



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 6th
October 2016 at 7.45pm

Present: Councillors S Bird, M Blackwell, S Breese (Chairman), J Butler, P Castle, N Cox, S Reading and A Sage
Clerk: Jocelyn Cay
County and District Councillor: Carl Etholen

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Anthony Lord.

2. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 1st September 2016

The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Reading and seconded by Cllr Blackwell.

3. Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) had not met since the previous meeting of the council and therefore there were no minutes to acknowledge.

Cllr Breese reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was with Wycombe District Council (WDC) and that they had opened their statutory 6 week consultation period. This will close on 25th October 2016.

Cllr Breese informed the council that the NPWG were now in the process of evaluating the CVs of prospective independent planning inspectors and will notify WDC of their preference. The independent planning inspector will read and review the Neighbourhood Plan with respect to planning law and has the power to reject the plan.

4. Planning matters

4.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

4.2. Cllr Blackwell reported that a large wooden structure has been erected in the field near Scrubbs Lane, Bledlow Ridge and questioned whether or not planning permission had been granted. The clerk will investigate further and take any necessary action.

Action: Clerk

4.3. Cllr Breese reported that the council had received notification from EE about the repositioning of a telecommunications mast from the Molins site to the fields opposite. It was agreed the proposals are not ideal however, as permitted development, there are no grounds for objection. The clerk will respond to EE.

Action: Clerk

5. Applications for grants

No applications had been received.

6. Authorisation of payments

The following payments were unanimously agreed following proposal by Cllr Blackwell, seconded by Cllr Bird:

Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100628	Jocelyn Cay	Salary – September 2016	£458.33		£458.33
100629	Jocelyn Cay	Expenses	£15.99		£15.99
100630	John Lawrence	Parish grass cutting	£268.00		£268.00
100631	TBS Hygiene Ltd	Bin emptying	£60.30	£12.06	£72.36
100632	Bledlow Village Hall	Hire for hall	£36.00		£36.00

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Cheque No.	Payee	Description	Net Amount	VAT	Total
100633	John Lawrence	Footpath clearance	£75.00		£75.00
	Subtotal		£913.62	£12.06	£925.68
Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure					
100634	Jocelyn Cay	Logging comments (10.5hrs)	£120.33		£120.33
100635	rCOH Ltd	Final invoice	£3,069.15	£613.83	£3,682.98
	Subtotal		£3,189.48	£613.83	£3,803.31
	Total for month		£4,103.10	£625.89	£4,728.99

7. Unitary Authority

Cllrs had met with BCC representatives prior to the meeting to discuss the proposals for a new Unitary Authority and supported the proposal for a single unitary authority for the county as this is predicted to deliver the maximum cost savings and will be more suitable for a rural parish such as Bledlow-cum-Saunderton which already shares a border with Oxfordshire. The proposals are not detailed enough at present to predict how they will impact Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council however it is envisaged that, if more services are devolved to local councils, more resources may be required locally such as increasing the Clerk's hours or acting with neighbouring parishes.

8. Beat the bounds

Cllrs Cox and Bird confirmed that they are still in the process of writing a summary document. This will be raised again at the next meeting.

Action: Cllrs Cox and Bird

9. Broadband

Cllr Reading confirmed there was no news to add to the report he had circulated prior to the meeting and that the whole process was very frustrating. It seems that areas of the Bledlow Ridge settlement have been earmarked for implementation and that more rural areas will continue to be out of scope.

Cllr Breese asked Cllr Etholen to arrange for Cllrs Breese, Reading and Etholen to meet with Connected Counties to go through the area and scope of the implementation as follows:

- When will the parish have a statement as to likely impact, especially those areas with already very poor broadband?
- Which non-commercially viable parts of our parish are in receipt of the money that has been specifically ring-fenced for such areas?
- When will we get details so we know what we may have to address as a Parish Council?

Action: Cllr Etholen

10. Molins Inquiry

Cllr Breese reported that both he and Cllr Sage had attended parts of the inquiry as had Derek Stone. Cllr Breese's opinion was that it had gone more or less as expected, and the majority of WDC's arguments seemed to be accepted. WDC and the developer's closing submissions are available via the WDC web site. The determination should be available before Christmas.

Cllr Reading felt that there had not been enough communication to the council and the community regarding how the inquiry was progressing and it was agreed that an update should be put onto the parish council's website.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Reading formally thanked Cllrs Breese and Sage, along with Derek Stone, for their attendance at the inquiry.

