

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 14th March 2016
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

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

1. Apologies: Councillor: M.Lee

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2016 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

i) Election of Vice Chairman of the council and Chairman of the planning committee.

Due to the resignation of Cllr B.Barker the above positions were vacant.

Cllr K.Pither was proposed by Cllr C.Baxter for the position of Vice Chairman. She was seconded by Cllr C.Plested and there being no other nominations, Cllr K.Pither was elected unanimously.

At the planning committee meeting on 7th March, Cllr A.Hewett proposed Cllr C.Baxter as Chair of planning and this was seconded by Cllr M.Johnstone, who is happy to remain as vice-chairman.

This was agreed unanimously and the council ratified this decision.

5. Councillor vacancies

Following completion of the legal notification process, it is now possible to look for candidates to be co-opted for the Ballinger and South Heath councillor vacancy. However the councillor vacancy in Prestwood and Heath End is still in the legal notification stage. The vacancies could be advertised in the next issue of 'The Source'.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2016 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

Cllrs C.Baxter, A.Hewett and K.Pither were meeting the new owner of the Kings Head at the owners request and would report back to the council following the meeting.

Cllr A.Hewett advised that the evidence for 'The Pheasant' tribunal from Ballinger Bombers Football Club was on its way.

The response from the parish council to the Local Plan consultation had been approved via email and had been submitted today.

The planning applications for 'The George' were due to be heard by CDC's planning committee on 17th March with a recommendation for refusal. The council therefore agreed by majority vote that a representative of the parish council should go to speak.

ii) Neighbourhood Plan statement – for ratification

The council discussed the statement that the planning committee had prepared, which could be used as a response to enquiries about a Neighbourhood Plan. After some discussion the wording was agreed and the council agreed that the clerk could send this statement when enquiries were received.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Request to use Buryfield – Jay Millers Circus

The council agreed to the request from Jay Millers Circus to use the Buryfield for the weekend around the 25th and 26th June. The council agreed to charge the same fees as Chalfont St Peter. The exact dates would be agreed taking into account concern about excessive numbers of set up or break down days.

ii) Update from Lighthouse

The council noted the information in the update provided by Lighthouse dated 3rd March.

iii) Prestwood Revitalisation Group Brief re Prestwood – comments sought from GMPC - for approval

The council approved the comments to this document.

iv) Plaque for commemorative tree on Buryfield

Initial information about different options had been circulated for consideration. Cllr V.Marshall suggested that using a local sarsen or Denner Hill stone might be appropriate – there were some to be seen in the local fields, for example at Wren Davis in Prestwood. Moving them might be an issue. Further suggestions would be put forward. The council agreed the provisional inscription of 'Planted to commemorate the longest reign of Queen Elizabeth II'.

v) Repairs to ground outside emergency exit - PYCAG building

The council viewed the photographs and noted the request from PYCAG to repair the ground outside the emergency exit. The steps and path outside the emergency exit lead directly onto the Common whereas the official entry / exit door leads onto the car park. It appears that the emergency exit door is being used as a general access door. Any installation of new hardstanding would just transfer the problem of the ground becoming damaged to the area adjacent to any new hardstanding. The council could not see any way to solve the situation apart from requesting PYCAG to refrain from using this door as a general access door during the winter months.

vi) Buryfield car park lease

At February's parish council meeting, the council opted for a 7 year lease period of 3 plus 4 years, which was subsequently amended, for legal reasons, to be 4 plus 3 years. The clerk has been chasing CDC for the draft copy of the lease and an associated management agreement detailing the charging structure which CDC has agreed to supply. Once the documents arrive the working party can review them. The council have deferred approving the car parking charges for the Buryfield car park until the lease is approved.

vii) Parking on London Road - emails

The council reviewed the two emails about parking on London Road and are aware of the situation. The council suggested the enquiries should be directed to Cllrs A.Stevens and P.Birchley.

viii) Prestwood Infant School, Moat Lane - update

Cllrs.A.Hewett, K.Pither and C.Plested had attended a meeting at the school attended by interested parties including county and district councillors. BCC agreed to review the potholes and ruts in the road, redo the yellow lines and tidy up the pavements, but there is a lack of funding. BCC would also investigate the land ownership boundaries of the properties adjoining the school to see if there has been any encroachment of the Kings Highway. A suggestion of making Moat Lane one way would require a consultation with an estimated cost of £10 to £18K. The extension of any yellow lines would require another consultation. The new rear gate at the school had been

closed pending improvements to the public right of way. Cllr A.Stevens agreed to check the RoW routes especially as a house drive seems to be encroaching on the footpath at the Kiln Road end. It may be possible for BCC to lay scalplings on the route after Prestwood Nature have cleared the path.

ix) Parish event 11th June 2016 - update & tennis courts

The council agreed that the tennis courts could be closed off during the parish event on 11th June in order to hold a tennis competition.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Payment of fees HS2 Select Committee appearance AP4 - payment approval

The council had agreed to the quote at the December 2015 council meeting. The council approved the payment for the invoice which has now been received with £2500 coming from the allocated 2015-16 budget category and the balance of £2500 to come from reserves. It was agreed to keep the £5000 in the 2016-17 budget intact for potential petitioning in the House of Lords.

