

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 9th November 2015
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: None

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

Councillors: K.Allan: L.Cook: R.Hougham: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone: M.Lee: G.Maher:
V.Marshall: V.Martin: K.Pither: C.Plested: T.Stevenson.

1. Apologies: Councillors: B.Barker: C.Baxter: H.Eaton.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr K.Pither – item 5 c iii)

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

Cllr K.Pither advised that it may not be possible to install a dog waste bin at the entrance to Pankridge Drive.

5. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2015 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

ii) Kings Head, Prestwood – tribunal

The council confirmed that it would make a separate representation to the tribunal. There was now more time to prepare a response and Cllr L.Cook was working on a draft statement.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Two request for sheds – Nairdwood Lane – plot 2A and plot 17A

The council agreed to both of the shed requests subject to the usual conditions.

ii) Devolution of services from BCC

The working party consisting of Cllrs A.Hewett, R.Hougham, M.Johnstone, G.Maher, V.Marshall, K.Pither, C.Plested and T.Stevenson were due to meet on 10th November. Cllr A.Hewett reported that BCC had left it late for these discussions as budget and precept decisions are being taken now. The parish council had other priorities at the moment including HS2 and the Local Plan and it was felt that the parish council did not want to be pushed into it without carrying out a proper investigation and evaluation, even if the money offered by BCC in the future would probably be reduced. Cllr A.Hewett proposed that the parish council should not take on these devolved services for 2016-17 but that investigations should continue so that the correct information could be obtained to consider the proposal for 2017-18. Cllr G.Maher seconded the proposal and the council voted unanimously in favour.

iii) Request from Colts to cut back hedge – Prestwood Common

The council agreed to the request from the Colts to cut back the hedge as minimally as possible.

iv) Request for additional benches - letter

The council discussed the letter from the resident and asked the clerk to obtain further information about where the resident would suggest putting extra benches and whether he would

be funding them. It was noted that if any suggested locations were on highways land, TfB would have to give permission.

v) Open Spaces Committee meeting

Cllr K.Pither proposed that the Open Spaces Committee should meet to discuss play areas and equipment with a view to reviewing the current situation and proposing a strategy for future replacement.

vi) Bucks Local Access Forum – working group nomination

Cllr V.Marshall expressed an interest in representing the parish council on this working group to take part in historical research towards achieving more joined-up public access on the rights of way network and the council unanimously agreed to nominate her.

vii) ‘Clean for the Queen’

The council agreed to pass this information on to the Great Missenden Traders and to the volunteer in Prestwood who leads the litter collection volunteers.

viii) Survey – Indoor Sport & Leisure facilities – completion of survey

The council agreed that this survey would be completed tomorrow by the councillors who were attending the meeting to discuss devolution.

ix) Conference invitation – 25th November – ‘Working together for Bucks’

Cllrs A.Hewett, M.Johnstone, K.Pither, C.Plested and T.Stevenson volunteered to attend this conference. Each councillor would need to decide which workshops they would like to attend.

x) River Misbourne modelling – email

Cllr M.Lee reported that this had been done before in 1974/5 when the Misbourne had dried out due to water extraction at Wendover Dean. The clerk would suggest that Cllr M.Lee and Prestwood Nature could be contacted by this organisation for further information.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Minutes of a meeting of F & GP Committee and budget 2016-17

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2015 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the committee had discussed the office heating and play equipment. There was some money in the budget for extra staff costs and there was a suggestion that the office may need more hours and whether the office should open on Friday mornings. Funding for re-decorating the office and repairing some of the plastering could be funded from the general repairs budget. The clerk would find out if there were any rules for how the chairman’s allowance could be spent. Cllr M.Johnstone proposed a suggested increase of 2% on the current budget and that a further meeting of the F & GP Committee would take place before December’s meeting to finalise the budget.

ii) Open Spaces contract – review of tenders

On 5th November the open spaces contract working party had opened and reviewed the tender documents that had been received. There was a broad range of prices quoted and after reviewing all the details the working party decided not to proceed with four of the companies. The review process had highlighted further questions and queries for the remaining four companies and the clerk will forward these queries. The working party will then review the responses and present its final recommendation at the December parish council meeting.

iii) Request for grant – Great Missenden Community Group

The council agreed to grant Great Missenden Community Group £1500 for the Christmas lights in Great Missenden.

iv) Request for grant – Chilterns CAB – Prestwood Outreach

The council agreed to grant Chilterns CAB £2000 to help fund the Prestwood Outreach branch, a community service which benefits local residents unable to travel.

v) Quote for Chequers Tree – for side of Memorial Centre to replace removed tree

The council agreed to the quote to purchase a chequers tree. A separate quote would need to be obtained to plant and securely stake the tree.

vi) Pensions – auto-enrolment and abolition of contracting out – advice notes

The council noted that changes to workplace pensions have taken place and that the law requires employers to provide a workplace pension. The council has duties to enrol eligible staff into a pension scheme and the employer must make contributions. The clerk and the assistant clerk are both members of the LGPS.

The council also noted that from April 2016 contracting out of defined benefit schemes such as the LGPS will be abolished which will result in increased employer NIC's and an increase in employee NIC's, which will result in a reduction of take-home pay for staff.

vii) LAF budget applications – non-transport – email

The council unanimously agreed to submit a request to LAF to fund a security gate and a portion of fence either side for the proposed new rear entrance of Prestwood Infant School on Moat Lane, in order to provide access to the school from the rear footpath.

