

**PARISH OF CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held at Cholesbury Village Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Present: Cllr John Allen (Chairman), Cllr Nigel Blomfield, Cllr Diane Brackley, Cllr Chris Brown, Cllr Bill Ingram, Cllr Francis Sanger, County Cllr Patricia Birchley (part), District Cllr Nick Rose, Mrs Hayley Lewis (Parish Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr Phillip Matthews.
2.
  - a. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, taken as read, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
  - b. There were no matters arising.

3. **Guest Speaker, Michael Nidd, Secretary, London Luton Airport Town and Villages Communities Committee (LLATVCC)** gave a history of how the committee was formed 24 years ago and recognised by London Luton Airport 18 years ago. The focus of the committee is to reduce noise associated with flights in and out of the airport, particularly those at low levels, although the remit also extends to other nearby airports, such as Heathrow, Stansted and Biggin Hill as all air traffic is interlinked in order to manage flight paths and each airport is in competition with the others. Over the years some improvements have been achieved through pressure from the committee. For instance, the point at which landing gear is opened and wing flaps operated (which produces significant noise) was reduced from 10 miles to 5 miles out from the runway and landing gear manufacturers have now developed systems that may be able to reduce the distance further to 4 miles, thereby concentrating noise over more urban environments. The committee also campaigned for access to live flight information, which is now available to the public and this enables the committee to challenge adherence of the airports to planning constraints imposed by Luton Borough Council when London Luton airport last expanded. It was noticed by the committee that the Night Noise Contour, which limits noise/number of flights over night during the 92-day summer peak period, was being exceeded and now the council has requested the airport to take action to bring operations within the required limits by 2028. A two-year hiatus on progress has been given to allow the airlines to purchase new, quieter aircraft, of which currently, they have very few. Also, limits to annual passenger numbers are regularly exceeded as the limit is unenforceable, due to the differing lengths of time that passengers buy their tickets before they fly. However, one cargo operator has been banned from operating during the Night Noise Contour, changes in departure slots are no longer allowed, as is the case for changes in types of aircraft. For the future, there are plans in place to expand the airport further to increase passenger numbers from 15 million to 30 million. Obviously, any such plans would need ministerial approval and would be subject to a consultation. As the airport is geographically limited to one runway, this would mean use of larger planes and therefore, more noise. Also, there are changes proposed to plane navigation. This is currently done using beacons on the ground which communicate to the planes. Pilots are able to navigate within a mile accuracy. It is proposed to move onto using satellite navigation, which would be more accurate, however, this would concentrate flight paths more and be a greater nuisance to those living beneath them. However, previous proposals made to National Air Traffic Services (NATS) have taken over two years to be considered, during which time rules change, extending consideration time further and so there is no immediate concern about a potential flight path over the Parish. Cllr Allen led thanks to Mr Nidd for his interesting and informative talk.

- 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 included new owners at the White Lion who aim to re-open the building as a public house, following dismissal of an appeal by the previous owners to convert the building to a dwelling; an appeal against enforcement action at Woodlands Farm, Shire Lane where a farm building was converted to a dwelling without appropriate consent. An application has also been submitted to convert the dwelling to a forge; an appeal against refusal to permit demolition of the Rose and Crown public house and the erection of houses was dismissed; and there is a current appeal against the decision to refuse an application to demolish 1 & 2 Hawridge Vale Cottages and replace with a new dwelling. The **Conservation Area** review, commissioned by the District Council is significantly behind schedule by over a year and the Parish Council continue to petition for sight of it and the significance of its findings for the Parish. With regard to **highways**, the year was defined by a commitment to raise the profile of rural roads and this has resulted in firm plans to improve the drainage along The Vale and complete repair and surface dressing of the road between Greenway and Rays Hill as well as surface dressing of Parrots Lane and Arrewig Lane. Repair and surface dressing was already completed on Horseblock Lane, Rays Hill and Taylors Lane. The **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS)**, which the Parish has use of approximately 6 weeks per year in association with Chesham Town Council, has again shown that traffic through the Parish generally obeys the speed limits. Data recorded over now three years shows that there are approximately 1,000 cars/day through St. Leonards, 1,600/day through Cholesbury and 1,200/day through Hawridge. This data may prove to be vital in the future to track any potential increase in traffic as a result of motorists avoiding HS2 construction routes. The Parish Council is to begin discussions with HS2 and neighbouring Parishes to aim to monitor any negative effect. The Parish Council is also involved in discussions with both the

County and District Councils with regard to potential formation of one (supported by the County) or two (supported by the Districts) **Unitary Authorities**. Representations to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire, are encouraged until the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 following Sajid Javid's (his predecessor's) comment that he was 'minded to' support a single Unitary Authority model. Cllr Allen gave thanks to his fellow Cllrs and the Clerk for their work throughout the year and reminded all that all Parish Council information can be found on the website [www.cholesburyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.cholesburyparishcouncil.org.uk)

- 4b. Parish Council, financial report: Hayley Lewis presented the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and gave a short report. A member of the public questioned that the level of reserves seemed high and it was replied that the recommendation for councils was to have 1.5x precept in reserve, but as reserves were now higher than this, potential grants would be discussed at the next council meeting.
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.
6. Chiltern District Council: District Cllr Rose reported that the Local Plan was delayed again, due to a new requirement from central government to conduct modelling studies of the effect of potential new housing developments on traffic flow at motorway junctions. The Planning teams from South Bucks District Council and Chiltern District Council have successfully merged and have new leadership. Cllr Brown asked whether the new teams would be better equipped to respond to enforcement matters and District Cllr Rose replied that he felt this was the case. Removal of the Government Support grant had resulted in a small rise in Band D Council Tax, but this had been limited by increases in Business Rate receipts. A member of the public asked whether Council Tax arrears were an issue and it was answered that they were not. HS2 continues to be a major focus.
7. St Leonards Parish Hall: Michael Joseph, Chairman, reported that refurbishment of the play area was almost complete, that the Little Bears pre-school had recently received an Outstanding Ofsted rating and that the Hall was currently considering an application by a Women's football team to use the playing field.
8. Cholesbury Village Hall. Cllr Allen reported that there was increased usage by the local community, including wine tasting events, the next being in November. There were over 120 members of the 100 club. The boiler required replacement.
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. Projects this year were focussed on well-being, transport and improvement of mobile communications. Devolved activities from the County included sign-cleaning and there were plans in place to undertake this during the summer.
10. Chesham Rural Policing Group: Cllr Chris Brown (Parish Council representative) reported that Cllr Ingram was going to be involved going forward in meetings with local police. Speed data was reviewed from MVAS, and updates given on Operation Greystoke, which uses ANPR to identify criminals passing through rural areas to avoid main roads. Last year, there were 20 crimes, mainly burglaries (most of which could have been prevented). In comparison to local towns, crime is at a very low level in the Parish.
11. The Turpin Charity: Cllr Allen is a Trustee and gave a short history of the Charity and its aims and reported that grants are now available from the interest generated from investment of the capital from sale of land 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. A parishioner asked when SFBB would reach Coppice Farm Park and Cllr Brown replied that it was planned for September 2019.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and contributions. The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....