



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 14th October 2019 at Great Missenden Memorial Centre
at 7.30 p.m.**

Public Forum: Two shop owners in Great Missenden regarding parking in the village.
One resident regarding HS2.

Present: Councillor – K Pither – Vice-chair
Councillors: A Brazil, G Bridges, L Cook, S Humphreys, M Johnstone, M Lee,
V Marshall, V Martin (arrived at 8.10am), R Pusey, S Rhodes, T Stevenson.

Also present: Jane Hennessy, clerk, Chris Thomson, deputy clerk (until 8.30pm)

1. Apologies: Councillors, A Hewett, C Baxter, P Jager, I Lovegrove

2. Declarations of Interest:
None.

3. Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2019 were **agreed** and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Humphreys advised that a quote was being sought for the suggested modification to the Buryfield entrance.

The clerk reported that the parish office stop cock had been repaired at a cost of £945 + VAT. The grit bin for use by pedestrians for the railway station footpath was being progressed. The clerk had met with a member of the Barnes Platt Residents Association, who own that end of Trafford Road, and the Transport for Bucks local area technician. A location at the end of the road, behind the BT cabinet was agreed on. The Barnes Platt Residents Association will need to agree the location and will let us know after their meeting on 14th October. The purchase has previously been agreed by the council and is £450 + VAT.

The border of Buryfield had now been partially cleared. Cllr Pusey offered to help remove a roller that had been left behind. A further quote would be obtained for the removal of concrete lumps and earth remaining and also the removal of the small self-seeded vegetation.

5. VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations 2020

The council were asked to suggest ideas for an event for the 75th anniversary celebrations of VE day. It was requested to defer this item to the November agenda.

6. Parking

i) Proposal to consider the council's preferred replacement parking option

The council discussed and considered the options for replacement parking. It was decided, in principle, that additional car parking spaces closer to the village would be preferable. A possible proposed extension to the current Buryfield car park was considered and voted on as the council's preferred location. Public consultation would be the next step in order to fully consider the options. Councillors' comments on the proposed plans should be forwarded to the clerk.

ii) Proposal for public consultation for replacement parking to include London Road & Buryfield options

The council resolved to arrange public consultation on the proposed replacement parking options to include both the London Road and Buryfield options. It was agreed that there should be a consultation event, perhaps at the end of November or mid December, suggestions for advertising the event include The Source, village associations and the library. Costings on leaflet production and distribution were requested. It was agreed that a 4 to 6 week consultation period would be appropriate.

iii) Proposal for agreement for planning application costs

It was resolved to approve spending of up to £350 for planning application/SUDS costs, once the public consultation was completed.

iv) Proposal to present the parking options at the GMVA AGM meeting on 29th October

This was agreed by majority vote.

v) Proposal to suspend standing order 7. To allow approval for amended letter to car park management companies & draft letter for approval

It was resolved to suspend the standing order to allow for amendments to the previously agreed letter. It was also agreed to defer approving the contents of the letter until the December agenda.

vi) Consider request for support for 3 hours free parking in Link Road & Buryfield during roadworks

The council discussed the need to support local businesses during the disruption of the imminent roadworks around the village. District Councillor P Martin had advised of attendance at a cabinet meeting on 15th October and would be raising the issue of parking during the roadworks. The council discussed the request for three hours free parking, but as the lost parking is only one hour, suggested that Cllr P Martin suggest one hours free parking in the Link Road car park, funded by CDC, for the duration of the roadworks in Great Missenden. It was also agreed to ask CDC if they would consider removing car parking charges on the 4th, 11th & 18th November.

vii) Proposal to approach schools regarding use of car parks during holidays

This item was requested to be deferred to November meeting.

7. First Aid Training

The council considered the request for Cllr Pither to attend a first aid training course but voted not to support this request.

8. Memorial Centre – Fire equipment repair quote

It was resolved to accept the quote to from Codrus for £218.98 +VAT for replace 2 extinguishers & a fire blanket and service exchange two extinguishers and to replace the batteries in nine emergency lights for a cost of £365.50 + VAT.

It was also agreed that a fire risk assessment should be carried out to a maximum cost of £275 + VAT.

The responsibility for these costs would be the Great Missenden Memorial Centre.

9. Reports from Committees

a) Planning Committee

- i) The minutes of the meeting held on **7th October 2019** were agreed and confirmed.

ii) Draft letter for The Misbourne School

The proposed response to the Misbourne School planning application was approved.

b) HS2

i) Independent Review

Cllr Johnstone reported that the parish council, along with all local authorities have made representations to the panel and to the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Schapps to stop all enabling works until the panel has reported. However Grant Schapps has responded confirming that the decision has been taken to continue with these works despite the ongoing review.

ii) Contractors – enabling Works – Fusion JV & Buckingham Group CL

The haul road construction is virtually complete ready for other contractors to use it. Two of the pylons for the overhead power cables are to be replaced and two footpaths (GMI/12 and GMI/13) will be closed temporarily for up to a year. There are now copies of the diversion map stapled to posts giving notice but do not give dates of the closure.

HS2 plans involving a mix of day and night working were given Schedule 4 approval from BCC on 13th September. The start of the works has been put back to the 14th October to provide more time for communication following strong criticism from the Parish Council. There will be no work on the Link Road over the Christmas break from 7th December – 6th January.

A one-way system, towards the A413 roundabout will operate during the works on the Link Road and temporary, on-demand traffic lights operated manually on the A413 at the junction to Mobwell and to the Chiltern Hospital to assist entry to, and exit from, Great Missenden.

There was an information event held by HS2 on 3rd October in the Memorial Hall which was attended by over 400 residents and a recent petition to stop the widening of the Link Road was presented to HS2, particularly as the widening involves the felling of some trees. The petition was signed by over 2,700 people.

iii) Engagement

There will be an HS2 public drop-in information session on 17th October from 4pm in Ballinger Village Hall.

iv) Letter from Cheryl Gillan

The council noted the letter from Cheryl Gillan confirming her support for calling for all HS2 works to be halted until the Oakervee report is concluded.

c) Open Spaces and Lighting

i) Collings Walk – update & quote for tree works

The deputy clerk presented a summarised history and update on the progress on this item. The council's independent report was passed to Innovation and the council's insurers, Hiscox. Innovation have responded to the council's request to investigate underpinning as disproportionate as they consider the risk is so low. Innovation have also stated in writing that the heavy risk is low. The council's insurers are content with this response. Given this information, and comments from Hiscox, the deputy clerk advised the council to consider accepting this as an assurance.

The council resolved by majority vote to accept the assurance and the draft letter to Innovation which confirms that they will instruct a tree surgeon to start the requested work on three trees and confirming that this work will be carried out in reliance of Innovations advice. The council agreed that it would be prudent to give Hiscox sight of the letter prior to sending it to Innovation and re-confirm Hiscox's assurance with regards any future claim. It

was also resolved to accept the quote from J&D Clark for £4,980 + VAT for the requested work to three trees as requested by Innovation. Quotes for the remaining vegetation work would be sought, in conjunction with Bucks County Council as potential owners.

It was also resolved to contact the council's independent expert to advise them of the decision with an opportunity for any further comments.

Cllrs Stevenson and Marshall asked for a personal statement on their behalf, below, to be recorded in the minutes:-

- The council have been notified of an alleged nuisance of subsidence caused by trees in the council's ownership and request to fell at least one of them.
- The council are in law not liable for past damage but assuming it is proven to be due to the council's trees have a duty to mitigate it.
- Expert evidence is that the trees have probably caused the subsidence damage
- In this situation we have 3 duties in order of precedence:-
 1. To protect the council against a claim that we have failed to address the issue correctly
 2. To prevent further damage to the property in question
 3. To damage the parish's environment no more than needed
- Cllrs Stevenson & Marshall are aware of, and have expert confirmation of, the removal of an established tree that has been desiccating ground from before the building of a property near it can result in rehydration swelling of the soil under the property known as "heave" and cause serious damage.
- To comply with the request to fell the tree:-
 - a) will only certainly protect us from a future claim for heave damage if we have indemnity that is reliable under all conceivable circumstances
 - b) has no certainty of protecting the resident's property and may damage it more severely
 - c) will certainly regrade the parish's environment somewhat – acceptable if really necessary but a tragedy if the action also proves counter-productive due to heave.

ii) Street lighting repairs – Pump Meadow & Wychwood Rise quotes for approval

The council resolved spending up to £600 + VAT, in total, to repair the streetlight in Pump Meadow and Wychwood Rise by upgrading them to LED's.

iii) Allotments – update & quote for Greenlands Lane & shed request

The request for a shed by the tenant of plot 5B & C at Ballinger was approved by majority in accordance with the guidelines.

