

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 11th July 2016
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: Jamie Webster and Josh Henning from Sprinters regarding the Prestwood Village Olympics and car park surfacing update.

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

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

1. Apologies: Councillor: V.Martin.

2. Declarations of Interest: None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2016 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising: Minute 6 d i) 'The Source' – Cllr K.Pither commented that the information about the new swing at Ballinger Common had been omitted from the last issue and that there was not much coverage of the parish event on 11th June.

Minute 6 e ii) – Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the grant for the Chiltern Long Tunnel group is still under discussion.

5. Councillor vacancies

No applications have been received so far.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2016 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that he, together with Cllrs C.Baxter and A.Hewett attended the hearing for The Pheasant on 7th July. Normally decisions are made by written representations so this judicial court with a judge and clerks was a new experience for everyone. CDC and their legal team, Bob Kelly, Roger Ellis and Mrs King also attended. The judge will publish his decision in 4 to 6 weeks' time.

Cllr R.Hougham provided an update on the Wycombe District Plan. This is planned to be finalised in the next 18 months. There are three large potential housing developments on the boundary of Wycombe District with Chiltern District and CDC does own adjacent land, which is currently designated as green belt. Any development of this land by CDC would have impacts on local services such as roads and schools.

Cllr A.Hewett did request that anyone with information about a meeting topic who is unable to attend a meeting should make the chairman of that meeting aware of the information in advance.

ii) Local Plan – Invitation to briefing sessions

CDC has planned briefing sessions for the next stage of the Local Plan in Amersham on 26th October. Cllrs K.Allan, C.Baxter, L.Cook, A.Hewett, R.Hougham, S.Humphreys, M.Johnstone, K.Pither and C.Plested all expressed an interest in attending.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Request for poly tunnel – Greenlands Lane, plot 11

The council agreed to the request subject to the usual conditions.

ii) Request to use the Buryfield – GM Football Club

The council agreed to Great Missenden Football Club's continuing use of the Buryfield for the 2016-17 season.

iii) Request to use the Buryfield & Ballinger Common – Ballinger Football Club

The council agreed to Ballinger Football Club's continuing use of the Buryfield and Ballinger Common for the 2016-17 season.

iv) Request to use a football pitch

The council felt that the football pitches on Buryfield and Prestwood and Ballinger Commons are already well used and would become oversubscribed if a further football team were given permission to play, so the council declined this request from Sunters Wood United.

v) Memorial Centre car park – letter from Cheryl Gillan

The council had received a letter from Cheryl Gillan enclosing correspondence from John Pope. After some discussion, the council agreed by majority vote to send the draft reply letter.

vi) Concept for Project to create improved village centre in Prestwood

The council discussed the response which had been formulated and after some discussion and amendments, the parish council, by majority vote, agreed to support the project but with reservations and comments listed on the response document.

vii) LAF transport proposals – 2017-18 – deadline

Suggested proposals were discussed but the council decided to defer this to the August meeting.

viii) Devolution Working Party – update

Cllr T.Stevenson updated the council on the recent working party meeting which had been barely quorate. Confirmation of the chairman would take place at the next meeting. The group were working to expand previous work, quotes and map preparation and present their findings for full council to consider. The clerks email to BCC to clarify siding out and finance matters had resulted in an inconclusive response. There is no reason to think BCC will force parishes to take on devolved services. The group had considered the different models that could be used for devolved services. Maps are necessary for obtaining quotes – the schedule has slipped but is proceeding. The focus is on grass cutting but other activities still need to be considered. Monitoring would be important and the question of a warden has been raised. Prestwood Nature has been feeding in ideas about wildflower management – fewer grass cuts but cuttings would need to be collected. Consultation, for example in 'The Source' can only take place once costings have been obtained. Further meetings are planned in order to complete maps and define the list of items for tendering. Cllr S.Humphreys raised the issue of additional cost of disposing of cuttings and confusion to contractors over variations in grass cutting. Cllr C.Baxter raised the issue of ragwort and its removal. Cllr R.Hougham was concerned about keeping the costs low. Cllr A.Hewett commented that the parish should defer its decision on devolution until the wider decision on unitary authorities is taken.

ix) Request to plant a tree

The council agreed in principle to the planting of a tree in memory of Howard Fawcett who had been a long serving and knowledgeable parish councillor. The clerk will ask Mrs Fawcett if she has any ideas of where she would suggest planting the tree.

x) Request to access open spaces for research

The council agreed to give access to parish land to the student carrying out research into hedgehogs.

xi) Consultation for the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Information was noted.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) PYCAG building - licence amendment

