

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 14th December 2015
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.00 p.m.

Public Forum: Laurel Swayne gave an update and report on her role as parish representative on Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity. The council expressed their thanks to her for all her hard work.

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

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

1. Apologies: Councillors: H.Eaton: M.Lee

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising: None.

5. Dispensation requests

The clerk had received completed dispensation requests from all the parish councillors to speak and vote on the setting of the precept and confirmed that all the dispensations were granted.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

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

ii) **Kings Head, Prestwood – tribunal – response for approval**

The council approved the revised draft response for the tribunal prepared by Cllr L.Cook which was due to be submitted by 16th December.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Buryfield and football – request for maintenance

GMFC have requested that the parish council consider the possibility of funding the maintenance of the football pitch on the Buryfield and consider levying a usage fee on GMFC and Ballinger Bombers as a contribution to these extra costs. The council agreed that the clerk should obtain quotes for a pitch maintenance plan for the council to consider.

ii) Devolution of services from BCC – grass cutting etc – working party update

The working party consisting of Cllrs A.Hewett, R.Hougham, M.Johnstone, G.Maher, V.Marshall, K.Pither, C.Plested and T.Stevenson having met just prior to this meeting had elected Cllr C.Plested as chair of this working party. Cllr C.Plested reported that the working party intended to clear up the queries and misconceptions about the detail of these services (grass cutting etc) and obtain more information and talk to other parishes to hear their experiences. She had produced a report about the next tranche of service devolution proposals presented by BCC at a conference on 25th November (agenda item 7i).

iii) MVAS movement schedule

The council approved the MVAS schedule for 2016. The schedule included the two new ground screws in Prestwood (Honor End Lane and Lodge Lane) and South Heath had now been moved to the Great Missenden section of the schedule.

iv) Request for additional benches – response from resident

The council discussed the locations suggested by the resident. Unfortunately none of these locations were parish council land so the council asked the clerk to thank the resident for his ideas but the council did not intend to proceed with the installation of any further benches at this time.

v) Have your say – Bucks Transport Plan

The council agreed that councillors should respond as individuals to this online survey. The council did agree that it should publicise the consultation by putting up posters on notice boards, bus stops/shelters, the station and circulating the information to local community groups.

vi) Speeding and traffic issues – two emails from residents

The two emails from residents concerning parking and speeding in different areas of the parish were discussed. Cllr K.Allan commented that Martinsend Lane was busy and that Crossroads Garage did provide a valuable local service but parking was a problem in that area. The council discussed the possibility that one of the councillors should be the main liaison person for this topic but the decision was deferred to the January meeting. The situation of speeding in Heath End was discussed and it was felt that Copes Road was more of a problem than Heath End Road. Any measures for traffic calming would need to go to LAF for funding and the applications had already been made for the 2016-17 budget year. It was suggested that any concerned residents could join the Community Speedwatch group.

vii) Letter from allotment tenant – Nairdwood Lane and response – for noting

The letter and response were noted and no-one was aware of who the two ladies were who had spoken to the tenant.

viii) Requests following GMPC surgery 31st October

It was noted that the tree to be planted on the Buryfield was to replace one that had been removed and was not actually a 'new' tree and there were no plans to plant new trees. The car park surface at Prestwood Common was discussed at some length. The contractor had removed as much of the broken glass, which was not sharp, as possible. Although the road planings in the entrance way have bonded, other areas are looser and the issue is compounded by drivers who turn their wheels whilst stationary or those who drive too fast. The council thought that it is likely that annual maintenance might be needed to level out the surface and refill any potholes. At that time (2016), consideration would be given to top dress with ¾" stone which would provide a cleaner surface.

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 2nd December 2015 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the proposed budget included an increased amount for PYCAG and it was agreed that the repairs to the ground outside the emergency exit could be funded from the general repairs budget. Based on these budget figures the increase in precept would be 2% but this would be finally agreed at the January meeting.

