

BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Bledlow Village Hall on Thursday, 1st November 2012

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Present: Cllrs. Breese (Chairman), Britnell, Cox, Reading, and Mrs. Stallwood.

One member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Stone and Mrs. Taylor, County Cllr. Rogerson and District Cllr. Angell.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman following a proposal by Cllr. Britnell and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Stallwood.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Parish Council Vacancies

There had been no applications to fill the Bledlow Ridge vacancy by election, and it is now open to be filled by co-option by the Parish Council. The vacancy will be advertised in the local newsletters and on the notice boards. After discussion of how ward representations could be altered, it was agreed to maintain the status quo for the time being.

Council Website

Matter deferred to the next meeting.

Road Maintenance and Traffic Calming

The Chairman reported on an impromptu meeting he had had with the Chief Executive of BCC, and said he had followed it up with a letter outlining various issues still awaiting attention in the Parish. He had also referred to the poor communications associated with County highway work and maintenance. The main outstanding items are: 30mph roundels in Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge, completion of resurfacing within the 30mph limit in Haw Lane, flooding in Haw Lane and on the B4009 in Bledlow on the Longwick side of the S bends. It was left to Cllr. Cox to establish the exact situation regarding the 30mph roundels, as there seemed to be some confusion in that the 40mph roundels had been applied in the same road.

Cllr. Mrs. Stallwood said that a large ditch had been dug alongside the Haw Lane borehole and whilst the drainage problem seems to have been improved as a result, the ditch itself is a potential hazard for pedestrians. Additionally, the Haw Lane culverts have still not been cleaned out despite Mrs. Stallwood's request to BCC. The Clerk would take up both matters with the new LAT.

Cllr. Reading reported flooding under the rail bridge in Upper Icknield Way.

Grass Cutting at Holy Trinity Church

A quote had been received from Lawrence Landscapes Ltd for clearing away ivy from a brick tomb, cleaning an adjacent grave, and for removing sycamore saplings from around two other graves. The cost of £240 plus VAT was accepted by the meeting and the work was given the go-ahead subject to the approval of the Churchwarden.

Hemley Hill

A reply had been received from WDC to the Parish Council's request for clarification of the current situation, and for an outline of future action. The main issue is that the travellers cannot be forced to vacate the site before 8th October 2103, and that the appeals process is still not complete. The enforcement order is still in place however, and WDC acknowledge a status quo provided the number of vans on the site does not exceed that when the order was issued. The incident over yet another weekend, when a trench for water pipes had been dug contrary to the conditions of the enforcement order was discussed in the context of the need for out-of-hours availability of WDC officers. It was agreed that the Clerk should write again to Mr. Unsworth to thank him for the briefing reply and to ask for out-of-hours availability of his officers.

4. Planning Matters

Planning Decisions

12/07145/FUL North Cottage, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge

Construction of part two-storey, part first-floor rear extension with associated external alterations.

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. Grimmett

Resolved: No objection

12/07213/FUL Rocworth House, Chinnor Road, Bledlow Ridge

Extension of two rear dormers and recessed balcony in side roof slopes and insertion of one rear window and five roof lights in connection with loft conversion.

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. B. Keeping

Resolved: No objection

12/07281/FUL 13 The Crest, Bledlow Ridge

Two-storey side extension, first floor rear extension, insertion of rear dormer window in existing rear roof slope and single-storey rear extension (alternative to permission on 11/07461/FUL)

Applicant: Mr. J. Dodds

Resolved: No objection

12/07356/FUL 9 Ridgeside, Bledlow Ridge

Construction of a single-storey conservatory to the rear elevation.

Applicant: Mr. S. Vincent

Resolved: No objection

12/07428/TRE Church End Cottage, Church End, Bledlow

Crown lift to around around 4.5 metres to provide adequate clearance over the road and garden below to one horse chestnut (T1), fell to ground level one Lawson cypress.

Applicant: Mr. Johnson

Resolved: No objection

Cllrs. Breese and Stone declared a personal interest

12/07464/TRE Bakehouse Farm, West Lane, Bledlow

Various tree surgery works on nine trees of different species, including a flowering plum, buddleia, sorbus, beech, lilac stump, willow, maple, yew and copper beech.

