

CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th October 2013
in Chartridge Village Hall at 8 p.m.

These minutes are draft until approved and signed at the Parish Council meeting on 4th December 2013

Present: Cllr Keen (acting Chair), Cllrs Davies, Jones, White, Mathias, Lherbier & Russell

1. To receive apologies of absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brown, Howell, District Cllr Rose & County Cllr Birchley

2. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2013

The minutes were approved.

(Note: Following a question raised by a member of the public, the minutes will be subject to a special amendment at the next meeting.)

3. To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Questions from members of the public

a) Chris Brown, resident and Cllr within Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards asked if he may speak about Superfast Broadband. Mr Brown stated that currently rural areas are not deemed a priority and the two exchanges that serve areas of the Chartridge Parish (Cholesbury and The Lee) are not covered by the most recent roll out initiative. This is a real issue for the rural community as many people work from home and/or run businesses from home. The Bucks Business Initiative is to lobby for Superfast Broadband to be rolled out to the rural areas and have approached Defra for support. Defra feel the bid is reasonable and local Parishes now each need to demonstrate their support. Mr Brown asked if the Parish Council could provide either a Council member or perhaps nominate or appeal for, a local resident to join the lobbyists and help prepare the bid. This person would ideally have an IT or communications background. Members discussed and agreed to promote the effort on the Parish Council website, and approach one or two people known personally.

b) Nigel Brand, Business Manager for Hazeldene Farm, Asheridge, addressed members about recent Parish Council communications with both the Camping and Caravanning Club and Chiltern District Council, regarding the proposal at Hazeldene Farm to develop a small site on its premises for Camping and Caravanning Club members. Mr Brand began by stating that actually he had no issue with the considerations that the Parish Council raised within its communications. He went on to explain that he would like to take issue with the following:

- In his view the Parish Council was acting out of remit by contacting both parties.
- The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 4th September 2013 did not reflect that fact that both the Camping and Caravanning Club and CDC would be contacted.

Mr Brand told Members that he had discussed the Parish Council's communications with both The Camping and Caravanning Club and CDC. He believes that the Parish Council had acted outside of its remit, and was now asking that the Parish Council write to both parties to rescinding the original letters, and offer an apology. Mr Brand went on to state that he would make a formal complaint to CDC if the Parish Council does not do as he is asking.

In response, The Clerk acknowledged the omission to the minutes and will research correct procedures to have this rectified at the next Parish Council meeting.

Members explained to Mr Brand that a local resident and neighbour to Hazeldene Farm, had approached them with concerns. The Parish Council is obliged to act in the best interests of parishioners, so had acted very much within its remit to raise the concerns through the correct channels. Members went on to explain that the communications had not in any way expressed an objection to the proposed development, but had raised genuine questions for the purpose of clarity.

Mr Brand expressed his disagreement with these points. He then stated that he believes he knows which resident had approached the Parish Council and he feels that if said resident does not like the developments proposed at Hazeldene Farm, they should move.

Mr Brand continued, suggesting that the Parish Council had failed to maintain communications with Hazeldene Farm. The Clerk explained to Mr Brand that only a couple of weeks previously Cllr Lherbier had made direct, telephone, contact with Mr Bateman, owner of the Farm. The purpose of Cllr Lherbier's phone call was to offer that the Parish Council undertake to organise the cutting of the roadside hedges, including hedges that are the responsibility of Hazeldene Farm. These hedges have become overgrown and are beginning to pose danger to road users. The proposal was that the Parish Council will organise and manage the work, inviting Hazeldene to contribute to the overall costs.

Cllr Keen thanked Mr Brand for his comments and asked that, unless either he or council members had anything further to add, the meeting should progress to item 5.

5. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Keen mentioned that he has been approached by residents in Bellingdon about the speed and size of tractors and trailers travelling through the village. Cllr White offered to discuss with Philip and Marcus Matthews.

Cllr Jones raised a question posed by a resident of Chartridge, asking if it would be possible to deposit a small amount of rubble on the surface of the parking bay at the entrance to Brays Wood. Members acknowledged the good intent, but felt that this may be mis- construed as 'flytipping' and set a precedent, so perhaps not.

6. Matters arising

a. Clerk's report.

The Clerks Report provided an update to Members on the following:

Correspondence i) to Philip Matthews regarding hedge cutting within the Parish ii) BCC regarding the footpath at Haywill Farm and the bridle paths at Lime Tree Farm and Ashotts Lane iii) DofE – email received updating the PC on how they plan to better prevent participants of the scheme dropping litter iv) Camping and Caravanning Club and CDC regarding proposals at Hazeldene Farm. A list of recent work carried out by the Local Area technician and his team.

Accounts – CDC have paid the 2nd instalment of the Parish precept.

Chartridge Playing Fields - a cost to produce a new sign 'The Franklin Playing Fields'.

The Clerk added that since producing the Clerks Report on 10th October 2013, she had received notification from HMRC that registration for PAYE had been received and necessary paperwork will be sent out.

b. Chartridge Playing Fields

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact those who have previously provided quotes to now quote for grass cutting and hedge maintenance for 2014. The Clerk will also approach another sign maker for a comparative quote for the Playing Fields sign.

c. To do List

The to do list was reviewed and amended.

- d. Local Area Forum
 Cllr Lherbier updated Members with the information that:
 Ann-Marie Davies has now left BCC, Tim Fowler replaces her in part.
 Mobile speed equipment would cost £1600 plus fittings and fitting equipment.
 Rural Policing meetings (NAGS) have been stopped as not deemed a good use of police staff time.
 The police focus is on speed control.
 Superfast Broadband – Chartridge is supplied by different exchanges i.e. Chesham and Gt Missenden. It was proposed that the Parish Council would act as discussed in Item 4 a) above.
- e. Footpaths and Bridleways
 It was agreed the Clerk would continue discussions with BCC and the landowners regarding the possibility of opening up bridleway access from Mount Nugent to the bridleway through Ramscote Wood. Cllr White will organise a bollard or equivalent at the Asheridge end of Ashotts Lane.
- f. Duke of Edinburgh Scheme
 The D of E response was discussed and Members agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- g. BCC's Budget Proposal
 Cllr Jones proposed that the council's response reflected comments raised by parishioners to be discussed in Item 6 j). Members agreed a response to the effect that Budget should be allocated to support Home to School transport, clearly a situation where the goal posts have been moved. Initially transport was offered for children attending their closest Grammar school. Recently the service has been reviewed and transport is offered to children, to their closest school. Rural areas do not benefit from regular community bus services, and in many areas there are no footpaths, so walking and cycling are not safe options.
 Budget should, in this Council's view, be spent on home to school transport in the rural areas.
- h. CDC's Council Tax Reduction Scheme
 The proposal is to reduce Council Tax discounts to those currently on benefits. Cllr Jones proposed that this Council makes no comment and Members agreed.
- i. Home to school transport
 Discussed within Item 6 g).
- j. Village Halls
 Nothing to report.
- k. Development at Bloomfield Cottages
 Cllr Brown had circulated a note prior to the meeting, updating Members on progress with the actual building. The entire area from behind No. 4 to the boundary will be handed over to the Parish Council and will be managed as an open space, for recreational purposes. As the landowners of this area, Chartridge Parish Council will be responsible for maintenance and liability insurance. Cllr Brown has asked that the area is left cleared of undergrowth and the trees properly pruned back or pollarded once building is complete, to minimise costs to the Parish Council.
 Clearing work will start on the site in November 2013, building work will start January/February 2014 with an anticipated completion date of September 2014.
- l. Risk Analysis, Financial Procedures and Asset Register
 The Clerk circulated hard copies to those Members who wanted one, and proposed to circulate electronic copies to everyone with the minutes. All documents need to be reviewed by Members for amends, and/or approval, at the PC meeting in December.

7. Planning

a) Decisions

1295 FA	Chess Spring House, Pednor Bottom	Extensions & link to outbuilding, etc	Refused
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b) Outstanding

1378 FA	Holly Cottage, Chartridge	Single story side extension, etc	No comment
1402 FA	341 Chartridge Lane	Replacement dwelling	No objections
1511 FA	The Bull PH, Bellingdon	Change from PH to nursery outlet, etc	The Council will raise concerns as follows: The current availability of facilities within the existing village halls is not fully utilised. The owner's original commitment to reinstate the property as a public house, in particular if separate living accommodation is created. The current existence of nursery facilities within the neighbouring village that is not used to capacity.

c) Appeals.
None.8. Finance

Accounts to 30th August 2013 were presented

Budget proposals for 2014-201 were presented. An electronic copy will be circulated for approval in December.

9. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Clerks salary and expenses

Hall hire – Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall

10. Representatives' Reports.

There were none.

11. Items for road gangs.

The pavement at the corner where The Warren meets Chartridge Lane.

A tree branch hanging into the Bellingdon Road, by Boundary Cottage.

White lines at Bank Green, in particular the Asheridge end.

Drains and gullies at Cherry Trees, Braziers End; Oak Lane & Sandpit Hill (Cholesbury parish).

Members asked that it be noted that they feel it a waste of time having verges cut at this time of year, spring and summer being far more appropriate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.57pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th December at Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall, 8 pm.

E L van Hullen

Clerk to the Council

Chart mins 16-10-2013

October 2013