

# GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden  
at 7.30 p.m.

**Public Forum:** Simon Barrett and Chris Russell regarding parking in Elmtree Green

**Present:** Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

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

**1. Apologies:** Councillor: C.Plested.

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

None.

**3. Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising:** None.

**5. Councillor vacancies**

Cllr A.Hewett welcomed Cllr A.Cook to the parish council. Cllr A.Cook would review the list of committees and decide which one(s) she would like to join. There is still one parish councillor vacancy to be filled for the Ballinger and South Heath ward.

**6. Reports from Committees**

**a) Planning Committee**

**i)** The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

Cllr V.Martin reported that following the approval of a planning application in Church Street, CDC would be clarifying the definition of the conservation area.

**b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee**

**i) Request for speed limit change, Green Lane – email**

After some discussion about this and the fact that the entrance to the road had already been altered to reduce speed, the council agreed that this could set a precedent for the whole parish and reducing speed limits was an expensive exercise. The council appreciated that there is a lack of pavements in this road. There is an MVAS site in Green Lane and the MVAS data does show that this is not the worst road in the parish for speeding. The council asked the clerk to let the resident know that he could pursue this request by contacting the county councillor and / or presenting a petition to the Local Area Forum.

**ii) Request for shed – Nairdwood Lane, plot 10a**

The parish council agreed to the request for a shed provided that the shed is placed at the rear of the plot. The allotment holder to be reminded that any tools left in the shed are her responsibility.

**iii) Rights of Way – restoring the record**

Cllr V.Marshall provided some background information on this topic. It was agreed to purchase a copy of 'Rights of Way – Restoring the Record' for the parish office. Cllr V.Marshall agreed to write an article for 'The Source' in order to publicise this topic. Cllr A.Cook commented on some possible missing or lost RoW's and agreed to pass details to the Devolution working party so they could check against the RoW maps.

#### **iv) Free parking days**

Deferred to August parish council meeting.

#### **v) Roadside verges**

Cllr V.Marshall had provided information about plants of interest which have grown in the verges due to the lack of mowing. The parish council has received few complaints about the verge cutting. TfB have however been cutting the vision splays.

#### **vi) Allotment rent review**

Following a recommendation by the Open Spaces Committee, the parish council agreed keep the allotment rents the same as this year - full plot - £30, half plot - £25, garden plot - £20 and Potter Row - £18.

#### **vii) Letter to Roald Dahl**

The council agreed not to send a letter at this time but to defer this to the October parish council meeting.

#### **viii) Open spaces –clearing up / environmental services**

Following a recommendation by the Open Spaces Committee, the council agreed that the clerk be given authorisation to call out a contractor to a maximum spend of £100 as and when any such incidents occur. It was also agreed that £1000 be put into the 2018/19 budget as an Environmental Clear-Up Contingency Fund. The clerk reported that so far it has not been possible to identify a company who could carry out this work. Cllr K.Pither agreed to provide details of a company that she knew of.

#### **ix) Parking on Rignall Road – email**

The council were already aware of the parking issues on the Rignall Road and some changes are in hand. The council agreed to send a letter to the Gateway School to raise the issue of parking.

### **c) Finance & General Purposes Committee**

#### **i) Quotes – clearing Chequers Lane, plot 4a**

The council agreed by majority vote to clear this plot of overgrown fruit bushes and agreed to accept the quote from Sexton Fencing. The council stated that it was important for all the roots to be removed in order to prevent re-growth.

#### **ii) Funding contribution – LAF – Aylesbury Road – Parking**

The council discussed the match funding request for £5,026 for parking improvements but were concerned that the costs and paperwork did not seem to match. There was a lack of explanation as to what the 'anticipated future costs' included. The council requested a meeting with LAF to discuss and clarify these issues.

#### **iii) Quote – maintenance vacant allotment plots**

The council approved the quote to clear the current vacant allotment plots. There was discussion about covering vacant plots with membrane but this had not worked well on a previous trial. It was agreed that the Open Spaces Committee would consider other long term solutions such as turfing over and mowing.

#### **iv) June parish councillor surgery**

Cllrs L.Cook and V.Marshall had brought the concerns of two parish residents to the attention of the council. It was agreed that Cllr M.Johnstone would draft a response to the issues arising from

the HS2 meeting and the council felt that the response already sent concerning parking issues had already addressed issues that the second resident had raised.

#### **v) Quote – Greenlands Lane field boundary hedge**

Following receipt of a letter from the allotment tenants who are asking for the hedge not to be reduced in height as it is a natural windbreak and attracts many pollinators, the Open Spaces Committee recommended that the hedge should be cut back hard on the allotment site but keeping the existing height. The council agreed to proceed with the quote from Pat Kernan.

#### **vi) Resignation of clerk and recruitment of new clerk**

The council accepted the resignation of the clerk and noted that she had given three months' notice instead of the contractual one months' notice. The council agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chair of Finance would be delegated to carry out the recruitment process and make a recommendation to council for a new clerk. The council approved the advert copy to go in the local paper amending the hours to full time/part time negotiable and the council approved the job description and the additional information details. The council also agreed on the other suggested places to publicise the vacancy such as 'parent mail', CDC, BCC, SLCC and the clerks email group. The suggested working hours in the office had been provided by Cllr A.Hewett as an idea only at this point.

#### **vii) Payment of accounts for July**

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **61-79** in the sum of **£12,800.69** for **July** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£148.63** be ratified.

#### **d) Editorial Working Party**

##### **i) 'The Source'**

Cllr V.Marshall would write an article about 'Rights of Way – restoring the record' for the next issue. Cllr K.Allan agreed to organise a meeting with Colin Veysey for the first week of September.

#### **e) HS2**

##### **i) HS2 Update including letter from GMVA**

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that positive comments are still being received following the public meeting co-ordinated by the parish council on 9<sup>th</sup> June. All the details have now been uploaded onto the parish council website and 40 copies of the presentations have been sent to those who requested them – most sent electronically. Four proformas have been returned – three for the CEF scheme and one for an AONB project.

At the public meeting, Aaron Rosser, Bucks CC Manager for the HS2 programme delivery, suggested that the Square at the end of Church Street could be a good alternative to create some replacements for the proposed loss of 20 free parking spaces on the Link Road. This prompted a letter from the GMVA which has been enclosed with the papers. Cllr M.Johnstone had acknowledged receipt of the letter and the council discussed a response which it agreed and asked the clerk to send to GMVA.

There was a funding discussion meeting at CDC on 5<sup>th</sup> July providing information about the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF).

The following points were made at this meeting:

- The project must add benefit, over and above committed mitigation and statutory compensation, to communities along the route that are demonstrably disrupted by the construction of Phase One of HS2 from London to West Midlands.
- There are limits to the grants i.e. CEF Local up to £75K; CEF Strategic up to £1m (which is a bit ambitious as the total pot for all Bucks is only £5m).

- The parish council as a local authority would be expected to match fund, from between 10% and 25%
- The four main criteria are
  - NEED: How is the community demonstrably disrupted by the construction of HS2? Have local people been involved / consulted and what support is there.
  - PLANNING: How have you planned your activity to be successful? Such as who will take part; is planning permission needed; how will you evaluate its success?
  - DISRUPTION: Need to demonstrate the level of disruption from the construction of HS2. How does the project improve the quality of life and environment?
  - SUSTAINABILITY/LEGACY: How will the project be sustainable?

Priority will be given to projects that are based within 1 km of the line and those that are match funded. There is an eligibility checker on their website.

Some suggestions

- Improved pedestrian, equestrian, or cycle access
- Landscape and nature conservation enhancement projects which increase biodiversity
- Enhancement or replacement of sports and recreational facilities;
- Improved access and enhancements to public open space;
- Provision of enhanced or new community facilities; and
- Refurbishment/re-use of historic buildings and monuments

Of the three suggestions received so far, two were asking for the same thing – a footway/cycleway along Windsor Lane from Deep Mill Lane to Hare Lane – which is not in our parish. It was agreed to pass these suggestions onto Little Missenden Parish Council.

It was agreed to thank the sender of the third suggestion advising that the parish council are aware of Buryfield House being for sale but do not have the resources to purchase but have made other councils aware of this.

The Chiltern Society, represented by John Gladwin, is suggesting that we join forces to agree suitable applications, as only one application is allowed from each lead group every six months. The Greenway for cyclists and walkers from Wendover to Great Missenden could be a possible project.

The HS2 working party needs to propose next steps – possibly a consultation meeting with local groups in the autumn.

HS2 Supply Chain Roadshow 2017 for business arranged by HS2 this coming Thursday to provide small, medium and large businesses in Bucks with an opportunity to get involved.

Helen Hall from the AONB Review Group ran a workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> June in Missenden Abbey. A Draft set of Design Principles were on display and is currently being reviewed by the AONB Review group. Marilyn Fletcher spotted that there was a proposal to omit a landform to open up the views just away from the portal, but this could increase noise travelling across the valley, so it is now being investigated. Marilyn has made 9 recommendations which have been circulated to the HS2 WP and the WP members shares Marilyn's concerns.

Additional projects (11) were available for comment but written copies were not available and Cllr M.Johnstone is awaiting a link to the electronic copies. Cllr M.Johnstone recalled the ones that relate to Great Missenden were highlighting the footpaths crossing the line and producing a publication, similarly for historic farmhouses along Potter Row, and for historic landscapes, Grims Ditch, other aspects to promote business in the village and undergrounding overhead power lines. Cllr M.Johnstone also suggested landscaping the safety barrier around the Skate Park, the Greenway from Wendover to GM and landscaping the haul road.

Another suggestion put forward at the meeting was to use some of the land behind the Red Lion for car parking with access from the station. Other attendees at the workshop included GMVA, Prestwood Nature and John Gladwin.

## **ii) GM School Developments & Traffic Management Plan**

The council approved by majority vote the latest version of the Traffic Management Plan which had been updated to include the concerns of the council. Two grammatical errors would be corrected and the document was signed by the chair and the clerk. The main construction will now start after Lighthouse week.

There was a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July at the school with Bucks Highways to discuss the school drop off area. Highways firmly rejected the option of having access from the Frith Hill roundabout. The emphasis then turned to the old 2005/6 planning application and the conditional agreement for access across the Buryfield from the Link Road. The HS2 WP firmly rebutted that, since the situation had changed a lot, Roald Dahl museum had taken off, the skate park had been built and many children use the play and picnic areas such that any increase in traffic across the Buryfield would also increase the hazard.

The team from Bucks are to come back with alternative suggestions as there was now an impasse. This could involve moving perhaps the skate park, tennis courts and/or play area to allow access to the new drop off area away from the children using the Buryfield facilities and perhaps a trade off with other BCC owned pieces of land.

## **7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.**

None.

## **8. Clerks Report**

None.

## **9. Matters for information.**

The meeting closed at 21.50

## **10. Future meetings**

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council – 7.30 p.m Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre