

PARISH OF CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2016

Present: Cllr John Allen (Chairman), Cllr Nigel Blomfield, Cllr Chris Brown, Cllr Judy Joseph, Cllr John Minting, Cllr Francis Sanger, County Cllr Patricia Birchley, Mrs Hayley Lewis (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr Phillip Matthews.
2.
 - a. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2015, taken as read, were approved and signed by the Chairman with the addition of the following to item 9 (Chiltern Local Area Forum), at the request of Cllr Brown: 'Getting Superfast broadband for our exchange area has been a longer term project, kicking off in 2013. Engineering work will start shortly at four locations and it is envisaged by the late Summer/Autumn, much improved broadband speeds should be available. Coverage of this scheme will not be 100%, so we are already beginning to lobby for inclusion in a follow-up project to extend coverage to those households at the furthest corners of the parish, including those at Lanes End, on the Wendover exchange. Thanks to fellow members of the Working Group for their support. Cllr Brown is the Parish Council representative for this forum.
 - b. There were no matters arising.
- 3a. Parish Council, Chairman's report: Cllr Allen reported the Council's main activities for the year, which included review of 44 **planning applications**, including re-development of the ex-coach-yard site in Taylors Lane, on which work has now started for the construction of three dwellings ; the application for change of use of The White Lion pub, for which appeals against refusal of permission and enforcement action are to be heard this week by the Planning Inspectorate; and also the application for the demolition of The Rose and Crown pub and construction of six dwellings, the decision on which is outstanding. In addition to this appeal, there are appeals underway by residents at The Bury against refusal of their application for an extended garage and by the resident of Hawridge Court Farm against refusal of their applications for an extension and new garage. There was a successful appeal, supported by the Parish Council, by the residents of Mildmay Cottage for the siting of a Shepherd's hut in their garden. The Parish Council also this year highlighted several potential enforcement matters to the District Council, all of which are resolved, or are in the process of being. As usual, the other major focus of the council was the state of the **roads**, with efforts to improve being hampered by severe budget cuts, changes in personnel at TfB and, in the opinion of the council, where work is undertaken, it often being of a poor standard and poorly supervised, thereby leading to short-term sustainability. Cllr Allen has notified County Cllr Mark Shaw (Member of Cabinet for Transportation) of the major outstanding issues as well as TfB being updated by the Clerk on a regular basis. A **Local Plan** consultation by the District Council was undertaken to garner the views of residents to priorities, concerns and ideas for meeting housing and business needs over the next 20 years. A presentation by District Councillors at the Parish Council meeting in February was well attended and the Parish Council contributed its feedback accordingly. Another round of consultation will take place in the Autumn, with submission of a plan due in 2017. Within this consultation, there will also be a review of Conservation Areas and the Green Belt, which the Parish Council will participate in. With regard to the **The Green at Buckland Common**, alterations to the mowing regimen to allow a safe area for families to enjoy, was agreed in consultation with residents and feedback will be welcomed during the year. The **allotments** were reported to be fully occupied (except for one plot) and rents paid in full. Cllr Allen asked Cllr Brown to report on the following: It was agreed this year to accept certain **devolved transport-related services** from TfB, including road-sign cleaning, limited maintenance of footpath and footways and monitoring of hedgerows, for which the Parish Council will receive approximately £3,000 over the next three years, with funding likely to be significantly reduced thereafter. Contractors will be engaged to undertake the work, as and when required. **Superfast Broadband** was brought to 80% of residents on the Cholesbury exchange by January 2016, with most others by the following March. Those residents at the greatest distances from 'green boxes' i.e. Coppice Farm Park and Lanes End on the Wendover exchange and dwellings at the Chesham end of The Vale, on the Chesham exchange are hoped to be included in a second wave of work to follow. Many thanks were given to Bill Ingram for his technical expertise and Christine Stott for allowing access across and onto the Commons and Cllr Allen thanked Cllr Brown for all of his work to lead the project, which is of benefit to the whole area. The **Mobile Vehicle Activated System (MVAS)** was used in the Parish twice during the year, with plans for a further couple of siting's in the calendar year ahead. The machine monitors vehicle

speed and frequency and can be located at any of three sites, one near to Hawridge and Cholesbury School, one by the cricket pitch and one near to the church in St. Leonards. The most recent usage, in St. Leonards, did not note a significant speeding issue, although this may be due to its location near a bend, but was surprising in that, over a two-week period, a substantial number of vehicles were counted – in the region of 7, 500 – going in just one direction. Cllr Allen then noted that the new Parish Council **website** had been successfully established, with thanks to Cllr Brown and Steven Clark and made all agendas, minutes, financial reports and procedural documents available to all. In addition, the Parish Council had been instrumental in achieving improvement of the Bridleway between Shire Lane and Little Twye, which had become almost impassable in wet weather, thanks to the combined efforts of Cllrs Matthews, Blomfield and Buckinghamshire County Council. Cllr Allen also thanked all those involved in the Beacon, organised to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, on 21st April, especially Cllr Matthews, who built the bonfire and cleared away the debris and Christine Stott, for giving permission to use her land and for lighting it. Finally, Cllr Allen extended his thanks to all of his fellow councillors and the clerk for their efforts this year.

