

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 22nd September 2014 at 8pm

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

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

1575) To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Joseph.

1576) Matters arising

Cllr Brown noted that he had amended and added to the sections related to the Parish in the document, "Open Space Strategy for Chiltern District", which had been produced without proper reference to the council and had many inaccuracies. Cllr Brown had done much to promote the facilities in the Parish within the text.

1577) To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Allen declared an interest, as a neighbour, in Planning Application CH/2014/1460/FA.

1578) Questions from members of the public

Cllr Sanger stated that although he had not followed up as quickly as hoped on missed potholes during recent works on Bottom Road, on review he had found them mended or marked for mending.

Cllr Allen made a request to County Cllr Birchley that immediate assistance be given to our LAT contact, Kathleen Wilmhurst (KW), as Paul Snell (previously her co-worker for this Parish) has been promoted and KW is now working alone and is struggling with the workload. County Cllr Birchley promised to address the issue. Cllr Allen requested that County Cllr Birchley ensure that the next closure of the Vale (to complete works started in August) not be delayed. County Cllr Birchley was not sure of the date, but said that she would look into it, although guaranteeing work delayed by bad weather was difficult. Cllr Allen asked County Cllr Birchley about a firm date for the resurfacing of Oak Lane. County Cllr Birchley said that it was scheduled for 2015. The council noted its concern that this date will slip, as it was once planned for 2014. Cllr Allen noted that the lane between St. Leonard's church and the Lane End had been resurfaced when done only 3 years ago and never stated as a priority by this council. Cllr Allen again stated the importance of resolving the flooding at Sandpit Hill as a matter of urgency. The Clerk is due to receive an update during her meeting with the LAT team on 23/9/14 and will feedback updates to the councillors and County Cllr Birchley, who will then take action as appropriate.

County Cllr Birchley informed the council of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services at BCC, which assessed the service as "Poor". Whilst BCC has now dedicated significant funds to improve the service and resolved to aim for a "Good" re-assessment in 18 months, in mitigation it stated a 70% increase in referrals to the service between 2013-14 and a lack of qualified social workers/foster families. The MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding House) opens in Aylesbury on 29/9/14 and aims to help address poor communication between departments dealing with safeguarding children. County Cllr Birchley also reported that she is much concerned currently with the consequences to BCC of the governments Better Care Fund, which aims to encourage councils to develop strategies to reduce overall hospital admissions and length of hospital stays. Currently the length of stay in a Buckinghamshire hospital is twice the national average.

District Cllr Rose reported that the Delivery Development had been submitted and should be responded to by the end of the year. District Cllr Rose also reported that much work was being done to fulfil the council's obligation to find suitable travellers' sites in the county. Work also continues to fight HS2. The council is currently in the process of developing a second alternative to the route (Green Plus). This route is still underground, but runs closer to the original route thereby reducing costs related to surveying and minimising delays and therefore making it a more plausible alternative. It was reported that a challenge to HS2 based on the Aarhus convention (assuring that the public is sufficiently informed about the process) has been deemed to have a case to answer and now will be investigated.

Cllr Brown noted that petitions from Buckinghamshire against HS2 will be some of the last to be heard and asked whether it was likely to diminish their effectiveness, however District Cllr Rose felt that as the majority of the objections in Buckinghamshire were related to the AONB, this would not be the case. Cllr Brown also questioned whether the recent Scottish referendum would make it more likely that a unitary authority would be established in the county, but District Cllr Rose did not feel that there was an appetite for this as other unitary authorities had not demonstrated savings. Cllr Brown also noted the poor quality recently of some planning documents provided, which District Cllr Rose noted. District Cllr Rose requested that he be directly notified of any Planning Contraventions.

1579) Questions to the Chairman

None.

1580) 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 on 28th July 2014 and those of the planning meeting held on 8th August 2014.

1581) Reports

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

(b) *LAF*: No meeting.

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

(d) *Turpin Charity*: The council resolved to re-appoint Cllr Allen as trustee.

1582) Finance

(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for August and September); Travel expenses, Chris Brown, SFBB meeting (£13.50); External Audit Fee, Mazars (£120.00); Application fee for MVAS (£350.00)

(b) Membership renewal to CPRE was agreed (£36.00); a donation to Chiltern Dial-a-Ride was agreed (£50); a donation to Cholesbury Village Hall was agreed (£700)

(c) It was agreed Cllrs Allen, Brown, Sanger and the Clerk would form a working party to formulate new Financial Regulations for review by the council.

1583) Planning

(a) *Applications*:

(i). CH/2014/1492/FA: 2 Wood View Cottages, The Vale, Hawridge, Bucks, HP5 3NT. The council had no comment.

(ii) CH/2014/1460/FA: Holmwood, Cholesbury Lane, Buckland Common, Bucks, HP23 6NQ. The council had no comment.

(iii) CH/2014/1526/AGN: The Old Farmhouse, Heath End, Hawridge, Bucks, HP4 3UE. The council had no objection but requested a condition be attached that the building be solely used for agricultural purposes.

(iv) CH/2014/1453/KA: Quiet Corner, Cholesbury Lane, Cholesbury, Bucks, HP23 6ND. The council had no comment.

(v) CH/2014/1533/FA: Garners, Heath End, Hawridge, Bucks, HP4 3UE. The council had no objection with the assurance that the garage be accessed from the current hard standing and not the public highway.

It is to be noted that application CH/2014/1400/FA: Units 8, Woodlands Farm, The Vale, Hawridge was reviewed by the council prior to the meeting and no objection was made, although restrictions on traffic to and from the site were requested for during evenings and weekends.

(b) *Decisions of Chiltern District Council*:

(i) CH/2014/0913/FA: Chiltern Boarding Kennels. Permitted.

(ii) CH/2014/1098/FA: High Chimneys. Permitted.

(iii) CH/2014/1164/FA: Three Gates Farm. Permitted.

(iv) CH/2014/1154/FA: Walnut Tree Cottage. Permitted.

(v) CH/2014/1277/FA: Three Gates Farm. Permitted.

(c) *Notice of Appeals*: None.

1584) The Green at Buckland Common

It was agreed that The Green would be cut once more this year. The council thanked Cllr Blomfield for the cuts thus far. Cllr Matthews will take down the Oak tree.

1585) Springall Hill allotments

(a) See Clerk's report.

1586) Highways

(a) The signpost at the junction of Swan Bottom and The Hale has broken again. Cllr Blomfield will look into its repair.

1587) To discuss the updated situation regarding the proposed devolution of certain services to the Parish Council from BCC
No updates.

1588) To discuss the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service: 2015-20 Public Safety Plan
The council noted the plan.

1589) To note the submission of the Delivery and Development Plan Document
The council noted the submission of the DDP.

1590) To discuss Japanese Knotweed growth in Heath End

Cllr Matthews will speak to the landowners to request treatment of the site. Cllr Blomfield noted that there were other sites in the Parish affected. The landowners will be identified and contacted.

1591) To review potential locations for MVAS signage

Six potential locations have been identified by the council for MVAS signage, all of which will be surveyed by BCC and three chosen. They are as follows: (i) between the Black Horse and the terraced houses on the Vale (ii)/(iii) North and South of Hawridge and Cholesbury School on the common (iv) by the cricket pitch on Cholesbury Lane (v) on Chapel Road between Coppice Farm Park and St. Leonard's Church and (vi) on Cholesbury Lane, South of Chiltern Garage.

1592) To discuss attendance by councillors at the Chiltern's AONB Planning Conference 2014
Cllrs wishing to attend should contact the Clerk.

1593) To note the invitation to contribute to the Buckinghamshire County Council Draft Countywide Parking Guidance
Cllr Brown noted that the guidance took no note of allowances for AONB. The clerk will forward this comment to BCC.

1594) To discuss complaints about littering by Duke of Edinburgh groups in the Parish

Chartridge PC has written to the local area co-ordinator for D of E and received an unsatisfactory response and therefore has complained to the head office, but is yet to receive a response. The council decided to take no further action at this time.

1595) To consider a proposal (by Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Brown), to amend Standing Order number 2

"All meetings of standing committees of the Council shall be held at St Leonards Parish Hall or Cholesbury Village Hall or in another public place and shall commence between 19.30 hours and 20.00 hours, at the discretion of the proper officer, unless the Council decides otherwise at a previous meeting. Such a meeting shall last no more than two hours unless the committee resolves otherwise at the meeting itself."

The meeting closed at 9.49pm.

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 27th October 2014 in St. Leonard's Parish Hall.