

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 14th August 2017
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden
at 7.30 p.m.

Public Forum: PCSO Chris Ging provided an update on the anti-social behaviour on Prestwood Common where things seem to be improving. Cllr A.Hewett thanked PCSO Chris Ging for changing his shift pattern.

Mrs Linda Courtney regarding planning application CH/2017/1236/FA – Rivendell, Marriotts Avenue, South Heath which had already been discussed by the planning committee on 7th August.

Jane Hennessy, the newly appointed clerk, introduced herself to the council.

Present: Councillor - A.Hewett - Chair

Councillors: C.Baxter: A.Cook: R.Hougham: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone: M.Lee: V.Martin:
K.Pither: C.Plested: T.Stevenson.

1. Apologies: Councillors: K.Allan: L.Cook: I.Lovegrove: V.Marshall.

2. Declarations of Interest:

None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2017 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising:

Cllr A.Cook put herself forward to join the Open Spaces and Lighting Committee.

5. Councillor vacancies

Cllr A.Hewett confirmed that 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 7th August 2017 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the Local Plan consultation looked like it was going to be delayed from autumn 2017 until early 2018. Cllr C.Baxter reported that the Kings Head had received conditional permission to become a day nursery and that the proposal for two houses at the Green Man had been refused permission.

b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee

i) Parish beacon

Cllr C. Plested reported that it is not possible to purchase beacons – they need to be specially commissioned. Cllr C.Plested would carry out further investigation and report back to council.

ii) Flag pole for the parish

Cllr C.Plested had found a company that could supply flagpoles at a reasonable cost. A suitable location would need to be found. Cllr C.Plested would carry out further investigation and report back to council.

iii) Request from PEG to book Prestwood Common – Big Lunch 2018

The council agreed to the request from PEG to use Prestwood Common for the Big Lunch on Sunday 3rd June 2018.

iv) Free parking days

The council agreed to request the following as its remaining two free parking days:

- Prestwood High Street car park – Saturday 9th December
- Link Road car park, Great Missenden – Saturday 16th December

v) Allotment prize giving

The council agreed to hold the allotment competition prize giving in Prestwood Community Centre immediately before the October parish council meeting. In addition to inviting the prize winners the council agreed to invite all the allotment tenants. Fern Britten had accepted the parish council's invitation to present the prizes, provided that she had no other work commitments. The council agreed to provide similar amounts of refreshments to 2016 as well as tea / coffee and biscuits.

vi) Request for polytunnel – Nairdwood Lane, plot 1B

The council agreed to the request for a polytunnel subject to the usual conditions.

vii) Request to use Greenside, Lodge Lane

The council agreed to the request to use Greenside for a neighbourhood get together on 9th September.

viii) Request to use vacant allotment plot for a bonfire – Nairdwood Lane

The council agreed to the allotment holder (plots 2a & 2b) using one of the vacant plots for a bonfire subject to the normal bonfire policy and provided that the bonfire is kept under control.

ix) Public Spaces Protection Orders – further information and request for evidence

This information was noted by the council.

x) Request for information – BMERC

The council agreed that the basic information from the tree survey (tree tag, tree type, size and age) could be sent to BMERC.

c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Quote for speed tubes – Heath End

At the MVAS Working Party meeting on 10th July, there was a discussion about the possibility of having up to two speed tubes installed in the Heath End area to collect speed data. Possible locations are on Heath End Road and Spurlands End Road. The council agreed to pay for speed tubes in both of these roads.

ii) Quotes for replacement windows and door – parish office

Three quotes for replacement windows and door had been obtained. The money can be allocated from the repairs budget as it is important to keep parish assets in good repair. A majority of councillors supported the proposal to replace the windows and door. Provided that the guarantees were acceptable the council approved the quote from Amersham Window and Door Company with some minor amendments to the specification which Cllr S.Humphreys would follow up.

iii) Quote for tree survey

A complete tree survey was carried out by John Morris of the Chilterns Woodland Project in autumn 2016 and his report was used as a basis for getting quotes from tree surgeons to carry out any necessary work. Since most of the urgent work was done last winter 2016-17, the council

agreed to accept the quote from John Morris for an interim survey of those trees which require monitoring. This report can then be used to obtain quotes for any necessary work that needs to be done during the 2017-18 season.

iv) Quote to remove ragwort – Chequers Lane

The council accepted the quote from Sexton Fencing to remove ragwort from all the vacant plots at Chequers Lane allotments.

v) Quotes – revised – LAF 2017-18 projects – Ballinger Road & Aylesbury Road

Cllrs M.Johnstone and K.Pither had been on site visits with Korinne Leney and Pete Smyth from BCC to discuss the revised quotes for the LAF projects.

