

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 23rd February 2015 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs Allen, Blomfield, Brown, Matthews, Minting and Sanger.

Also present: County Cllr Birchley and Mrs Lewis (Clerk).

- 1669) To receive apologies for absence
Cllr Joseph and District Cllr Rose.

- 1670) Matters arising
None.

- 1671) To receive declarations of interest
Cllr Minting declared an interest in any discussions relating to the Planning Enforcement case regarding Schnoodles Doggie Day Care, The Vale, due to rental of a portaloos to the business by a company he has an interest in.
Cllr Blomfield declared an interest in any discussions relating to the Planning Enforcement case regarding the field shelters in Bottom Lane (OS field 5216).

- 1672) Questions from members of the public
County Cllr Birchley reported that the County Council budget for 2015-16 had been approved, along with a Council Tax increase of 1.99%. The increase was necessary as it provides 75% of all income for the County Council and previous years of no/smaller increases has put pressure on services and there is the need to invest in Social Care (which accounts for 60% of the budget) and roads. Cllr Sanger noted that as a School Governor, with particular interest in child protection, he had anecdotal evidence that there had been improvements in performance in this area in recent months. The budget for the Aylesbury bypass to the East of the town has been approved. County Cllr Birchley also reported that businesses were doing well in Buckinghamshire, although many of them were relatively small.
Cllr Brown asked County Cllr Birchley to feed back to the County Council his concern that local volunteers were being overloaded with initiatives from multiple agencies to help those in need within our community, without an equivalent initiative to recruit new volunteers. County Cllr Birchley said that she would gladly feed back to her colleagues.
Cllr Brown reminded County Cllr Birchley that he had not as yet had any reply to his query regarding devolution of services, to seek assurance that, although the Parish Council could not take part in the process, this would not impact on future service delivery by BCC.

- 1673) Questions to the Chairman
None.

- 1674) To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
It was resolved to approve the minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26th January 2015 (amended to include a report on item 1666)) and to add 'The work is funded by grants and landowner donations' to the final bullet point of 1656 b)).

- 1675) Reports
(a) *Clerk's Report*: The report was received from Mrs Lewis (see attached) and actions agreed.
(b) *Turpin Charity*: No update.

- 1676) Finance
(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for February – including retrospective pay increment from January 2015); Cholesbury Village Hall (Hall Hire for Defibrillator Demonstration) £14.00; Chris Brown (SFBB travel expenses) £15.30.
(b) The Clerk's annual one-point pay scale increase was agreed for April 2015.

- 1677) Planning
(a) *Applications*:
None.
(b) *Decisions of Chiltern District Council*:
(i) CH/2014/2160/EU: 3 Post Office Cottages, Cholesbury Lane, Cholesbury, HP23 6ND. Granting of retrospective Certificate of Lawfulness for ancillary residential outbuilding.
(ii) CH/2014/2214/FA: Fouracres, Cholesbury Lane, Buckland Common, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6NG. Conditional Permission.
(c) *Notice of Appeals*:
None.
(d) Cllr Sanger brought to the attention of the council the following planning enforcement issues; Woodlands Farm, Shire Lane, HP23 6NA – there is a query as to whether the necessary planning permissions have been sought for certain developments at this location. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Planning Enforcement to see if there was an open case and if not, to complete a Planning Enforcement form.

OS field 5216 on Bottom Road, Buckland Common, HP23 6NU – there is an open case on this location, originally personally opened by Cllr Sanger, regarding the siting of hard standing and stabling to the east of the field, which has gone unanswered for over one year. It was resolved that the Clerk would follow up on the case at the same time as the case above.

Also;

The “Dog Day Care facility” in the Vale, mentioned in the January 2015 minutes, has temporarily ceased trading whilst the correct licences are gained.

1678) The Green at Buckland Common

The dead Oak tree is still to be removed.

1679) Springall Hill allotments

Thanks were given to Cllr Matthews for cutting the hedge, without charge, in the allotments on the side by The White Lion.

1680) Highways

a) The LAT meeting planned for 9/2/15 was cancelled due to absence of the LAT, due to sickness. The meeting will be rescheduled now that she is back at work. It was requested that the Clerk raise the following matters at the next LAT meeting;

- A missed section needing repair on The Vale between two areas of recent repairs
- Verge clearance between Hawridge Lane and Church Lane
- Reporting of the poor road surface at the bottom of Horseblock Lane to Herts C.C.
- Potholes in the middle of the road on the Chesham side of Nut Hazel Cross Farm
- Gully clearance
- Surface dressing of Cholesbury Lane from Rays Hill to Hawridge Hill
- Damaged signage along Hog Lane

1681) To discuss a response to the New Local Plan

It was resolved that Cllrs Allen, Brown and Sanger would draft a response, similar to that submitted for the DDPD. Cllr Blomfield requested that the Council strongly state their opposition to infilling in the Parish.

1682) To agree a timetable for approving new Standing Orders

It was resolved that the working group of Cllrs Allen, Brown and Sanger would produce a final version for approval ready for the March meeting, to be accepted at the April meeting.

1683) To review agreed dates for future Parish Council meetings April 2015- April 2016

It was resolved to change the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to 11/5/15 and the date of the Annual Parish Meeting to 18/5/15. It was also resolved to change the general meeting dates from the last Monday of each month to the 4th Monday of each month.

1684) To receive an update on Superfast Broadband

Surveys on the locations of the green boxes (and where to place the new boxes for SFBB) have been completed and some changes have been identified for their locations.

Some properties currently on an exchange-only line will either get fibre optic cable to their property or a new green box will be located in Braziers End. Surveying will begin this month and work will be completed by March 2016.

In addition, BT plan to upgrade the ADSL service at Cholesbury exchange between April – June 2015, with the effect of improving broadband speeds to between 8-24 mbps. The availability of Superfast Broadband will offer a further improvement on these speeds, if taken.

1685) To discuss the lack of mobile signal in the area and its effect on smart meter installation

Cllr Brown will draft a letter to be sent to relevant government departments to highlight how investment in mobile signals in the area could have a beneficial effect on energy reduction in allowing the increased usage of smart meters.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd March 2015 in St. Leonard's Parish Hall.