11. Road maintenance

Cllr Breese asked Cllr Etholen what the current status was with respect to road maintenance as the situation across the parish seems to be regressing.

Cllr Etholen stated that there are funding issues and that priority roads will be treated first however Category 1 potholes should be repaired within 24 hours.

Cllr Breese questioned the methodology and procedures used by the teams filling potholes as it seems inadequate. Cllr Etholen agreed to take up the issue with Contract Portfolio as, if the contractor isn't performing as required, action should be taken.

Action: Cllr Etholen

Cllr Cox added that the pothole situation is dangerous for the cyclists and motorcyclists on the roads and that this in turn makes it dangerous for drivers.

Cllr Cox also reported that the state of BCC hedges along Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge was still a problem as BCC have still not cut them and cars are being damaged along that stretch of the road. Cllr Breese asked Cllr Etholen to take up this issue.

Action: Cllr Etholen

12. LAF update

Cllr Reading had provided a written report to the councillors following the LAF meeting on 21st September 2016. In summary, the Sandpit Lane/Phoenix Trail project was progressing and would hopefully be completed in November. It was also confirmed that the BcSPC submissions for TfB had been acknowledged and that the LAF would now like to hear of non-TfB projects. Cllr Reading suggested the Bledlow playground or the village halls but asked the councillors to email him if they had any further suggestions.

Action: All Cllrs

13. Footpaths

- 13.1. Cllr Butler reported that the book she had previously requested be purchased by the council was now out of print so no longer required. It is thought a new version may be produced soon so she may ask the council again at that point.
- 13.2. Cllr Butler also reported that the next meeting for the Restoring the Record would be in 2017 and that a new volunteer had come forward to help, David Howlett.
- 13.3. The clerk asked Cllr Butler about the issue raised in the September meeting regarding the likelihood of being able to install a footpath along Haw Lane from where the pavement ends to Deanfield. Cllr Butler confirmed that this had been raised as an issue before, albeit as a request for a continuation of the pavement. At that point the cost was prohibitive at around £60,000 however there may be a possibility of a right of way through the field, as has been achieved further along Haw Lane.
- 13.4. The clerk reported that she had been contacted by BCC regarding the clearance of the footpath behind The Boot at Bledlow Ridge. It appears that annual clearance of this footpath and several others are part of the devolved services agreement the parish council has with BCC. Under the agreement the footpaths need to be cleared before the end of October each year and a report submitted back to BCC in order to claim the funding. The clerk informed the council that the usual contractor, John Lawrence, hadn't capacity for further work. It was agreed that the clerk would circulate to the Cllrs the maps of the footpaths involved and also obtains quotes in order to get the work done before the deadline.

Action: Clerk

14. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

- 14.1. The clerk reported that the Annual Return had been returned by the external auditors and that all was in order. There was the usual advisory note in respect of the levels of reserves held however this did not impact the overall opinion of the auditors. Cllr Breese pointed out that the reserves would be somewhat diminished owing to the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan and the expected work on the Bledlow Village Hall.
- 14.2. The clerk informed the council that she had been contacted by a resident regarding the ownership of Beechgrove Pond, Bledlow Ridge. It was advised that Land Registry be contacted in order to ascertain ownership.

Action: Clerk

14.3. The clerk asked the council for ideas for CIL priorities as she had received a request for these from BCC. It was agreed that priorities would be a continuation of the right of way along Haw Lane from the end of the pavement to the Molins site, rural broadband and traffic calming in Bledlow Ridge. The clerk will report these back to BCC.

Action: Clerk

14.4. Cllr Cox queried the protocol of the location of parish council meetings and it was agreed that the venue should alternate between Bledlow and Bledlow Ridge. It was also agreed that the location of the Annual Meeting of the Parish should alternate annually between the venues. The clerk confirmed that this would be done going forward.

14.5. Cllr Cox stated that he still felt aggrieved regarding the discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan greenbelt boundaries at the extraordinary meeting in August 2016. Although he had previously raised the issue at the September meeting he felt that, as so many councillors had been absent, it was appropriate for it to be revisited. Cllr Breese agreed and the issue was discussed further. In conclusion Cllr Breese decided that, although the situation had not been handled elegantly or in the best manner, he was satisfied that it had been handled adequately and that no further action was required.

14.6. Cllr Breese mentioned that Cllr Bird had received notification of new plans regarding a potential bypass around Princes Risborough. Cllr Bird will write a report on the plans and the clerk will distribute prior to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Bird

15. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 3rd November 2016 starting at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....