

CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th April 2014
in Chartridge Village Hall at 8 p.m.

Present: Cllr Howell (Chairman), Cllr Jones, Cllr White, Cllr Russell, Cllr Davies, Cllr Keen and County Cllr Birchley.
Approx. 45 members of the public

1. To receive apologies of absence

Cllr Brown, Cllr Lherbier, Cllr Mathias

2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2014

Approval was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllrs White and Davies

3. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Russell declared an interest in the planning application 0164 FA, Mrs Russell is a neighbour.

4. Questions from members of the public

Cllr Birchley updated members on the following:

- Community Leaders Fund - from a total of £2000, £500 has been allocated to the Parish Council to put towards footpath repairs.
- Chartridge Village School Driveway – Cllr Birchley has spent a considerable amount of time looking into the responsibilities, now understood to lie with the school, and has allocated a further £500 from the Community Leaders Fund to support repairs.
- Roads – BCC are trying to work within a budget of £30m, but the extent of the wet weather has been so damaging that BCC may consider borrowing to boost funds spent in this area.

Members of the public raised questions to Cllr Birchley about; pothole repair, the strength of the road substructure and a request for a dropped kerb at the access to the playing fields in Cogdells Road. Cllr Birchley explained that she could not comment on specific issues; however she was aware that at management level changes were being made with improved road surface repair in mind. Regarding the dropped kerb – this request has been noted.

Health & Wellbeing: Hospitals in the county are a worry and Cllr Birchley is working with relevant hospital trusts to improve services. Cllr Birchley is embracing the Government's push to better integrate healthcare and home care, to improve efficiencies.

Cllr Birchley concluded by advising members that BCC has been awarded the top award for Corporate Governance and is a runner up in Public Health Awards.

5. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Howell took a moment to report on the passing away of Margaret Wells and offered deepest sympathies to her family.

a. Development at Bloomfield Cottages

Cllr Howell updated members on progress with the development which could complete in mid September.

b. Chartridge Playing Field Clubhouse – Proposals by the Broadway Bowls Club (BBC)

Cllr Howell explained to members of the public the role of the Parish Council – to represent local residents on matters of importance to them. He added that all councillors are volunteers and are democratically elected.

Cllr Howell went on to explain that to date, the BBC has made no formal planning application, and therefore the Parish Council is not in a position to formally comment. The Open Event at the Chartridge Reading Rooms on 5th/6th April provided an opportunity for local residents to view proposals, raise their concerns and questions, for consideration. At the Parish Council meeting today

(9th April, 2014) the Parish Council would welcome comment additional to those raised over the weekend.

Questions from members of the public followed:

- Why could members of the BBC not be present at the Open Event on 5th/6th April?
Cllr Jones responded with the information that this was, in part, due to a prior commitment involving bowls club members and their extended families.
- Given the large turnout at the Open Event at the weekend, and the depth of feeling within local councils, would the Parish Council consider extending the amount of time for discussion at today's meeting?
Cllr Howell explained that comment and question would be better raised directly to the sub-committee set up to deal with the proposals relating to the playing fields.
- Would it be possible for a local resident, and member of the public, to join the sub-committee?
The Clerk said that she would like to look into that. Cllr Howell suggested that it may be that local residents form their own group, with a spokesperson, to liaise directly with the Parish Council sub-committee.
- Was the Parish Council aware that the BBC met on 15th March and had the councillors received a copy of the minutes from that meeting?
The Clerk responded to the effect that, to her knowledge, a copy of the minutes had definitely not been sent to the Parish Council.
- Was the Parish Council aware that the BBC had been refused permission to develop a new club on two different sites, on two different occasions?
Councillors stated that they were aware.
- Why is the Parish Council backing developments?
Cllr Howell explained that councillors were not specifically backing the proposals; however they were prepared to support any proposals that may benefit communities within the Parish and were therefore prepared to receive the ideas, together with public opinion.
- Cllr Jones asked those in attendance if anyone was in favour of the proposals made by the BBC.
No-one responded in favour.
- Why is the BBC looking to move? Is the move driven by the potential sale of their current site, for development?
Councillors replied to the effect that a sale was not driving the decision to move premises; however the current site would be sold to release funds to be spent on any new premises.
- Is membership at the BBC open to anyone? In which case could Chartridge residents join the club and then vote against the club relocating to Chartridge?
Cllr Howell said he believed membership was open to anyone.
- Has the BBC committed to a sale?
Cllr Howell responded to the effect that councillors did not know.
- Amongst Chartridge residents, the general mood is against the BBC, there are real concerns that the cricket club would be wiped out & the children's playground hemmed in. Would the Parish Council write to the BBC advising them that it withdraws all support?
Cllr Howell explained that as representatives of the parish, the council will report back to the BBC on comments received.
The weekend was not a formal consultation and there will be time for that if the proposals go forward to the Planning Department at Chiltern District Council.
Cllr Howell thanked so many members of the public for attending the meeting and reiterated that the Parish Council is committed to reporting back to the BBC, on all comments received.

6. Matters arising

a. Clerk's report.