The council agreed that Ballinger Road, South Heath was a busy road with few pavements and agreed to accept the quote for £895 – which represented 50% match funding for a survey only with a reduced specification in order to move forward with Ballinger Road. The next phase would be for a recommendation and a consultation which would require further funds.

The council however agreed to defer a decision on the quote for 50% match funding required for the entire Aylesbury Rd parking scheme of £4026 pending further investigation.

vi) Quote – Skate Park replacement boards

The council accepted the quote from Playground Facilities to replace five of the worn out skate park boards.

vii) Quote – reconnection works for streetlight in Back Lane

The council agreed to defer this decision for 6 months due to concern that proposed building works going on in the area might damage the street light and any repairs that were carried out now.

viii) Publication scheme – for approval and adoption

The council approved and adopted the draft publication scheme.

ix) Chilterns Conservation Board – parish council casual vacancies

No councillors wished to be put forward to be considered for these casual vacancies.

x) Recruitment of parish office staff - update

Cllr A.Hewett provided a verbal update summarising the recruitment process leading to the appointment of the new clerk. Councillors had approved the appointment by email. The council thanked Cllrs A.Hewett, M.Johnstone and K.Pither for all their hard work.

The Assistant Clerk had also handed in her resignation, which was accepted by the council, and the working party had extended their recruitment process in order to recruit a Deputy Clerk. This vacancy would be advertised on the website and noticeboards and a new job description would be produced. As a consequence of additional hours in order for the office to be open on Fridays, Cllr M.Johnstone reported that this would exceed the amount for staff costs in the budget agreed for 2017-18. This was agreed.

xi) Revised Legal Topic Note – LTN 54

Noted.

xii) Good Neighbour Scheme – proposal

Cllr T.Stevenson provided an update on the GNS meetings. The GNS template was applicable to areas with little provision but less relevant in Great Missenden where there is already a lot of

provision. Any new scheme in Great Missenden should not compete with existing provision. Cllr T.Stevenson has offered to help progress the discussions and the council agreed that the group could use the Prestwood Community Centre for their meetings at no charge.

xiii) LAF applications – budget 2017-18 and transport schemes 2018-19

The council discussed and agreed the following:

- LAF 2017-18 unallocated budget – the council agreed it had no requests to be put forward for these funds
- LAF 2018-19 transport scheme applications – Cllr A.Cook suggested a scheme to put double yellow lines at the junction of Clare Road / Blacksmiths Lane to reduce danger of children and parents crossing the road. The clerk would email the forms so that Cllr A.Cook could provide the necessary information.

xiv) Payment of accounts for August

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **80-101** in the sum of **£13,975.84** for **August** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£121.08** be ratified. Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the invoice for Mazars was over budget due to the fact that the council were now in a more expensive banding for external auditing. The council had passed its external audit but there were verbal queries about the value of reserves being held.

d) Editorial Working Party

i) 'The Source'

The next copy deadline was the beginning of September. Cllr A.Hewett would edit the two alternative MVAS articles. Other suggested articles were one about publicising the Prestwood Community Centre (Cllr I.Lovegrove), an article introducing the new clerk and a further article on defibrillators (Cllr K.Allan).

e) HS2

i) HS2 Update

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that very little progress has been made on the big issues facing the parish council since the last parish council meeting despite proactivity by the HS2 Working Party. The parish council is likely to be faced with some difficult decisions.

At a high level, the most significant development since the last meeting has been the appointment of the Main Works Contractors (MWC) i.e. Stage 1 of these contracts, comprising design and construction preparation works, awarded to joint ventures. There are two contracts in our area – Area Central:

- C1: Chiltern Tunnels and Colne Valley Viaduct – Align JV (Bouygues Travaux Publics, VolkerFitzpatrick, Sir Robert McAlpine)
- C2: North Portal Chiltern Tunnels to Brackley – CEK JV (Carillion Construction Ltd, Eiffage Genie Civil SA, Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Ltd)

Charlotte Hewes, who was working with Luke Nipen, as an HS2 Engagement Officer has left HS2 Ltd and joined Fusion JV.

ii) HS2 Mitigation – GM School developments

Construction of the classroom work has yet to start as the contractor has not yet been appointed. Simon Girling has at last contacted Julie Rushton at CDC to discuss the impact of construction work on the car park.

At our meeting with BCC and the school project team on 4th July to discuss the school set down area, the HS2 Working Party reached an impasse on access to the proposed new set down area; the HS2 WP still think access from the Frith Hill roundabout is the best solution.

