

# GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
at the Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden  
at 7.30 p.m.

**Public Forum:** Mandy Evans, the newly appointed deputy clerk, introduced herself to the council.

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

Councillors: K.Allan: C.Baxter: L.Cook: R.Hougham: S.Humphreys: M.Johnstone:  
V.Marshall: K.Pither: C.Plested: T.Stevenson.

**1. Apologies:** Councillors: A.Cook: M.Lee: I.Lovegrove: V.Martin.

## **2. Declarations of Interest:**

None.

**3. Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

## **4. Matters arising:**

None.

## **5. Councillor vacancy**

Cllr A.Hewett advised that there are two potential applications for the vacancy. It was agreed that if they wanted to attend a council meeting that they could come to the October meeting with applications considered at the November meeting.

## **6. Reports from Committees**

### **a) Planning Committee**

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were **agreed** and **confirmed**.

### **b) Open Spaces and Lighting Committee**

#### **i) Parish beacon**

Cllr C. Plested reported that she had approached three companies to quote to supply a beacon and only one company was interested. They would require a specification as it would be a bespoke item. Due to the estimated cost of £700 the council agreed not to pursue the purchase of a beacon.

#### **ii) Flag pole for the parish**

Cllr C.Plested had sourced a flag pole which could be fixed to a building and it was felt that it would be good to have one in Great Missenden and one in Prestwood. Possible buildings included the Memorial Centre in Great Missenden and several suggestions were made for Prestwood but none were council owned buildings. Further research was necessary including whether the Union Jack could be flown and Cllr C.Plested would present further information at the October meeting.

#### **iii) Letter from resident regarding tunnel under A413**

The council discussed the issue and asked the clerk to notify the resident that the responsibility for the footpath itself was Bucks County Council whilst the litter issue was the responsibility of Chiltern District Council.

#### **iv) Report – ride along with police**

Cllr C.Baxter had provided a detailed report and had found the ride along very interesting. She felt that the way the police handled situations was very good and that they were very compassionate with a really positive attitude. She had visited many parts of the parish in Prestwood and Great Missenden including the Buryfield and there had been a lot of walking around.

#### **v) Request to use Buryfield for Bootcamps**

The council agreed to the request for the next two 6 week blocks of Bootcamps on the Buryfield.

#### **vi) Minutes of Open Spaces committee meeting – 21st August 2017**

The council reviewed the minutes and Cllr A.Hewett commented that improvements to the Toddler play area on the Buryfield should be put on hold until Roald Dahl had responded to the council. Cllr M.Johnstone noted that the budget requests had been forwarded on 29<sup>th</sup> August but the Finance Committee may request further clarification on costs when it comes to set the budget.

#### **vii) Buryfield car park lease – for approval**

The council agreed by majority vote to approve the lease with the addition that the right of way to the school be restricted to teachers parking and emergency vehicles only.

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

#### **i) Conclusion of annual audit**

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that the external auditors had completed their audit and had not found any matters that gave cause for concern. It was noted that there were reserves allocated for both general and specific projects.

#### **ii) Insurance renewal**

The insurance premium had gone up slightly due to changes throughout the year but the premium had been reduced due to the long term agreement. The council agreed that the index linking of 2% seemed reasonable and the council agreed to accept the policy.

#### **iii) Request for grant – Dial-a-Ride**

The council declined to offer Dial-a-Ride a grant as there was no money allocated in the budget, there was no guarantee that the money would be spent in the parish and the fares were expensive.

#### **iv) Request for new dog waste bin**

The council agreed to install a new dog waste bin at the entrance to the footpath on Hangings Lane in Prestwood.

#### **v) Quotes – revised – LAF 2017-18 projects – Ballinger Road – agree terms & conditions**

The council agreed to accept the terms and conditions from BCC for the Ballinger Road scheme.

#### **vi) LAF application – Moat Lane – query email**

The council confirmed that no-one in the parish council had had any contact with the landowners to discuss the possibility of dedicating a strip of their frontage to the highway. The council had understood that the previous County Councillor, Alan Stevens, was going to do this in conjunction with the school.

#### **vii) Good Neighbour Scheme – update**

Cllr T.Stevenson had circulated a comprehensive update on the GNS scheme. The group had met the previous Wednesday with 8 of the original 20 people attending. So far a GNS scheme has not been defined for this area but options have been identified – an umbrella organisation, a niche organisation, an information exchange group and an update to the services guide. The group are continuing with discussions and aim to send out a questionnaire to obtain more information.

#### **viii) Legal briefing – L05-17**

This legal briefing deals with data protection and is part of the new legislation which is due in 2018. This will involve issues such as appointing a data controller, confidentiality and the right for individuals to know what information is held about them.

#### **ix) Amendment to order of agenda for council meetings**

Cllr A.Hewett proposed that due to the importance of HS2 it should be discussed earlier on the agenda and that Cllr M.Johnstone would provide a written report in advance of each meeting. The council agreed that HS2 should become item b) on the agenda.

#### **x) Recruitment of parish office staff - update**

The new clerk, Jane Hennessy, was due to start work on 18<sup>th</sup> September and the appointment of the new deputy clerk, Mandy Evans, had been approved by the council. Mandy would be starting work on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and would be working 4 days a week, taking Wednesdays off and working on Friday mornings.

