the council was supportive and it was agreed that Cllr Cox should suggest some dates for the event and also obtain a quote for the cost of the minibus prior to the June 2016 meeting. Beat the Bounds will be added to the June 2016 Agenda.

Action: Cllr Cox

12. Broadband

Cllr Reading updated the council with news that slow progress had been made and that an email had been received from WDC regarding notification of an error whereby 485 Hertfordshire postcodes had erroneously been included in the BT submission as part of the Bucks programme and that delivery of the roll-out will be summer 2018. Cllr Reading had asked the clerk to respond to WDC asking for a list of the postcodes in-scope, including the Hertfordshire postcodes, so that it could be validated that all relevant parts of the parish are included and WDC responded assuring that the postcodes for the whole of the Bledlow ward were submitted to BT however they did not share a detailed list. There was a brief discussion surrounding alternative methods of achieving faster broadband and Cllr Sage agreed to put Cllr Reading in touch with an acquaintance working in the telecommunications industry who may be able to help.

Action: Cllr Sage

13. Meadow Styles

Cllr Sage reported that the Parents Group have arranged for Safe & Sound to return to the playground to fix the zip line and that the cost would be covered from their funds. The clerk stated that she had still not received a monthly safety report from the Parent's Group. Cllr Sage indicated that there was no requirement for there to be a monthly safety inspection, only annually. The clerk agreed to investigate what the rules are regarding safety checks and insurance liability. Cllr Sage agreed to ask the Parent's Group to inform the parish council of any safety checks they do conduct.

Action: Cllr Sage and clerk

14. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

14.1. Cllr Cox reported that the Molins site currently is open access as the gates are open. It was agreed that the clerk would report this to the landowners, St Congar.

Action: Clerk

14.2. Cllr Cox informed the council that he was due to meet James Tunnard of BCC on Friday 6th May to discuss the issue of hedges along the Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge.

14.3. Cllr Cox asked about the sign and gate situated at the entrance to Bledlow that has been knocked over for some time. The clerk confirmed that it was already on her list of actions.

14.4. Cllr Butler reported that she had received complaints regarding the presence of a motorhome parked at a house on The Crest, Bledlow Ridge. The council sympathised with the issue but agreed there was nothing they can do if there was nothing in the deeds of the property preventing the parking of motorhomes

Initial.....

14.5. Cllr Blackwell reported that he had heard nothing from the Flood Group since December 2015.

14.6. Cllr Blackwell reported that the dangerous tree on the A4010 still hadn't been addressed by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) despite it being reported to them on numerous occasions and that branches have been falling from the tree into gardens and onto the road. It was agreed that Cllr Blackwell would forward photos of the tree to the clerk and the clerk would chase TfB for a response to the previous complaints.

Action: Cllr Blackwell and Clerk

14.7. Cllr Lord asked permission from the council to approach Thames Valley Police regarding community speed watch. The council agreed that he could do so.

Action: Cllr Lord

14.8. The clerk reported that she had been in touch with the clerk of Bradenham Parish Council with respect to the HS2 A4010 action group discussed at the April 2016 meeting. The Bradenham Council clerk had consulted with other members of the group and they had agreed that there was no reason for Bledlow-cum-Saunderton to join the group at this stage.

14.9. The clerk reported that she had received notification from TfB that, following their clearance of the footpath along the A4010, they had no further plans to resurface it and that if it was something the council would like to do then the issue should be raised with our local councillor. It was agreed that the clerk would do this.

Action: Clerk

14.10. Cllr Reading raised the issue of lighting at the former Rose & Crown pub which is now a private residence. There are external security lights which are impacting drivers on Lee Road and there are also floodlights on the wall and gates which are on all night. In addition, the road surface of Lee Road outside the property is in a dreadful state and needs repair. The clerk agreed to report the issues.

Action: Clerk

14.11. Cllr Breese reported that there were the recent temporary repairs to potholes in the road near the Old Schools, Bledlow that need a permanent repair. The clerk will report them to TfB.

Action: Clerk

15. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Breese addressed the committee and explained that the timings of the Neighbourhood Plan had slipped. The draft policies had been seen by WDC last week and came out quite well. The report now needs to be sent to rCOH and then the draft plan can be distributed. There are no timelines as yet however Cllr Breese intends to call an extraordinary meeting of the council where councillors can comment on the draft plan. He urged the councillors to please read the draft plan, use their local knowledge to think about their local areas and sites, and respond appropriately. After the council have approved the draft plan there will be a round of public consultation.

Cllr Reading asked about the failed Longwick plan and where the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton plan is in relation to the timings. Cllr Breese replied that Bledlow-cum-Saunderton is still a long way from the stage where the Longwick plan failed however WDC have indicated that the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton plan is in good shape.

16. Next meeting

It was acknowledged that the next meeting would be on Thursday 2nd June 2016 at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....