



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday
1st December 2016 at 7.50pm

Present: Councillors M Blackwell, S Breese (Chairman), S Bird, P Castle, N Cox, A
Lord, S Reading and A Sage

Clerk: Jocelyn Cay

2 members of the public – Mike Britnell and Peter Malaure

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2016

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

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th August 2016

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

3. Members of the public invited to speak

3.1. Peter Malaure, resident of Haw Lane, Bledlow Ridge outlined his concerns over parked vehicles on Haw Lane and how they create a dangerous situation when exiting his driveway. He requested that the Parish Council support him in an application to have a mirror positioned on a 30mph road sign opposite his drive on land owned by Bucks County Council. The council agreed unanimously that they would support his request and it was decided that Cllr Lord will contact Mr Malaure to arrange a viewing of the site. Once Cllr Lord has assessed the necessary requirements the clerk will write to Bucks County Council in support of Mr Malaure's request.

Action: Cllr Lord and Clerk

3.2. Mike Britnell, Chair of the Bledlow Village Hall Committee, updated the council on the refurbishment project planned for the hall. The total project has been costed at around £60,000 however there are repairs that need urgent attention, specifically the toilets. Mr Britnell is proposing that the project be split into two phases with the first phase taking place in the summer of 2017. The parish council has previously agreed to pledge £10,000 to the project and Mr Britnell asked the council if it would be possible to split that amount so he could put some towards phase one of the project and the rest towards phase two at a later date. Cllr Cox asked if Mr Britnell had explored all the avenues available in terms of grants from elsewhere. Mr Britnell confirmed that he had and that in many cases they were not eligible for the grants. The council unanimously agreed that the previously promised £10,000 was still available for the hall and could be accessed as required upon formal application to the council once invoices had been received. The council were however concerned about the level of reserves being held by the village hall and urged Mr Britnell to spend some of those reserves on the refurbishment projects rather than retaining them for annual interest income.

4. Conduct at meetings

Cllr Breese apologised to the council for the intemperate language he had used during the previous meeting and offered to stand down as chairman. He made clear he had been in the wrong but pointed out that his outburst was caused by frustration at the unacceptable behaviour of other councillors. In retrospect he explained that he should have halted the meeting and asked the two councillors concerned to leave.

Cllr Breese reminded the council of the behaviour expected at meetings, particularly keeping to the agenda, ordering thoughts before speaking, addressing the point in question, not talking whilst others are speaking and not being disruptive if entering a meeting late. Cllr Reading agreed that it was frustrating when councillors do not abide by the rules. Cllr Bird highlighted that often the council repeatedly and unnecessarily discuss the same issue and that much time could be saved by councillors only speaking when they have new points to contribute to a conversation. Cllr Cox voiced his confidence in Cllr Breese

as a chairman, how the meetings have been run over the past 5 years and how he has taken on far more than reasonable during his term.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

5.1. The minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) were acknowledged.

5.2. Cllr Breese updated the council with the latest news on the project. The report from the examining inspector is expected in the next two weeks and the results will be emailed to councillors upon receipt. It is hoped the Neighbourhood Plan will remain on track for a referendum next year. It was also noted that the Molins appeal was waiting for the Plan and the Secretary of State will take it into consideration when making a decision.

6. Planning matters

6.1. Current applications were discussed and responses approved.

6.2. It was noted that an application for a barn conversion at Monks Mill in Bledlow had been classified as not needing permission from Wycombe District Council (WDC). The council queried this decision and asked the clerk to clarify the situation with WDC.

Action: Clerk

6.3. The clerk reported that a planning appeal at Callow Down Farm, Wigans Lane had been dismissed.

7. Applications for grants

An application had been received from Anne Ley of Bledlow Ridge for £1,468.00 in respect of replacing the boundary hedge with a wooden fence. The request was unanimously supported by the council having been proposed by Cllr Blackwell and seconded by Cllr Sage.

8. Authorisation of payments

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

| Cheque No. | Payee | Description | Net Amount | VAT | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 100641 | Jocelyn Cay | Salary – October 2016 | £458.33 | | £458.33 |
| 100642 | Jocelyn Cay | Expenses | £73.91 | | £73.91 |
| 100643 | TBS Hygiene Ltd | Bin emptying | £26.80 | £5.36 | £32.16 |
| 100644 | Zurich Municipal | Annual insurance | £805.61 | | £805.61 |
| 100645 | Nick Jeffrey | Land registry searches | £24.00 | | £24.00 |
| | Subtotal | | £1,388.65 | £5.36 | £1,394.01 |
| Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | | | | |
| | Total for month | | £1,388.65 | £5.36 | £1,394.01 |

9. Budget

The first draft of the budget was discussed line by line. Amendments will be made by the clerk and an updated version of the budget will be presented at the next meeting in January 2017. Issues arising from the discussion that require action included:

9.1. The dog waste bin at Meadow Styles – Cllr Cox suggested that, as dog waste is permitted in normal litter bins, that the dog waste bin could now be removed saving the council approximately £400 per annum. Cllr Cox and Cllr Lord agreed to investigate the bins at Meadow Styles and report back at a later date.

Action: Cllrs Cox and Lord

9.2. During 2016/2017 the precept was erroneously raised due to a clerical error made by the previous clerk. It had been suggested by Cllr Breese that therefore the 2017/2018 precept be returned to the 2015/2016 levels, prior to the error but Cllr Lord disagreed and said that the precept should be maintained at its new level going forward. The council agreed unanimously to Cllr Lord's approach.

10. Broadband

10.1. Cllr Reading discussed his written broadband report (see attached) with the council

10.2. The terms of reference of the new Broadband Working Group were presented to the council and discussed. Cllr Breese asked the council if they approved the creation of the new working group, along with a budget for £500 and Terms of Reference to be confirmed in the first meeting of the working group. The council unanimously agreed with the proposal.

11. Speedwatch

Cllr Lord informed the council that training will be taking place in Bledlow Ridge during January 2017. He will circulate the precise details as they are available and urged all members of the council to be present for the training if possible.

12. Village Shop, Bledlow Ridge

Due to time constraints it was agreed this would be discussed in further detail at the next meeting in January. Cllr Cox confirmed he had spoken to the current tenants of the shop and that negotiations were taking place for the sale of the shop to new owners. The clerk will confirm that the shop has been registered as a community asset.

Action: Clerk

13. Correspondence, reports and issues from councillors and clerk

13.1. Cllr Castle reported that he had verified bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the Clerk and that the relevant documents had been signed as evidence thereof.

13.2. Cllr Reading reported that he had received notification that work was being undertaken on the Sandpit Lane crossing of the Phoenix Trail.

13.3. Cllr Cox reported to the council that he had been having continuing problems with James Tunnard of Bucks County Council in respect of hedge cutting. The clerk was aware of the issue and already planning to meet with Mr Tunnard.

Action: Clerk

13.4. The clerk informed the council that Transport for Bucks are conducting a consultation on their new Highway Inspection Policy. The deadline for comments is 26th December 2016. The clerk will circulate the details to all councillors, any comments should be returned to the clerk who will respond formally.

Action: Clerk and All Councillors

13.5. The clerk informed the council that BCC are running a conference on 12th December with respect to the unitary authority proposals. Cllr Breese agreed to attend.

Action: Cllr Breese

14. Next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held at Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday 5th January 2017 starting at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....