

BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday,
5th June 2014**

Present: Cllrs Breese (Chairman), Britnell, Butler, Cox, Hojer, Reading and Taylor.
County Cllr. Etholen.
Two members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs. Stallwood and Stone.

Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2014 were approved and signed as a true record following a proposal by Cllr. Britnell seconded by Cllr. Butler.

Matters Arising

Roads

The Clerk would report the poor condition of Horsenden Lane to TfB.

It has been confirmed that the lower section of Haw Lane will be surface-dressed at an as yet undisclosed date.

The Bledlow Ridge VASs have not yet been installed, but it is expected that the work will be done before the end of June. Both Cllr. Cox and the Clerk praised the efforts of the TfB technician, Shane Thomas.

Cllr. Reading reported that wild orchids in the verge at the junction of Shootacre Lane and Upper Icknield Way had been cut down when contractors had mown the grass verge. County Cllr. Etholen would report the matter.

Localism and Little Gibbs

Deferred until the next meeting.

Children's Playgrounds

As arranged at the last meeting Cllr. Stallwood had examined the accounting and documentary records held by the Clerk and by Mrs. Smith. The preliminary finding is that the FSA grant of £25000 had been much reduced by spending to date. In Cllr. Stallwood's absence, further discussion of the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

The Chairman invited Cllr. Britnell to put forward his suggestion that the Parish Council adopt full responsibility for the playground at Bledlow Village Hall.

The Chairman said that, in his view, the Parish Council should have no playground responsibilities beyond making occasional grants to responsible and formally constituted bodies trusted with their upkeep and maintenance.

In view of the almost nine years left on the Meadow Stiles lease, the question remains of how to implement such an arms-length policy. Cllr. Britnell volunteered to formulate a policy statement for this concept.

In the meantime, a quotation had been received for the repair of the Meadow Stiles dish roundabout and replacement of two swing seats. The cost before VAT is £1089. The meeting considered that the cost was too high and further quotes would be sought. It was agreed, however, that the swing seats should be purchased, with the work of installing them left to local labour.

The Clerk was asked to research sources of grant aid for playgrounds, and County Cllr. Etholen suggested that the Local Area Forum also be approached.

Planning Matters

Parish Council Decisions

- 14/06103/FUL Fargaze, Lee Road, Saunderton
Change of use from commercial and residential to residential only
Applicant: Mr. M. Attridge
Resolved: Objection. Loss of useful local facility and of employment opportunities.
- 14/06196/FUL The Seasons, Hill Top Lane, Chinnor
Construction of replacement ancillary outbuilding (workshop).
Applicant: Mrs. L. Fitzpatrick
Resolved: No objection.
- 14/06165/FUL Pitch Green Farm, Chapel Lane, Bledlow
- 14/06166/LBC Construction of replacement part two-storey, part single-storey rear extension, minor internal alterations to listed building and removal of existing porch (alternative to scheme in 12/05273/FUL)
Applicant: Mr & Mrs. E. Schmidt
Resolved: No objection
- 14/06179/FUL Rocworth House, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge
All weather riding area with 1.5m high fencing
Applicant: Mr. B. Keeping
Resolved: No objection.
- 14/06182/FUL 9 Chiltern View, Saunderton
Construction of two rear dormer windows and roof alterations to rear.
Applicant: Mr. P. Passmore
Resolved: No objection.
- 14/06272/FUL 54 Saunderton Vale, Saunderton
Constructon of single-storey rear extension and insertion of four rooflights over existing garage in connection with part conversion of garage into habitable living space.
Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. H. Tailor
Resolved: Objection. Saunderton Vale is a known on-street parking problem area, and the removal of an off-street parking facility would potentially add to the problem and create a precedent for others to follow.
- 14/06393/FUL 51 Haw Lane, Bledlow Ridge
Construction of single-storey front extension to form front porch and extend garage, new steps to front and creation of turning to front.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Gibson
Resolved: No objection

14/06277/FUL Forty Green Farm, Forty Green, Bledlow
 Installation of roof-mounted solar panels on two agricultural barns (Retrospective)
 Applicant: Mr. Austin
 Resolved: No objection in principle as the Parish Council's preference is for roof-mounted solar panels if such installations are a necessity. However, we are all too aware of the pending application for a 45-acre solar farm installation in fields adjacent to and belonging to Forty Green Farm, and would not want to have our conditional approval of this application compromise our strong objections to the proposed solar farm.

Wycombe District Council Decisions

- 14/05596/FUL 1 Ridgeside, Bledlow Ridge
 Construction of part first floor, part single-storey, part two-storey side/rear extensions and dormer window to side with render to create additional living accommodation. Construction of front porch.
 Applicant: Mr. D. Molyneux
 PERMISSION GRANTED
- 14/05660/FUL The Paddock, Routs Green, Bledlow Ridge
 Construction of single-storey side extension, replace existing flat roof dormer with two pitched roof dormers, insertion of rear dormer, construction of pitched roof to existing flat roof garage and associated external alterations.
 Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. R. Johnson
 PERMISSION GRANTED.
- 14/05695/FUL Cherry Trees, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge
 Construction of single-storey side/rear extension, fenestration alterations with extension to existing dormer roof.
 Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. S. Skienar
 PERMISSION GRANTED
- 14/05723/FUL Azile, Sandpit Lane, Bledlow
 Construction of garden hobby studio
 Applicant: Mr. C. Carter
 PERMISSION GRANTED
- 14/05843/FUL Land adjacent Meadow Bank, Sandpit Lane, Bledlow
 Demolition of all nursery related buildings and erection of one 3-bed dwelling and garage with associated access.
 Applicant: Mr. B. Horwood
 PERMISSION REFUSED

Financial Matters

Payments

The following payments were approved following a proposal by Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Hojer.

Cheque No.	Payee	For	Amount £
100423	Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	Hire of Hall	35.00
100424	M. J. Evins	Salary and Expenses	188.24

100425	HMRC	Clerk PAYE	250.80
100426	Clive Winslow Ltd	Playpit Sand & Bark Chippings	253.10
100427	TBS Hygiene Ltd	Waste Bin Emptying	27.36
Total			755.10

Statutory Accounts

The Clerk had previously distributed copies of the completed statutory annual report for the year ended 31st March 2014, and informed the meeting that it had to be returned to the District Auditor by 30th June.

There were several queries from the meeting about the data in the Receipts and Payments Account, which did not form part of the data needed by the District Auditor. The Clerk undertook to reformat the document so that more meaningful figures, in particular of the Council's expenditure, were presented for the next meeting.

The statutory return was approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman after a proposal by Cllr. Reading, seconded by Cllr. Britnell.

Applications for Grants

None applied for.

Sundry Parish Matters

Notice Board at Bledlow Village Hall

Cllr. Britnell said that the notice board is in need either of replacement or renovation. The Clerk said he would get a quote from John Lawrence for refurbishing the board as well as fitting a cork surface to make it easier to affix notices.

Parish Council Re-Constitution

Cllr. Cox made the suggestion that the current three-ward constitution of the Parish Council could be outdated and unnecessarily cumbersome. He asked that the Parish Council look into the possibility and practicalities of becoming single-warded. This matter would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Correspondence

RAF Covenant

A letter had been received from WDC inviting parish councils to join with them in adopting a covenant aimed at the welfare of local armed-forces personnel and their dependents. There is to be a grand signing of the covenant at WDC on 23rd June. Cllr. Hojer said that she would like to go, and was handed the letter so that she could apply for an invitation to the event.

Chilterns Conservation Board

The Board is asking for nominations to fill a vacancy on the Board. Cllr. Hojer took the letter with the intention of applying for nomination. The form needed to be signed by the Council Chairman after Cllr. Hojer had completed it.

Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bledlow Village Hall starting at 7.30pm on Thursday, 3rd July 2014.

The Clerk said that he would be unable to attend the next meeting and asked for a volunteer to take notes and ensure that the cheques were signed. Cllr. Reading kindly undertook to do this.

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