

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 28th November 2016 at 8pm

Present: Cllrs Allen, Blomfield, Brown, Matthews and Minting.
Also present: Mrs Lewis (Clerk) and County Cllr Birchley.

Before the meeting began, Cllr Allen wished to formally extend the congratulations of the members to Cllr Brown for his award of 'Parish Councillor of the Year 2016', a national award from the Local Government Information Unit.

2021) To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Joseph, Sanger and District Cllr Rose.

2022) Matters arising

None.

2023) To receive declarations of interest

None.

2024) Questions from members of the public

County Cllr Birchley reported that at a recent full council meeting, Anthony Stansfeld, Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner had highlighted rural crime, with a particular focus on the theft of trees from Christmas Tree Farms, as a current priority. Otherwise, County Cllr Birchley reported on having inspected the Parish highways with the new LAT, Scott White, high lighting the state of the road through Heath End, particularly outside Vale Farm, which has been added to the programme and with a focus on drain clearance outside Dorriens Farm and at the bottom of Sandpit Hill. County Cllr Birchley also reported that it had come to her attention that the Chilterns Conservation Board had received funding of £1 million to be spent on maintaining hill forts and the one at Cholesbury would be included in the planned works.

2025) Questions to the Chairman

None.

2026) 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 24th October 2016.

2027) Reports

(a) *Clerk's Report*: The report was received from Mrs Lewis (see attached) and actions agreed, including that Cllr Allen would respond to the consultation on amended Highway Inspection policy.

(b) *Rural Policing Group*: Cllr Brown reported that crime was at a low level currently with only five non-residence burglaries over September and October. The police were aware that there was currently a problem with motorbikes/4-wheel drives being driven over private land and this was being addressed. The public were encouraged to be more aware of house and car security over the Christmas period and while the evenings were dark very early, as burglaries tend to increase at this time of year.

2028) Finance

(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for November); Nigel Blomfield (Cut, Buckland Common) £50.00; Cholesbury Village Hall (Hall Hire April to November 2016) £94.50; St. Leonards Parish Hall (Hall Hire April to November 2016) £52.00; Chris Brown (Mileage to SWARCO, Milton Keynes for repair of MVA) £28.80.

(b) Cllr Allen explained that he had encouraged Mr. Horn to undertake clearance of the section of the path from St. Leonards Parish Church to opposite the top of Gilberts Hill without agreement by full council and recognised that this was not in line with correct procedure. The Parish Council agreed to grant Mr. Horn's request for a payment of £200 as a gesture of goodwill for his excellent work.

(c) The draft budget was reviewed and it was agreed to increase the allowance for donation to halls from £1,400 to £1,600 to reflect inflation. It was agreed that the precept to be requested would be £9,800. The clerk would amend the draft budget for final sign-off in January 2017.

2029) Planning

(a) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of the agenda;

(i) CH/2016/2067/TP The Bury & Adjacent Land, At Cholesbury Camp, Cholesbury Road, Cholesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6ND, Felling of five beech trees, crown reduction of a beech tree, pruning of side branches of two beech trees, and pollarding of a hornbeam - all protected by a Tree Preservation Order. A response of 'No Comment' was agreed.

(ii) CH/2016/2030/FA Windyridge, Jenkins Lane, St Leonards, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6NW, Erection of a replacement garage. A response of 'No Comment' was agreed.

(iii) CH/2016/2079/FA Whitecroft, Hawridge Vale, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UG, Replacement dwellinghouse and detached outbuilding. A response of 'No Comment' was agreed.

(iv) CH/2016/2094/FA The Kiln, 3 Shire Lane, Cholesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP23 6NA, Detached double garage with roof storage area, extension of existing gravel driveway. A response of 'No Comment' was agreed.

(b) To note that the Parish Council agreed not to meet to discuss the following application and that a reply of 'No Comment' was sent to the Planning Department at the District Council.

(i) CH/2016/1942/FA Units 8 Woodlands Farm, The Vale, Hawridge, Replacement storage and distribution building.

(c) The following decisions were received by the council;

(i) CH/2016/1711/FA 2 Springall Hill Cottages, Springall Hill, Buckland Common, HP23 6NL, Single storey front extension, part two storey, part first floor side rear extensions, single storey rear extension, fenestration alterations, replacement garage. Conditional Permission granted.

(ii) CH/2016/1794 7 Little Twye Cottages, Little Twye Road, Buckland Common, HP23 6PB, Rear roof dormers to facilitate habitable accommodation in roofspace, fenestration alterations. Conditional Permission granted.

(d) To receive notice of appeals.

CH/2015/2208/FA The Rose and Crown Public House, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2ZD. Appeal reference APP/X0415/W/16/3160984. It was agreed that Cllr Allen would draft a response to the appeal for review by members, for submission to the Planning Inspectorate in time for the deadline of 28th December 2016.

2030) The Green at Buckland Common

None.

2031) Springall Hill allotments

The Clerk reported that all rents were now paid. Cllr Matthews had still to inspect the trees overhanging from Brown's Rise.

2032) Highways

The clerk reported that white give-way lines at the junction of Rays Hill and Cholesbury Lane were on the program, but with no date set. The clerk was requested to report that the white give-way lines at the junction of Chesham Road and The Vale (opposite Nut Hazel Cross farm) also needed re-painting and that the black and white reflective posts on the zig-zag section of Oak Lane had been knocked over and required replacement. Cllr Allen reported that he expected feedback from previous communications with Mark Averill (Head of Highways) following various meetings with department heads as to the progress with all other outstanding jobs.

2033) Devolved responsibilities

Cllr Matthews reported that the clearance of the path in St. Leonards would be started on the 29th November, weather dependant.

2034) To consider the council's position on the possible formation of a Unitary Authority, following presentations by and meetings with both the County and District Councils

When the Parish Council met with a representative of BCC it was explained that BCC favoured the formation of one unitary authority, with some local devolution of decision making, in order to realise an estimated saving of £18 million (Approx. 2% of total budget). Cllr Allen and Brown attended a meeting of the four District Council's at which it was explained that there was not unanimous agreement between them, but that two or three unitary authorities were favoured, although CDC and South Bucks DC were relatively content sharing services as is the current situation and did not fully support any change. Cllr Brown will attend a conference at BCC on 12th December 2016 at which the feedback on their plans from town and parish councils will be summarised and addressed and he will report back to the council in the New Year, at which point the council will further consider their position, although it is clear now that it supports a voice for residents on any plans.

2035) To consider a response to the current stage of consultation of the District Council's Local Plan

It was agreed that the council did not need to submit a response at this stage as the plans being considered did not directly affect this Parish.

2036) To consider a response to a statutory consultation period regarding the proposed removal of phone boxes in the Hilltop Villages

The council agreed to make no comment on the plans.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 23rd January 2017 at St. Leonards Parish Hall.