

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 8th August 2016
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: None

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

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

1. Apologies: Councillors: K.Allan: K.Pither.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr R.Hougham – item 6 b iii)

Cllr M.Johnstone – item 6 c ii)

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2016 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising: None.

5. Councillor vacancies

No applications have been received so far. Cllr C.Baxter enquired whether it might be worthwhile approaching previous applicants.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2016 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

It was noted that application CH/2016/1085/FA has been withdrawn.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Request to use Prestwood Common – Big Lunch 2017

The council agreed to the request from Prestwood Events Group to use Prestwood Common on Sunday 4th June 2017.

ii) Road naming - new Development - rear of 73 High Street, Great Missenden

The council unanimously agreed to support the suggested naming of the three properties as 1, 2 & 3 Bakery Mews.

iii) Allotment rents 2016-17

The council agreed to hold the allotment rents at the same prices as 2015-16, namely £30 for a full plot, £25 for a half plot and £20 for a garden plot. The rents for Potter Row and Frith Hill would also remain the same.

iv) MVAS update

Cllr S.Humphreys reported that there was a meeting proposed between representatives from Community Speedwatch, Misbourne NAG, the police and the parish council on 26th September to discuss progress with the MVAS units. The council agreed that a parish council working party consisting of Cllrs A.Hewett, S.Humphreys and T.Stevenson would present information about this topic at the September parish council meeting. The council approved the poster calling for more volunteers which had been designed by Cllr A.Hewett.

v) Free parking days

Two of the five free parking days had been used for the parish event on 11th June. The council agreed that the remaining three days should be used for the car parks in Prestwood, Link Road and Buryfield either on the 'Small Business Saturday', if there was one this year, or if not, on Saturday 17th December.

vi) Letter from Sexton Fencing regarding cover for grass cutting

The council agreed that the grass cutting on the Buryfield could be carried out by the Plant Specialist as suggested by Sexton Fencing for two weeks commencing 22nd August.

vii) LAF transport proposals – 2017-18 – deadline 31st August 2016

Since there had been no actual written confirmation from BCC that proposals 1, 2 and 7 were definitely going ahead although it had put solutions forward, the council agreed that LAF applications should be submitted for all 8 suggestions. These are:

1. Parking situation on the London Road, Great Missenden
2. Parking situation on the Rignall Road, Great Missenden
3. Parking situation on the Aylesbury Road at the Mobwell near the Black Horse – removal of yellow lines
4. Improvements to Moat Lane, Prestwood, outside the school
5. Parking situation in Prestwood – Honor End Lane and Chequers Lane
6. Traffic calming measures in South Heath
7. Parking on Upper Hollis
8. Speed limit reduction on Wycombe Road

viii) Devolution Working Party – update

Cllr T.Stevenson commented that there is uncertainty about devolved services due to the current discussions on unitary authorities. The working party were continuing with their work preparing maps, wildflower areas, scope of services and drafting a contract. The next meeting was planned for Thursday.

ix) Focus group TfB – comments sought

CDC Councillor Peter Martin had invited the parish council to forward any views or comments concerning customer satisfaction with services provided by TfB. The council agreed that the following comments should be made:

- Quality control should be better – there should be checks that all work, for example potholes, has been completed properly.
- The actual quality of work done does not seem to be good. Often pothole repairs fail relatively quickly.
- Communication from TfB should be more forthcoming.
- Customer service should be more customer friendly, not just internet based. Some sectors of the population do not have internet access.

x) Ideas for Amplio for area outside Hamptons

The council felt that there were already sufficient war memorials in the village, there being one at the Church and one on a wall in the High Street. The following ideas were suggested as a replacement for the brickwork boulder:

- A bench
- A planter with either a floral display and / or a decorative tree
- A wrought iron Great Missenden village sign

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Insurance information from Came & Co

The insurance was due for review with the renewal on 1st October. Came & Co as an insurance broker was in the process of obtaining three competitive quotes, which should be available for the September parish council meeting. Based on the information and details provided by Came & Co which had been circulated, the parish council agreed that Came could provide the three quotes.

ii) Quotes for reinstatement costs for buildings insurance purposes

The council agreed to accept the quotation for the work from Roger Falcon.

iii) Meeting request from BCC – streamlining local government in Bucks

The council agreed that it would like to discuss the proposals and proposed the dates of Monday 17th October and Monday 21st November at 7.30 pm to BCC.

iv) Updated legal topic notes – LTN 60 (revised) & 69

These LTN's were noted. LTN 60 had been revised to clarify that planning documents cannot be copied without permission from the applicant. It was noted that the parish council views planning applications on line.

v) Councillor surgeries – discussion

The council unanimously agreed to continue with councillor surgeries.

vi) Quotes for repair of 'The Cage' roof

The council considered the three quotes that had been obtained and agreed to proceed with the quote from Abacus, provided that they could carry out the work in the next two months. If they were unable to meet this timetable, the council agreed to proceed instead with JMC Building and Roofing provided they could carry out the work in the next two months. The council requested that the neighbour be informed of the work in advance.

vii) Quotes for repair of bollards on Ballinger Common

The council considered the three quotes that had been obtained. The council agreed to accept the quote from Sexton Fencing and agreed to carry out all the bollard replacement in one go.

viii) Quotes for repair of Gryms Dyke play equipment

After considering the two quotes for the repair the double swing unit on the Multiplay equipment, the council asked the clerk to obtain quotes for just one of the seats and re-use the second seat. The clerk would also query the cost of the repair to the toddler swing.

ix) Payment of accounts for August

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **65-75** in the sum of **£11,005.95** for **August** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£120.06** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

Cllr A.Hewett reported that the lack of photographs of the parish event in 'The Source' was because they were not of a good enough quality. Cllr T Stevenson would amend the MVAS article to include an appeal for more volunteers. Other suggestions for articles for the next issue of 'The Source' included the new swing at Ballinger, vacant allotments, councillor vacancies, potholes and the cost of vandalism. The deadline was the end of August and Cllr A.Hewett would set up a meeting of the editorial working party.

e) HS2

i) General update including reply letter from HS2 re: relocation of Haul Road

The National Audit Office and the Taxpayers Alliance are still saying that the HS2 project should not go ahead owing to cost but the government is still proceeding.

Only a few of the locus challenges from 11th July had their right to be heard upheld – two petitioners in Baileys Hatch, Sibleys Rise Residents Group and HS2AA for noise and compensation matters only.

The Select Committee had reiterated the ruling that it did not expect to be presented with any changes that would require an Additional Provision. Only HS2 could initiate any such change. BCC and CDC have been advised by lawyers that they should not proceed with the case for the Chiltern long tunnel. The approach now is for local groups to concentrate on shorter bored tunnel extensions to either Leather Lane or Liberty Lane.

The summer recess lasts until 5th September and it is anticipated that GMPC is likely to be given a date for the Select Committee hearing after 10th October, following the party conference recess from 15th September to 10th October.

BCC believe that the relocation of the haul road will cost an extra £2m, impact the environment and the community and will not be deliverable in time.

GMPC have now received a reply from Roger Hargreaves to its complaint letter sent to HS2 following the July council meeting. The promised sift report has still not been received.

HS2 had refuted that the Link Road was to be made into three lanes – the plan was just to widen two lanes and improve visibility and widen the junctions at the request of BCC.

HS2 have offered to fund the new set down area for the GM school in the event that the haul road would not be moved. It appears that two new classrooms will be built with BCC agreeing that the new set down area will be ready by September 2017.

There is a further meeting with BCC on 19th August which does not include HS2.

ii) Working party update including two proposals

- **Authority for working party**
- **Budget approval – fees for counsel**

Cllr M. Johnstone reported that the working party are preparing the outline presentation for the Select Committee hearing. The onus is on the parish council to represent the petitioners in the parish who have been prevented from appearing before the Select Committee. If anyone has suggestions about witnesses or experts who could appear can they let the working party know. It is possible that CDC may not now appear before the Select Committee if they cannot lead on the long tunnel.

Two proposals were put forward.

Proposal 1 - The Working Party to be given the authority to make decisions on behalf of the parish council, on matters relating to the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) known as HS2.

The working party will regularly update council on progress and if time permits bring proposals to council or raise any contentious issues to council by email.

Proposed by Cllr L. Cook. Seconded by Cllr C. Baxter. Unanimous vote in agreement.

Proposal 2 - Further increase the budget for counsel's fees by £5k from council's reserves for the appearance before the HS2 House of Lords Select Committee

Proposed by Cllr S. Humphreys. Seconded by Cllr C. Baxter. Unanimous vote in agreement.

The working party has been looking at options to replace the 20 car parking spaces which may be lost on the Link Road. The following areas were suggested:

1. Strip of land between the Link Road car park and the High Street (behind the toilets)-Area A
2. Bougs Meadow which is managed by Prestwood Nature on behalf of CDC - Area C
3. Perpendicular parking around the square in Church Street
4. Large area of scrubland behind the square and adjacent to the A413
5. A multi-story car park at the station
6. Field between Bougs Meadow and the A413 – Area D
7. Land on the Buryfield behind the High Street

After much discussion, option 4 was the most popular; followed by 2.

It was agreed that Cllr L.Cook would draft an article for 'The Source' to call for options and suggestions from the community for additional parking areas in Great Missenden.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

Cllr G.Maher reported that the Memorial Centre Management Committee were working on a project to improve the toilets – redecorating the walls, new Formica top in the ladies and new taps and valves. They would apply to the council for a grant towards the cost of the work.

8. Clerks Report

i) Register of interests - updates

The clerk requested all councillors to check and confirm their register of interests' information.

ii) Insurance – quotes for tree reports

Following discussions with the insurance company the clerk was obtaining quotes for formal tree reports.

9. Any other business.

- Cllr S.Humphreys had some ideas to put forward for consideration in the next budget. Any ideas should be sent to Cllr M.Johnstone and the clerk
- Cllr C.Baxter reported that new external lights at the Honor Road flats overlooking Prestwood Recreation Ground were very bright
- Cllr C.Plested reported that at the last surgery – which had to be held 'al fresco' – had been attended by a resident who was proposing a planning application near to Hildreths, comments about the revitalisation plans for Prestwood and a potential new volunteer to help with MVAS units
- It was suggested that a shared calendar might help with booking meetings in the parish office but it was agreed that any room booking requests should be done through the clerk.

The meeting closed at 21.48

10. Future meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 5th September 2016 in the Parish Office

b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m Monday 12th September 2016 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre