

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 8th June 2015
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: Anna Brazil regarding the 'Save the George Campaign'.

Dr Michael Streule and Geoff Watson regarding commuter parking on Upper Hollis.
Candidate for potential co-option onto the Parish Council – Tim Stevenson

Present: Councillor B.Barker - Chair

Councillors: C.Baxter: H.Eaton: L.Cook: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone: G.Maher:
V.Marshall: V.Martin: K.Pither: C.Plested:

1. Apologies: Councillors: K.Allan: A.Hewett: R.Hougham: M.Lee:

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllr M.Johnstone – item 6 c viii)

3. Minutes The minutes of the meetings held on 11th May and 20th May were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising None

5. Councillor vacancy

Tim Stevenson made a presentation during the public forum and answered questions posed by the Councillors. After some discussion, the Council agreed unanimously to co-opt Tim for the Prestwood and Heath End Ward. Cllr T.Stevenson then joined the meeting.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2015 were **agreed** and **confirmed**. It was noted that there was no possibility to object to Costa taking over the Ho Ho premises as there was no change of use required.

ii) Update on The George, Great Missenden

The information provided by Anna Brazil was discussed and it was questioned whether or not the vote taken at the recent meeting could be declared as unanimous support for no change of use due to the way that the vote was taken. Cllr K.Pither reported that the developers had advised that a viability study for the pub done by English Heritage but carried out by independent advisors had stated that the pub was not viable. The developers were intending to submit their plans for the site to CDC.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Chilterns Conservation Board – Appointment of Replacement Parish Member

Cllr V.Marshall expressed an interest in this vacancy and the Council agreed unanimously to nominate her.

ii) Judging of the Annual Allotment Competition

After some discussion, the following Councillors agreed to judge the annual allotment competition: Cllrs. C.Baxter, G.Maher, V.Marshall and K.Pither.

iii) Open Spaces contract – Working Party

It was agreed to set up a working party to start work on the Open Spaces contract which is due to expire in March 2016. The following Councillors would form the working party: Cllrs B.Barker, A.Hewett, M.Johnstone, K.Pither and C.Plested.

iv) Request for shed – Ballinger allotments – plot 18b

The Council agreed to give permission for this shed subject to the usual conditions. It was noted that some allotment plots could have two sheds where the plot has been split but the precedent has already been set.

v) Street light – 33 Church Street - email

This street light is already fitted with the lowest wattage bulb possible and it is not a dimmable unit. The Council agreed to the quote from Sparkx to initially mask out the back of the lantern with black tape and if this was successful, to paint the area as a permanent solution. If this did not work, the Council recommended that the resident should fit blackout blinds.

vi) Request to use Buryfield – Great Missenden Football Club

The Council agreed to the request from GMFC to use the Buryfield for the forthcoming 2015-16 season. Their success in the 2014-15 season was noted.

vii) Parking – Upper Hollis

The points raised during the public forum about commuter parking and the danger to traffic entering and exiting Upper Hollis at the Martinsend Lane junction were discussed further and the Council agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to BCC detailing the concerns of the residents and requesting that a scheme similar to the one planned for Chiltern Manor Park should be introduced on Upper Hollis.

viii) Moat Lane School

There is concern that a child will get injured outside Moat Lane School, there has already been a near miss. Although the plans for a shared use scheme are progressing, this is a relatively long term project and Cllr C.Plested put forward some interim measures to act as short term solutions. The Council agreed to make the following suggestions for improvements to BCC:

- Have a 'lollipop' person on Chequers Lane where the footpath from the High Street joins Chequers Lane
- Suggest that the school tries to educate the parents to take more care and be more vigilant when in the vicinity of the school
- Suggest that 'crocodile' routes are re-introduced or expanded
- Improve the signage on the road so that drivers are made more aware that they are approaching a school
- Increase police patrols to reinforce the parking restrictions
- Extending the double yellow lines on the corner of Chequers Lane into Moat Lane to improve driving visibility, and make the area much safer with a cost of only 2 parking spaces. Also to extend the yellow lines on the opposite corner for the length of one car which would offer greater visibility for cars turning into Moat Lane in either direction
- The condition of the pathways needs attention as they resemble patchwork with lumps and bumps that make them very difficult to walk along. A good non slip surface would make it 100% safer. Especially for the very narrow section of pavement on Moat Lane.

The Council requested that the Clerk should send these suggestions to the school first for their comments before sending the suggestions on to BCC.

ix) Request to put a memorial bench on the Buryfield

The Council asked the Clerk to find out who the memorial bench would be dedicated to. The Council was concerned about setting a precedent for memorial benches on the Buryfield.

x) Short term parking at Station

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Approval of the Annual Accounts and Governance Statement

Copies of the accounts and the Annual Return, together with an updated risk assessment and the suggested distribution of funds into the various reserves, had been circulated to all the Councillors. The accounts had been subjected to an independent internal audit and there were no matters of concern. The Annual Return (including the Annual Governance Statement) and the Annual Accounts 2014-15 were duly approved and adopted unanimously by the Council. The documents will be signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.

ii) High Street Prestwood – free one hour charges

The letter from CDC increasing the cost of the free one hour parking charges for High Street Prestwood Car Park was discussed. Cllr M. Johnstone advised that the Parish Council had accepted the charging formula in 2010 but CDC had not implemented any change to the charge since that time. The increase to just over £17,000 per annum was substantial and had not been provided for in the budget. Although the Clerk had queried the lack of notice with CDC, it is likely the Parish will have to agree to the increase. Other options, such as a free half hour were suggested, but it was thought that this was not long enough.

iii) NALC – Financial topic note F03-15

Noted

iv) Additional dog waste bins

CDC were holding open an offer of the installation of a further two dog waste bins until September. The Council agreed to the two locations that had been suggested by residents for these two bins and agreed that the Council would pay the maintenance / emptying charges.

The two locations agreed are:

- Hangings Lane Prestwood - where the public footpath to the Wren Davies fields commences.
- Whitefield lane at the junction of Trafford Rd, Great Missenden – next to the general litter bin.

v) Quote from Sexton 2015-68– clearing allotments

The Council agreed to the quote from Sexton Fencing for the clearing and weed killing of vacant allotment plots.

vi) Quote from Sexton 2015-65 - various

The Council agreed to the various work on quote 2015-65.

vii) Quote for tree work

The Council agreed to the tree work on Nairdwood Lane allotments.

viii) Request for grant towards follow-up study – tourism in HS2 corridor

The recent study into the value of tourism – which the Parish Council had contributed to – had provided a benchmark but it did not go far enough. A follow-up study on the impact of HS2 on tourism has been suggested and the Council agreed unanimously to provide a grant of £400 as a contribution.

ix) Appointment of representative to Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Strategic Partnership

The Council declined to offer a permanent representative for the JSP.

x) Contact for Nags Head Lane residents – email request

The Council discussed this request and felt that no one particular area in the Parish had a specific Councillor representative – each Councillor being elected already to represent a particular ward. It was agreed that contact could be made to any Councillor via the Parish Office or by writing into the Parish Office with any concerns. Additionally, any resident could attend the public forum at a Council meeting to address the whole Council with their concerns.

xi) Payment of accounts for June

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **26-42** in the sum of **£9,467.19** for **June** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for May **£105.87** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

All Councillors were reminded to produce their photos and resume about themselves for the next issue of 'The Source'.

i) Publication of Councillor contact details

After discussion and getting everyone's views, it was agreed that personal contact details of the Parish Councillors would not be published, and that all initial contact to Councillors would continue to be channelled through the Parish Office.

e)HS2

i) General update including CDC Community Engagement Workshops to support HS2 petitioners

Since the postponement of the Select Committee visit on May 20th, work has been continuing on preparing the itinerary and supporting information including a handout. The date of the visit has just been announced – Monday 22nd June. The other visit dates are Thursday 11th June for Aylesbury Vale and Friday 26th June for North Bucks. All are welcome to support at the various stops en route and Cllr M.Johnstone will circulate the detailed itinerary once finalised.

The Select Committee are intending to hear all the petitions for tunnels before the parliamentary summer recess on 21st July with BCC and CDC due to present from 13th July for 5 days.

Petitions on non-tunnel issues will be heard after the summer recess in September. Work is continuing to support local petitioners.

CDC are holding three Community Engagement Workshops to support HS2 petitioners – details of which have been circulated. Spaces are on a first come first served basis.

Additional Provisions are due to be published on 13th July – some of which are substantial.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) Missendens Local Area Forum

Cllr C.Plested had produced a report on this meeting which she had attended. The Parish proposals for funding had been accepted, although there was an objection to the dropped kerb at Honor End Lane. The Active Bucks campaign is due to be discussed at the next LAF meeting.

8. Clerks Report

i) Location of Parish Council meetings

It was agreed that the Parish Council would hold a further meeting in Prestwood Village Hall later in the year but that it would not go to Ballinger due to the fact that Ballinger Memorial Hall Management Committee wanted to charge the Parish Council for the use of the Hall.

ii) Training for new Councillors

It was suggested that some training should be made available for new Councillors. The local ALC were planning on holding training on procedures and the more formal side and details would be circulated once received. Additional training on information about the Parish would be organised as well.

9. Any other business.

- Cllr G.Maher reported that at the recent NAG meeting, they had agreed to hold the next meeting in November by which time they hoped to get all the groups together at one time to speak to the local police. At the moment the police repeat the same information to several different groups.
- Cllr S.Humphreys progressed the provision of play equipment for Sibleys Rise and also asked to be informed when a date for the work on the car park on Prestwood Common was agreed.
- Cllr K.Pither suggested investigating moving the dog waste bin on Chequers Lane and thanked Cllr B.Barker for chairing her first Parish Council meeting.
- Cllr V.Martin suggested having a 'Surgery' for residents to meet their Parish Councillors – to go on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.
- Cllr B.Barker reported that the hedge outside Nairdwood Lane allotments needed to be cut.

The meeting closed at 22.04

10. Future meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 6th July 2015 in the Parish Office

b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m. Monday 13th July 2015 in the Prestwood Village Hall