

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in St. Leonards Parish Hall on Monday 28th September 2015 at 8pm

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

Also present: County Cllr Birchley, Mrs Lewis (Clerk) and approximately 15 members of the public.

1802) To receive apologies for absence

District Cllr Rose.

1803) Matters arising

None.

1804) To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Allen declared an interest in planning application CH/2015/1753/KA as he is a friend of the owners of Home Farm Cottage.

1805) Questions from members of the public

County Cllr Birchley reported that much of her time is taken up with HS2 at the moment. She attended a Select Committee meeting at the House of Commons at which The Lee Parish Council was giving representation. The approach is to aim for a tunnel, but there is still a question over its length.

County Cllr Birchley has used her Community Leaders fund to assist in installing Wi-Fi to Cholesbury Village Hall and a donation has been made to the local church.

Cllrs Allen and Brown asked about work to the roads (namely The Vale, Cholesbury Lane, Horseblock Lane, Parrots Lane, Bottom Road, Little Twye). County Cllr Birchley was unable to commit to definite plans for any of the roads. Browns Rise has been taken out of the patch and plane program as it needs complete resurfacing.

1806) Questions to the Chairman

The members of the public that attended the meeting wished to debate the mowing regimen on Buckland Common. The change agreed at the July meeting, to cut the top half of the common short and leave the bottom half long, (a direct reversal of the previous regimen) was opposed by those who were concerned about the new regimen encouraging children to play directly in front of the houses at the top of the common, resulting in excessive noise. Those in favour of the new regimen felt it would provide a safer area for all to use, away from the roads and on a flatter area of ground and generally would encourage use of the common for all forms of recreation.

1807) 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 27th July 2015 and those of the Planning Meetings held on 3rd August 2015, 21st August 2015 and 7th September 2015.

1808) Reports

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

(b) *Turpin Charity*: The developer has not yet purchased the land, contrary to expectations. Cllr Allen has questioned the chairman as to the cause of the delay on several occasions and has yet to receive a satisfactory response. A meeting is however planned in the next couple of weeks to review progress with the land sale.

1809) Finance

(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for September); Mazars (External Auditor) £150.00; Chiltern District Council (Election Costs) £70.00; CPRE (Annual Membership) £36.00; P. Matthews (Cut and Clear on Buckland Common) £60.00.

(b) The payment of the clerk's salary for August was noted.

(c) The clerk and chairman reported that they had investigated alternative savings account options for the council's reserves, but there were no viable alternatives for the level of reserves held. A minimum of £10,000 would be needed to allow access to a better interest rate. Therefore it was resolved to continue with the NS&I account and transfer monies from the Lloyds Business Account into it, in order to achieve better returns.

(d) It was resolved to donate £50.00 to the Chiltern Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) as it tries to extend its service to more rural areas. The clerk will contact Anne Butterworth to try and arrange a visit by CAB to one of the "Tea Parties" for the elderly local residents.

(e) It was agreed that the council should purchase an additional battery pack and equipment for the post for the MVAS equipment at a cost of (£436.95)(exc. VAT), for which an award of the same amount (exc. VAT) has been made by BCC.

1810) Planning

(a) *Applications*:

(i) **CH/2015/1753/KA** Home Farm Cottage, Cholesbury Lane, Cholesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6ND, Removal of a willow, crown reduction of a maple, pruning of branches on two hazels and removal of a branch from a hawthorn - all trees within a Conservation Area. The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on the application.

(b) *Decisions of Chiltern District Council*:

(i) **CH/2015/1279/FA** Overburnts, Cholesbury Lane, Cholesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6ND, Two storey side extension, rear first floor and roof extensions. Conditional Permission granted.

(ii) **CH/2015/1364/FA** Ridge Cottage, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UQ,

First floor rear gable dormer, conversion of existing rear dormer roof from flat to gabled, fenestration alterations. Conditional Permission granted.

(iii) **CH/2015/1296/FA** Bracken View, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UQ, Insertion of rear roof dormer, chimney flue and conservation rooflight. Conditional Permission granted.

(iv) **CH/2015/1551/KA** Kingston Cottage, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UQ, Crown reduction to trees within a conservation area. No TPO shall be made.

(c) *Notice of Appeals:*

None.

(d) *To receive an update on Enforcement Cases:*

Cllr Allen spoke to Tracey Francis (Principal Planning Officer, Enforcement) who informed him that the owners of Woodlands Farm, Shire Lane would be given a further four weeks to submit a retrospective planning application before it would be raised with the Planning Committee Chairman to issue an Enforcement Notice.

With regard to the appeal against planning permission refusal and the issuing of an enforcement notice by the owners of The White Lion, their agent has withdrawn and their new agent has until 5/10/15 to submit any changes to the information already submitted. The owners have asked for the case to be dealt with on written evidence alone, but Chiltern District Council (CDC) have requested either an informal enquiry or a full hearing.

It was agreed to allow CDC more time to address the enforcement case at The Bungalow, Bottom Road.

1811) The Green at Buckland Common

The Parish Council resolved to amend the decision regarding the mowing regimen, made at the meeting of 27/7/15, to leave a strip of long grass along the top of the common in front of the houses, in order to encourage some distance to be maintained from local residences by those using the common.

1812) Springall Hill allotments

(a) £162.50 has been received in rents. £262.50 is outstanding.

(b) The council resolved to request that allotment holders with paths around their plots of less than the required width restore the paths over the winter and re-seed them.

1813) Highways

a) The LAT meeting minutes were reviewed and it was resolved that the clerk would follow up with Mark Shaw (Cabinet Member for Transportation) and John Lowe (TfB) with regard to the lack of progress with verge clearance between Hawridge Lane and Church Lane.

1814) To discuss the formation of a Village Photography Project

It was noted that Mark King, a local photographer, is applying for a grant to run photography classes locally.

1815) To receive an update on matters relating the condition of bridleway CY25 and discuss any other footpath issues

Cllr Matthews will liaise with the landowner, the clerk and the Rights of Way officer with regard to work on the bridleway from Beechwood Farm to the corner of the field. The clerk will continue to press the Rights of Way officer to take action on the section of the bridleway from the end of the latter section to Shire Lane. The council is in talks with the Chiltern Society regarding this matter and understands that scalplings could be sourced from the County Council free of charge.

1816) To receive an update on Superfast Broadband

Cllr Brown reported that work in Bellingdon and St. Leonards/Buckland Common was still on schedule and SFBB should be available by the end of October.

Work to supply Cholesbury Common was behind schedule and a power supply issue has arisen in Hawridge. Cllr Brown hopes to gain more information on the delays at a meeting on 8/10/15.

Supply to Rays Hill/Braziers End is still expected for December.

The upgrade of the telephone exchange is also delayed.

The meeting closed at 9.54pm.

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 26th October at Cholesbury Village Hall.