

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 25th January 2016 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs Allen, Brown, Minting and Sanger.

Also present: Mrs Lewis (Clerk), District Councillor Rose and County Councillor Birchley.

1864) To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Blomfield, Joseph and Matthews.

1865) Matters arising

None.

1866) To receive declarations of interest

None.

1867) Questions from members of the public

County Councillor Birchley reported that, in line with the results of the BCC budget questionnaire completed by residents, roads were to be a priority in 2016-17, in addition to the chief priorities of adult and child social care. Although the budget and priorities will not be set until April of this year, County Cllr Birchley will be aiming to have patching work/resurfacing completed on The Vale, Little Twye, Parrots Lane and Browns Rise. In the last year there were approximately 60 potholes repaired in the Parish.

Cllr Sanger asked for a progress report on cross-county border communication within the emergency services and County Cllr Birchley and District Cllr Rose replied that they had been assured that improvements had been made, but would ask for details of these and report back.

Cllr Brown asked if County Cllr Birchley was aware that the Forest View Home had closed. She was not.

District Councillor Rose reported that his priorities remained with opposition to HS2, including the generation of an alternative haulage route to avoid key residential areas and busy commuter routes, and also the Local Plan Consultation, which residents are encouraged to comment on via the link

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/planning/localplan2014-2036> until the 14th March, which aims to identify and assess future housing need and capacity in the District. A video explaining the process may be available in time for the February meeting and District Cllr Rose will inform the Clerk of this. Cllr Brown asked if the Conservation Area Review is linked to the Local Plan Consultation and it was explained that it was not directly linked.

1868) Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Brown requested an update on the matter of the Clerk's right to have a pension under new government regulations. The Clerk stated that she had discussed this recently with the Chairman and had decided to opt-out, which is allowable due to the level of her earnings. The Parish Council has no obligation to contribute to a scheme for the same reason. At the staging date on 1/7/16 the Clerk will register her opt-out decision to comply with the regulations.

1869) To approve the minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd November 2015 and those of the Planning Meeting held on 12th January 2016.

1870) Reports

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

(b) *Turpin Charity*: The developer, charity and adjacent landowner have agreed, in principle, a value for the land "per acre", but as the developer feels that he cannot use all of the land for development, would like to negotiate a lower price per acre, or to buy less acreage. The charities agent is continuing negotiations.

(c) *Rural Policing Group*: Cllrs Brown and Joseph attended a meeting on 21/01/16. In the last three months there had been two thefts committed in the parish (one being the Christmas Tree thefts) and two attempted thefts. Crime levels are very low, however, it is important that all crimes are immediately and accurately reported (including nuisance crimes like bikes/cars riding on the cricket pitch) in order that the police maintain a mandate to operate patrols in the area. As crime is generally low in the District, thereby freeing some resource, an intelligence led policing operation to patrol cross border crime will be taking place in early February.

(d) *LAF*: The LAF funding request for demarcation of the triangle on Church Lane in Hawridge will not be fulfilled due to budget cuts. The Clerk will contact the LAT to see if a cheaper alternative to granite sets can be found.

(e) *St. Leonards Parish Hall*: Cllr Joseph could not attend this meeting and so an update will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

1871) Finance

(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for January); Chris Brown (SFBB expenses) £15.30.

(b) It was noted that the Clerk's salary was paid in December.

(c) The quarterly budget report (Oct-Dec 2015) was received by all Cllrs present and checked against bank statements by Cllr Minting.

(d) The budget for 2016-17 was signed off by the Chairman.

1872) Planning

- (a) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of the agenda;
- (i) CH/2015/2303/FA The Full Moon Public House, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UH, Replacement of existing outbuildings with new ancillary accommodation. The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on this application.
- (ii) CH/2015/2313/HB The Full Moon Public House, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UH, Replacement of existing outbuildings with new ancillary accommodation (listed building consent). The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on this application.
- (iii) CH/2015/2409/HB The Windmill, Rays Hill, Braziers End, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UJ, Replacement windows and glazed doors for cottage adjoining windmill. The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on this application.
- (iv) CH/2016/0045/FA Beechwood Farm, Little Twye Road, Buckland Common, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6PB, Replacement storage shed including two stables, tack room, field and hay shelter, feed, equipment and machinery store. The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on this application.
- (b) To receive decisions of Chiltern District Council.
- (i) CH/2015/1816/FA The Bungalow, Bottom Road, Buckland Common, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6NU, Single storey front, single storey rear extensions and erection of detached double garage and widening of original vehicular access (amendment to Planning Permission CH/2015/1115/FA). Conditional Permission.
- (ii) CH/2015/2083/FA The Bury, Cholesbury Road, Cholesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6ND, Erection of detached garage outbuilding with store. Permission Refused.
- (iii) CH/2015/2026/FA Heath End Cottage, Heath End, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP4 3UE, Detached triple garage with office store in roofspace. Conditional Permission.
- (iv) CH/2015/2225/FA - 1 Post Office Cottages Cholesbury Lane Cholesbury Buckinghamshire HP23 6ND, Insertion of front dormer window. Conditional Permission.
- (c) To receive notice of appeals.
- None.
- (d) To receive an update on enforcement cases.
- Cllr Allen will contact Mrs Tracey Francis (Senior Enforcement Officer at CDC) to enquire as to whether a retrospective application was submitted with regards to Woodlands Farm, Shire Lane by the deadline set by her of 18/01/16. Mrs Francis returned from annual leave on 25/01/16.
- (e) To receive an update on The White Lion appeal.
- Cllr Allen will attend a meeting along with other interested parties to receive an update on the appeal from the barrister acting on behalf of CDC.