In addition to items mentioned in the Clerks Report of 3rd April 2014, the Clerk advised members of the following:

- i) Bucks Home Choice has raised an initiative relating to the allocation process for Rural Housing. The Clerk will circulate a copy to all councillors for comment.
- ii) Cheryl Gillan has requested comment from Parish Councils, for her to consider in her speech for the Second Reading, to Parliament, on either 28th or 29th April. A response was noted for the Clerk to submit.
- iii) BCC (TfB) has provided posters on the initiative to clear ditches in rural areas
- iv) Chartidge Parish Council has received a draft agreement from BCC relating to the Parish Clearance Scheme (footpath management).

b. To do list

The list was revised. Cllr Keen mentioned that he had undertaken to cost the replacement of trees at Bloomfield Cottages. Three May trees would cost £35 each and this will be approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

c. Local Area Forum

In her absence Cllr Lherbier had provided the Clerk with a brief update – the LAF meeting for 16th April has been cancelled, next one scheduled for 25th June 2014.

d. LAT update

The focus continues to be on pot hole and road surface repair. The Clerk is to meet Paul Snell and Rusty again on 23rd April.

e. Asset of Value to the Community

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and buy the supporting documents to complete the nomination of The Bell, Chartridge, for submission.

f. Footpath gateway at Chartridge Village School / Playing Fields

Councillors agreed to buy the gate out of parish council funds and agreed on a 3ft, metal pedestrian gate. Cllr White suggested the Parish Council ask the Chiltern Society to install it.

g. Sustainable Communities Act – more funds for Parish Councils

Cllr Jones suggested that whilst beneficial to some communities, these proposals would not be beneficial to Chartridge PC or the local community, so proposed no support.

h. HS2 - outstanding issues from Community Forum Area meetings

Councillors agreed that they would offer support to the Community Forum. Issues around the inevitable disruption that construction traffic will cause to commuter traffic, has not been addressed within budget considerations. This would also be raised in the response to Cheryl Gillan (Item 6.a.ii).

7. Planning

a) Decisions

1825 FA	The Cottage, Bellingdon	Replacement dwelling	Refused
1975 HB	The Cottage, Bellingdon	Listed building consent for the above	Refused
0050 EU	Crofters Cottage, Bellingdon	Occupancy without complying with agricultural occupancy condition	Granted
0165 FA	Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall	Extension	Conditional Permission

0204 FA	Chess Spring House, Pednor	Extensions	Conditional Permission
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b) Outstanding

0164 FA	3 Hawridge Lane, Bellingdon	Alter stable to residential annexe	This could set a precedent and open up the opportunity to make a future application based on a need for a replacement stable.
0180 FA	Wood Cottage, Braziers End	Replacement dwelling	No objections
0183 FA	Wood Cottage, Braziers End	Replacement dwelling	No objections
0320 FA	Ramscoat Wood Estate, Mount Nugent	Replacement Barn	No objections
0402 FA	341 Chartridge Lane, Chartridge	Replacement dwelling	No objections
0501 FA	37 Bloomfield Cottages, Bellingdon	Extensions & new vehicular access	No objections

c) Appeals

None

8. Finance

- a) Accounts were presented to 31st March 2014
- b) The following invoices were approved for payment including:
 - Clerks salary & Clerks expenses
 - Invoice for B&AVH hall hire
 - Chiltern District Council – dog bin emptying

10. Representatives' Reports

Chartridge Village School – Health and Safety Audit, received 'Good'.

Braid Wood – D of E Participants – are not wearing ID as was promised during the meeting between Braid Wood, the D of E and the Parish Council in 2013. The Clerk will chase up on this.

11. Items for road gangs

- i) Pot holes & failing road surfaces: Between no's 321 & 271 Chartridge Lane, Chesham; the junction with Berkley Avenue and Chartridge Lane; The Warren pavement area.
- ii) Sign posts within Pednor still need to be cleaned
- iii) White lines in Chartridge, between Chesham Academy and The Warren. White lines in Bellingdon, between The Oaks and The Bull.
- iv) Trees at the top of West Dean Lane
- v) Where Chartridge Lane joins St Mary's roundabout – traffic queues back towards Chartridge. Cllr Jones proposed a traffic light at the bottom of Lowndes Park on the approach to St Mary's roundabout, to ease traffic flow. The Clerk will raise this with the LAF.

Before Cllr Howell closed the meeting, members of the public still present, asked to raise some points for the

consideration of the councillors.

1. The Parish Council were advised that the police had recently uncovered a definite link to drug dealing within the immediate locality. This had not been mentioned in the most recent Thames Valley Police bulletin, but in future the Clerk will post these bulletins on the website.
2. Developments were underway at the Chartridge Golf Club and the Parish Council should expect to see an application for a driving range.
3. Concern was expressed over the use of the yard opposite the old turkey farm in Chartridge.
4. A point of general concern was made over the commercial use of the Golf Club, Chartridge, comment was made about the level of noise, often late into the night, during the summer months.

All the above points were noted.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

The next Parish Council meeting will be the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, to be held on 7th May 2014 at Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall, 8pm. This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, 7.45pm, also in Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall.

E L van Hullen, Clerk to the Council

16th April 2014