

PARISH OF CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 8th May 2017

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

1. Apologies: Cllr Nigel Blomfield, Cllr Francis Sanger.
2.
 - a. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2016, taken as read, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
 - b. There were no matters arising.

3. Guest Speaker, Andy Jones, Fire Station Commander, Amersham gave a talk on fire safety.

It was explained that the most common causes of fire in the home included Arson (often in wheelie bins, therefore do not leave them accessible to passers-by); disposable BBQ's being put in bins whilst still hot or accelerants used whilst alight); electrical fires due to appliances being left on or adaptors being overloaded (turn off all appliances without a clock when not in use and use long rather than square adaptors); rodents damaging wires (plug holes with foam and wire wool). Fires can be prevented or contained by shutting doors (giving 20 mins delay in spreading), installing sprinklers and keeping fertilisers and weed killers, acetylene torches separate in outbuildings. The community was encouraged to stay in touch with vulnerable neighbours i.e. those that hoard, have dementia, are hard of hearing etc. and in the event of having to call an emergency service, to give accurate directions, especially as many of the houses in the Parish have names, not numbers and are therefore more difficult to find – and more calls the better to help a quick response! Residents were urged to have a free Home Fire Risk Check and details will be posted on Grapevine and the website. It was assured that there are no planned cuts to services. Finally, Mr Jones requested that people did not endanger themselves to fight fires.

- 4a. Parish Council, Chairman's report: Cllr Allen reported the Council's main activities for the year, which included review of 48 **planning applications**, highlights include the re-development of the ex-coach-yard site in Taylors Lane, on which work has now been completed on 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 have been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate and the pub has now been sold and will re-open again as a pub; and also the appeal against refusal of permission for the application to demolish The Rose and Crown pub and construct six dwellings. The Parish Council also this year highlighted a potential enforcement matter to the District Council, with regard to Little Pressmore Farm and this is ongoing. 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. Simon Dando (Contract Director, TfB) and Mark Averill (Head of Highways, BCC) recently attended the April Parish Council Meeting and a report is awaited on several roads, including Jenkins Lane (at the top of Gilbert's Hill), Horseblock Lane, Rays Hill and Church Lane, Hawridge (triangle). A significant achievement was made, (with the assistance of County Cllr Birchley) to succeed in having The Vale, from Greenway to Pound Lane, surfaced dressed over the next few months. The **Local Plan** consultation by the District Council has involved the Parish Council at every stage, but is currently delayed, due to the publication of a Government White Paper on housing and changes to legislation to further protect the green belt. More information is expected at the end of the year. The **Conservation Area Review**, which was restarted following the death of the previous consultant, is behind schedule due to problems with the new contractor. The review for this Parish has been undertaken, this time without consultation with the Parish Council, and we are awaiting the draft report. Another matter delayed, this time by the General Election, are the proposals to merge District and County Councils to form a **Unitary Authority(ies)**. Submissions were made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in January, by the County Council for one single authority and by the Districts for two authorities. Cllr Brown is nominated as representative for the Parish on a working group being led by the County Council and news of next steps is awaited. The **Mobile Vehicle Activated System (MVAS)** has been used in the Parish and gladly has demonstrated that there is not an issue with speeding on the Parish's roads. There was also a training session held on **defibrillator** awareness and

this was well attended. 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 2017 and gave a short report.
5. Bucks County Council: County Cllr Birchley attended part of the meeting, but had to leave before she could give her report, in order to attend another meeting. Recently re-elected, County Cllr Birchley will hold the post of Chairman of the Council this year. Martin Tett has been re-elected as leader of the council. All other council cabinet posts are being assigned.
6. Chiltern District Council: District Cllr Rose reported that locally he was working to have the triangle at Church Lane, Hawridge, repaired and for grit to be removed on Hawridge Hill. Generally, the Local Plan, the question of Unitary Authority formation and HS2 were high on the agenda.
7. St Leonards Parish Hall: Michael Joseph, Chairman, reported that the kitchen had been refurbished and this completed the internal works. Externally, the playground had had completed Phase 1 of refurbishment, with new groundworks, new swings and a slide. Further funds would need to be raised to complete further work. The 2017 fete would be on 3rd June. Bookings at the hall were good, with a wide variety of events taking place to cater for the whole community.
8. Cholesbury Village Hall. Cllr Allen reported that bookings were improved, including three days of use as a film set! A comfortable profit had been made this year, thanks in part to the initiation of the 100 club. New events were planned, including a Pimms and Puds night and a wine tasting event. No works on the building are planned.
9. Chiltern Local Area Forum: Cllr Brown (Parish Council representative) explained that the forum acts as a bridge between local Parish Councils and the District and County Councils and meets three times per year and covers matters such as policing, transport and devolution. This year, an initiative covered in the meetings, the Chesham Wellbeing Project, which started in 2012, is showing great returns. Cllr Brown explained that two wards in Chesham were amongst the most deprived in Buckinghamshire and, although making up only 5% of the population in a relatively affluent area, were a significant financial drain on resources, such as education, health and emergency services. The project brings together over 100 public and voluntary organisations to work together to improve the issues facing this section of the community (including; those whose first language is not English; who are not accessing health care; unemployed residents in receipt of benefits; unemployed aged 18 – 24; lone parents; ex-offenders; disabled and has managed to make 60% savings on health and social care and 30% savings on employment services by getting people back to and remaining in work thereby improving outcomes, saving money and reducing crime.
10. Chesham Rural Policing Group: Cllr Judy Joseph (Parish Council representative) reported that in February there had been a focus on rural crime (mainly thefts from outbuildings) with use of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) and promotion of post coding of property. A new structure was now in place within Thames Valley Police to promote Neighbourhood Policing by keeping it separate from emergency policing and both areas separate from crime investigations.
11. The Turpin Charity: Cllr Allen is a Trustee and gave a short history of the Charity and its aims and reported that since last year the land previously owned by the charity had been sold and £1.2 million invested. Grants would now be available using the interest from the investment of the capital to provide relief to those challenged by age, ill health, disability and financial hardship within the Parishes of Aston Clinton and Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards.
12. There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and contributions. The meeting closed at 9.38pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....