



# BLEDLow-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>  
July 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese (Chairman), J Butler, P Castle,  
and A Lord;  
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay  
County Councillor: Bill Bendyshe-Brown

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Nigel Cox and Stephen Reading and also County Councillor and District Councillor Carl Etholen.

## 2. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

2.1. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman as a true record. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Butler, seconded by Cllr Blackwell and carried unanimously.

2.2. The minutes of the ordinary meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman as a true record. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Butler, seconded by Cllr Blackwell and carried unanimously.

## 3. Neighbourhood Plan

3.1. The minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meetings were acknowledged.

3.2. Cllr Breese informed the council that the Neighbourhood Plan team had received an email from the consultants advising that they will have difficulty completing their processes before the parish council meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. Cllr Breese therefore asked the councillors to consider the best course of action in order to keep the Neighbourhood Plan project on track for the autumn deadlines with either a later date for the parish council meeting in August or a secondary extraordinary meeting called to cover the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.3. Cllr Breese reported that St Congar, the developers of the Molins site, had submitted an amendment to their development plans with a reduction in housing numbers and that Wycombe District Council (WDC) had responded stating that plans cannot be amended whilst an appeal is ongoing. The parish council have put a notice on the website to show they are aware of the new amendment. A discussion followed regarding whether or not any action was required from the parish council. It was agreed that there is little that can be added to WDC's comments however the council should write to WDC to clarify that the council has not, as a statutory consultee, been consulted regarding the changes.

**Action: Clerk**

3.4. Cllr Breese reported to the council on the two Neighbourhood Plan consultation meetings that had taken place. They were amicable meetings with between roughly 10-20 attendees at each meeting. No major issues were raised but there were some concerns from residents over the GB4 boundary changes. Attendees were advised to submit any concerns to the Neighbourhood Plan team via the formal consultation comments form.

## 4. Verge Gardening

Councillors reported several properties where there appeared to be dangerous or permanent additions to the verges outside properties. It was agreed that the clerk would continue to compile a list of properties and check the parish before sending a list to Transport for Bucks (TfB).

**Action: Clerk**

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## 5. WDC Local Plan

Cllr Breese informed the council that WDC have entered the consultation phase of their Local Plan. Cllr Sage stated that the Princes Risborough Plan appears to be completely separate from the WDC Plan and Cllr Bendyshe-Brown confirmed that the Princes Risborough Plan is a separate free-standing document as it is an "Area Action Plan". Cllr Sage was concerned that the WDC Local Plan takes no consideration of the changes proposed in the Princes Risborough plan, specifically the impact of increased traffic on the A4010 and the Pedestal Roundabout given the proposed increase of 2500 houses in Princes Risborough. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown advised that traffic planning was not down to WDC but Bucks County Council (BCC). BCC do have a road plan up to 2021 but it does not include the A4010 and Cllr Bendyshe-Brown has already appealed to BCC to include the A4010 in this plan. Cllr Breese asked Cllrs Bird and Sage to liaise and prepare a draft letter in response to the WDC Local Plan to be approved at the next meeting of the council. The clerk would then formally send the letter to WDC.

**Action: Cllrs Bird and Sage**

Cllr Bendyshe-Brown also informed the council of the plans for a relief road around Princes Risborough and the fact that consultants had been brought in to look at the costing of the various options. One route is from the A4010 through the field by Shootacre Lane at a cost of approximately £41m. The alternative route is around Horsenden to join the B4009 at the far end of Summerleys Road at an approximate cost of £70m. The cost of any relief road needs to be met by developers and at the moment WDC are seeing an increase in planning applications as developers attempt to get permission approved before the Area Action Plan is accepted.

Cllr Breese asked Cllr Bendyshe-Brown about the traffic considerations around the Molins site on Haw Lane. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown stated that the traffic consultants will have assessed all the options and the results would be heard at the Molins appeal.

## 6. Planning matters

6.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved

6.2. Specific discussion surrounded the continued development of the Hearing Dogs site in Saunderton and how it can be allowed given its position in the AONB. Cllr Breese asked the clerk to email Cllr Etholen to state that the Parish Council is displeased and also to ask how the council can amend it's processes in order for it's planning views to be taken into consideration more.