ii) Quote for landscape maintenance at Greenside, Tetherdown and Westrick Walk

The council agreed to accept the quote from Lanes Landscape Contractors for 2016-17 with a view to obtaining alternative quotes for the 2017-18 season.

iii) Staff salary increases and hours

It was noted that the contracts of employments provided for a salary increase from 1st April and the council approved the increase for the clerk and noted that the assistant clerk was already at the top of her salary scale. The council did agree that any nationally agreed pay scale increases would be adopted as national discussions were still ongoing. The council also agreed to pay for any extra hours worked by the clerk and this would not involve any contractual changes.

iv) Request for contribution to school music festival

The council declined to support this request due to lack of confidence about which parish schools were taking part. Cllr C.Plested suggested that they be referred to SM & OPC.

v) Prestwood Pharmacy

Cllr C.Plested reported that the Prestwood Pharmacy is under threat of closure due to changes in government rules. Financial support is potentially being withdrawn by the government but it is a commercial decision for each business to decide whether to close. It was agreed that the council should write a letter to Prestwood Pharmacy urging them to stay open and send a copy of the letter to the PVA.

vi) Lee Common Telephone exchange information - email

Cllr M.Johnstone had not had any comments from Ballinger residents about this issue. The email was noted and the clerk would request that the parish council are provided with any updates to the situation.

vii) The Chequers – CDC Licence application and name change - 16/00056/LAPRE – update

Cllr L.Cook had attended the hearing to represent the parish council. Greene King had ended up revising their application shortly before the hearing to be within the scope of what was requested, with the exception of the New Year's Eve opening hours. Cllr L.Cook found the hearing formal and interesting. The tribunal made its decision after an hour with a reduction on the New Year's Eve opening hours to close at 3 am. The name of the pub would be 'The Chequers Tree'. Following the hearing Cllr L.Cook had not found it easy to find many local objections on the PVA website and the

council hoped that in the future the PVA would keep the council informed of any important local concerns.

viii) Payment of accounts for March (interim)

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **187-209** in the sum of **£18,934.54** for **March** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£327.21** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

It was agreed to provide articles on the councillor vacancies and the 'Party in the Park' event for the next issue of 'The Source'. The deadline for this was the end of March. The working group would provide an update to the council on the 'Party in the Park' at the next meeting.

e)HS2

i) General update

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the Select Committee had published its final report on 22nd February. There were no surprises and no further tunnel extensions suggested. The report did state that the Community and Environment Funds are not large enough and that high speed broadband should be provided to communities within 3 km of the whole line.

HS2's response was published on 10th March and proposed steeper slopes at the South Heath portal to reduce noise and the amount of spoil, discussions with the AONB review board on the design of the Wendover Dean viaduct, information about the alternative haul road further north provided that timescales, environmental effects and costs are not affected, changes to the Hunt's Green placement area and changes to the need to sell scheme especially for elderly residents. Currently the Bill is at the Committee stage at which MP's suggest amendments and Cheryl Gillan has asked for quite a few. The third reading of the Bill is expected to be 23rd March and further documentation is expected that week.

The first and second readings in the House of Lords will follow and the petitioning period for the House of Lords will then open. The petitioning period is expected to last approximately three weeks but the dates are not confirmed yet.

The House of Lords petitioning kit has been published and there is another £20 fee. Petitioners need to be specially and directly affected. Deposition of petitions is more flexible and petitions can be deposited by hand, post or email and a petition number will be sent by return.

Community events are planned for April and the nearest to us is on 12th April at CDC offices in Amersham.

Cheryl Gillan organised a private visit to the area for Patrick McLoughlin on 10th March so that he could see and hear about the issues first hand. He met three local residents and Cllr M.Johnstone. Cllr M.Johnstone reported that there had been an interesting article in the Sunday Telegraph written by Andrew Gilligan concerning speeds and gradients and underlying ground stability at high speeds.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) Councillor surgery 27th February 2016

Cllr T.Stevenson reported that after some general confusion over the location of the surgery, this surgery was relatively quiet. He suggested that future surgeries should be more widely advertised. Two residents who did attend expressed general satisfaction with parking in the newly restricted areas.

ii) Missendens Local Area Forum – update

Cllr A.Hewett confirmed that 50% of the costs of any future traffic consultations would have to be funded by the parish council, although the parish would not have to pay for any of the project costs. Meetings to discuss the LAF budget and the parking situation were still awaited.

8. Clerks Report

Nothing to report.

9. Any other business.

- Cllr V.Marshall reported that the tactile paving outside Sainsbury's was broken up.
- Cllr K.Pither reported that there were some potholes on Honor End Lane
- Cllr K.Allan had received comments about the bins on Buryfield – the clerk would check the frequency of the bin emptying
- Cllr K.Allan would send any personal comments about the Prestwood Revitalisation Group Brief re Prestwood direct to PRG
- Cllr A.Hewett reported that the lights above the pedestrian crossing on Station Approach were still not working.

The meeting closed at 21.34

10. Future meetings

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