

## CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs, Brown, Davies, Howell, Keen, Lherbier, Lunn, Jones and Pegg.

Also present: The Clerk, County Cllr Birchley, Eric Meek (Bucks Highways).

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Gordon

2. Minutes of meeting 428, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

- a. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- b. Further to a complaint received from Mrs Moore of Widmore Farm regarding Council minutes, the Clerk will respond in accordance with the Council's complaints procedure.

3. Declarations of interest.

None

4. Questions from members of the public

Eric Meek explained that the supply of salt had been rationed without warning by Central Government and this had led to salting of A and B roads only by Bucks Highways which now has an adequate supply. Original salting routes have now been reinstated.

He said that more than 5,000 potholes had been filled in South Bucks in February following icy weather but a backlog remains. Potholes have been prioritised with serious ones (400mm deep by 300mm) being dealt with first using hot material. Four extra gangs have been taken on in South Bucks from April. Utilities have a statutory right to dig up roads and there is no redress on them for poor quality work. There are virtually no funds available for resurfacing but tar and chip surface dressing may be reinstated. Cllr Birchley had asked for a meeting with Jim Stevens, Head of Transportation, to discuss potholes and will keep an eye on contractors work. County Cllr Birchley said that the Hilltop Villages took the brunt of the bad weather and this should be taken into account by Bucks Highways. Blanket road closures for repair work would be applied for next year to avoid the £1,350 per individual application.

Mr Meek said that Bucks Highways would be privatised with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The contract had been given to Ringway Jacobs and existing staff would be transferred under TUPE agreements. Savings are guaranteed. Seven staff would remain with BCC but no quality inspections would be carried out by them. Our main contact will still be Chris Schwier.

Mr Meek said that additional facilities had been acquired to maintain drains, including 3 new gully tankers equipped with jetting equipment, in the new contract. All gullies will be cleared at least once a year.

Cllr Birchley had received complaints about the standard of school bus driving. It was suggested that a driver number be placed at the back of each bus for identification purposes.

5. Affordable Housing.

Cllr Brown distributed copies of designs for proposed housing units near Bloomfield Cottages.

6. Provision of salt bins.

Cllr Jones had received a petition from 87 members of the public requesting a salt bin at the entrance to The Warren. It was noted that a bin is to be provided by

Bucks CC under their delegated budget for 2010. **BCC will be reminded that this work must take place early in the year.**

7. Potholes

**A list of pothole repairs received from Bucks Highways will be placed on notice boards.**

## 8. Planning

### a. Decisions.

1988. The Bull, Bellingdon.	Refused.
0033. Five Elms, Bank Green.	Refused.
0058. Newhaven, Bellingdon.	Refused.
0063. 344A Chartridge Lane.	Allowed.

### b. Outstanding

0125. Bellingdon Cottage, Bellingdon.	No Observations.
0127. Pednor Ridge, Pednor.	No observations.
0308. Oak House, Peppetts Green.	No observations.
0271. The Coppins, Bellingdon.	TBA

### c. Appeals.

An appeal against the enforcement notice (mobile home) at Brick Works, Oak Lane, St Leonards has been dismissed.

An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of CH/2008/1500/FA at 2, The Warren, Chartridge.

## 9. Finance.

a. The Clerk's financial statements were received.

b. The following invoices were approved:

**BALC – subscription. £198.44.**

**Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall – rent. £44.00.**

**Chiltern District Council – dog bins. £209.30.**

c. **Mr D Ball was re-appointed as Internal Auditor.**

d. A risk assessment was carried out.

e. **The Clerk's salary was amended to £5581.68 per annum in accordance with the recent BALC/SLCC settlement.**

f. Cllr Jones noted that a perceived anomaly in Council tax increases is due to changes in number of taxpayers.

## 10. Local Area Forums

Cllr Howell questioned the legality of Local Area Forums in their current form and will investigate further. In the meantime he questioned the need for devolved powers.

## 11. Representatives' Reports

a. Cllr Jones noted that the salt bin opposite Buslins Lane has not been filled. He said that a Summer Ball will be held at Chartridge School. He has attended a meeting with the Chief Constable.

b. Cllr Lunn reported that a tenant now occupies the flat at Chartridge Village Hall.

c. Cllr Howell had attended a meeting of Chartridge Sports Club. He had cleared up the field but there is more work to be done. He had found a discrepancy in the original transfer deed for the playing field and will investigate further. **He asked for membership of the Playing Fields Association to be on the next agenda.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.41 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May in Chartridge Village Hall, 8 pm.