

GREAT MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 10th June 2019 at Great Missenden Memorial Centre
at 7.30 p.m.**

Public Forum: One resident was present.

Present: Councillor – A Hewett - Chair
Councillors: C Baxter, A Brazil, G Bridges, L Cook, P Jager, M Lee, M Johnstone,
V Marshall, V Martin, K Pither, R Pusey, S Rhodes, T Stevenson.

Also present: Jane Hennessy, clerk

1. Apologies: Councillors S Humphreys, L Lovegrove

2. Declarations of Interest:
None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

There was discussion around the recent correspondence from Cllr Peter Martin regarding the removal of recycling facilities in local car parks. A response from users of these services was requested. The general opinion was that these services should remain however it was also suggested that it would free up car parking spaces and would be less of an eye sore. The final decision has not yet been made and it was likely it would go to CDC's cabinet. The clerk was asked to collate all the emails regarding this and forward them to Cllr Martin.

5. Parking

i) London Road Car Park – consultation

The highways pre-application report is still awaited. Cllr Hewett proposed that a consultation should be arranged for July and the council approved this by resolution.

ii) Meeting with The Misbourne School

Cllrs Johnstone and Hewett reported on the recent meeting with The Misbourne School. The meeting had been called by the school following receipt of the notice to quit the London Road land. Cllrs Johnstone and Hewett met with the head of the school and the head governor. The school have requested an extension on the use of the land whilst the proposed car park goes through the planning process. One of the reasons behind this is the cost to the school of moving the fence. Cllr Johnstone and Hewett will arrange for a letter to be drafted extending the school's use of the land for the council to consider.

iii) Use of local car parks in school holidays – update

Cllrs Pither, Baxter & Brazil met to discuss this project and it was agreed that an introductory letter should be sent to arrange a meeting with each local school. Cllr Brazil will liaise with the clerk.

6. Memorial Hall Refurbishment – update

Cllr Hewett reported that a CEF application had recently been made for the cost of just under £72,000. This is to cover replacement doors and windows and internal renovations such as

replacing the suspended ceiling and lights, strip and polish the hall floor, installing a hearing loop and decorating. The decision is expected in early August.

7. Prestwood Community Centre (PCC)

- i) **Review of charges** – the PCC working party have reviewed the hiring charges, and to encourage new users, they have recommended that the business hire level of charges are removed, leaving just two charges depending on the time of day and day of the week (£10 or £9/hour). This brings the PCC in line with other local halls and it is hoped will increase the number of hirers (currently at 20% occupancy). The council resolved to accept this recommendation. It was also agreed to obtain quotes for decoration of the PCC for consideration by the council.
- ii) **External lighting of the entrance gate** – it has been suggested that the most cost effective solution to light the entrance gate is to utilise the light on the Scout Hut. The clerk has made contact with the Scouts and this is something that they would be amenable to. The suggestion is to install a PIR on the existing light and ensure that the timer is set to no later than 11.00pm so as not to disturb the neighbours opposite. The council resolved to approve this with a maximum £200 cost. The clerk will obtain quotes.

8. LAF

- i) **Prestwood Parking Scheme – Prestwood High Street consultation**
The council noted the update regarding the BCC consultation for the change in waiting times on the car parking bays on Prestwood High Street. The consultation only mentions increasing the waiting time by one hour. The Parish Council had requested two hours. Cllr Peter Martin has been in touch with BCC regarding this and they have suggested that two hours can be advertised in the statutory consultation but that it should be considered if two hours is appropriate for all the bays along the High Street. Cllr Hewett is following this up.
- ii) **LAF Transport Project ideas for 2020-21**
Cllr Hewett asked the council to start thinking of any transport projects needed for submission to the LAF as this will need to be submitted before the end of August.
- iii) **ANPR camera**
The council agreed in June 2018 to consider help fund an ANPR camera for A413. Although this project was suggested by Thames Valley Police (TVP) it was later decided, by TVP, that there was no suitable location for the ANPR camera on the A413 due to the presence of another camera at Wendover Dean. The Link Road was also discounted as a location due to the presence of too many trees. Darren Walsh, PS at Amersham, has initiated new discussions regarding an ANPR camera which TVP would support at a location on the pelican crossing in Prestwood. The LAF have a reserve of £1,853 for this project. The council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of ANPR cameras and voted by marginal majority not to support this new request for funds.

9. Prestwood Common – GMPRG proposal and plans

Cllrs Pither and Baxter presented the plans from GMPRG's community vision to redevelop Prestwood Community Centre and part of the Common. Whilst the council were impressed with the plans and recognise the need to improve the facilities available in Prestwood, there was some concern that the PCC was not the best location for this type of project. Currently the occupancy is only 20% and there is a question as to whether Prestwood is already served well with halls. It was discussed that perhaps this type of development would be better located in the High Street or surrounding thoroughfare. There was also concern as to where the council

would be able to source funding from for this ambitious project. It was resolved by majority that the council did not feel able to support this project. A letter would be sent in response to GMPRG.

10. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

i) The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May were **agreed** and **confirmed**. It was noted again that there were still instances where the Planning Committee representations were not being shown against applications on the CDC website. It was requested that the deputy clerk send examples to Cllr Martin to follow up.

It was also requested that the updates on any outstanding actions noted for Cllr John Gladwin (CDC) were added to the July Planning Committee.

b) HS2

i) Contractors – enabling works

Cllr Johnstone reported that the earth bunds on each side of the haul road are now being covered in topsoil and will be seeded. The planned hoarding has been delayed due to problems with the specification.

HS2 working party had a meeting with Fusion JV and Buckingham Group CL to agree the scope of works. It was reported that GM Combined School is no longer building a drop-off area as part of its assurance but will just formalise the current parking for staff and visitors on its grounds. This does impact the layout of the Link Road as the dedicated turning right lane to Buryfield car park should not be necessary. It was also reported that Buckingham Group CL will be providing an updated programme to enable highway works to be undertaken during the night (between 7.00pm – 6.00am). The associated Schedule 4 and Schedule 61 submissions are likely to be done in mid-June. Temporary traffic lights at the Chiltern hospital junction onto the A413 have also been suggested during the road works.

Some proposals were made regarding the layouts of Frith Hill and the Link Road, including of the two lanes coming down Frith Hill to the A413, for one to be marked to the north and the other to the south and in the Link Road to remove the dedicated turning right lane into Buryfield Car park and therefore remove the island.

ii) Main works civil contractors

The main contractors are still working on design, costs and completion of the ground investigation work to meet the HS2 Ltd and Treasury stipulations to provide the opportunity to significantly reduce the costs.

There are still calls to cancel HS2 and a recent petition elicited a reply from the Government on 22nd May which stated that the enabling works would not be stopping.

iii) Engagement

A meeting of local representatives was arranged with the HS2 Resident's Commissioner, Deborah Fazan, and the Construction Commissioner, Sir Mark Worthington on 30th May. They were taken on a walkabout of the area and concerns of the traffic management plans were raised. The Commissioners noted the concerns over ineffective communication with both HS2 engagement officers and contractors, promises not kept and a reluctance for HS2

to provide information and discuss changes. The Commissioners were sympathetic to the effect on the community and asked to be kept informed of progress or any further complaints. They have also requested a follow up meeting.

A joint parishes meeting is due to be held on 4th July 2019 at 2.00pm at The Lee Parish Hall.

Friday 28th June would be the last scheduled HS2 monthly drop-in session in the library.

c) Open Spaces and Lighting

i) Parish Office Parking Space – Cllr Hewett advised that on a recent meeting with PS Darren Walsh it was mentioned that more officers could work out of Great Missenden if they had access to parking. It was resolved by majority to offer the police access to one car parking space outside the Parish Office. It was also suggested that perhaps a space outside the Memorial Hall might be offered as well. This would be passed to the Memorial Hall Committee to discuss.

ii) Buryfield Pocket Park Toddler Play Area

The update on the progress of the Buryfield Pocket Park toddler play area was noted. The work was expected to be finished by Friday 7th June, with the post installation inspection planned for Wednesday 12th June in time for the planned opening on 15th June.

The signage still needs to be decided on and it was agreed that black signs with gold writing would be preferable, without finials. Additionally, two different sizes of lecterns were quoted for and the councillors requested that the deputy clerk send around pictures of both the finger posts and the lecterns before a final decision is made. Benches will also be installed after the 15th June.

A successful application for the opening event to Chiltern District Council's Connected Communities Small Grant had resulted in the council and the GMVA being awarded £150 towards arranging the opening ceremony.

Cllr Hewett is liaising with the GMVA to help with the setting up of the opening event and welcomes any help with this.

The deputy clerk, Chris Thompson, was thanked for all his hard work on this project.

iii) Litter Bin Emptying

Cllr Martin had established that the frequency of emptying the litter bins is variable and CDC have an outcome contract on litter bins. Bins are reportable when they become more than 75% full. It was agreed that CDC should be notified if there are any events to ask them to increase the frequency of emptying.

iv) Land at Oakengrove - update

Following an estate agent valuation it was suggested the land would be worth approximately £50 per square metre. The council discussed this and agreed that they may need a valuation by a chartered surveyor for a more reflective cost, however that they also felt the need to protect the open spaces of the parish. To agree to sell this parcel of land may also set a precedent for all the other parcels of land on Lodge Lane. The council resolved by majority vote not to pursue this land sale.

v) Use of Buryfield – Running Club

Following the meeting in May Hughenden Running Club had advised that they would not be able to change the start times of the club and felt the charging would be difficult to administer. The clerk was asked to respond to the Running Club to try and facilitate an agreeable plan. The council discussed how best to help accommodate the Running Club and the potential 25 participants and agreed to the starting times of 9.15am on a Thursday and 1.30pm on a Monday (twice a month) with a £5 charge for every 6 sessions. This was resolved by majority vote.

vi) Land Registry – Buryfield Lane

The update regarding the application to register Buryfield Lane was noted. The application had been initially rejected. A response has been sent confirming that the land is not a highway maintained by Bucks County Council and a further response by the Land Registry is awaited. The application for the Cage will be submitted once the Buryfield Lane application is completed.

vii) Collings Walk - update

The update on Collings Walk was noted. A letter has been sent to Innovation Group requesting details of a previous claim mentioned in their recent correspondence. A response is awaited. The council were reminded of the request by Innovation Group to respond with an action plan with 90 days, which is June 24th. The council's insurers were updated by email in response to a request from them on 20th May for an update. No further response from the council's insurers has yet to be received.

A suggestion by Cllr Lovegrove to reduce the vegetation by 30% as a proactive measure was discussed by the council, but it was agreed to await a response from Innovation Group and the result of an independent survey before making any decision. It was suggested by Cllr Hewett that management of all the vegetation on Collings Walk could be reviewed later in the year.

The council also resolved by majority vote that, in this case, it would not be appropriate for an individual councillor to approach the homeowner of Collings Walk whether informally or formally.

viii) Request from Boogie Bounce – to use Prestwood Common

Sam from Boogie Bounce has asked if, in the warmer months, it would be possible for her to run her class outside. Sam has already advised that she will ensure that her PLI covers her for this. The council resolved to approve this request. However would like to monitor the situation in case of complaints about the music levels outside.

ix) Judging of annual allotment competition

Cllr Pither reported that the annual allotment competition would be judged on Tuesday 25th June. All allotments would be judged in one day and any councillors would be welcome to join to help.

x) Buryfield Trees – request from resident

The request from a resident of Abbey Walk to have several trees in Buryfield pruned or crowned was considered and the clerk was asked to obtain an opinion and quotes from a tree surgeon for further consideration.

d) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Website - update

Cllr Jager presented the two proposed home pages with the new logo on and the council voted by majority to accept the design with the square buttons. The next step will be for Orbit Carrot to start building the website which should hopefully start to speed up the process.

ii) Facebook

It was suggested that the council consider social media options as a way of communicating with the residents of the parish. This is planned to be incorporated at a later date as part of the new website. In the meantime councillors are responding to Facebook comments on the village groups, but not in their capacity as councillors, as residents of the villages.

iii) Letter from Misbourne Area Youth (MAY)

The council discussed the request from MAY (formally PYCAG) to underwrite them for 2020-2021 to the sum of £5,000. This would only be required if the circumstance arose that the group are unable to generate all the income that is needed for them to operate. The council did not feel in a position to be able to guarantee these funds, but would encourage MAY to apply for a grant in 2020-21 should the need arise.

iv) Legal Topic Notes LTN 21 – Village Halls, LTN 24 The Human Rights Act 1998

These were noted.

v) Payment of accounts for June

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers 34-54 in the sum of **£13,980.92 (inc VAT)** for June be agreed for payment and petty cash items for May **£75.94** be ratified.

e) Editorial Working Party

Cllr Jager reported that there was only a small amount of articles submitted for this edition of The Source, the Buryfield Pocket Park toddler area being one of them.

13. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

i) GMPRG meeting to be held on 12th June 2019.

14. Clerks Report

i) The clerk's progress report was noted.

ii) The LAF Prestwood Common path project was ongoing – quotes are being obtained.

iii) Prestwood Common had seen vandalism to 4 wooden posts. A quote was currently awaited for their replacement.

iv) A streetlight in Wychwood Rise had been reported as being covered in vegetation. A quote was awaited to clear this.

v) A report of some recent vandalism at Greenlands Lane Allotments on the Prestwood Nature Wildlife Garden. There had been vandalism to the wooden compost bin and the pond area. This had been reported to the police.

15. Matters for information

None.

14. Future meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. **Monday 1st July 2019** in the Parish Office
- b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m **Monday 8th July 2019** in the Memorial Centre

The meeting closed at 9.50pm