

## **BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

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**Present:** Cllrs. Breese (Chairman), Britnell, Reading, Mrs. Stallwood, Stone, and Mrs. Taylor.

**Apologies For Absence:** Cllrs. Mrs. Butler and Cox.

#### **Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 were approved after a proposal by Cllr. Britnell, seconded by Cllr. Reading, and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### ***Parish Council Vacancy***

The Chairman welcomed Elke Hojer to the meeting and said that she had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy on Bledlow Ridge ward.

Cllr. Breese told the meeting that he would be grateful for a proposal to co-opt Ms Hojer to the Parish Council. Cllr. Britnell duly proposed the co-option. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Reading and unanimously approved. Ms Hojer was then asked by the Chairman to join the meeting.

##### ***Hemley Hill***

The meeting had learned that the travellers had been granted leave to appeal against the Secretary of State's decision not to grant one.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Cllr. Bendyshe-Brown had agreed to provide an emergency weekend telephone number to enable contact to be made with WDC should there be any untoward activity at the site. The Clerk would contact Cllr. Bendyshe-Brown to remind him of the promise.

The Chairman said that he had written to the local Conservative Party agent, asking what level of involvement the Parish Council should expect from their local member generally and in the matter of Hemley Hill.

##### ***Road Maintenance and Traffic Calming***

The siting of the Bledlow VAS on the Chinnor side of the S bends had been confirmed by BCC following reference to a traffic officer.

PC Andy Ralph had contacted the Clerk to suggest that Chinnor Road in Bledlow Ridge should be seriously considered for spending money on a VAS. He would provide accident and speed survey data, and had intimated that he would be prepared to attend a Parish Council meeting to expand on his suggestion. PC Ralph would be invited to the next meeting.

The Chairman said that potholes are beginning to appear again following the recent bad weather, and there was general concern about the quality of pothole repairs, as at least two repaired in the past month require repairs again. The Clerk had emailed Cllr. Rogerson about this concern.

Cllr. Mrs. Stallwood was asked to supply the Clerk with details of the water leaks in Haw Lane so that they could be reported.

The Chairman said that the ditch in West Lane is not draining properly, causing water to spill out onto the roadway.

This too had been reported to BCC.

Finally, the finger post and street name sign at the junction of Chinnor Road and West Lane had been knocked over in an accident. This matter has also been reported to BCC.

### **Website**

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to a Mr. Adams, a Bledlow Ridge resident, who had expressed an interest in providing the basis of a Parish Council website. Cllr. Breese will take the matter further and report back at the next meeting.

### **Churchyard Trees**

The Chairman had had a conversation with Mr. Oakley, the Churchwarden, about the maintenance of Holy Trinity churchyard. There had been agreement that everything that should be done within the scope of the Parish Council's legal responsibilities and budget to keep the churchyard in a mutually acceptable condition.

There is particular concern about the condition and size of the mature trees, and the Parish Council is to commission a professional survey so that a credible plan for future action may be devised. In the meantime, it was agreed that 4 Seasons Tree Care should go ahead and produce a preliminary survey report, to include likely costs, at a quoted price of £160 plus VAT.

The Clerk was asked to determine the exact scope of the Parish Council's legal responsibilities for the churchyard's maintenance, by reference to BALC in the first instance.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Cllr. Britnell said that he is pursuing the faster broadband issue through contact with, amongst others, Mr. Chris Rawson who is a consultant on the subject for BCC.

### **Planning Matters**

#### **Parish Council Decisions**

12/07976/FUL Highlands, Hill Top Lane, Chinnor

Retention of ancillary outbuilding as constructed as amendment to outbuilding permitted under application 09/05488/FUL.

Applicant: Mrs. L. Fitzpatrick

Resolved: No objection

13/05129/FUL Highlands, Hill Top Lane, Chinnor

Retention of the greenhouse, pond, tennis court and tree house with walkway and platform (retrospective).

Applicant: Mrs. L. Fitzpatrick

Resolved: No objection

13/05220/FUL 1 Virginia Gardens, Bledlow Ridge

Construction of front entrance porch

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. Archer

Resolved: No objection

#### **Wycombe District Council Decisions**

12/07440/FUL Dean Valley Nursery, Deanfield, Saunderton

Change of use of part of redundant landholding for the siting of four yurts for short-term holiday accommodation and conversion of an existing barn to provide ancillary guest services

Applicant: Mrs. E. Hojer

PERMISSION GRANTED

- 12/07539/FUL Dragons Mount, Hill Top Lane, Chinnor  
Construction of two-storey side extension comprising additional bedroom space to the main house at first-floor level and a self-contained and linked annexe at ground-floor level with raised decking area.  
Applicant: Mr. E. Davies  
PERMISSION GRANTED
- 12/07541/FUL Runcton Cottage, Oddley Lane, Saunderton  
Construction of new triple garage with storage above at front of dwelling  
Applicant: Mr. P. Parkhouse  
PERMISSION REFUSED
- 12/07569/FUL 80 Haw Lane, Bledlow Ridge  
Alteration of hipped roof to gable ends including dormer windows to front and rear elevations to accommodate first-floor living accommodation.  
Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. G. Bunker  
PERMISSION GRANTED
- 12/07675/FUL Dean Farm House, Deanfield, Saunderton  
Removal of existing outbuildings, proposed minor remodelling of existing house to front and rear and construction of two-storey side extension, single-storey side attached outbuilding and associated external and internal alterations.  
Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. L. Stringfellow  
PERMISSION GRANTED
- 12/07721/TPO 50 Saunderton Vale, Saunderton  
Raise crown to 4 metres and reduce lateral branches by 6ft to oak T1 and beech T2 subject to TPO 23/2004  
Applicant: Mr. P. Madden  
PERMISSION REFUSED
- 12/07867/FUL Meadow Barn, Sandpit Lane, Bledlow  
Construction of two-storey rear extension  
Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. A. Williams  
PERMISSION GRANTED

## **Financial Matters**

### **Payments**

The following payments were authorized following a proposal by Cllr. Stone and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Taylor.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>For</b>
100319	35.00	Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	Hire of Hall
100320	442.57	M. J. Evins	Salary & Expenses
100321	346.20	Lawrence Landscapes Limited	Churchyard/Pond
100322	27.36	TBS Hygiene Limited	Bin Emptying
100323	20.00	BPFA	Annual Subs
100324	6.00	Mrs. S. Stallwood	Posters
<b>Total</b>	<b>877.13</b>		

***New Bank Mandate***

The Clerk confirmed that HSBC had now put the new mandate into effect and that all members other than Cllrs. Mrs. Butler and Ms Hojer are able to sign Council cheques. The Chairman asked the Clerk to enquire whether both Mrs. Butler and Ms Hojer could added to the mandate without having to go through the process of yet another new one.

***Co-Operative Bank***

After hearing that the Co-Operative Bank’s interest rate had fallen significantly and that, once invested, funds had to be kept in the Bank for the full term of the contract, it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Reading should investigate other means of investing the Council’s reserves.

***Applications for Grants***

None received.

***Sundry Parish Matters***

***Bledlow Children’s Home***

The Clerk reported that he had been informed by the WDC Conservation Officer that some of the work carried out on the Home by the owners was ‘possibly illegal’. No other information was given about the alleged illegality.

***Correspondence***

None to discuss.

***Any Other Business***

***Sandpit Lane Verges***

Cllr. Britnell said that tractors are running over and spoiling the verges. He had spoken to the farmer, who explained that the tractors belong to a sub-contractor. The Clerk would raise the matter with BCC.

***Burial Charges***

Cllr. Mrs. Stallwood suggested that she had evidence that the Parish Council could be charging too little for burials and exclusive rights. The Clerk would look into the matter and report back.

***Date of Next Meeting***

There being no other business and no members of the public present, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bledlow Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Signed.....(Chairman).....(Date)