

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 24th April 2017 at 8pm

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

Also present: County Cllr Birchley, Mrs Lewis (Clerk), Simon Dando (Contractor Director, TfB), Mark Averill (Head of Highways) and one member of the public.

2083) To receive apologies for absence
Cllr Joseph and District Cllr Rose.

2084) Matters arising
None.

2085) To receive declarations of interest
Cllr Matthews declared an interest in 2091 (a).

2086) To consider matters relating to Highways

Cllr Allen opened discussions by thanking Mr Dando and Mr Averill for attending the meeting and stated that whilst the council understood the financial pressures faced by TfB, that it was felt money was wasted by poor quality work being undertaken, inadequate supervision of the work to ensure quality, multiple visits to the same site to repair work in stages, all of which being underpinned by poor communication to customers, including the Parish Council. Mr Dando/Mr Averill replied that work was now being method-led to ensure quality but that there were insufficient funds to personally inspect every piece of work, with each supervisor having five staff members reporting to them. Photos of work are taken, but it is agreed that the situation is not ideal. It was also agreed that it would seem frustrating to the public that adjacent areas of road requiring repair were not repaired at the same time, due to only the worst sections being repaired immediately, but the team are currently constrained by the current guidelines, which only allow repairs to areas which are deemed dangerous, in order to limit budget spend. It is hoped that a more proactive approach may be possible in the future. Currently budgets are healthier following a dry winter, which resulted in reduced pothole repairs (often increasing five-fold over the winter) and it is planned that increased repairs to defects other than potholes will be taken care of over the summer. In terms of communication, publishing of the Capital Works programme on a website is imminent.

The following roads were then addressed:

The Vale - Patching work to prepare the road for surface dressing will start from now until July, after which time the surface dressing will be applied as a layer of bitumen followed by chippings in a double layer, with road markings re-applied in September. Drainage insufficiencies along the route were explained in detail by the Parish Council and a member of the public who has lived on the road for many years and it was explained that there would be a full inspection of drainage issues with work completed to improve any issues prior to surface dressing. The new surface is expected to last between five to seven years. Mr Dando agreed to report back to the Parish Council on final plans related to the road repair.

Rays Hill - It was explained that the road has wide areas where the road surface has eroded and causes drivers to veer into the centre of the road to avoid it, which is dangerous. Mr Dando agreed to inspect the road and report back to the Parish Council.

Horseblock Lane - Again, there is a large area of eroded surface at the bottom of the road, by the county boundary. TfB have already agreed to cut grips into the verges, but re-surfacing is then necessary. Mr Dando agreed to inspect the area and report back to the Parish Council.

Jenkins Lane - The area of road opposite the church/at the end of Gilbert's Hill has been inspected and Keith Carpenter of the Asset Team has been asked to include the area in the patch and plane program this year. Mr Dando will keep the Parish Council updated on progress.

Triangle, Church Lane, Hawridge - The Parish Council requested that TfB return the triangle to its original state prior to abandoned works to kerb it. Mr Dando agreed to inspect the damage and report back to the Parish Council. Finally, it was agreed that the Parish Council would be supplied with a non-redacted copy of the TfB Management chart.

Mr Dando and Mr Averill left the meeting at 8.50pm.

2087) Questions from members of the public

County Cllr Birchley reported that she will be attending a full council meeting to debate support for a third runway at Heathrow. Conservative members support the project for the increased employment opportunities it would bring to the area. The Parish Council asked County Cllr Birchley to raise concerns about environmental impact and increased air traffic at the debate and County Cllr Birchley agreed to do so. It was reported that the contribution from County Cllr Birchley's Community Leader's Fund towards new grills on Cholesbury Church windows would be presented at the church this weekend and that County Cllr Birchley had toured the Parish with Simon Dando to inspect the roads. Matters that are a priority for BCC still include social care, which now accounts for 60% of the annual budget and also HS2 for which haulage routes are currently being assessed for safety and congestion issues. The Parish Council asked whether the General Election was likely to further delay a decision on future Unitary Authority formation in the County and County Cllr Birchley thought that this was likely.

2088) Questions to the Chairman
None.

2089) 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 27th March 2017.

2090) Reports
(a) *Clerk's Report*: The report was received from Mrs Lewis (see attached) and actions agreed

2091) Finance
(a) Orders for payment were approved for: The Clerk's salary (for April); BMKALC £159.50 (Annual subscription 2017-18); Chiltern Society £30.00 (Annual subscription 2017-18); ICO £35.00 (Data Protection Register Annual Fee); P. Matthews Agricultural Contractors £72.00 (Hedgecutting at the allotments); SLCC £93 (Annual membership 2017-18).
(b) The Q4 report was received and noted.
(c) The draft Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounting Statement was approved for submission to the internal auditor.

2092) Planning
(a) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of the agenda;
(i) CH/2017/0350/FA Greenacre, The Vale, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 3NT, Erection of detached storage building on land adjacent to main property, access track across field to existing field gate. The Parish Council resolved to object to this planning application in its current form as there was insufficient information provided to make an informed decision. The members would like to know the proposed use of the storage building, which will then inform the likely transport entering and exiting the property, frequency and noise. Regarding the proposed access to the highway, via a field gate and a right of way which seems to be shared with 6 Woodview Cottages, it is the council's opinion that this would be impractical and extremely dangerous.
(ii) CH/2017/0524/KA The Old Smithy, Hawridge Common, Hawridge, Buckinghamshire, HP5 2UQ, Felling of a sycamore, a pear tree and an apple tree - all within a Conservation Area. The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on the application.
(b) No decisions were received by the council at this meeting.
(c) No notice of appeals were received by the council at this meeting.
(d) To discuss potential enforcement matters; The owner of Little Pressmore Farm had been in touch with the council to offer co-operation and the enforcement department had confirmed that the matter would be investigated.

2093) The Green at Buckland Common
No matters to discuss.

2094) Springall Hill allotments
Cllr Blomfield reported that trees adjacent to the allotments had been pollarded, although it is not known by whom.

2095) Devolved responsibilities
Cllr Blomfield and Cllr Brown inspected the footpath under Parish Council responsibility and reported that the footpath was well worn and did not require any work at present.

2096) To discuss nominating a representative to the working group on future devolved services and community board formation in association with BCC
It was agreed that Cllr Brown would represent the Parish Council on this working group.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 22nd May 2017 at St. Leonards Parish Hall.