



BLDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Bledlow Village Hall on
Monday 8th January 2024

Present: Councillors: S Breese (Chairman), D Freeman, S Reading, N Cox S Bird,
J Butler, P Davidson, and M Bridgman
Buckinghamshire Councillor: C Etholen

122. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Dobson. Buckinghamshire Councillors: S Adoh and R Carington
123. Declaration of Interests and Dispensations: None declared.
124. To approve minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th December 2023: Following a proposal by Cllr Butler seconded by Cllr Bird a vote was taken and all Councillors were in favour and the minutes were signed.
125. To receive an update from Buckinghamshire Councillors, responses to outstanding actions and to receive questions from Parish Councillors:
- a. **Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre, Wigans Lane, Bledlow Ridge:** As confirmed previously the land is the responsibility of the Asset Management Team. Cllr Etholen to follow up as it has been about six months now that this has been outstanding. **Action: Cllr Etholen**
Cllr Etholen stated he is still following up on the action from last month of lights being left on at the site. Following a request last month about statistics on revenue – Cllr Etholen stated that there is no update yet but suspects that the information may be confidential. Councillors asked whether statistics could be obtained on the number of users from outside the Parish as this is pertinent to the future capacity of the site. Cllr Etholen will make enquiries to see if this data is available.
Action: Cllr Etholen
 - b. **Princes Risborough Relief Road Culverton Link and Proposed Village Green:** Cllr Etholen reported that the village green application has been withdrawn. Cllr Bird added that the Committee have withdrawn the application as they had concluded that the likelihood of failure at the inquiry would not justify the cost and work required to proceed with the application. Instead, they are look at registering the Village Green as an Asset of Community Value. Councillors agreed they would support the Asset of Community Value application.
Cllr Etholen reported that there is no further news on the Relief Road. The question was raised as to whether the £12m funds discussed previously were still available or would be lost. Cllr Etholen stated it was his understanding this funding was still available.
 - c. **The Paddocks Enforcement Update on Caravan / Mobile Home:** As reported previously the temporary structure can remain onsite until the permitted planning permission has been completed. Councillors believe that the caravan has been onsite since August.
 - d. **HRC:** Cllr Davidson asked Cllr Etholen if there was a route the HRC lorries should be taking as the collection lorries are going from West Wycombe through to Bledlow Ridge and a number have been seen travelling at considerable speeds. Councillors discussed previous concerns around this as they thought that the lorries should be avoiding school pick up / drop off time and rush hour. Cllr Etholen will look to see if there is a transport plan and report the complaint of speeding of lorries. **Action: Cllr Etholen**
 - e. **Speeding:** Cllr Reading reported that he has a meeting with a Highways Officer the following day onsite outside Meadow Styles to discuss speeding and talk about the speed data. The residents survey indicated that a chicane is desired, Cllr Reading to discuss with the Highways Officer whether a chicane is possible considering the parish dark skies policy.
 - f. Cllr Cox asked whether a gritting programme has been produced. Cllr Etholen stated they will be out this evening and then would be weather dependent but would assume the primary routes would be the same as previous years but would make enquiries on the routes. **Action: Cllr Etholen**
126. To ratify Councillors responses to Planning Consultations:
- 23/07905/VCDN: Crofters Chinnor Road Bledlow Ridge: Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish Council would like to highlight that the development is within the AONB and green belt and therefore, it is necessary to conform and maintain the street scene and ambience which is enjoyed by the residents. The Neighbourhood plan requires that hedging and screening is integral to any development within this area.
- 23/07920/FUL & 23/07921/LBC: The Old House Forty Green: Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish object to this application for the following reason: The site has already been developed to a reasonable maximum for this quiet rural part of the parish, and the garden has been extended beyond its original boundaries. The Old House itself is a grade II listed building which has been extended in the past. Two sizeable outbuildings and a

swimming pool approach the current extended size of Old House, and in its current form are at the maximum to retain the rural character of this area. The application states the rationale is 'to provide much needed additional space associated with current modern living.' Modern living in this rural area usually entails having two cars which would presumably have to be parked elsewhere, or if as might be the case the garage is already being used for storage there would be no net gain of 'additional storage.'