Applicant: Mrs. M. Phillips

Resolved: No objection

Wycombe District Council Decisions

12/06938/ADV The Chiltern, Wycombe Road, Saunderton

Display of replacement externally illuminated fascia sign and two free-standing double-sided name signs on either side of entrance (retrospective).

Applicant: Mr. C. Harris

PERMISSION GRANTED

12/06943/FUL Trees Cottage, Church Lane, Bledlow Ridge

Alterations and extensions to an existing dwelling, including removal of an existing single-storey wing, demolition of a chimney and addition of a two-storey wing with porch.

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. Cay

PERMISSION GRANTED

12/07041/FUL Tryfan, Perry Lane, Bledlow

Alteration of existing garage roof from flat roof to pitched, façade alteration & addition of window.

Applicant: Mr. S. Morgan

PERMISSION GRANTED

5. Finance Matters

Payments

The following payments were authorised following a proposal by Cllr. Reading, seconded by Cllr. Cox.

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	For
100304	35.00	Bledlow Village Hall	Hire of Hall
100305	438.87	M J Evins	Salary & Expenses
100306	250.00	Chilterns Cons. Board	Grant
100307	27.36	TBS Hygiene Ltd	Bin Emptying
100308	868.80	Lawrence Landscapes Ltd	Grass Cutting/Bus Shelter
Total	1620.03		

Bank Mandate

The Clerk confirmed that he had now made arrangements for Cllrs. Britnell and Reading to be included in the new mandate, which should be in place in time for the next meeting.

Budget for 2013/2014

The Clerk had distributed the draft budget before the meeting, and answered questions from those present. The budget assumed no increase in the precept for the third year running, with most other income and expenditure remaining much the

same as for the current year. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council is running a healthy reserve for which he receives comments from the District Auditor each year, with this year being no exception. However, it must be remembered that should the lime trees in Holy Trinity churchyard need serious tree surgery or felling, then the bill would be very expensive.

The meeting agreed that the Clerk should make some minor alterations to the budget so that it could be formally approved at the next meeting.

Applications for Grants

None received.

6. Sundry Other Matters

Bledlow Children's Home

Work, apparently on re-roofing the listed building, had started again recently but the Clerk is aware that WDC's conservation officer needs to be kept aware of any problems reported.

Molins

A large crane had appeared on site after many months of inactivity, with some local residents reporting their concern to Cllr. Cox that the 'ballroom' could be demolished. The Clerk had contacted WDC and a planning officer had visited the site and reported that all seem well at the time.

7. Other Business Not Requiring Notice

Deposit Interest

Cllr. Reading said he had noted the poor rate of return on the Council's deposit account. The Clerk acknowledged that he needed to get back to researching the availability of better rates.

Phoenix Trail

Cllr. Britnell said that he believes that some sort of barrier is needed across the Trail in Sandpit Lane to prevent an accident caused by pedestrians walking straight out onto the road. The Clerk would speak to BCC and Sustrans about the matter.

Clerk PC Software

The Chairman said that now most of the Council's work is PC produced and transmitted via email, the software used by the Clerk needs to be updated to ensure that the format of documents may be more acceptably presented. The Clerk would investigate the costs of Microsoft Office.

8 Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.05pm, and opened for questions from the one member of the public present.

Questions from Mrs. Butler

Mrs. Butler asked whether the Parish Council could do something about providing a footway between the 30mph limit in Haw Lane and the brow of the hill about 300metres further along the road. This follows the closure of the field that local residents have traditionally used to walk in to get to the bridleway above Molins. The Chairman explained that the Council had been involved in a similar debate on this matter several years ago, and had been told by BCC that the cost would be prohibitive.

Mrs. Butler also said that she would be very interested in applying to fill the Parish Council's Bledlow Ridge vacancy. The Chairman said that he would be pleased to consider her and asked her to make a formal application to the Clerk.

The Next meeting will be on Thursday, 6th December 2012 in Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

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