

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 9th January 2017
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: None

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

Councillors: K.Allan: L.Cook: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone: M.Lee: I.Lovegrove:

V.Marshall: V.Martin: K.Pither: C.Plested: T.Stevenson.

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

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr I.Lovegrove – items 6 b vii) & 6 c vii).

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2016 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record, following some discussion about the meaning of the wording in section 6 c ix).

4. Matters arising: None.

5. Councillor vacancies

Cllr K.Pither had been approached by someone who is interested. The clerk asked for the details to be forwarded so that their eligibility criteria could be checked with CDC.

6. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2017 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

There was some discussion about whether the property at Barley View had already been converted to residential.

Cllr K.Pither raised the issue of the change of use at Church Street Gallery (CH/2016/2068/FA) which had been discussed at the December meetings. The planning committee discuss each application individually, each on its own merits – there is no parish council policy. It was suggested that the parish council should have its own policies. All councillors receive a list of the applications being discussed at the planning committee meetings and any councillors are welcome to attend to put forward their views.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Youth Offending Team – update

Cllr K.Pither thanked Cllr C.Baxter for producing the notes for the meeting, which had been circulated. Work was planned in the future on the allotments. Cllr A.Hewett reported that a section of the footpath on the Buryfield had been cleared on Saturday, with six bags of wet and heavy mud being produced by one worker. They will let us know when they are planning to come back. The letters to residents about bramble clearance have not been done. Removal of waste and the use of skips requires further discussion.

ii) Church Street light proposal and quotes

The parish council had consulted with the residents in Church Street who might be affected by a brighter street light outside number 19 and three out of ten residents had responded. Based on these responses the parish council agreed unanimously to leave the light as it is as the lighting is adequate and the council do not feel it necessary to spend money to change it.

iii) Streetlighting request – High Street, Great Missenden

The council discussed the email and accept the concerns of the resident, but do not feel it necessary to add additional lights.

iv) Request to use Buryfield - Quidditch & NERF

The parish council agreed to the request, provided that the activities do not stray onto the football pitch.

v) Buryfield car park lease with CDC

The working party had met to discuss the draft lease and had put together a list of the main concerns of the parish council which has been circulated to all councillors. The parish council approved this list which would be forwarded to the solicitor prior to his review of the draft lease.

vi) Prestwood Common and football clubs

Prestwood Colts do have a licence with the parish council for the use of the football pitches and in return they maintain and repair the pitches. The council understands that the two football clubs are having discussions to find a solution and also understands that the Eldorado Diamonds played on Prestwood Recreation Ground (CDC side) on Sunday.

vii) Prestwood Infant School - footpath improvements

The improvements to the footpath involve the laying of scalping to improve the surface. There were no changes planned to the chicane at the footpath entrance. The gaps accessing the footpath from Kiln Close were across a private verge and the old section of footpath at the bottom of Kiln Close had been extinguished in the 1960's. Once the footpath was usable then the school planned to open the rear gate to encourage walking to school. It was felt that the draft letter for residents could be more positive – Cllr A.Hewett would speak to Bucks CC about modifying the letter. Volunteers will be needed to deliver the letters and Cllrs L.Cook and C.Plested volunteered.

viii) Bucks Freight Strategy - email

Noted but no interest in attending.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Minutes of meeting held on 3rd January, budget & precept request 2017-18

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2017 were agreed.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the precept request currently worked out to be 0.27% increase on last year. If necessary, budgeted amounts can be re-allocated during the year and reserves can be allocated if necessary. The Council then unanimously approved the budget for 2017-18 of £192,904 and approved a precept request to CDC of £192,904 for 2017-18.

ii) No extension of referendum principles - email from NALC

The parish council noted that the government had decided not to extend council tax referendum principles to any size of parish or town council in 2017-18. However this may happen in the future.

iii) Quotes for tree work

The details of the trees that required more urgent work as identified from the tree survey in the autumn had been forwarded to three tree surgeons. One quote had been received from Pat Kernan and the parish council agreed to proceed with this quote. The only exception is the quote to remove the ash tree on Greenside off Lodge Lane – the clerk would go back to the tree surgeon to enquire if reduction could be an alternative to removal.

The clerk had also compiled a list of additional tree work that has been requested by residents. After some discussion and consideration the parish council agreed by majority vote to proceed with this work.

It was agreed that the additional money required to complete all the tree work this year would be taken from reserves.

iv) Quote for pest control - Buryfield

The council approved the quote for an annual contract for pest control, which would take effect from 1st January 2017.

v) Play area repairs

All repairs have been listed and costed on the spreadsheet which has been circulated and the work has been prioritised based on health and safety issues. Of the total cost of £11,637.65, the priority repairs total £5159.10. This may reduce if Cllr S.Humphreys is able to find a more economical solution for some of the work. The council approved the quote for the highlighted repairs with the balance of funding required to come from reserves. The council also agreed that Roald Dahl should be approached for a contribution.

vi) Open Spaces Society – request for donation

The council declined to give a grant to the Open Spaces Society.

vii) Local Area Funding 2017-18

After discussing in detail the six LAF funding applications for transport projects that had been assessed by TfB and PID costing documents produced by TfB, the parish council voted for which projects they would like to prioritise.

