

## CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs Brown, Matthews, Minting and Sanger.

Also present: County Cllr Birchley, Mrs Lewis (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1518) To receive apologies for absence

District Cllr Rose. Cllrs Allen, Blomfield and Joseph.

1519) Matters arising

None.

1520) To receive declarations of interest

None.

1521) Questions from members of the public

County Councillor Birchley reported that she had been elected as Chairman to the Better Care Fund, which is trying to reduce healthcare costs; that there had been improvement in local train services with improved signalling and one less 1<sup>st</sup> class carriage and one more 2<sup>nd</sup> class carriage being standard on all trains now; Bucks County Council was active in challenging the Care Bill, which aims to equalise costs for self-funded and state-funded care home residents, however as there is a disproportionate amount of self-funded residents in the county, the bill will impose a significant burden on an already stretched County Council budget; Bucks Healthcare Trust is out of Special Measures and aiming to gain Foundation Status, however services may be compromised by potential changes in organisation across the border in Berkshire; more money had been received from central government for pothole repair following flooding damage; the resurfacing of Oak Lane is still high on the agenda for 2015.

Cllr Sanger noted that a few potholes on Bottom Road between Cholesbury Lane/Parrots Lane junctions had been missed during the recent work. He will let County Cllr Birchley know where they are.

Cllr Brown noted that the proposed devolution of certain transport services to the rural parishes was problematic in that there was little work the Parish would be permitted to do and therefore cost effectiveness would be difficult to achieve, even in a cluster. Cllr Brown and County Cllr Birchley agreed that the effects of freezing the Council Tax in previous years had had far-reaching consequences that the public were now feeling the effects of.

Cllr Matthews noted that the Super-Sucker had not been effective as a long-term solution to the flooding at Sandpit Hill and County Cllr Birchley agreed that further work needed be done.

1522) Questions to the Chairman

None.

1523) To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and those of the planning meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

1524) Reports

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

(b) *LAF*: Cllr Brown informed the meeting that the next LAF meeting was on 25 June. There was still a small amount of delegated budget available for transport-related projects. No immediate suggestions for use were identified in the Parish currently.

(c) *Rural Policing Group*: No news.

(d) *Turpin Charity*: No news.

(e) *St. Leonard's Parish Hall*: John Horn has agreed to stay on his position as Parish Council representative on the hall committee.

1525) Finance

(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for June); BALC (New Financial Regulations Course Fee - see (e) below) £46.78; John Horn (restoration of noticeboards at Cholesbury & Buckland Common and Silver Jubilee Memorial Bench) £384.93. Payments already made were registered as: St. Leonard's Parish Hall (Hall Hire Jan – Apr) £32.50; Cholesbury Village Hall (Hall Hire Mar – May 2014) £47.13; Turtle Engineering Ltd (AED Cabinet and sign) £690.00 inc. VAT; Zurich Municipal (Annual Insurance) £282.34; IAC Ltd (Internal Audit Fee) £180.00 inc. VAT. A limit of £250 was agreed for the electrical work needed to fit the AED cabinet when it is delivered. Cllr Allen will obtain a quote from the company that usually performs any electrical work at Cholesbury Village Hall.

(b) The internal audit report was reviewed and it was agreed that all suggested recommendations will be followed up by the clerk, subject to referral back to the auditor to re-consider his comment on Risk Assessment.

(c) Cllr Brown signed the Annual Governance Statement and amended Accounting Statement (in line with the internal auditor's recommendations) on behalf of the Council.

(d) It was agreed to make a £10 donation towards a Royal British Legion Remembrance Garden in Old Amersham.

(e) It was agreed to support the clerk's attendance on a course on new Financial Regulations.

1526) Planning(a) *Applications*: None(b) *Decisions of Chiltern District Council*:

(i) CH/2014/0708/FA – First floor link extension at Hither Dennets - Approved

(c) *Notice of Appeals*: None.1527) The Green at Buckland Common

The Council had received requests from local residents to cut the grass across the whole of the common, as following a period of very wet weather, the grass had grown excessively long for the time of year. Although the grass is not usually cut until the start of the summer holidays, it was felt that these requests were reasonable and the grass has now been cut and baled. One resident was unhappy with this action.

1528) Springall Hill allotments

(a) Cllr Blomfield had reported to the Parish Clerk that on inspection by himself and Cllr Allen, that the allotments were in good order (with one plot slightly below par), that the new plots had been sprayed and were now useable and that the spare plot had been mown.

1529) Highways

(a) It was noted that several items on the “to do” list had been undertaken since the last meeting between the LAT team and clerk, in May, including areas of pothole filling on Bottom Road, Little Twye, Parrots Lane and Cholesbury Lane; gully clearance on Rays Hill; replacement of warning poles by Pallet’s Pond and the arrival of the Super-Sucker to attend to the flooding at the bottom of Sandpit Hill. Further work is needed to address this problem and the clerk will continue to assist the LAT team with their planning of this.

(b) It was agreed that the clerk will ensure that the re-surfacing of Oak Lane maintains its position at the top of the list for work to be carried out in 2015 by maintaining contact with County Cllr Birchley and the LAT team on this topic.

1530) To discuss the proposition of devolving certain services to the Parish Council from BCC

Cllr Brown and Parish Clerk reported on meetings hosted by Bucks CC. It is proposed by BCC that certain 'Transport for Bucks' responsibilities i.e. to include grass cutting in 30mph zones, hedge cutting, sign cleaning, gully clearance and basic footpath maintenance be devolved to the Parish Councils, with associated budget (decreasing after year 1). As a rural Parish Council, with very few relevant areas to be managed and small budget allocations being devolved, it is felt that there are financial risks involved with minimal benefits. However, it was agreed that the Council is open to participating in discussions with other neighbouring Councils to form a “cluster” and this will be conveyed by Cllr Brown to Jackie Wesley, our Bucks CC contact.

1531) To discuss the nomination of a councillor to the board of the Chiltern Society

The Council agreed to nominate Cllr Allen for the open position on the board.

1532) To review the use of the Manorial Waste on Parrots Lane

It was agreed that the clerk would write a letter to the owner’s of Stone Cottage stating the conditions for use of the Manorial Waste.

1533) To discuss the recent complaint regarding litter in the Parish from Duke of Edinburgh groups

As there had been no complaints directly involving the Parish, it was agreed to remain vigilant of litter levels and act accordingly, but to take no further action at this time.

1534) To discuss recent communications with Hawridge and Cholesbury School

The school had questioned whether it was necessary to have any communication link with the public via the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to maintain its stance that all communication is welcomed, but not compulsory.

1535) To discuss nomination of a councillor to the Chiltern and South Bucks Strategic Partnership

It was felt that there was insufficient information on the position to make a decision on nomination and the clerk will request more information on what is required within the role in order that the Councillors may make an informed decision.

1536) To discuss the recent erection of a stile on pathway CY43 (Bottom Road/Jenkins Lane)

A parishioner had noted the erection of a stile on the above-mentioned footpath and questioned its lawfulness. The clerk will investigate with the Rights of Way Officer.

1537) To discuss the changes on land opposite the garage on Cholesbury Lane

A parishioner had noted the recent maintenance work on the land opposite the garage on Cholesbury Lane. It was understood the land is being made suitable for grazing and no action is needed by the Council.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in St. Leonard’s Parish Hall.