

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in St. Leonard's Parish Hall on Monday 26th January 2015 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs Allen, Brown, Joseph, Minting and Sanger.

Also present: County Cllr Birchley, Mrs Lewis (Clerk), District Cllr Rose and six members of the public.

- 1650) To receive apologies for absence
Cllr Blomfield and Cllr Matthews.

- 1651) Matters arising
None.

- 1652) To receive declarations of interest
None.

- 1653) Questions from members of the public

County Cllr Birchley informed the meeting that over the Christmas period she had chiefly been involved with helping to manage the severe bed shortage within the Buckinghamshire Hospitals Trust, which at it's worst point were over 120 beds short from what was needed, despite extensive efforts to minimise 'bed-blocking'. County Cllr Birchley is also heavily involved with finalisation of the 2015-16 budget for the County Council, which is faced with a deficit of £85 million. Therefore it is proposed to increase Council Tax level by 1.9%. Social care for the vulnerable is of the highest priority.

Cllr Brown asked County Cllr Birchley to comment on the performance of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, which is currently in the lower third of the rankings. County Cllr Birchley replied that at 98% occupancy, there was great demand on the facility. The management team, including Chief Executive, is in the process of being changed and there is an attempt to reduce pressure on the service by providing more local services, where possible.

Cllr Brown asked County Cllr Birchley to feed back to the County Council about the waste of resources in including rural parishes without 30mph speed zones in the Devolution Process for some transport related matters. The scheme is not suited to such Parishes, however, with services having been devolved to larger village and town councils, it is of concern whether the County Council will be able to service the rural parishes effectively in the future.

Cllr Allen thanked the County Council for the work done to resolve the flooding at Sandpit Hill and requested that the borehole be properly maintained in the future.

County Cllr Birchley noted that the work to Swan Lane was complete, Oak Lane had been patched and is planned to be surface dressed after the winter and the planned works to The Vale were currently on going. There would be further work on Little Twye and Parrots Lane.

Cllr Allen asked District Cllr Rose about progress with the Planning Application CH/2014/1748/FA concerning The White Lion. District Cllr Rose replied that, as the applicants had recently supplied new information, it had delayed the final decision until after this new information could be reviewed. Careful review of all information was needed, in case of appeal. However, it was still possible that the case would come to the Planning Committee at it's meeting on 19/2/15. Any public responses to the new information would be welcome, if pertinent, and anyone with an interest in the decision would be welcome at the meeting.

Cllr Allen also asked District Cllr Rose about the reason for withdrawal of the DDPD and the requirements for input by the Parish Council into 'The New Plan'. The DDPD was withdrawn as the Housing Needs survey was deemed out of date and the housing level assessment was deemed unrealistic. The main points to be looked at will include the location and demand for traveller sites and review of The Green Belt. It was confirmed that all of the information provided by the Parish Council to the DDPD would still be relevant.

District Cllr Rose also reported on recent developments with HS2, including latest plans for the 'Chiltern long tunnel' to avoid Wendover and finish just short of the AONB boundary, thereby protecting homes and reducing construction traffic on the roads. It has also been suggested that the existing Chiltern Rail line could be used to transport away the spoil from the tunnel construction. In terms of timescale, the House of Lords Select Committee are due to report next month, but nothing is likely to happen until at least May due to the General Election.

It was noted that District Cllr Rose is dealing with complaints made about the damage to verges and pavements in Browns Rise, Buckland Common, by bin lorries.

- 1654) Questions to the Chairman
None.

- 1655) 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 24th November 2014 (amended to read 1636) ...are planned to be installed *including* those of two ~~new~~ sites on common land) and those of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th January 2015 (amended to read 1644) ... Rights of Way Officer at the County Council...).

- 1656) Reports

(a) *Clerk's Report*: The report was received from Mrs Lewis (see attached) and actions agreed.

(b) *LAF*: Cllr Brown attended the meeting on 22/1/15 and reported that the following matters were discussed:

- Devolution of Services – it would now appear that it is not suitable to devolve services to small rural parishes, such as ours, especially as we predominantly have >30mph roads and these are not covered by the proposal. There is a concern that partial devolution will cause a problem for service delivery by BCC to those outside of the program, due to limited funds. This matter has been raised with County Cllr Birchley.
- Simon Dudley, responsible for the team concerned with grit piles has been requested to ensure that the grit pile location list produced by the Parish Council this winter is followed in years to come.
- There is no gulley asset register. It has been requested that the current sites visited by the maintenance gangs is forwarded to the Clerk in order that it may be checked and amended, as necessary, by the Parish Council, in particular, to outline those gulleys that are regularly blocked and require most attention.
- It was noted that there is an organisation called “Chiltern Rangers” that is a free service, specialised in land clearance, which may be of interest to land owners in the area.

(c) *Rural Policing Group*: Cllr Brown and Cllr Joseph attended the meeting on 6/1/15 at which Sgt. Tallet and PC Flint were present. Crime was down 20% in last quarter. The majority of local crimes involved non-dwelling burglaries from outbuildings, particularly involving electrical tools/machinery.

(d) *Turpin Charity*: Surveyors for the Charity and the developer have had an initial meeting to agree a value for the land, but have yet to reach agreement.

1657) Finance

- (a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for January);
- (b) Payment of the Clerk's salary for December was noted.
- (c) It was resolved to donate £100.00 to the South Central Ambulance Service's League of Friends, in thanks for the free Awareness Session held on 17/1/15 on use of the Cardiac Defibrillator purchased by the council.
- (d) The quarterly budget report for Oct-Dec 2014 was received.

1658) Planning

(a) *Applications*:

(i) CH/2015/0024/FA: 1&2 Hawridge Vale Cottages, Hawridge Vale, Hawridge, HP5 2UG, Two storey side extensions. The Parish Council had no comment.

(ii) CH/2015/0046/FA: Garsyte, Cholesbury Lane, Cholesbury, HP23 6NG, Extensions. The Parish Council does not object in principle to the application, but suggests that, should consent be granted, a condition be imposed that use of the granny-annexe accommodation always be ancillary to the residential use of the existing dwelling.

(b) *Decisions of Chiltern District Council*:

(i) CH/2014/2010/FA: 3 Post Office Cottages, Cholesbury Lane, Cholesbury, HP23 6ND. Conditional Permission.

(ii) CH/2014/2221/FA: Glebe Cottage, Parrotts Lane, Cholesbury, HP23 6NE. Conditional Permission

(c) *Notice of Appeals*:

None.

(d) Cllr Allen brought to the attention of the council the following planning issues;

The “Dog Day Care facility” in the Vale, which was brought to the attention of the Council in November last year is ready to open within days. No planning permission for Change of Use or erection of buildings/fencing has been sought. A neighbour has reported the potential breach to Planning Enforcement at the District Council. The Parish Council resolved to write to Planning Enforcement and lodge its concerns, both concerning planning and environmental factors.

Regarding the “J&L Travel” site in St. Leonard's, it is hoped that an agreement will be signed within the next few weeks in which the owner of the site will agree a financial donation to affordable housing elsewhere in the District, which will allow outline planning permission to be granted on the site.

1659) The Green at Buckland Common

The dead Oak tree is still to be removed.

1660) Springall Hill allotments

- a) All allotment fees for 2014-15 have been paid in full.

1661) Highways

a) It was requested that the Clerk raise at the next LAT meeting, the need for the clearance of washed down grit from the kerbed gutter in Swan Lane.

b) The locations that have been agreed now need to be assessed for proximity to underground services and then a team will be organised to fit the ground screws. It is estimated that everything will be in place around May of this year. It was agreed that the Council should participate in training with other Councils, prior to use of the equipment.

1662) To receive an update on Devolution plans following a meeting on 4/12/14

See LAF update 1656) b).

1663) To discuss progress with regard to the situation of hoardings and clocked footpath at The Rose and Crown public house

The information sent to the Planning Enforcement team at the District Council regarding the erection of hoardings has been classed as low priority and will be addressed within 42 days of the report being received (21/1/14). The actual location of the footpath has been referred to the Definitive Map team before further investigation can take place.

1664) To discuss the New Local Plan

Copies of the associated introductory document were distributed to the members. The contents and response from the Council will be discussed at the February meeting, if not before. (See also 1653))

1665) To discuss the invitation of a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved to invite a speaker from the Chiltern Society.

1667) To receive an update on planning application CH/2014/1748/FA

See 1653). Should members wish to respond to the recently added information on the website, they should inform the Clerk.

1668) To discuss dissemination of the access code for the Cardiac Defibrillator

It was resolved to have access to the code only via the Ambulance Service, by dialling 999. The Parish Council would encourage parishioners to establish a local network of contacts to assist with obtaining the defibrillator for them in the case that they are alone with a patient and cannot leave them to get it themselves.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd February 2015 in Cholesbury Village Hall.