23/08044/PNP6A: Ridge Farm Upper Icknield Way: Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish have no objections but would request that the building looks as unobtrusive as possible as it is in the AONB.

23/07957/FUL: 51 Saunderton Vale Saunderton: Bledlow cum Saunderton Parish request that the effect of potential additional on-street parking in the area should be considered in this and any other planning application within this development due to the already significant on-street parking

23/08015/CLP: 32 Saunderton Vale Saunderton: No objection

23/08166/CONSA: Land Opposite Five Ways Lower Icknield Way Bledlow: For information only

23/08067/ADRC: Former Site of Molins Haw Lane Saunderton: For information only

23/08115/PNP6A: Land at Juniper Wigans Lane Bledlow Ridge: No objection

Cllr Butler proposed and Cllr Davidson seconded a vote was taken and all comments were approved.

Planning Applications which have been decided:

23/06690/FUL: Wigans Farm Wigans Lane Bledlow Ridge: Application Permitted

23/07629/FUL: Cutlers Close Perry Lane Bledlow: Application Permitted

22/07929/FUL: Chawley Green Farm Bottom Road West Wycombe: Application Permitted

22/07930/LBC: Chawley Green Farm Bottom Road West Wycombe: Application Permitted

127. Authorisation of Payments: The following payments were submitted for approval:

Unity Payments:

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
Tracey Martin	Difference between s/o	£121.64		£121.64
HMRC	PAYE	£6.80		£6.80
Meadow Styles Trustees	Meadow Styles Rent	£300.00		£300.00
BRVH	Hall hire for meetings	£270.00		£270.00
Shield Maintenance	Bin emptying Meadow Styles	£15.16	£3.03	£18.19
Total		£713.60	£3.03	£716.63

Following a proposal by Cllr Davidson seconded by Cllr Bridgman a vote was taken and all Councillors were in favour and the payments were approved.

Cllr Breese reminded Cllr Bridgman to send round the planning course notes from the action at last month meeting.

Standing Orders and Direct Debits

Tracey Martin	Salary	£648.96	£648.96
Tracey Martin	Home Working Allowance	£26.00	£26.00
Unity Bank	Charges Sept – Dec 23	£18.00	£18.00

128. To consider and approve Precept for 2024-2025: Discussions were had on the reserves which the Parish Council has and it was agreed to keep the band d rate the same as 2023-2024 meaning a Band D rate at £15.02 with the Parish Council receiving £20,331.97. A vote was taken and all Councillors were in favour and the precept was approved.

129. To appoint Internal Auditor for 2023-2024: Discussions were had and all Councillors were in favour of appointing Jane Olds as the Internal Auditor for 2023-2024 at a cost of £200.

130. Neighbourhood Plan Update: The Working Group have a meeting scheduled for the 22nd January 2024 following the abandonment of a meeting in December as two of the work group had Covid.

131. Update on the Village Green for the land next to the Picts/Shootacre Junction: Discussed under agenda item 125b.

132. Correspondence, reports and issues from Councillors and Clerk:

- Cllr Davidson provided an update on the ownership of the Molins site.
- Cllr Cox asked for an update on Speedwatch. The Clerk reported that there are currently no volunteers to run Speedwatch however, will advertise for volunteers in the local magazines, Facebook, and website.
- Cllr Bird reported that the playground is going to be replaced at Bledlow Village Hall and the Committee may approach the Parish Council for funding. The cost for replacement of the playground is circa £30k and the Village Hall Committee are also fundraising from other sources.

- d. Cllr Butler asked whether pothole repairs are halted when gritting commences. Cllr Etholen stated that it will continue and to report any issues through FixMyStreet.
- e. Cllr Breese commented that following the appointment of a new contractor, pothole repairs appeared to have improved, but reported an issue with the pot hole repairs on the narrow part of Perry Lane as recent repairs have already deteriorated. Cllr Etholen stated that this could be due to weather. Cllr Breese asked for Cllr Etholen to raise this with the LAT. **Action:**
Cllr Etholen
- f. Cllr Butler asked what Buckinghamshire Council's position is on damage to vehicles by trees / branches falling in high winds. It was agreed it was probably an act of God.

133. To confirm the dates and time of the next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 12th February 2024 at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed 8.15pm

Signed.....

Date.....