#### **xi) Payment of accounts for September**

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers **102-126** in the sum of **£18,101.26** for **September** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for **£57.97** be ratified.

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

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

Cllr A.Hewett reported that the editorial working party had met with Colin Veysey and the articles for the next issue had been sent today. The next copy deadline was the end of October.

#### **e) HS2**

##### **i) HS2 Update**

Cllr M.Johnstone reported that there has been few developments, nothing major, since the last council meeting. It was agreed with BCC that the regular meeting scheduled for today should be postponed. There are concerns that discussions are going ahead without parish council involvement and the HS2 WP are taking this concern up with Cllr Peter Martin.

As notified previously, the power cables are being upgraded from East Claydon to Amersham. This work is now progressing into our area with some road and footpaths being closed whilst the work is carried out. Frith Hill, Leather Lane and Hyde Lane are all affected. National Grid say that it is not related to HS2 but there is some scepticism as the work happens to run parallel to the line.

##### **ii) HS2 – Land interest & Ecological mitigation**

With Royal Assent given to the HS2 Parliamentary Bill on 23rd February, HS2 Ltd have safeguarded the land needed around the outline of the proposed railway. It is safeguarded for their use and could involve some compulsory purchase or development for the line.

There have been instances of both recently.

Firstly, a land questionnaire about the lane to Mulberry Park Hill which runs alongside one of the Potter Row allotments, has been sent to GMPC and has been completed. GMPC has also received

a letter under the Compulsory Purchase Act giving 'Notice of Entry' to that part of Mulberry Park Hill Lane, to which a reply is being developed on the basis that GMPC does not own that land but wants to preserve its right of way over it to maintain the hedge and to use the gate across the corner into the allotments.

Cllr M. Johnstone reported that he is aware of other people receiving similar letters; an interesting one is at the back of Bayleys Hatch where the land in question is not in the safeguarded zone. This raises questions as to why this is needed - is the embankment surrounding the north portal going to be bigger?

Secondly, the Planning Committee discussed the Schedule 17 planning application from HS2 for the land to the west of Potter Row. This is the Park Hill Ecological Mitigation Site with mitigation ponds, flora and a reptile basking bank which are all within the safeguarded area. Permission cannot be refused but GMPC can express its concern to HS2 Ltd over the construction traffic needed to build it using the rural lanes leading to it.

### **iii) HS2 Mitigation - GM School Developments - Revised TMP**

Cllr M. Johnstone reported that at the last meeting GMPC agreed to send a letter to Christine Urry, Head of Highways, BCC, to seek a formal response to the reasons for not allowing access to the proposed school drop off area from the Frith Hill roundabout. Receipt of the letter has been acknowledged and an undertaking to reply within 21 days - no reply to date.

In addition there has not been a follow up to the July meeting of the School working group of which GMPC is a member and still no minutes of the July meeting. The group was tasked with carrying out some blue-sky thinking. There is concern that the school and BCC might take the line of least resistance which is to bully GMPC into allowing access across the Buryfield.

Schools have returned and GMPC needs to be aware that parents and teachers from the GM Combined School are asking why the drop off area is not being built.

If asked the reply should be on the basis that the school project team is working with BCC (Highways and Education depts.) and GMPC to find a safe access to the drop off area. GMPC are particularly concerned on the grounds of safety of the children (and others) using the Buryfield facilities, arriving by coach to visit the Roald Dahl Museum, parking of the coaches, the lack of space available and the fact that part of the Buryfield is in the conservation area and the rest covered by covenants restricting its use to recreation and allotments.

With regards to the revised Traffic Management Plan (TMP), GMPC has been saying for some time that the project team building the classrooms should also consult CDC who manage the Buryfield car park. Simon Girling has now done this and produced a revised traffic management plan.

The council approved the revised TMP with one change. As the start of the work has been delayed, concern was expressed that it may run into next spring and clash with other Buryfield users and events. It was agreed to amend the section headed Key Programme Dates by adding 'from July 2017' to read 'if works extend beyond 26 weeks from July 2017 .....

### **iv) HS2 Funding - AONB Review Group Joint Meeting**

At the last council meeting GMPC agreed projects for CEF and BLEF and projects for the AONB HS2 Review Group and to progress towards discussions with local groups.

A joint meeting has been arranged with The Lee PC and Wendover PC and possibly the Chiltern Society to meet Helen Hall, (HS2 Programme Manager, Chilterns AONB HS2 Review Group) on 19th September at 2:00 pm in The Lee Village Hall. Cllrs C. Baxter, A. Hewett and M. Johnstone can attend. The aim of the meeting is to be updated by Helen on AONB HS2 Detailed Design Principles and to discuss options for Additional Projects with the £3m AONB fund. This would be the first meeting of its kind and a joint Parish Council Working Group could be a useful approach for

discussing construction activities with HS2 Ltd and their contractors on the surface works within the AONB.

There is a BCC meeting on 12th October to review HS2 Fund Raising opportunities, which Cllr M.Johstone is planning to attend – anyone else is welcome to attend.

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

None

**8. Clerks Report**

**i) Damage to Buryfield – Lighthouse**

The clerk reported that Lighthouse had agreed to pay for the remedial work to the grass on the Buryfield.

**9. Matters for information.**

None.

The meeting closed at 21.15

**10. Future meetings**

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 2nd October 2017 in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council – 7.30 p.m Monday 9th October 2017 in Prestwood Community Centre