

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 14th September 2015
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: Residents from the Misbourne estate regarding the new parking restrictions objecting to their introduction.

Mike Bennett concerning the future of Bucks Libraries – explaining the possible options available.

Present: Councillor - B.Barker - Chair

Councillors: K.Allan: H.Eaton: R.Houham: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone: M.Lee: G.Maher:
V.Marshall: C.Plested: T.Stevenson.

1. Apologies: Councillors: C.Baxter: L.Cook: A.Hewett: V.Martin: K.Pither.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 10th August were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

Cllr K.Allan queried the situation with the parking consultation and Upper Hollis. A response letter from TfB about this issue had been discussed at the August meeting.

5. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2015 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Request to use Buryfield – Greens Funfair

The council agreed to the request from Greens Funfair to use the Buryfield from 12th October to 19th October. After some discussion it was agreed by majority vote to hold the rent at the same level as last year. The clerk confirmed that they are good tenants and look after the grass well.

ii) Allotments - Potter Row – request to keep chickens

The council agreed for the tenant on plot 12 to keep chickens subject to the usual conditions plus an extra condition to agree to dismantle and remove the chicken house and run when they vacate the allotment.

iii) Allotment Liaison Officer - Ballinger

Two candidates had put themselves forward for this role. The council agreed that they would like to make the decision and agreed by majority vote to ask David Hope to take the role, based on seniority and past success in the allotment competition.

iv) Football posts on Ballinger Common

It was agreed to defer this topic to the October meeting.

v) Situation with rubbish bins on Buryfield

It was agreed to defer this topic to the October meeting pending the receipt of information from CDC about the ownership of the bins and the regularity and emptying costs of the current bins.

vi) Street lighting - Sainsbury's on Wycombe Road – response

TfB had responded that they did not have the funding to install additional lighting as their bid for improved street lighting on Wycombe Road had failed last year. The council agreed that a letter should be sent to Sainsbury's to see if they could install some low level lights to improve the lighting at pavement level. It was also agreed to report the poor state of the pavements in this area to TfB.

vii) Memorial tree Buryfield - celebration of anniversary of Queen Elizabeth

The Council had already agreed that it would mark the forthcoming celebration of Queen Elizabeth as the longest reigning monarch by planting a tree and placing a plaque on the Buryfield by the side of the Memorial Centre (July 2015) and this anniversary had now been reached.

Cllr M.Lee agreed to obtain prices for a Chequers tree although there was some concern expressed about how big this type of tree would grow.

viii) TfB's 'Your Roads' event

TfB are holding two events focussing on their planned, preventative maintenance in order to get input about which items should be prioritised. The council agreed that the following items should be prioritised – ensure roadside verges are kept clear to improve car driver visibility for cyclists, pothole and pavement repair and sign cleaning. The councillors agreed to send details of specific sites to the clerk so that a list could be compiled and sent to TfB.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Budget 2016-17

Cllr M. Johnstone re-iterated that ideas on capital projects for inclusion in the budget should be sent either to him or the clerk. Work on the budget for 2016-17 will start in September with the intention of finalising the budget at the November meeting.

ii) Completion of audit year ending 31 March 2015

The council noted that the external auditors had completed the audit of the Annual Return and had found no matters giving cause for concern.

iii) Quotes for playground repairs

Following the annual inspection and associated reports, Playground Facilities have provided quotes for repairs following detailed site visits. The works deemed to be necessary now had been quoted for separately and the council agreed to carry out these repairs immediately. There is sufficient money in the budget to cover these costs. Past experience has shown that quotes from national manufacturers and alternative non-local specialist repair companies were more expensive. There are still non-urgent items that will need to be addressed. One item for future replacement, the activity trail on Buryfield, could be considered for inclusion in 2016-17 budget.

iv) Insurance renewal

The council approved the payment for the insurance renewal which is a long term agreement expiring in September 2016.

v) Request for donation – Chilterns Dial a Ride

Cllr T.Stevenson reported that this service is used extensively in the parish and the council agreed to provide a grant of £500. This is already provided for in the budget.

vi) Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Strategic Partnership

The next meeting was taking place on Monday 19th October and Cllr T.Stevenson provisionally agreed to attend to represent the council.

vii) The future of Bucks Libraries

Following the information provided by Mike Bennett during the public forum, the council discussed the issue and took a vote on the options. A majority vote opted to support option 1 – Co-production.

(Cllr M.Lee left the meeting)

viii) Payment of accounts for September

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **82-102** in the sum of **£10,962.56** for **September** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£195.34** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

Cllr K.Allan reported that three articles had been forwarded to 'The Source' for their next issue – one hour free parking, parking issues near schools and councillor surgery information. Information about the Queens jubilee would be included in the article about the Chequers tree and this article would be sent to 'The Source' for a future issue once updated by Cllr M.Lee.

e)HS2

i) General update

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the council had not petitioned on AP-2 but recorded with the Select Committee clerk that the reason for this was on the understanding that the material of AP-2 will be superseded by the extension of the Chiltern tunnel to the northern end of the South Heath green tunnel (C6) but that the council reserves the right to submit a petition if C6 does not go ahead.

There has been confusion over the tunnel extension and what to petition on. However, a statement on 28th August had confirmed that a short tunnel extension was assured. This means that petitioners can focus on the C6 proposal where the tunnel portal will be near Bury Farm, but the exact details of the C6 proposal are unknown and will be described in another AP – probably AP-4.

ii) Tunnel option to bore from the south end only – endorsement sought

The council unanimously voted to support a proposal to tunnel entirely from the south of the AONB all the way past Wendover. Cllr M.Johnstone also explained about a technique of valuing the impact on landscapes which could be used to challenge HS2.

iii) Petition presentation by GMPC - approval

A pre-meeting had taken place on 18th August between the working party and our barrister, James Burton. This resulted in the working party members actively pursuing witnesses and evidence. GMPC is scheduled to appear before the Select Committee on Monday 21st September at 2 pm. The presentation is being reviewed and updated constantly and Cllr M.Johnstone explained the main points and changes, focussing on the 'asks' from the parish council. The council agreed the content of the presentation and the wish list of compensation measures. The council also agreed to delegate further editorial changes to the working party. Two rehearsals of the presentation with James Burton and the legal team at Bucks CC, together with the witnesses, have been organised and the presentation has to be submitted by this Wednesday. The council unanimously

supported the working party to make any adjustments as necessary and gave a huge 'thank you' to Cllr M.Johnstone for all his efforts and hard work.

6. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) Walkabout in parish – highways issues – 18th August

Cllr S.Humphreys reported on a meeting with CDC councillors Peter Martin and John Gladwin. A list of priority highways work had been compiled during this meeting for forwarding to TfB.

7. Clerks Report

i) Meeting dates 2016

Noted.

ii) Training for new Councillors

A date needs to be agreed for this training – there was a preference expressed for the training to take place in the early evening e.g. starting at 6 pm.

iii) Potter Row allotment rents

The clerk advised that the same percentage increase in rents had been applied to Potter Row allotments as their rental values were different.

iv) Parking restrictions Great Missenden

The new parking restrictions were due to come into force on 1st October. Different areas of the village had different parking permit zones. It was noted that the parish council had objected to the proposed pay and display machines. Following the public forum, the council agreed that a letter should be sent to Cllr Alan Stevens about the issues that the Misbourne estate residents had raised.

v) Open Spaces contract working party – update

The advert asking for expressions of interest had appeared in the Bucks Free Press on 11th September and the clerk was going to publish the same information on the 'Contracts Finder' website. So far three responses have been received. The contract is being checked and work on detailed specification of the contract is underway.

vi) Abbey Park access

The clerk reported that a resident had advised that open access to the Abbey Park had been removed and that walkers were now restricted to the public rights of way. It is not known who owns the land but Bucks CC have been advised of the situation.

8. Any other business.

- Cllr H.Eaton reported that residents were signing a petition to complain about noise from the Black Horse.
- Cllr H.Eaton also reported that Town End Farm had removed some hedging opposite the Black Horse. The clerk would report this to CDC
- The clerk advised Cllr K.Allan that issues with footpaths were the responsibility of TfB.

The meeting closed at 21.45

9. Future meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 5th October 2015 in the Parish Office

b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m. Monday 12th October 2015 in Prestwood Village Hall