**Action: Clerk**

6.3. Cllr Blackwell updated the meeting with progress at West Yard in Saunderton where contractors have been surveying the land. Cllr Blackwell has spoken to the contractors and they were unaware of the possibility of mustard gas being on the site. It was suggested that the council should contact WDC to let them know that surveying has been taking place on site. Cllr Blackwell is to provide the details to the clerk.

**Action: Cllr Blackwell and the Clerk**

6.4. The clerk reported that she had received correspondence from a member of the public regarding a property in Hillview, Saunderton that appeared to have installed an access point to the rear of the property which had resulted in vehicles crossing the verge in order to access the property. Cllr Blackwell agreed to investigate and report back to the clerk in order for her to submit an enforcement request to BCC.

**Action: Cllr Blackwell and the Clerk**

6.5. The clerk informed the council that she had received notification from WDC of an appeal against an enforcement notice at Tudor Farm, Bledlow Ridge, with respect to the positioning of three mobile homes on the site without planning permission for the material change of use of the land from equestrian to mixed use. WDC will inform the council further once the dates of a Public Inquiry have been set.

6.6. The clerk informed the council that she had received correspondence from residents concerned about a landowner wishing to apply for planning permission to develop the field adjacent to The Boot, Bledlow Ridge. The council agreed that, until any planning applications had been made they were unable to take any action.

6.7. The clerk informed the council that she had received correspondence from BCC in respect to the development of West Yard, Saunderton, and the opinions of the council regarding the provision of street lighting in the development. The council agreed that as the parish follows a dark skies policy there should preferably be no street lighting however if lighting is required for health and safety purposes that lighting should be consistent with a dark skies policy. The clerk will respond accordingly.

**Action: Clerk**

6.8. The clerk informed the council that she had received notification from South Oxfordshire District Council that they were consulting their new Draft Design Guide Planning Document. The council agreed that there would be little impact on the parish as a result of this new document and therefore it was not necessary to respond.

**7. Applications for grants**

No applications received

**8. Authorisation of payments**

The following payments were unanimously agreed:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100601	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – June 2016	£458.33		£458.33
100602	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£15.99		£15.99
100603	John Lawrence	Parish grass cutting	£268.00		£268.00
100604	Clive Winslow Limited	Sand – Meadow Styles	£346.30	£69.26	£415.56
100605	TBS Hygiene Ltd	Bin emptying	£28.50	£5.70	£34.20
100606	Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	£100 grant for Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup>	£100.00		£100.00
100607	Bledlow Village Hall	Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	£36.00		£36.00
100608	Wycombe District Council	Playground inspection	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>£1,313.12</b>	<b>£86.96</b>	<b>£1,400.08</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure</b>					
100609	Engage Planning	Mailing costs	£631.11	£126.22	£757.33
100610	Adlam Repo	Printing	£588.30	£117.66	£705.96
100611	Adlam Repo	Copying	£16.60	£3.32	£19.92
100612	rCOH	Invoice 4	£5,000.00	£1,000.00	£6,000.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>£6,236.01</b>	<b>£1,247.20</b>	<b>£7,483.21</b>
	<b>Total for month</b>		<b>£7,549.13</b>	<b>£1,334.16</b>	<b>£8,883.29</b>

**9. Honorarium of internal auditor**

The clerk reported that, following discussions with Mrs Ruck, John Lewis vouchers would be the most suitable form of payment. The council agreed that, as the previous internal auditor was paid £86.40 last year, an amount of £85 would be appropriate. The clerk asked if the council would be happy for her to purchase the vouchers on a personal card and then be reimbursed and the council agreed.

**Action: Clerk**

**10. Speeding and speed limits**

The clerk reported to the council that she had received two items of correspondence with respect to speeding and speed limits in Bledlow, one complaining about speeding traffic on Perry Lane and one requesting a 20mph zone be considered for Bledlow following the recent implementation of a 20mph zone in Askett. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown stated that he had been involved with the Askett scheme and that a similar request for BCC to implement a 20mph limit in Bledlow was unlikely to be successful as the village is not used as a "rat run".

There followed a general discussion regarding the problem of speeding in the parish. Cllr Lord stated that he would continue to follow up with the police regarding setting up a SpeedWatch programme in the parish.

**Action: Cllr Lord**

**11. Beat the bounds**

Cllr Castle proposed a slight amendment to the resolution in the agenda to read:

*“To set a date for the event and to resolve to pay for the Beat the Bounds event up to a value of £200”*

Following consultation with the council Cllr Breese seconded the resolution and it was passed unanimously.

The proposed date of the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 was deemed unsuitable for the majority of the council present and it was agreed that Cllr Cox would need to find another suitable date for the event.

**Action: Cllr Cox**

## 12. Insurance

The resolution *“to resolve to add individual indemnity of the councillors to the standing orders”* was proposed by Cllr Breese. Cllr Castle stated that he believed it was not appropriate to add this to the standing orders as the standing orders are a set of procedures. Following discussion, the resolution was withdrawn pending further clarification from the insurers as to what is currently covered. The clerk will request this clarification.

**Action: Clerk**

## 13. Wycombe Sound local radio

Cllr Blackwell informed the council of a new local radio station in High Wycombe which will be online at the end of August. The radio station had made a request for a parish council representative to be available to discuss the local area and its needs. It was agreed that, instead of a named representative, the radio station should contact the clerk as and when required who will then direct the enquiry accordingly.

## 14. Playgrounds

14.1. The clerk informed the council that she had received the Annual Playground Inspection report for Meadow Styles which concluded that everything in the playground was either low risk or very low risk. The report was passed on to Cllr Sage in order for him to distribute to the Parents Group.

14.2. Cllr Sage reported that Safe & Sound were coming to repair the zipline at Meadow Styles.

14.3. Cllr Bird reported that the playground at Bledlow was still closed and that action was being considered.

## 15. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

15.1. The clerk reported that she had received several complaints regarding overgrown footpaths. It was generally agreed that landowners are responsible for cutting vegetation on footpaths but that it is difficult to know who the landowners are. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown informed the council that BCC actually own lots of the footpaths and that it would be worth contacting BCC to ask if they could help with clearance. He also suggested that the Chilterns Society had a team of volunteers that would clear footpaths.

**Action: Clerk**

15.2. The clerk reported that she had received notification from BCC of consultation that was being undertaken on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. It was agreed that the details would be passed to Cllr Blackwell in order for him to respond on behalf of the council. There followed a general discussion regarding flooding in the parish and drain clearance. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown advised that BCC undertake regular drain clearance but that if there was a continued problem the parish council should invited the BCC representative to come to a future meeting to discuss the issues.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr Blackwell**

15.3. Cllr Breese read out a report from Cllr Reading on the recent LAF meeting covering:

- a) Sandpit Lane – little progress had been made;
- b) Flood Alleviation work – a number of new flood alleviation projects have been initiated by Transport for Bucks (TfB), including West Lane and Haw Lane, although there are currently no dates for execution of the projects; and
- c) Broadband – WDC had contributed to the funding of the implementation of high speed broadband and had identified 5 priority areas including Bledlow and Bledlow Ridge

Cllr Breese asked Cllr Bendyshe-Brown for an update as he had been present at the LAF meeting. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown confirmed that there were 5 priority areas including Bledlow and Bledlow Ridge and that a plan confirming this should be available within the next week. Cllr Breese requested a list of seven digit postcodes alongside a date when they could expect implementation.

- 15.4. Cllr Butler reported that she had met with Nick Jeffrey regarding footpaths and Restoring the Record and that the project was ongoing.
- 15.5. Cllr Sage asked the clerk if any progress had been made regarding registering the Country Store in Bledlow Ridge as a community asset. The clerk confirmed that it had not yet been registered but she would make the application a priority.
- 15.6. Cllr Breese reported that the road traffic signs in Bledlow had still not been cleaned. The clerk was under the impression that all signs within the parish had been cleaned by Princes Risborough Town Council as part of the devolved services agreement but she would check again.
- 15.7. Cllr Breese suggested a vote of congratulations should be made to Cllr Bird as she had recently been awarded an MBE. The vote was proposed by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Blackwell and warmly agreed by all present.
- 15.8. Cllr Bendyshe-Brown's update informed the council that the main issue on BCC's agenda at the moment is the idea of a unitary authority as the county council has significant spending issues. 2 separate studies are being conducted, one by BCC themselves, to ascertain if and how it could happen. Cllr Breese stated that, for the parish, a unitary Bucks Council would be better than a unitary District council.

**16. Next meeting**

The council discussed whether, for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, the August meeting should be moved but it was decided that the next meeting would continue as planned on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall starting at 7.30pm** and that an extraordinary meeting would be held in order to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan as necessary.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....

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