The council discussed the proposed licence amendment of clause 3 ii) regarding the hiring of the premises to other groups and agreed to the change. The council agreed that local community purposes should refer to any group which benefits the local community. The council authorised the clerk to approve those bookings notified by PYCAG for approval every three months.

ii) Local government modernisation – District Councils press release 21 June 2016

Noted.

iii) BCC Unitary survey/Questionnaire via surveymonkey

Paul Hodson from BCC confirmed that this was just an informal survey so all parish councillors could respond individually. This is not an official survey for the parish council to respond to formally. The clerk would resend the link to the survey.

iv) Updated legal topic notes – 41 & 60

Noted.

ix) Payment of accounts for July

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **45-64** in the sum of **£16,668.57** for **July** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£86.55** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

Cllr A.Hewett agreed to speak to the editor of 'The Source' about the front page of the last issue and the parish event. She would set up a meeting of the editorial working party.

e)HS2

i) House of Lords Select Committee update

Locus objection hearings took place today with decisions being disclosed later. The right to be heard has not been given to CRAG, GMVA, GMPRG and District Councillors or to individuals further than 500 m from the line. The expectation is that the concerns can be covered by the presentations from CDC and the parish councils.

The summer recess closely followed by the party conference recess means that it is likely we will be called after 10th October.

The procedural review hearing on 30th June, followed by the ruling on 7th July, means that any Additional Provision required would need to be approved by the House of Lords or a new separate hybrid bill would have to be launched. The chairman of the HoL Select Committee considered an

extended tunnel would be ‘fanciful’, and there is no point in spending additional money if additional provisions cannot be obtained. This brings into question the grant approved to support the long tunnel group, although another approach might be to concentrate on shorter bored tunnels to Leather Lane and Wendover. The national audit office is saying that the project must not overrun on costs.

ii) GMPC petition / appearance – draft presentation and working party

Cllr M.Johnstone discussed the outline GMPC presentation and the onus is on the parish council to represent the whole parish. Suggested mitigation has been listed and any further suggestions should be sent to Cllr M.Johnstone, together with any ideas of people who could be witnesses or experts before the Select Committee.

The council approved the members of the GMPC HS2 working party to be Cllrs A.Hewett, M.Johnstone, K.Pither and C.Plested.

iii) Relocation of haul road – mitigation plans for Link Road and Frith Hill junctions

Although one meeting had taken place, a second meeting has been postponed. Cllr M.Johnstone feels that HS2 are being slow at providing data and costing information. HS2’s view is to spend money or make changes that will be a permanent benefit. Regardless of whether the haul road is moved, an improved traffic flow is still required. The cost of moving the haul road and the timescales involved may cause problems for BCC.

Mitigation plans for the Link Road and Frith Hill junctions have just been published and are being discussed.

iv) Relocation of haul road – Note of complaint to HoL Select Committee

A suggested letter of complaint concerning the lack of progress with the assessment of the relocation of the haul road to Leather Lane was discussed and approved by the Council.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

Cllr K.Pither reported that the allotment inspections were taking place and the allotment competition would be judged in August.

Cllr C.Plested reported that no meeting of the Charity of Dame Jane Boys had taken place despite repeated requests.

8. Clerks Report

i) Vandalism

The clerk reported that there had been some vandalism at the play area at Gryms Dyke to one of the toddler swings and to the seats on the multi play equipment.

9. Any other business.

- Cllr S.Humphreys reported that the pavement outside Cross Roads garage was in a bad state of repair
- Cllr M.Lee advised that there is a section on Great Missenden in the national ‘A’ and ‘AS’ level syllabus
- Cllr T.Stevenson invited everyone to a tea party on 24th July
- Cllr K.Allan commented that the article on the allotments had also been omitted from the last issue of ‘The Source’. She also gave apologies for both August meetings.
- Cllr K.Pither thanked the Assistant Clerk for all her hard work whilst the Clerk was out of the office. All overgrown hedges should be reported to TfB. If anyone had any ideas about a memorial plaque outside Hamptons could they please let her know? Coffee Approach has been sold. There are signs up advertising ‘Prestwood Camp’.

- Cllr V.Marshall confirmed that she and Cllr G.Maher had attended the last surgery. One person had raised the issue of the proposed house building in the Prestwood car park.
- Cllr C.Baxter suggested that the surgeries should be more widely publicised – perhaps the editorial working party could investigate this.
- Cllr M.Johnstone asked about what should be done about a dead cherry tree.

The meeting closed at 21.57

10. Future meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 1st August 2016 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m Monday 8th August 2016 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre