

# BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

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**Present:** Cllrs Breese (Chairman), Britnell, Butler, Cox, Hojer, Stallwood, and Stone.

District Cllr. Angell

Seven members of the public.

Mr. C. Rawson (Buckinghamshire Business First, and Mr. C. Fraser (BT Group)

**Apologies For Absence:** County Cllr. Etholen.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were approved after a proposal by Cllr. Hojer, seconded by Cllr. Butler, and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **Matters Arising**

#### ***Broadband***

The Chairman invited Mr. Rawson to speak to the meeting about the current initiatives being developed in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire to deliver faster broadband speeds locally.

Mr. Rawson told the meeting that there is a current national project worth £18million to which BT is contributing £8.6million. Additional funding by Bucks and Herts CCs and other organisations is aimed at delivering improved broadband speeds to 38500 premises in Buckinghamshire by the end of March 2016. A minimum guaranteed speed of 2Mbps will be delivered, but speeds in excess of that should be widely available.

Funding is soon to be made available to some areas, it is not known yet where they are, where it had previously been commercially unviable. Whether our area is amongst those to be targeted is also unclear. There is also some confusion about the number of local people who have registered an interest in faster broadband.

A survey process starts next month, with the intention of announcing roll-out timescales and expected speeds in the new year. The Parish Council was assured that it would be kept fully informed on progress., but the Chairman asked Mr. Rawson what, if anything, the Parish Council could do to help, especially for those users who, because of the commercial lack of viability in fully extending the fibre network, would be unlikely to benefit from the project. Mr. Rawson said that a report outlining the likely extent of the network is due for publication in mid-September and that he would be pleased to meet the Parish Council again when that becomes available.

A copy of Mr. Rawson's slide presentation, which sets out the broad aspects of the project, is attached to these minutes.

### ***Proposed Solar Farm***

The Chairman invited any of the members of the public to speak, but Mr. Schmidt, on behalf of those likely to be affected by the proposed development, said they were interested in hearing the views of the Parish Council. Replying, the Chairman said that the Parish Council had been informed by Pegasus that they are intending holding a public meeting in Bledlow Village Hall during August, possibly as soon as Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>, despite having been told by the Parish Council that public meetings or consultation during the Summer holiday months could reach biased views because of a possible lack of numbers involved.

The Chairman also said that a planning application had not yet been received, but when it was it would be considered on its merits by the full Parish Council.

Cllr. Stone told the meeting that having received advice and bearing in mind that the solar farm, if developed, could affect the value of his property he would have to consider declaring a pecuniary interest when the matter comes before the Parish Council.

The Chairman finally said that in view of the likelihood of increasing pressure for solar farm and windfarm developments, this could be an opportune time for the Parish Council to produce a Village Design Statement. The Clerk was asked to look further into this matter and to contact the WDC Cabinet Member for Planning for more advice.

### ***Website***

Nothing further to report. Matter held over to the next meeting.

### ***Road Maintenance/Traffic Calming***

The Clerk reported that the VAS on the Longwick side of the B4009 S bends in Bledlow is still obscured by overhanging trees and is therefore still not fit for purpose. Both Cllr. Stone and the Chairman made the point that this could be a recurrent annual problem and that the VAS on the Chinnor side of the bends is too close to the bends to be fully effective. It was noted that County Cllr. Etholen and the new Local Area Technician, James Tunnard, had reportedly looked at the Longwick-side VAS and concluded that it is operational. The Clerk said that the device being operational is not in dispute: its being able to detect speeding vehicles far enough away is.

The Clerk was asked to take our contentions back to TfB, and in the meantime, the £5000 agreed contribution to the cost of the VASs would not be authorised for payment.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council's bid for expenditure on two VASs for Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge has currently been accepted by the Local Area Forum and, assuming no changes in priorities, they would be in the 2014/2015 work schedule.

### **Planning Matters**

#### ***Parish Council Decisions***

12/07404/FUL Cutlers Orchard, Perry Lane, Bledlow

Erection of two 5-bed detached dwellings with detached double garages, construction of two-storey side extension and new detached garage to main building and associated access alterations. (Amended Plans)

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. B. Lansley

Resolved: Objection. Plot ratio too cramped. Overdevelopment of the site.

13/06727FUL The Barn Cottage, West Lane, Bledlow

13/06728/LBC Construction of two-storey rear extension and demolition of existing detached garage.

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. T. Hill

Resolved: No objection

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

12/07865/REN Bledlow Homes, Perry Lane, Bledlow

Extension of time limit to permission granted under planning reference 06/05876/LBC.

Applicant: Oakminster Homes Ltd.

PERMISSION GRANTED

13/06213/TPO Acorn House, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge

Various tree works to two beech trees and one larch tree all subject to a TPO Ref 09/1979.

Applicant: Mr. P. Jenkinson

PERMISSION GRANTED

#### **Financial Matters**

##### **Payments**

The following payments were approved following a proposal by Cllr. Britnell and seconded by Cllr. Stone.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
100357	Bledlow Ridge Village Hall	Hire of Hall	35.00
100358	M. J. Evins	Salary & Expenses	482.11
100359	Lawrence Landscapes Ltd	Parish Grass	253.20
100360	TBS Hygiene Ltd.	Bin Emptying	27.36
<b>Total</b>			<b>5797.67</b>

##### **Applications for Grants**

None received.

#### **Sundry Parish Matters**

##### **West's Yard**

A company called Dandora Ltd. had contacted the Clerk to say that they have proposals for redeveloping West's Yard, and could they met the Parish Council to outline their plans. They had been invited to attend either this meeting or the next. A reply to that invitation is awaited.

##### **Churchyard Grass**

There had been further complaints from the vicar at Bledlow about grass clippings being left, making the churchyard appear untidy. The Clerk said that that particular complaint had been dealt with.

The churchwarden had meanwhile suggested a solution to the problem of grass clippings being left behind after cutting, by offering to build a compost frame in the churchyard into which Mr. Lawrence could tip the clippings at a cost to the PCC of £45 per cut. The cost of the compost frame would also be borne by the PCC.

**Correspondence**

Cllr. Stone took away details of a BCC consultation on Filming on the Highway to consider in time for the next meeting.

**Any Other Business**

***Village Seats***

In answer to Cllr. Cox's point about maintaining the various seats in the village, the Clerk said he would ask John Lawrence to wood-treat them.

***Fence In Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge***

Cllr. Cox said that a new fence had been erected at Summer Orchard in Chinnor Road that was too high and with the inner side incorrectly facing the road. The Clerk would raise the issue with the WDC enforcement team.

***Car Across Footway***

Cllr. Butler reported that a car is parked partially blocking the footway in Haw Lane. The vehicle's rear axle is propped on blocks and there would appear to be no valid tax disc on display. Cllr. Butler said that she had reported the matter to BCC and the Police, but that both had shown no interest in dealing with it. The Clerk would see what progress he could make.

***NAG/LAT***

Cllr. Hojer had attended the most recent NAG meeting, and said that the attendance is very poor and there is a good deal of apathy about the effectiveness of the process.

Cllr. Breese had attended the recent LAF meeting, where it was reported that local crime is low. A local Country Watch scheme has publicised security measures that should be taken particularly by those with expensive tools and tractors.

Cllr. Breese also told the meeting that there had been discussion of AVDC's requirement for more crematorium facilities and that a crematorium in Kimble had been mooted.

**Date of Next Meeting**

There being no other business and no members of the public any longer present, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in Bledlow Village Hall starting at 7.30pm on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

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