The council resolved to accept the quote for £535 + VAT to cut back the beech hedge at Greenlands Lane to the boundary line, as requested by the resident. The broken barbed wire fence will be removed to allow for the hedge to be cut back. The council will then consider if a pole and wire fence is required after the work is completed.

iv) Youth Offending Service - Update

The council resolved to explore the opportunity to work with the Youth Offending Service further. The initial suggestion is to explore providing placement opportunities in respect of the allotments, play equipment, noticeboards and Prestwood Community Centre, providing risk assessments are satisfactory.

v) Request from Prestwood Colts regarding dog fouling on Prestwood Common

The council discussed the request from Prestwood Colts for further signage on the Common regarding dog fouling. The council appreciate all the maintenance that the Colts provide at the Common and agreed to the request for extra signage. The council also requested that the clerk contact the dog warden for further advice.

vi) Request to fly model plane on Greenlands Lane & Prestwood Common

The council approved the request from a local resident to fly a model plane on Greenlands Lane field and Prestwood Common, providing the owner has insurance in place.

vii) Greenlands Lane shed – Prestwood Nature – for noting

The council noted the update that Prestwood Nature were now using the shed on Greenlands Lane for storage. It was also noted that the allotment liaison officer at Greenland's Lane charges £25 for use of the shed, this covers the annual rent and electricity costs.

viii) AFC Lightning - update

The council noted the update from AFC Lightning advising that they were organising a discussion with The Misbourne School to discuss pitch re-configuration which would resolve the problem.

ix) Prestwood Common – posts – updated quote

The clerk advised that an updated quote of 75cm high posts had been provided by Sextons at a cost of £5,187 + VAT. A picture of the posts would be emailed to all the councillors.

x) Update on Recycling Facilities

The update from Chiltern District Council on the progress to date of the recycling facilities at Link Road and Prestwood High Street was noted. Future recommended plans including increasing collection frequencies, continued monitoring of collections and site conditions, updates to parish councils, producing bin tags to inform residents of kerbside acceptance of additional recycling and distribution of letters to inform residents were all noted.

xi) Tree Replacements

Cllr Marshall proposed to pursue the offer from The Woodland Trust of 30 free native trees for the council to plant. Saplings will be available in March 2020. The council resolved by majority to apply for the free trees with the corners/edges of Buryfield being initial suggestions of planting areas. Cllr Marshall will advise the next steps.

xii) Tree report – completed survey & consider any work

The council noted the completed annual tree survey and comments. This year being a survey of the complete inventory of parish owned trees. Chiltern District Council had not completed the tree work in Buryfield car park and this has been followed up with them. The clerk and Cllr Marshall will compile a list of proposed tree work. The clerk will then obtain quotes for the council to consider.

xiii) GMVA – Request for GMPC organised litter pick & request for litter bin purchase

The council noted this request and asked for this to be deferred to the November council meeting.

xiv) Chiltern District Council – free parking date

The council resolved to approve the request for Saturday 23rd November to be included in the free parking at the Link Road, Buryfield and Prestwood High Street car parks. This date was requested by the Great Missenden Chamber of Trade.

d) Finance & General Purposes Committee

i) Website – update

The development of the new website continues. Orbit Carrot have completed the design work and a date is being arranged for training and details of the switch over process.

ii) Budget ideas

Cllr Johnstone reminded the council to send through any budget ideas through to the clerk as the budget setting process would soon be commencing.

iii) Request for a grant – The Source

The council resolved to accept the request from The Source for a grant of £861. This is as agreed in the budget.

iv) Confirmation of grant application – Old Amersham Revite Group, Midsomer Murders Trail

As approved at the September meeting, the paperwork has now been received for the £250 grant request towards the Midsomer Murders Trail.

vii) Payment of accounts for October

It was **resolved** that accounts numbers 108-127 in the sum of **£18,316.51 (inc VAT)** for **October** be agreed for payment and petty cash items for September of **£89.65** be ratified.

e) Editorial Working Party

No updates this month.

10. Reports from Representatives to outside Groups.

Cllr Johnstone reported that GMPRG had been in contact regarding the recent CDC large project fund grant application.

11. Clerks Report

i) The clerk's progress report was noted.

ii) A space had become available on the BALC organised planning training on 5th November. Please let the clerk know if you would like to attend.

iii) The new chairs for the GMMC are arriving on Thursday 17th October if anyone was able to help unpack and check them.

12. Matters for information

None.

13. Future meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. **4th November 2019** in the Parish Office

b) Parish Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m. **Monday 11th November 2019** in the **Great Missenden Memorial Centre**

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.