- 4b. Parish Council, financial report: Hayley Lewis presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016 and gave a short report. A member of the public questioned the guidelines for reserves held by the Parish Council and the clerk replied that national guidelines recommended reserves equivalent to 1.5 x precept, which the Parish Council currently was in line with.
5. Bucks County Council: County Cllr Birchley reported that following a significant projected overspend, the County Council had ended with an actual overspend of £550,000, which considering the overall size of the budget is considered as being within expectations. The major cost is adult/social care, with it costing forty-sixty pence in the pound. Work has been progressing in attracting business to the area, in order to support infrastructure, including an improved road network connecting Aylesbury to Milton Keynes, an area that will suffer increased congestion due to the proposed Woodlands housing development to the east of Aylesbury and HS2 construction traffic to the West. Consideration of a Unitary Authority proposal is to be reviewed in the coming years. There are several possibilities, dependent on where existing Councils feel there are the greatest synergies available, but any changes would require approval of all Councils concerned. County Cllr Birchley also congratulated the achievement of bringing Superfast Broadband to the area and promised to continue to push for jet patching of Parrotts Lane and Little Twye and the surface dressing of The Vale/Cholesbury Lane. Cllr Brown questioned whether the public appreciated the importance of adult/social care and County Cllr Birchley replied that the majority did. In 2019/20 responsibility will transfer jointly between the County Council and the NHS and there are inherent issues to be faced between the two, as the Council means tests and the NHS does not. A member of the public questioned the priority given to early years' education within the overall budget and County Cllr Birchley agreed to look into the level of grants available and provided in the last year and report back directly.
6. Chiltern District Council: District Cllr Rose reported that the Council Tax charge had been set at its maximum allowable level for the year. There had been much activity related to formulation of a new Local Plan to meet housing and business needs to 2036, with consideration that there may be government provision for Councils to receive a proportion of business rates in lieu of direct government funding, although this was in opposition to direction from government to focus on housing needs. Work continues to petition the Select Committee for a full tunnel through the AONB for HS2 with all local interest groups now working together to achieve that common goal, with CDC as lead. Work is also progressing with establishing an optimum haulage route for the project. With regard to potential Unitary Authorities, District Cllr Rose noted that such a move would mean fewer members per head of population and therefore poorer representation for the public. However, significant savings have been made by working with South Bucks District Council, whilst maintaining autonomy. The next stage of SFBB roll-out would be supported by the District Council and the government duly petitioned. It was questioned whether petitioning the House of Lords regarding HS2 would be effective, as the House of Commons could over rule them, but District Cllr Rose felt that it was worthwhile, as over ruling a positive decision would be politically difficult. It was also questioned whether, until the Local Plan was approved, developers could claim a lack of restrictions on development. District Councillor Rose confirmed that there was a Core Strategy and five-year land supply plan in place to prevent that.
7. St Leonards Parish Hall: Michael Joseph, Chairman, reported that re-decoration of the hall, including improvements to the kitchen and installation of an AV system (funded by a Good Neighbours Group

grant) was now complete and the hall could comfortably cater for 85-90 people. IT training sessions were being organised, pub nights had been well attended, as well as a Christmas Food Fayre and record numbers at the 2015 fete (1,500 attendees). The 2016 fete would be on 4th June and be themed on the Queen's 90th Birthday.

8. Cholesbury Village Hall. Cllr Allen reported that since the Nursery closing two years ago, income had now recovered to cover costs, although unplanned major works could not be covered from reserves. Thanks to a grant from the Good Neighbours Group the hall now had WiFi and there was now a website, thanks to a grant from County Cllr Birchley. There were 110 members of the 100 club. A member of the public asked whether the defibrillator had been used. It has not.
9. Chiltern Local Area Forum: Cllr Brown (Parish Council representative) reported that forum, which acts as a bridge between local Parish Councils with the District and County Council had supported the Parish Council this year with the matters of SFBB/Devolution of TfB-related services and MVAS installation (as reported under item 3a) as well as reporting awareness of matters, which affect the local population, even if indirectly, such as support for areas of deprivation in Chesham and measures to improve parking. There is an annual amount of funding that can be bid for within certain guidelines, although this amount is on the decline.
10. Chesham Rural Policing Group: Cllr Judy Joseph (Parish Council representative) reported that there was a downward trend reported in crimes of approx. 1%, although there had been an increase in burglaries of dwellings in the local area, although not affecting the Parish where, as usual, thefts were mainly from outbuildings. Arrests were made following the Christmas Tree thefts and no further incidence occurred across the local area, after the arrests. Other matters, such as safeguarding vulnerable people are covered at these meetings as well as receiving details of local Police operations.
12. The Turpin Charity: Cllr Allen is a Trustee and gave a short history of the Charity and its aims and reported that a deal was due to be completed within the next few weeks with the developer after which point the proceeds would be invested and the interest used to support the needy and young in parishes of Aston Clinton and Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards.
13. There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and contributions. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....