The priority projects are:

1. MIS LAP 1718-07 – Moat Lane footpath / pavements outside the school
2. MIS LAP 1718-06 – Aylesbury Road Great Missenden Parking Improvements
3. MIS LAP 1718-09 – Ballinger Road South Heath Traffic Calming Feasibility Study

The parish council understands that 50% match funding would be required for each project that goes ahead, however the parish council could not confirm match funding for the Moat Lane footpath as no costs have been supplied.

viii) Unitary discussion updates – BCC and CDC emails

The emails from CDC of 16th December and from BCC of 20th December providing updated information about the unitary discussions were noted.

ix) Nominations for parish cup

Seven nominations had been received for 'The Parish Cup' and following a vote, the council agreed by majority vote to award the parish cup to Ged Maher for his service to the parish over many years. Cllr A.Hewett agreed to source a suitable gift.

x) PYCAG letters – management of building

The parish council discussed the letters from PYCAG giving notice that the Trustees wish to relinquish the management of the Prestwood Youth and Community Centre with effect from 31st March. There was some discussion about the continuing Monday Youth Café and where it would take place. The council asked the clerk to enquire if PYCAG would continue to use the building after 31st March. The council agreed that a meeting / discussion with PYCAG would be the best way forward and agreed the following councillors would form a working party – Cllrs L.Cook, A.Hewett, S.Humphreys, I.Lovegrove, K.Pither and C.Plested.

xi) PYCAG – GMPC support sought for LAF funding application– additional information supplied
PYCAG had provided further information in support of their application to LAF for funding. After discussion, the parish council stated that it supports the activity and work of the youth club. However, following a vote, the council felt unable to make a decision about support for the LAF application bearing in mind the uncertainty of the future of PYCAG and the substantial reserves that it holds. LAF funding is likely to be very limited and there are currently other projects deserving of parish support.

xii) Royal Garden Party nominations

The parish council agreed to nominate Cllr M.Lee in view of his past service as Chairman.

xiii) Letter from Thames Valley Police

The letter was noted and the council asked if the police could attend a public forum to explain further.

xiv) Payment of accounts for January

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **156-170** in the sum of **£12,919.84** for **January** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£47.02** be ratified.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

Cllr A.Hewett thanked everyone for their contributions to the articles for 'The Source' and reported that a meeting of the Editorial Working Party to finalise the articles would be arranged for next week.

e) HS2

i) Update on Hybrid Bill Progress

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that a letter from the Chairman of the Treasury Committee to Chris Grayling confirms that a recent review of the HS2 project still questions the business case and quotes the rate of return as being 'scarcely worth the candle'.

The House of Lords presented its final report on 15th December. There are a few successes but many disappointments. The major disappointment is no relocation of the haul road and the committee noted that 'residents were aggrieved that an undertaking to move the haul road further north is not to be met'.

HS2's reaction to the House of Lords final report is not yet known. A lot of amendments – 27 pages to date – have been submitted in the House of Lords. Cheryl Gillan is looking to lodge some amendments in the House of Commons.

The timing for Royal Assent ranges from late February to after Easter.

It is anticipated that the current ground investigation surveys will finish during February and Cllr M.Johnstone is monitoring the borehole drilling. A report on the findings from the borehole drilling is expected in March. There have been reports that the tunnel below Shardeloes Lake may need to be deeper and since the slope up to South Heath is already at its maximum it may impact on the location of the portal.

ii) Assurances – correspondence from HS2 & Discussion Paper on the 'Way Forward'

GMPC sent a letter to HS2 on 16th November outlining concerns and issues with certain aspects of the assurances offered on 21st October. A stalling letter was received pending the House of Lords

final report and GMPC objected to this stalling letter. No further response from HS2 has been received since although a letter of support has been received from Cheryl Gillan.

A discussion paper on the 'Way Forward' has been sent to all councillors and Cllr M.Johnstone summarised the main points that GMPC needed to decide on as a matter of urgency.

1. What changes would be acceptable on the BCC/HS2 proposals for
 - a. The Link Road and M2 proposals and confirm them to BCC
 - b. Similarly for the school Pick-up and Drop-off area
2. Where to place the 20 to 30 more car parking spaces

The Hybrid Bill Directorate is coming to an end and the Construction Directorate is taking over. This directorate is led by James Gasson-Hargreaves.

iii) Next steps: Proposals: Meeting structure and initial issues

Proposals on issues to be addressed and changes to the meeting structure have been circulated.

The parish council agreed that the following issues should be addressed urgently so as not to lose momentum with the mitigation money on offer (Proposal B):

1. What changes would be acceptable on the BCC/HS2 proposals for
 - a. The Link Road and M2 proposals and confirm them to BCC
 - b. Similarly for the school Pick-up and Drop-off area
2. Where to place the 20 to 30 more car parking spaces

Proposal A comprised two parts. The parish council agreed to extend the GMPC HS2 Working Party's aims to optimise and facilitate the implementation of HS2 mitigation assurances especially the 'HS2 Great Missenden mitigation package' and to review the membership of the HS2 Working Party to include the current members – Cllrs A.Hewett, M.Johnstone, K.Pither and C.Plested plus Cllrs C.Baxter and V.Martin who had expressed an interest in joining the working party.

The second part of Proposal A was to widen the area of influence to involve more groups and representatives in the parish. After some discussion it was agreed that the HS2 Working Party would make decisions which would be circulated to the parish council and then councillors could make comments. The conclusions reached by GMPC could then be presented at a public meeting and the attendees presented with comment sheets for their input.

A meeting has been set up with Luke Nipen, HS2 Engagement Officer in order to start dialogue with the contractor and look at ways to support local residents.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups. - None

8. Clerks Report - None

9. Matters for information. - None

The meeting closed at 22.20

10. Future meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 6th February 2017 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m Monday 13th February 2017 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre