

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 12th December 2016
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.00 p.m.

Public Forum: None

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

Councillors: K.Allan: C.Baxter: L.Cook: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone: M.Lee: I.Lovegrove:
V.Marshall: V.Martin: K.Pither: T.Stevenson.

1. Apologies: Councillors: R.Hougham: C.Plested.

Cllr A.Hewett welcomed Ivan Lovegrove to the parish council.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr I.Lovegrove – items 6 a ii) & 6 c iii).

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2016 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising:

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that he would get together with Cllr S.Humphreys to prioritise the play area repairs.

Cllr I.Lovegrove advised that the consultation about the proposal to federate Prestwood Infant and Junior School was closing early. The clerk would send the parish council comments before the end of the week.

5. Councillor vacancies

The legal process for the vacancy in Great Missenden was now complete so there were now two vacancies that were open for co-option.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2016 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

The minutes from CDC's Planning Committee meeting, which included CH/2016/0200/FA - The Pheasant Inn at Ballinger, had been published and included details of what had been agreed.

Cllr C.Baxter agreed to represent the parish council at CDC's Planning Committee meeting on 22nd December to speak on application CH/2016/2003/FA – 9 The Villas, London Road.

ii) Response to email from Prestwood Junior School - proposed new school

The majority of councillors agreed to a response proposed by Cllr A.Hewett.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016 were agreed. Cllr K.Pither would report back to the council following the meeting with the Youth Offending Team.

ii) Request from Prestwood Colts to remove tree/bush

The council agreed by majority vote that the tree / bush should not be removed.

iii) Devolution Working Party – update

Cllr T.Stevenson reported that the document included with the papers explains the current situation. He explained that he had subsequently compared the quoted prices to review the costs

and advised that the costs had improved from the last investigation and roughly balanced. The working party were congratulated on all the work they had done. The clerk would email the details of the follow up meeting.

iv) Consultation – Highway Safety Inspection Policy

The parish council commented that the time spent consulting on this document would be better spent ensuring the quality of the work and that repairs are effective.

v) MVAS rota 2017 - for approval

The council approved the MVAS rota for 2017.

vi) Request for speed reduction measures – High Street Great Missenden

The council noted the contents of the email and asked the clerk to advise the resident to pursue the matter with TfB / BCC Highways.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Minutes of meeting held on 21st Nov 2016, budget 2017-18 & library update

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2016 were agreed.

It was agreed to leave £3K in the 2017-18 budget for Great Missenden library.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the precept request currently worked out at £192,901 which was slightly more than 2016-17. This would be finalised for the January meeting. It was noted that the parish council had adequate reserves.

ii) Council tax base and precept 2017-18

The document from CDC was noted.

iii) Grant application – PEG Christmas lights

The council agreed by majority vote to give a grant to PEG for Christmas lights and agreed to provide an increased grant of £2000 for this year (£1500 from budget and £500 from sundry grants).

iv) Quote for solicitor – Buryfield car park lease

The council agreed in principle to appoint Blaser Mills with the proviso that the clerk would try to negotiate a capped fee.

v) Quotes for Greenlands Lane allotment boundary hedge

The council approved the recommendation from the Open Spaces Committee that the hedge height should be reduced. After reviewing the three quotes received the council agreed to proceed with P.Kernan Tree Surgery. There is sufficient money in the budget for this work but it will mean that the annual tree surgery work will have to come out of reserves.

vi) Review of grant policy

The council approved the suggested amendment and adopted the revised documentation.

vii) Nominations for parish cup

The council agreed to send nominations for 'The Parish Cup' to the clerk by 20th December so that a short list could be voted on at the January parish council meeting.

viii) Post box review / relocation

Cllr K.Allan reported that the owner of Samways was also intending to write to the Post Office. The parish council agreed to write to the Post Office to request one of the following two options:

- New post box actually outside Samways
- More collections made from the post box on the other side of the road, which is only collected at 6 pm.

ix) Proposed removal of payphones

After much discussion the council agreed to vote on whether to object to the removal of all of the payphones in the parish intended for removal or just to object to the removal of those which had recorded any calls in the last 12 months. A majority voted to object to the removal of any payphone where any call had been recorded in the last 12 months. Cllr K.Pither asked it to be recorded that she thought this decision was disgraceful.

x) PYCAG – support for LAF funding – application form

The parish council discussed the details on the application provided by PYCAG but agreed to defer their decision on whether to support the application pending the answers to further questions:

- Numbers of children attending the youth club sessions.
- Detailed description of the 'Way Ahead Project'.
- Information about the total membership of the youth club.
- Whether PYCAG are paying the minimum wage.

The parish council are concerned that the amount of LAF funding is reducing and there is a question of match funding.

xi) Payment of accounts for December

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **141-155** in the sum of **£8,422.33** for **December** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£265.57** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

Cllr A.Hewett thanked everyone for their contributions to the articles for 'The Source'. It was agreed that future articles should include one on Cllr I.Lovegrove to introduce him as a new councillor and one on collective switching as suggested by Cllr T. Stevenson. An article on the post box situation could be submitted at a later date.

e) HS2

i) HS2 general update

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the parish council presentation to the House of Lords on 8th November was followed on 15th November by Potter Row residents and others from Sibleys Rise and Bayleys Hatch and the Lee including the parish council and Stewart Liberty. Arguments between the engineering experts delayed the morning session. The request by Hilary Wharf for an independent review of tunnelling costs and tunnelling speed was deferred due to the imminent publication of a report in the Colne Valley. However the report was not independent. The delays meant that the presentations from the Chiltern Society and Jim Conboy were cut short and some petitioners delayed until the end of November. The committee is being wound up but has not reported yet.

ii) Correspondence with HS2: approval of GMPC reply dated 7th November to latest letter

Copies of the correspondence with HS2 have been included in the meeting papers together with a draft reply letter to Roger Hargreaves. The parish council unanimously approved the draft reply

which needs to be urgently sent as the HoL Committee are due to produce their final report on Thursday.

iii) Next steps

Ground investigation works are being carried out on land either owned by HS2 or where they have landowner permission. There have been issues with mud on the roads following the drilling. Enabling works contracts for Phase One have been awarded to three separate joint ventures / groups of contractors with work due to commence in spring 2017.

Various forms of feedback on how to improve the Hybrid Bill process are taking place. Representatives of GMPC met with Cheryl Gillan to provide comments on 18th November. And a draft document produced by Cllr A.Hewett and M.Johnstone and approved by full council via email was submitted to the clerks of the two Select Committees on 8th December to meet the deadline of 9th December.

The final report from the HoL Select Committee is due on Thursday and this will need to be reviewed in detail.

The next stages are the Report Stage which could be quite lengthy, followed by the formality of the Third Reading. The Royal Assent signals the start of preliminary contract works and this may be delayed until April or May.

The parish council needs to agree its role going forwards to support parishioners. Suggestions could include monitoring noise, dust, and movement of construction vehicles, resident's associations, help lines and liaising with HS2's engagement officer.

Cllr M.Johnstone suggested that these ideas and any further thoughts should be discussed at the January parish council meeting.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) BCC conference Monday 12th December

Cllrs C.Baxter and K.Pither had attended the conference. It appeared to be based on the premise that BCC's proposal was going ahead. There had been some lively discussions following the introduction by Paul Hodson which had prevented the workshop discussion taking place. BCC appeared to be proposing to devolve 'smaller' services such as toilets and cemeteries. It had not been possible to join the conference remotely due to technical issues but BCC advised that the presentations would be made available following the conference. There did not appear to be any conclusions finalised and no 'next steps' were identified.

8. Clerks Report

i) Unitary discussions – confirmation of letter to DCLG

A copy of the approved letter was noted.

ii) Committees – new councillor

Cllr I.Lovegrove agreed to join the Planning Committee and the Open Spaces and Lighting Committee.

9. Matters for information.

Cllr I.Lovegrove reported that PEG are proposing an inclusive parish event for the summer of 2017 and were planning to ask for a grant.

The meeting closed at 20.50

10. Future meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. **Tuesday** 3rd January 2017 in the Parish Office

b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.00 p.m **Monday** 9th January 2017 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre