



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday 25th August 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese (Chairman), J Butler, P Castle, N Cox, A Lord, and S Reading;
County and District Councillor Carl Etholen
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay
Luca Guerzoni (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Sage.

2. Review and approval of the draft Neighbourhood Plan

2.1. Cllr Breese explained that there was only one item on the agenda and that the sole purpose of the meeting was for the council to decide if the draft Neighbourhood Plan was fit for submission to Wycombe District Council. Cllr Breese reminded the council that the decision was very important as, once taken, changes to the plan will not be possible.

2.2. Cllr Breese asked if all the councillors had read the Plan, or enough of the Plan in order to be able to make a decision. Cllr Bird commented that it was probably necessary to read through it more than once but given that it was only distributed 5 days prior to the meeting she had not been able to. She confirmed that she had read the parts that had been amended from the previous version.

2.3. Cllr Breese reassured councillors that much of the design parts of the Plan (policies 4-7) followed the Chilterns Design Guide which is a very well established set of guidelines but that it has not been applied well by Planning up until now. By putting the guidelines into a Neighbourhood Plan it should ensure they are enforced going forward.

2.4. Cllr Cox asked if the Chiltern's Conservation Board and Wycombe District Council (WDC) had been consulted on the contents of the draft Plan. Cllr Breese and Luca Guerzoni confirmed that they had.

2.5. Luca Guerzoni (LG) summarised the next steps for the Neighbourhood Plan process (see attached schedule). Once submission to WDC occurs the parish council is no longer in charge of the process. WDC, having checked that the Plan meets all required regulations, will publish the Plan for a further and final round of public consultation ("Reg 16 consultation"). All comments under the consultation (unless anything major arises) will go directly to the independent examiner who will inspect the Plan. The examiner can make a decision based entirely on the Plan documents or could call the parish council for evidence or conduct a public inquiry. The examiner can recommend that the Plan proceed or not proceed to the referendum stage or be modified before it can proceed to referendum. The timing of the referendum is not yet known as from now onwards there are no set timelines (apart from the statutory 6 week Reg 16 consultation). It is anticipated that, all going well, the referendum will be at some point in Q2 2017.

2.6. Cllrs Cox and Lord asked about the impact of the Molins appeal on the Neighbourhood Plan. LG confirmed that the submission of the Plan now would allow WDC to start the Reg 16 consultation by the time the Molins appeal starts. To this end and in the absence of statutory timelines the parish council, as part of submitting the Plan to WDC, would include a letter stating that best practice would be to start the Reg 16 consultation within 2 weeks of receiving the Plan. It was also noted that the Molins appeal may go on for many more months and the Neighbourhood Plan would hold more weight in the appeal the further advanced it is. The Parish Council have decided to make a representation at the Molins appeal and will mention that there is a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Etholen confirmed that an already prepared Neighbourhood Plan is extra "ammunition in the armament" and the Molins inspector would probably take it into account

2.7. Cllr Breese asked if any councillors had any questions about the Plan itself. Cllr Blackwell picked up on a small grammatical error. Cllr Lord stated that the Plan is very detailed and that it would be useful to have a

synopsis put together prior to the referendum. Cllr Breese confirmed that would be done and that, in early 2017, the PC would also need to think about a communications plan in the lead up to the referendum.

- 2.8. Cllr Breese asked the councillors for their views on the Plan. Cllr Reading stated that he was not comfortable with Policy 3 but ultimately he could live with it. Cllr Bird mentioned that a very good job had been done in recording and responding to comments received during the consultation period.
- 2.9. Cllr Castle asked about the wording of the resolution – *“to approve the submission of the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Neighbourhood Plan to Wycombe District Council for the Regulation 16 publicity period and the appointment of an independent examiner”*. Cllr Breese confirmed that the wording had been suggested by Derek Stone and that the council is only being asked to approve the submission of the plan. Cllr Castle asked if that meant the council are also approving the Plan. Cllr Breese stated that the Plan may still change as a result of the next part of the process so the council cannot finally approve it at this point. Once the Plan has gone through the next steps then a final version will be put to the council for approval.
- 2.10. The motion *“to approve the submission of the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Neighbourhood Plan to Wycombe District Council for the Regulation 16 publicity period and the appointment of an independent examiner”* was put to the council after being proposed by Cllr Blackwell and seconded by Cllr Bird. A vote was taken with 6 councillors voting for, 1 against (Cllr Castle) and 1 abstention (Cllr Cox). It was noted in his absence that Cllr Sage supported the Plan.
- 2.11. Cllr Breese thanked Luca Guerzoni and the other members of the NP Working Group that had worked on the Plan.
- 2.12. Meeting closed.

Signed.....

Date.....