Cllr V.Marshall also suggested that Prestwood Nature might be able to help with clearing the footpath. She would investigate and then advise the clerk, who could then pass the details on to the school.

viii) Blue Door Cinema – installation of equipment in Memorial Centre

It was noted that the Blue Door Cinema is popular and that it takes considerable time for the small committee to set up for the event each time. Cllr S.Humphreys clarified some of the queries about the proposal regarding the position of the speakers (higher up), the control box (moved to the opposite side of the hall), conduit would be black or brown and fitted at the edge of the brickwork with some cables being fed along the ceiling void and that the equipment would be boxed in. The council agreed that Blue Door Cinema could install the equipment as detailed in their proposal with the changes noted above and that Blue Door Cinema should provide the parish council with the information specified by the clerk in order to comply with building insurance requirements paid for by the parish council. GMMC would of course continue with its current responsibilities and negotiations with Blue Door Cinema as it determined.

ix) Grant policy and application form – for discussion and adoption

After some discussion about the complexity of the policy and the form and the fact that local knowledge plays a part in this process, the council agreed there is a need for a formal policy. The council therefore adopted the draft policy and application form but amended the review period to an annual review.

x) Clerk – CiLCA award and pay increase

The council congratulated the clerk on achieving the CiLCA qualification and approved the contractual salary award.

xi) Dispensation for precept setting - form for completion

Dispensation forms were required for precept setting and had been supplied. The clerk requested that completed forms should be returned to the office before the December meeting.

xii) Payment of accounts for November

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **122-141** in the sum of **£11,023.49** for **November** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£189.21** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

The editorial working party were preparing articles for the next issue of 'The Source' about the Chequers Tree, a painting competition for children so that the winner could get involved in helping to plant the tree in February/March 2016 and the allotment competition.

e)HS2

i) GMPC AP4 petition – draft for approval

Cllr M.Johnstone thanked Cllrs A.Hewett and K.Pither for their input into the preparation of the draft petition. He reported that the major issue is the traffic congestion at the Frith Hill and Link Road roundabouts which will affect everyone using the A413. It is important to state that the situation is worse in AP4 than the original plan and offer new information. The council agreed that it should petition and approved the draft petition which needs to be submitted tomorrow.

The council needs to decide if it wishes to engage Bucks Law Plus and James Burton as counsel for any subsequent hearing before the Select Committee. The original fee was negotiated as part of a 'group deal' and cost £5000 in total. A similar service this time has been quoted at £5000 for James Burton and £2900 for Bucks Law Plus. Cllr M.Johnstone stated that the experts as part of the focussed tunnelling groups appear to be making an impact on the Select Committee. Any further parish council hearing is likely to be in January. The council discussed the issue and agreed that in principle the council should engage Bucks Law Plus and James Burton but aim to reduce the price by doing more itself and reducing the amount of external input.

ii) General update

The parish council had endorsed a letter from the Chiltern Society to extend the petitioning period owing to errors and lack of data in the published documents but this has been refused.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that he had written a report concerning the dysfunctional housing market in South Heath which has been presented to the Select Committee so now forming part of the evidence base. Investigation showed by comparing house prices before HS2 was announced and adjusting them using the Nationwide Housing calculator index, prices had fallen from March 2010 by -13% to -22%. The housing market is not operating properly and HS2's Need to Sell scheme is not working correctly.

6. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) Report from Age Concern meeting

Cllr V.Marshall had produced a report which has been circulated. Cllr V. Marshall reported that there is a second Age Concern group in Prestwood, which she has contacted, but they do not seem to have regular meetings.

ii) Councillor surgery – 31st October

Cllr K.Pither reported that there was a good attendance at the surgery. Posters for the Library for the actual event were needed for next time. Parking issues had been raised by several residents particularly the displacement parking on the Rignall Road and the fact that pull-in places were needed along the London Road outside Missenden Abbey. Charges at the station car park were

causing part of the problem. Some comments were made about the website and there was a suggestion about planting a tree on Prestwood Common.

iii) Misbourne School – sports facilities – feasibility study

Cllr M.Johnstone reported the aim was to build more sports facilities for use by the school and the community. Representatives from some of the local sporting groups attended this meeting and there was support for the proposals and interest expressed in the community using these facilities. Some concerns were raised but the school are going to complete and publish the feasibility study.

iv) Briefing on the Emerging Local Plan

The timing for the consultation to start was sometime in January 2016. Meanwhile a decision would be made on whether South Bucks and Chiltern prepare a joint plan. Initial unconstrained housing targets were published but these are likely to change. It is likely than more housing is to be expected.

7. Clerks Report

i) Water leak in Memorial Centre – confirmation of council approval to do work

The parish council, subsequent to the last meeting, had agreed for Cllr S.Humphreys to carry out the repairs to the leak free of charge with the council to pay for materials. He reported that it had proved more problematic than originally thought and some work was still outstanding. The council expressed their gratitude and thanks to him for doing the work and solving the problem.

8. Any other business.

- Cllr S.Humphreys reported that road surface at the bridge near the station was breaking up.
- The clerk advised Cllr V.Martin that we are waiting to hear from BMKALC about the process to nominate a replacement parish council member
- Cllr V.Martin reported that she will be putting in a planning application
- It was suggested that the December meeting should start earlier – the clerk to investigate if there were any time constraints.

The meeting closed at 21.35

9. Future meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 7th December 2015 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m. Monday 14th December 2015 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre (N.B. The start time of this meeting to be reviewed and confirmed)