BCC Highways say they want no disruption to traffic on the A413 and suggest access off the Link Road across the Buryfield is a better option (as in the 2005/6 planning application) but the WP disagree as additional traffic across the Buryfield will increase the hazard for users of the Buryfield facilities i.e. skate park, tennis courts, picnic and play areas. A lot has changed since 2005/6 including the opening of the Roald Dahl museum. It was agreed at the meeting that some blue-sky thinking was required.

The HS2 WP has decided on three areas to progress:

1. To challenge the refusal of access off Frith Hill. The draft letter to Christine Urry, BCC Highways to seek a formal response to the reasons for not having access off Frith Hill and to continue pressure on getting a solution otherwise the parish council, the school and BCC will lose out on the funds from HS2 Ltd, was approved by the council. The council agreed that the letter should also be copied to Cheryl Gillan.
2. To chase the minutes of the meeting on 4th July. The nominated note taker is currently on holiday until the end of August.
3. To chase Robin Tuset of BCC and Roz Thomson the head teacher on progress as to blue-sky thinking. The response received is: 'We are in the process of obtaining fee proposals for a design team to rework the school drop off scheme and identify options to put to the working group which consists of representatives from the school, highways, Parish Council and CDC'. There will be no further update until after the working group next meet – date to be confirmed.

HS2 WP has been meeting with the BCC HS2 delivery team and Peter Martin. This meeting also covered HS2 changes to the Link Road and general parking options in the village and Julie Rushton was included in the meeting representing CDC car parks.

There is further frustration with HS2 as they do not seem willing to talk about the Link Road until the MWC have completed some of their reviews. The HS2 WP will carry on chasing so that once we know what is happening to the Link Road then we can address the options from the feasibility study on parking in Great Missenden produced by Emily Wingfield.

However the HS2 WP have insisted that BCC present the options on parking to the full parish council first, opening it up for further consultation/ debate.

iii) HS2 Funding - CEF & BLEF

- AONB Review Group

The HS2 WP has reviewed the three Funding Opportunities provided by HS2 and proposes that the parish council progress them. The WP has come up with a list of suggested projects which include the suggestions raised at the public meeting on 8th June. No further suggestions were put forward by the councillors and so the lists were discussed by council and prioritised.

The Community and Environment Fund (CEF)

The following suggestions were given a high priority

- Buy part of the paddock of Buryfield House
- Greenway / off-road cycle route for walkers and cyclists from Wendover to Amersham
- Upgrade of Monks Way (PRoW) from Mobwell to Link Road
- Extend footpath/pavement from B485 to join existing footpath on Frith Hill
- Create foot and cycleway from The Square in Church Street to Abbey Park to join GM1/33
- Allocate visitor parking at the Station car park

The following suggestions were given a low priority

- Public parking behind the Red Lion
- Expand play facilities at Sibleys Rise
- Create a public play area at the Mushroom Farm site in South Heath

The Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF)

Project no 1 at Annie Baileys was given low priority whereas No 2 a Visitor Centre in part of the Library was high.

Approval was given by the council for the WP to progress to discuss these with local groups such as GMVA, GMPRG, the Chiltern Society and other local PCs with a view to working up some and submitting them.

AONB Review Group

The AONB Review Group are working on two areas. Helen Hall is the programme Manager and she came to speak to us at a public forum.

- 1) A Draft set of Design Principles and
- 2) Additional projects: to identify additional environmental integration and enhancement measures that may further integrate the scheme into the AONB for which it has a £3m budget.

Eleven high level projects numbered AP1 to AP11 have been identified by the AONB Review group for comment of which the six AP1&2; AP4&5 and AP9&10 have been chosen by the WP (copies had been included with the papers for the meeting) as worthy of progressing because they relate to promoting business/tourism in the AONB especially where the line is on the surface to minimise impact.

Support was also given to considering the following as additional projects:-

- Other aspects to promote business in the village
- Undergrounding overhead power lines
- Green footbridges & bridleways
- Landscaping the safety barrier around the Skate Park,
- The Greenway from Wendover to GM
- Landscaping the haul road from the village
- Burying balancing ponds

No other projects were put forward and approval was given for the WP to progress to discuss these with local groups such as GMVA, GMPRG, the Chiltern Society and other local PCs with a view to working up some and submitting them.

7. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) Update - Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity

Cllr C.Plested updated the council on the one application that had been received for funding from the parish. Unfortunately the application did not fit the funding criteria as it was requesting funding for wages for a counsellor. Cllr C.Plested would write an article for 'The Source' to publicise the charity. Cllr C.Plested had also been promoting funding for 'relaxed performances' at the theatre for dementia sufferers but had so far not received any response.

8. Clerks Report

None.

9. Matters for information.

The meeting closed at 22.08

10. Future meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 4th September 2017 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council – 7.30 p.m Monday 11th September 2017 in Great Missenden Memorial Centre