Information from CDC about increased parking charges had just been received but the budget amount did cover these costs. It was agreed to set up a working party consisting of Cllrs B.Barker, A.Hewett and K.Pither to consider the lease of the Buryfield car park to CDC which was due to expire in April 2016.

ii) Open Spaces contract – review of tenders and recommendation by working party

The working party had identified four companies for consideration and all four companies had answered the queries that had been identified by the working party following the meeting on 5th November. The working party met again on 24th November and using a matrix of criteria and a scoring system compared the quotations and responses. Based on this information the working party recommended that the contract should be awarded to Sexton Fencing. After some discussion and review the council voted unanimously to award the contract to Sexton Fencing.

iii) Annual tree work and surveys

The clerk had contacted four companies to obtain quotes to carry out the annual tree inspection and identify any work that needed to be done. Three companies quoted to carry out a tree survey prior to quoting for any actual work and wanted to charge for the survey. Pat Kernan who has done previous work in the parish had quoted for the work and in effect provided the survey free of charge. The council therefore agreed to proceed with the quote provided by Pat Kernan except for the removal of the ash tree on Greenside. The council requested that the clerk obtain a second opinion on the health of this tree.

iv) Quote for additional tree works on Buryfield

The council agreed to the majority of this extra work, which is additional to the annual safety inspection above, with the exception of the work to the maple adjacent to Abbey Walk.

v) Request for donation – Open Spaces Society

The council declined by majority vote to award a grant to the Open Spaces Society.

vi) Request for grant – BCC – Great Missenden Library - approval

The council approved the grant of £3,000 to BCC for Great Missenden Library.

vii) BALC membership costs

The increase in BALC (BMKALC) membership costs was noted.

viii) Independent Education Appeal Panels – volunteer request

Cllr T.Stevenson expressed interest in volunteering and he would make contact direct with the Appeals Team.

ix) Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders – revised - for review and adoption

It was agreed to defer this to the January parish council meeting.

x) Chiltern District Council Community Awards 2016 - nominations

The council agreed the following nominations:

- Peter Smith for poppy collection – nominated by Cllr K.Pither
- Jenny Hesketh of Age Concern – nominated by Cllr V.Marshall
- Colin Veysey – nominated by Cllr R.Hougham
- Marilyn Fletcher – nominated by Cllr K.Pither

Each nominating councillor would complete the necessary application form and return it to the clerk.

xi) Parish volunteer award

The council discussed the introduction of a volunteer award for the parish for outstanding achievement. This was instigated by the imminent retirement of David Lyddiatt from PYCAG who had contributed so much to the youth club over the last 19 years. Cllr A.Hewett would investigate getting sponsorship of a cup and a gift which could be presented at a small ceremony prior to the February council meeting.

xii) Payment of accounts for December

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **142-158** in the sum of **£13,277.59** for **December** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£66.77** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

The editorial working party were asked to think about articles for the next issue of 'The Source' which were due mid / end of January. Possibilities included one about the painting competition and one about the Local Plan and potential public meetings.

e)HS2

i) Legal fees for AP4 - approval

Bearing in mind the comments in ii) below, it is now even more important that Great Missenden Parish Council have good representation when appearing before the Select Committee. Cllr M.Johnstone has negotiated the quote down to £4000 for James Burton and up to £1000 for Bucks Law Plus by the council doing more itself. It might be necessary to reallocate some of the budget categories as there is £2500 in the 2015-16 budget and £5000 in the 2016-17 budget. By appointing James Burton the council were recognising the seriousness of the situation. The costs quoted were unanimously agreed by the council and the council thanked Cllr M.Johnstone again for all his hard work on HS2.

ii) AP4 – locus standi – challenge

The promoter has challenged the validity of a large number of petitioners – 165 out of 285 petitions have been challenged. Appeals against the challenges were taking place today and will continue in early January. Great Missenden Parish Council has not been challenged, neither has Great Missenden Church of England Combined School.

Important issues such as the traffic at the roundabouts on the A413 will be covered by BCC.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) Report from Conference – 25th November – 'Working together for Bucks'

Cllr C.Plested had produced a report which has been circulated and which was mentioned during item 6 b ii).

ii) Councillor surgery – 28th November and future surgeries

Cllr A.Hewett reported that the surgery on 28th November was busy, which was compounded by the fact that there was only two councillors present. Cllr A.Hewett reminded everyone that if they were unable to attend their session that they get someone else to substitute them.

iii) Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity – representative

Following Laurel Swayne's presentation in the public forum the council agreed to defer this topic to the January parish council meeting.

8. Clerks Report

i) Bank mandate / signatory update

As a consequence of the problems sorting out the bank mandate and the letter of complaint that had been written the bank have agreed to compensate the council.

9. Any other business.

- There was no further information from CDC concerning the planning application for 'The George'.
- It was suggested that local consultations should take place in January / February on the Local Plan.
- The clerk advised the opening hours of the office over the Christmas period.

The meeting closed at 21.15

10. Future meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 4th January 2016 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m. Monday 11th January 2016 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre