

## **Minutes from PC Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014**

**Present :- PC Members :- Cllrs Breese, Reading, Stallwood, Butler, Cox, Hojer, Britnell.**

**Bucks CC - Cllr Etholen (left early – 8-15pm)**

**Apologies :- Cllrs Stone & Taylor (assumed), Mick Evins**

**Agenda item 2 –**

**Minutes approved**

**Agenda Item 3 – matters arising**

### **1. Traffic Calming/Road Maintenance –**

- 1.1. Cllr Etholen advised the PC of the planned dates by which the VAS in Bledlow Ridge would be commissioned. Cllr Reading noted that some of the dates mentioned were past due, and asked if the work was proceeding to plan. Cllr Cox confirmed that this was the case. The chair asked that the minutes record our appreciation of the level of detail provided to the PC by the Local Area Technician .
- 1.2. Noted that resurfacing work on Haw Lane (from the A4010 junction through the Bledlow Ridge village sign) was due to start on 7<sup>th</sup> July. It was noted that there would be some daytime road closures.
- 1.3. Cllr Etholen reported that BCC had received a further £1.5m from central government to fund road maintenance. Cllr Breese asked the PC whether there were any urgent repairs needed not already known to the PC. Cllr Reading advised that the condition of the A4010 on the bend adjacent to the Haw Lane junction was poor. This was endorsed by Cllr Cox

### **2. Meadow Stiles and Bledlow Playground.**

- 2.1. It was noted that Cllr Stallwood had made good progress on reconciling all payments made and received in connection with the Meadow Stiles project. Initial findings indicated that there was around £16k remaining. It was also noted that expenditure on Maintenance items had increased significantly in recent years.
- 2.2. It was noted that the PC would not be in a position to confirm this figure until an assessment had been made around whether certain ‘one-off’ payments had been correctly apportioned as ‘Maintenance’
- 2.3. It was agreed that Cllr Stallwood would prepare three views of the balance sheet i.e. :-
  - 2.3.1. Maximising Capital expenditure
  - 2.3.2. Maximising Revenue (Maintenance) expenditure
  - 2.3.3. Blended view
- 2.4. It was agreed that the balance sheet(s) would be reviewed by Cllrs Butler, Hojer and Reading and a recommendation be brought back to the September PC meeting for ratification.
- 2.5. It was agreed that until the balance sheet exercise was completed, and given that maintenance costs were running in excess of the amount budgeted the PC would not :-
  - 2.5.1. Approve any further development of the Playground or surrounding area
  - 2.5.2. Approve equipment repairs unless proved to be dangerous. In this instance the PC would consider decommissioning as an option.

- 2.6. It was noted that the cost of replacing the disk roundabout bearings was quite high. Cllr Reading questioned whether ongoing repair of the equipment would prove to be cost effective, and suggested that replacement (from capital) might be a better option going forward. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a quote for a replacement from the suppliers (local firm preferred).
3. Haw Lane Bridge Repairs
  - 3.1. It was noted that Network Rail were working on the repairs to Haw Lane Rail Bridge. The PC asked the Clerk to confirm with Network Rail that the repairs were permanent in nature.
  - 3.2. Cllr Breeze asked the PC members to have a look at the other bridges in the Parish and raise any concerns with the Clerk in the first instance
4. Risborough Town Meeting
  - 4.1. Cllr Reading provided a brief report on a meeting he attended called by Princes Risborough Town Council. The meeting mainly focussed on issues relating directly to PR – e.g. redevelopment of the Molin's Sports Ground (Monks Risborough) and housing development on the 'Longwick' side of the Aylesbury Branch Line, both of which appeared likely to go ahead in some form or other.
  - 4.2. Cllr Breese reminded the PC that there could be implications for the Parish, specifically if the proposed bypass/relief road went ahead. Cllr Etholen was asked to find out the latest position.
5. Notice Boards
  - 5.1. The PC approved making repairs to the Bledlow Village Hall noticeboard up to a total of £85.00 using local tradespeople.
  - 5.2. The PC expressed concern around the state of noticeboards around the parish. The PC asked the clerk to photograph all the noticeboards in the Parish so that the PC could assess the need for further repairs

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Planning Matters**

1. Revised list of planning applications reviewed. No comments and no objections raised

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Financial Matters**

1. Authorisation of Payments – all payments requested by the Clerk approved
2. Application from Grants –
  - 2.1. Noted that Cllr Britnell had submitted a request on behalf of Bledlow Village Hall for a £600 annual grant to support the maintenance of the Bledlow playground.
  - 2.2. The proposal was discussed briefly; however as the request was received after the meeting papers were issued, it was agreed to consider the application in full at the September meeting.
  - 2.3. It was noted that the PC would not agree any requests to assume management responsibility for the Bledlow Playground, or any playground/public recreation areas that might be planned in the future.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Sundry Parish Matters**

1. Devolution of BCC Services to Town and Parish Councils

- 1.1. Cllr Breese advised that he had been approached by Princes Risborough Town Council to pool resources to contract out Verge and Hedge Cutting for the area. There was a concern that this approach could be detrimental for the Parish, and we should look to secure our own contractor.
  - 1.2. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Stephen Brooks (suggested by Cllr Cox) to see if he would take on the work and what level of service he would be able to provide for the funding available.
2. Home – School Transport Changes
  - 2.1. Cllr Reading advised the PC of changes being proposed by BCC to Home-to-School transport arrangements for children attending WHS, RGS and JHGS. Cllr Reading advised that he was well aware that as a rural county with selective schools home-to-school transport costs were an issue in Bucks, however the issue here was that BCC appeared to be pushing through changes without adequate consultation with stakeholders. This appeared to be a growing trend in BCC given recent experience with the re-structure of the County Music Services
  - 2.2. Cllr Etholen confirmed that he was aware of the proposals. He advised that Cllr Appleyard (Cabinet Member for Education) was to meet with the Head Teachers tomorrow (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July).Cllr Etholen suggested that the PC contact Cllr Appleyard directly with its concerns. In the absence of the Clerk Cllr Reading agreed to draft a note.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Correspondence**

None

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Other matters not requiring decisions**

None

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in Bledlow Ridge village hall (note Cllrs, Breese, Stone and Etholen will be away)

Note to Cllr Appleyard

Cabinet Member for Education

Bucks CC

Dear Cllr Appleyard

Proposed Changes in Home to School Transport – RGS, WHS and JHGS

The above changes were discussed at the meeting of Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Parish Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014.

Although we recognise that as rural county with selective schools Buckinghamshire incurs higher than average home to school transport costs, we have concerns over any plans that would significantly extend the school day for the children of our parish, where home to school journey times of up to 40 minutes are not unusual.

We are also concerned that the plans were being pushed through without adequate consultation (presumably in an attempt to get the changes implemented in September).

I note from the 'Bucks Free Press' that the plans are now on-hold, however I would ask that when you next look at this issue you allow adequate time to consult with all concerned, including the Parish Councils.

Kind regards