

## CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
in Chartridge Village Hall

Present: Cll Brown (Chair), Cllrs Keen, Davies, Lherbier, Mathias & White

1. To receive apologies of absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jones, Howell & Russell and County Cllr Birchley

2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Approved

3. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

4. Questions from members of the public

After Cllr Lherbier had introduced Mr Geoff Hurst, a representative from the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and Mr Alan Schofield, from Braid Wood Activity Camp, members of the public raised the following:

- Trespass. D of E participants appear to show no respect for the official footpaths and by ways, often seen taking routes directly through fields of crops and residents gardens.
- Damage. D of E participants have been seen to push through hedges and fences in order to meet the correct footpath
- Litter. D of E participants would appear to be responsible for a significant amount of the litter discarded within this area of the Chilterns.
- Countryside aware. D of E participant appear to have little awareness of the countryside code, and little understanding of how to behave in the country, eg they don't take correct care when walking along country lanes, and show little responsibility within crop fields and grazing fields.
- Politeness. Whilst in the main it was acknowledged that the D of E participants are civil and friendly, some residents have been subjected to rude and at times aggressive behaviour from the participants and their Group Leaders.
- Members of the public specifically asked that participants carry a clear means of identification so if seen causing a nuisance they can easily be reported back to their Group Leaders, and if needs by the Scheme itself.
- Members also suggested that each participant sign a declaration, committing them to managing their litter and respecting the countryside, prior to embarking on the D of E exercises

Alan Schofield responded to the effect that whilst Braid Wood hosts D of E groups, they are not responsible for them or their behaviour whilst out on exercises. However Braid Wood has contact information on every group that books into the site and is now at liberty to disclose contact details of groups that have been identified by residents as troublesome. He went on to say that the Camp does provide quite a comprehensive briefing to all its users on the importance of correct behaviour in the countryside and in particular the importance of not dropping litter.

Geoff Hurst responded to the effect that as a charity the D of E scheme adopts many different routes of communication with the Group Leaders and Assessors with the aim of ensuring all participants are properly briefed and understand the appropriate Code of

Conduct. Mr Hurst acknowledged that there is clearly a problem which he will address internally through his line manager and through the briefing process.

He went on to ask that residents help as much as possible by trying to identify offending groups of children and feeding this information back to the scheme.

Again, residents from within the Parish made the point that at the moment identification is difficult and will remain so unless participants were something clear and distinguishable. Cllr Brown reiterated this point.

Mr Hurst will be issuing a report following this meeting, for his superiors, and will forward a copy to the Clerk. He also mentioned that the Scheme welcomes Assessors and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in training to do this.

5. Questions to the Chairman

a) The footpath at Haywill Farm was discussed at length. A Bellingdon resident mentioned that they had quite an unpleasant encounter with a 3 horse riders using the footpath as a cut through.

Cllr Keen suggested a possible diversion of the footpath.

Cllr Brown suggested the possibility of opening up the extent of footpath along the back of the houses, from Haywill Farm towards Mount Nugent, and making this all Bridleway.

The Clerk will look into both the above mentioned options and in the meantime ask if BCC would allow and support a sign being placed at the entrance 'Public Footpath – No Bridleway' in a bid to stop any riders other than very local ones, using the path.

The footpath opposite, on the other side of the road is also being misused – the Parish Council will make enquiries about having some railings or similar installed at the entrance to this.

b) Cll Keen raised the point that local residents in Asheridge have requested clarification on the status of the small area of land close to the Blue Ball. Cllr Lherbier offered some background information and she and Cllr Keen confirmed that the land is owned common land therefore limitations on this are extreme.

c) Mrs Susie Bell, Clerk to Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards mentioned that J & L Coaches have applied for planning on their current site in Taylors Lane. Cllr Brown suggested that the Parish Council may write to CDC offering their support for this application.

d) Cllr Brown advised members that invitations to tender have gone out, regarding the development of the land adjacent to Bloomfield Cottages.

6. Matters arising

a. Clerk's report.

Information in the Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk specifically mentioned the invitation to comment on the Strategic Review, circulated by the Clerk on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Should members wish to comment please could they do so, directly to the Clerk by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

b. Chartridge Playing Fields

The Clerk advised members that no formal agreement had been received

c. To do list

The to do list was reviewed and updated

d. Local Area Forum

To receive an update

e. Devolved Services Agreement

The Clerk advised members that she had recently taken part in a survey on this, run on behalf of BCC. Members agreed that the Clerk should approach BCC and/or relevant contractors to disclose costs, to enable the Parish Council to propose further devolved services and save costs.

- f. Footpath at Haywill Farm, Bellingdon  
This was discussed at length under Item 4. Questions from Members of the Public.
- g. Duke of Edinburgh Scheme  
This was discussed at length under Item 4. Questions from Members of the Public.
- h. Invitation to become affiliated members of the 51M Group  
It was formally agreed that this Parish Council should join the 51M campaign

## 7. Planning

### a) Decisions.

0703 FA	Holly Cottage, Chartridge	Single-storey infill extension	Conditional permission
0709 FA	Chiltern Ridge, Old Sax Lane, Chartridge	Rear dormers and roof extension	Conditional permission
0712 FA	The Hawthorns, Bellingdon	Chimney and first-floor window	Permitted development
0804 NMA	3 Hawridge Lane, Bellingdon	Amendment to previous permission	Not allowed

### b) Outstanding applications.

0677 FA	Dormers, Bellingdon	First floor rear extension	The Parish Council feels that this property has already been developed as much as is possible.
0842 FA	Saxeway Business Centre, Chartridge	Change of use from office to gym/health facility	No objections
0940 FA	Orchard Cottage, Asheridge Farm	Extension	No objections
0941 HB	Orchard Cottage, Asheridge Farm	Listed building consent	No objections
0943 SA	Holly Cottage, Chartridge	Side extension	No objections

### c) Appeals. None

## 8. Finance

- a. Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were presented and approved
- b. Members were advised that the internal audit has been successfully carried out and the Annual Return 2012-2013 is now with Mazars, the external auditors.
- c. It was noted that the Parish Council has a comfortable amount of reserves. Cllr Brown mentioned that once the land at Bloomfield Cottages is developed the Parish

Council will be responsible for maintaining a small woodland area, and a small fund may be needed for this.

9. The following invoices were approved:

Clerks salary

An invoice for the hall hire of B&AVH @ £19.50

An invoice from Ann Hooton relating to the internal audit @ £60.00

10. Representatives' Reports.

Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall. Cllr Russell had circulated a note suggesting that the Parish Council invites a representative from the B&AVH to present their building/development proposals at a Parish Council meeting in the near future. Members agreed.

11. Items for road gangs.

The hedge at the top of Old Sax Lane, Chartridge

White lines at the junction where Bank Green meets the road to Asheridge

Roadside signs in Little Hundridge Lane – foliage has been cut but not cleared away.

The tree in Herberts Hole - this is at risk of falling into the road at any time.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:26.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall, 8 pm.