

CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th December 2013
in Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall at 8 p.m.

Present: Cllr Brown (Chairman), Cllrs Davies, Jones, White & Mathias, County Cllr Birchley.

1. To receive apologies of absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Howell, Lherbier, Keen & Russell.

Cllr Davies had previously advised the Clerk that she would be arriving a few minutes late.

2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2013 & an amendment to minutes from the meeting held on 9th September 2013.

The minutes were approved and the amendment to the minutes from 4th September was also approved.

3. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Brown declared an interest in one of the quotations submitted in relation to grounds work at the Chartridge Playing Field.

4. Questions from members of the public

a) Cllr Birchley updated members on the following:

Roads – the quality of the roads is gradually improving, Cllr Birchley is working hard to secure as much funding as possible to continue to patch up or resurface roads in the Parish. She will be meeting with Jon Dickens (Local area Technician) again on 5th December for an update.

Footpaths – Cllr Birchley admitted that it is hard to maintain the quality of local footpaths in the light of significant budget cuts. However she is working closely with the Chiltern Society to achieve the best they can together

HS2 – now awaiting the Supreme Court decision. BCC are still fighting this hard

Health Care and Social Welfare – continues to be a focus of Cllr Birchleys, in particular improved facilities for those with Heart problems, Diabetes and diabetes related illness.

b) Nigel Brand, Business Manager for Hazeldene Farm, Asheridge:

Checked with the Clerk that she was in receipt of his recent correspondence, the Clerk confirmed this.

- Agreed that the roadside hedges, bordering Hazeldene Farm, were in need of cutting back and thanked the Parish Council for managing this.
- Asked if the Parish Council could send Mr Brand a copy of the letter sent to the Camping and Caravanning Club, and if the Parish Council would consider writing again to the Club, this time to rescind the original communication.
- Suggested that there may be an element of friction between Hazeldene Farm and the Parish Council, and suggested that members would be welcome to visit the farm at any time. He went on to ask that the Parish Council consult with the Farm when considering comments and observations raised by other parishioners, as in his view this may contribute towards a more balanced approach taken.

The Chairman explained that it is not usual practice for a Parish Council to consult with any planning or change of use applicant, furthermore, the Parish council will (in the main) act on the behalf of the majority of its parishioners. The Parish Council can only act on information delivered directly to it from parishioners, but cannot 'second guess' what other members of the parish maybe thinking, or intending to do. The Chairman went on to thank Mr Brand for attending the meeting.

5. Questions to the Chairman

The Chairman had, prior to the meeting, been asked by a resident local to Bloomfield Cottages, if the cuttings from the tree on site, that has recently been cut back, could be cleared away.

Cllr White raised a question from the school – many of the schools cross country events and training activities take children through the style into the playing fields. The school has asked if the style could be replaced with a gate. Members suggested that we discuss with Cllr Lherbier, before speaking with BCC. The Chairman raised a question from the committee of Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall that members consider the application for an extension to provide improved changing facilities at the hall. Members will comment once the full application has been made.

6. Matters arising

a. Clerk's report.

The Clerks Report provided an update to members on items to be discussed in 6b, 6e and 6i below. The Clerks Report also updated members on a recent conversation between Cllr Howell and the Clerk, during which Cllr Howell requested a short period of time away from the Parish Council, to allow him time to focus on more pressing matters.

At this meeting (4th December 2013) members agreed that he should, and the situation would be reviewed in May 2014.

b. Chartridge Playing Fields

Comparable quotations for new signage were discussed and members agreed to use Manor Signs and approved the cost of £448.00 + vat.

Hedges around the playing field have been cut.

Quotations for the grass cutting have been received from 2 suppliers; the members discussed these and agreed to use the Cricket Club again in 2014.

c. To do list

The list was reviewed and the following items were removed: Roadside hedges, the Franklin Sign and the grass cutting quotes for the playing fields, 2014.

d. Local Area Forum

Cllr Lherbier was not at the meeting but had emailed that there was little to report.

e. LAT update

- Chartridge School – the approach to the school will be patched up when Jon happens to have a team working in the area. This may not be that soon, but he will arrange it
- Drains & Gully Clearing – despite the 'rule' that A roads take priority, B roads will be cleared every other year and C roads hardly ever, TfB have organised some drain and gulley clearing around The Lee and Swan Bottom . Jon is hopeful that this will continue and reaches Oak Lane (Braziers End) and Cherry Trees /Bank Green.
- The drain at the end of Widmore Close is due to be cleared.
- The Warren footpath - surface will be repaired in the New Year.
- Arrewig Lane – Resurfacing work has been completed, some of which will be disturbed when the lane is closed for replacement drain works in January.
- Grass Cutting – TfB saved a significant amount of budget by missing out the 'middle cut' this year and carrying out one final cut in early autumn. The Parish Council had raised with him the suggestion that a late cut was less useful than a cut during the summer months when grass is growing furiously.
- Bank Green – white lines at the Asheridge end will be re-done. Jon felt those at the Bellingdon end were OK.

f. The Bull

Members agreed that they would go ahead and submit the Community right to Bid, Asset Nomination Form. Once complete they would consider further the same approach for The Bell, Chartridge and The Blue Ball, Asheridge.

- g. Ashotts Lane
Cllr White will deal with this.
- h. Development at Bloomfield Cottages
Nothing to report at the moment
- i. Hedgecutting
Members agreed to go ahead with the roadside hedge cutting, leaving those hedges alongside Widmore Farm. In future years the Parish Council will consider doing so, in early springtime.
- j. To discuss issues arising from correspondence received from Hazeldene Farm
The correspondence from Hazeldene Farm was noted.
- k. Chilterns Conservation Board – management plan
Members had no comment to make on the proposed management plan for 2014-2019.
- l. Risk Analysis, Financial Procedures and Asset Register
These documents were approved at this meeting.
- m. Budget 2014-2105
Members agreed that the precept should remain unchanged so will bid for £10,000.

7. Planning

a) Decisions

1378 FA	Holly Cottage, Chartridge	Single story side extension, etc	Conditional Permission
1402 FA	341 Chartridge Lane	Replacement dwelling	Refused (size, design)
1511 FA	The Bull PH, Bellingdon	Change from PH to nursery outlet, etc	Refused (loss of important community facility)

b) Outstanding

1608 FA	Cherry Tree Farm, Chartridge	Extensions to detached outbuilding	No objections, with the added comment that the outbuildings remain part of the main dwelling
1665 SA	4 Widmore Close, Asheridge	Single-storey rear extension	No objections
1715 FA	Chartridge Park	Detached storage building	No objections
1797 FA	Highmore House, Bellingdon	Single-storey rear extension	No objections

c) Appeals

None

8. Finance

It was noted that the balance still shows a + .10p, accounts to 31st October 2013 were approved.

9. Invoices

The following payments were approved:

- Clerks salary
- Clerks expenses, including annual expenses from Streamline.net relating to website hosting
- An invoice for the hall hire – Chartridge Village Hall
- SLCC membership – this had been on the previous agenda but was not discussed

10. Representatives’ Reports.

Cllr Jones reported that Chartridge Village School ran a great Cross Country running event and explained that parking was tricky, but it is an event that only takes place once per year and in general the organisation went very well. Cllr Davies commented on how well the event had been run and organisation was well communicated.

11. Items for road gangs.

Many of the road signs need cleaning and the foliage cutting back from them.
Salt piles in Pednor.

There being no further business the Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

E L van Hullen
Clerk to the Council

December2013