1873) The Green at Buckland Common
There were no matters to discuss.

1874) Springall Hill allotments
All allotment rents for 2016-17 have been paid in full. There is an empty plot, which has been advertised in the Feb/Mar edition of the Hilltop News.

1875) Highways
The Clerk has maintained contact with the LAT with regard to potholes, but otherwise there is no budget for other road repairs until April. It was resolved to repeat outstanding requests for patching and planing in March prior to this new budget start date. The broken road sign at the top of Horseblock Lane (Cholesbury Lane end) has been reported and is being dealt with.

1876) To receive a report on the current version of the New Local Plan
Cllr Allen attended a meeting on 14/1/16 to receive an overview of the New Local Plan, which aims to identify housing needs in the District and formulate a plan for their fulfilment over the coming 20 years. Currently it has been identified that there is a need for 13,000 new homes to be built, with sites identified only with space for 7,000, leaving a deficit of 6,000. CDC is working with South Bucks District Council and communicating with other councils to try and fulfil the deficit in neighbouring districts, but the lack of sites is a widespread phenomena in this area of the country and therefore ultimately, some green belt will need to be lost. Sites that are identified will be tested for suitability in terms of infrastructure, such as road access, provision of utilities and capacity within schools, GP surgeries etc. In our parish, only one site was identified, which was in Buckland Common, but this has already been eliminated from further consideration. It was resolved that all Cllrs would read through the plan and have comments ready for the next meeting.

1877) To receive an update on matters relating the condition of bridleway CY25 and discuss any other footpath issues, including the condition of footpaths C28 and CY19
Cllr Allen noted that the footpath named CY28 in the agenda was actually C28, which is in the Chartridge Parish and therefore the problems with overgrowth there will be directed to the Clerk of that council. With regard to CY25, Cllr Minting reported that he had spoken to the landowner who had verbally agreed to allow access to his land by contractors to remove the excess mud on the path and for its removal to natural hollows nearby, thereby reducing the cost of the improvements to the path and making the project more feasible. Next steps shall be discussed with Cllr Blomfield on his return from holiday. The landowner across whose land CY19 passes has requested that the council assist with ensuring that BCC fulfils its promise to replace stiles on the route with kissing gates, which has partially been done, but not completed. It was resolved that the clerk would contact the Rights of Way Officer to follow-up.

1878) To receive an update on Superfast Broadband

All four cabinets are now 'live' and 3-400 households have taken up Superfast Broadband. The thirty-four households off exchange should be connected by April and there is now a Superfast Extension project, due to complete in mid 2017, to connect a further 80+ households, including those in Lanes End, towards the Chesham end of The Vale and some across the Parish boundary and it was resolved that Cllr Brown should continue to work to achieve this. Cllr Brown proposed that a letter should be sent on behalf of the council to Mrs Christine Stott to thank her for her cooperation in allowing access/use of the common by BT Open Reach in order to put in place the technical infrastructure necessary to achieve the end result. It was resolved that Cllr Brown would draft the letter and the Clerk would send it.

1879) To receive an update on the current status of the transport devolution project

Cllr Brown reported that he had confirmed with Paradigm Housing Association that the grass-cutting identified in the Parish would continue to be undertaken by them. Further clarification of responsibility is needed in areas such as hedgecutting, siding out, Rights of Way and sign cleaning and Cllr Brown will continue to try and resolve this prior to any further discussions on the matter. A draft contract has been received from BCC, which Cllr Allen will have reviewed by a lawyer, if the council agrees to go ahead with the project in principle.

1880) To discuss celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday, including the "Clean for the Queen" initiative and "Beacon Lighting"

It was felt that both initiatives should be discussed with the HCCPS and Cllr Allen agreed to do so.

1881) To agree on external auditing arrangements for 2017 onwards

Information received on such arrangements offer an "opt-out" to councils with an income/expenditure of <£25,000, who wish to arrange their own audit panel. Arrangements for smaller councils are still unclear and therefore it was resolved to wait for further information. It is not expected that fees will increase significantly.

1882) To agree dates for meetings April 2016-March 2017

The dates suggested by the Clerk were agreed and will be booked with the relevant halls.

1883) To discuss nominations to a Royal Garden Party for Councillors

It was resolved not to nominate any of the Councillors.

1884) To receive a report on the BCC review of Council-supported transport

Cllr Brown attended a meeting concerning plans to try and reduce the cost to BCC of supported transport schemes, including public transport, school transport and transport for the vulnerable i.e. disabled/pensioners etc. This first session was focused on public transport and other sessions will cover the other areas. Cllr Brown encouraged BCC to speak to local residents and other stakeholders as well as Councillors, in order to achieve a more realistic and in-depth assessment of need.

The meeting closed at 10.14pm. Please note it was resolved by the council to continue the meeting to its close, exceeding the two-hour limit.

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 22nd February 2016 at St. Leonards Parish Hall.