

Chesham Bois Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held remotely at 8.00pm on Monday 12th October 2020

PRESENT: Cllr C Woolveridge (Chairman), Cllr J Bailey, Cllr D Buckingham, Cllr D Conway Read, Cllr J Harbottle, Cllr R Harrison, Cllr R Hartley, Cllr R Heath, Cllr D King, Cllr J Large & Cllr C Thomas.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Payne (Clerk) and 22 Members of the Public.

55.1 Questions and Comments from the Public.

A resident from North Road expressed his concern at the decision to support the amended planning application PL/20/0401/FA for the redevelopment of the Parish Centre and process taken by the Council at their 5th October Extra Ordinary Meeting. Council had received a copy of his draft Judicial Review claim for their consideration. The resident asked Council to revoke the decision taken on the 5th October 2020 and withdraw their contributor letter sent to Bucks Council on 8th October supporting the application.

A resident from North Road spoke regarding the amended planning application for the redevelopment of the Parish Centre. He agreed that there was a need for a new parish centre, but the scale of the proposed development is the main cause for concern. When Council considered their response to the planning application on the 5th October 2020, they did not have access to the Thames Valley Police report on the proposals which raised a number of concerns. He asked Council to read the report and re-consider their decision.

Bucks Council Cllr G Harris reported that the emerging district plan for Chiltern & South Bucks is being recommended to be withdrawn and will be subject to formal confirmation by Bucks Council next week.

A resident wished to express her concern on Council's decision to support the amended planning application PL/20/0401/FA and the lack of any reference to the Council's previous objection to the overdevelopment of the site which is the primary concern of residents.

Cllr Woolveridge informed those present that a response to the issues raised cannot be given at this meeting in accordance with Standing Order 3g. Cllr Woolveridge added that due to a potential legal action being taken Council are unable to make comment until legal advice has been received.

55.2 Apologies for Absence. None received.

55.3 To Receive Declarations of Interest or Dispensations Relating to this Meeting.

None received.

55.4 To Approve the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 14th September & 5th October 2020.

Cllr King requested that it be indicated that the resolution to approve the Environmental & Sustainability Working Group remit (minute 53.10ei) was not unanimous. With this amendment the minutes of the 14th September 2020 were approved and will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity. **Action: Clerk/Chair**

The minutes of the 5th October 2020 were considered. Cllr Bailey was concerned that the meeting may have been unlawful, and the comments made by Cllr Harbottle at the beginning of the meeting regarding the activity of the church within the community had not been included.

The Clerk informed Council that Cllr Bailey's concerns regarding the legality of the meeting had been forwarded to the SLCC and BMKALC for their advice and their response will be circulated to Council once it has been received. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Large had circulated to Council a suggested amended to her representation in the minutes which will be considered.

It was agreed that the Clerk would revisit the recording and amend the minutes to take into account Cllr Harbottle's reference to the community work being carried out by the Church and Cllr Large's suggested amendment. **Action: Clerk**

A request from Cllr King to access to the recording of the 5th October 2020 meeting had been received and the Clerk is confirming if this is permissible under current Data Protection regulations.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Woolveridge reported that the recording of the meeting would not be deleted once the minutes are approved due to the threat of legal action.

Action: Clerk

55.5 To Review and Adopt the Updated Standing Orders.

Council agreed that this agenda item be deferred for consideration to the next Council meeting as not all Councillors had been able to review them.

Action Clerk

55.6 To Review and Adopt the Updated Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.

It was resolved to adopt the updated Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. Action: Clerk

55.7 To Agree to Delegate the Annual Appraisal of the Clerk to the Chairman and one other Councillor (Standing Order 19c).

It was resolved that Cllr Woolveridge and Cllr Heath would carry out the Clerk's Appraisal.

Action: Cllr Woolveridge/Cllr Heath

55.8 To Consider Declaring that Council Believe the Government's Measures Under the 2020 Coronavirus Act and the 1984 Public Health Act are Disproportionate to the Evidential Risk and Damaging to the Health, Livelihoods and Quality of Life of its Residents.

Cllr Buckingham reported on predicted unemployment rates, current death rates and the impact of current coronavirus policies on mental health, domestic abuse and the education of children. Cllr Conway Read noted that Council do not have the scientific background or knowledge to make a decision on policy. **It was resolved by a vote of 5 against, 1 for and 5 abstaining that Council would did not agree with the declaration that the Government's Measures Under the 2020 Coronavirus Act and the 1984 Public Health Act are Disproportionate to the Evidential Risk and Damaging to the Health, Livelihoods and Quality of Life of its Residents**

55.9 To Receive the Clerk's Report & Correspondence.

- a) **It was resolved to retrospectively agree to permit Cllr Bailey to review the recording of the Extra Ordinary Council Meeting held on 5th October 2020.**
- b) Council agreed that Elangeni School be given permission to lay pebbles painted with poppies at the War Memorial in the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that the school be asked to use non acrylic paint if possible due to environmental concerns. **Action: Clerk**
- c) *Manor Drive insurance Claim:* The claim has been settled in the sum of £1450 and an excess of £250 is to be paid as per Council's insurance policy.
- d) *Great Bois Wood Easement Request:* Council's legal advisor has requested that a surveyor be instructed to advise on a compensation figure. The Clerk is seeking quotes. **Action: Clerk**
- e) Cllr Woolveridge noted that there had been a number of evening calls to Councillors and some have received emails from members of the public to their personal email addresses. Councillor's personal contact details should not be given to members of the public without the Councillor's consent.

55.10 Finance.

- a) The financial reports for September and bank reconciliation at 30th September 2020 were noted and have been signed.

b) The following payments were approved:

Payments	NET	VAT	Amount	Description
Aviva Insurance	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	Insurance Excess: Manor Drive
British Red Cross	£126.00	£25.20	£151.20	First Aid Training: Cllr Bailey
Buckland Landscapes Ltd	£1,319.62	£263.92	£1,583.54	Oct 20 Grds Maint/Verge Repair/Tree Clearance
Clearwater Pond Mgmt	£495.00	£99.00	£594.00	Sept 20 Pond Maintenance Visit
DCK Accounting Solutions Ltd	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00	Oct 20 Payroll Administration
Mrs S Payne	£116.63	£0.00	£116.63	BG Broom/Lightbulbs/ Software/Oct 20 Zoom Sub
Pear Technology Services Ltd	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00	PocketGIS annual Support
Mr A Pimenta	£150.00	0	£150.00	Delivery of Annual Review to all properties in CB
Prestige Commercial Cleaning	£425.00	£85.00	£510.00	Chapel Deep Clean (pre & post) Heritage Day Event
Qwerty	£359.20	£71.84	£431.04	BG advert in 20/21 Outstanding Chilterns
Simply Stumps	£350.00	£0.00	£350.00	Removal of 2 Stumps in Burial Ground
SparkX	£9,761.80	£1,952.36	£11,714.16	Glebe Way Streetlight: power/Install Lamp/repaint
Southern Electric	£508.84	£95.50	£604.34	Aug & Sept 20 Streetlight Electricity
Utility Warehouse	£33.82	£6.76	£40.58	Aug 20 Telephone/S Broadband
Staff Salaries	£2,601.26		£2,601.26	Oct 20 Payroll/Pension Contributions
			£19,246.75	

55.11 General Purposes – To Receive Reports from Working Groups

a) Common, Woodlands and Burial Grounds Maintenance: Cllr Thomas' report was noted.

i. *Management Plan:* Tender requests for the Year 2 tree work have been sent.

The Chiltern Society will clear the Bois Wood site of debris ready for planting on 13th and 20th October. Given current coronavirus regulations it will be difficult to arrange community involvement in the planting. Not all the saplings delivered in March and due to be planted in Tenterden Spinney have survived the dry summer and more have been ordered.

ii. *Chestnut Lane Anti-Park Mound:* Section 38 approval will need to be sought from the Secretary of State for this work. **Action: Clerk**

iii. *Chesham Bois Cricket Club's proposed work to the Pavilion area:* It was agreed that the cricket club be informed that under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 consent is required from the Secretary of State for works on Common land. When the Section 38 application has been approved Council will consider the request. **Action: Clerk**

iv. *Benches on the Common:* Council considered Cllr Thomas's report on the sustainability of the wood used in memorial benches. **It was resolved that the Oxford teak 3 seat memorial benches be used on the Common.** **Action: Clerk**

b) Environmental & Sustainability: Cllr Conway Read's report was noted.

i. *Survey of Council Land:* Council considered the survey from Fiona Everingham which indicated a number of sites, currently mowed by Council's contractors, which could be used to trial mowing at a height of 75mm. These include the Common land opposite the gate near the pavilion, the verges in St Leonards Road and the Common land in Chestnut Lane. Residents close to the trial sites will be consulted on the proposed initiative. The residents who currently cut the Common land in front of their properties on the south side of Chestnut Lane and north side of North Road will also be consulted. **It was resolved that the trial sites will be the Common land opposite the gate to the Pavilion, the Common land at Chestnut Lane and the St Leonards Road verges.**

Action ES WG

ii. *Community Engagement:* An Environment & Sustainability page will be added to the Council's website. The page will include information on Council's environment and sustainability initiatives and work being carried out by Bucks Council and other appropriate organisations. Cllr Conway Read will provide the content for the page. **It was resolved to add an Environment & Sustainability page to the Council's website.** **Action: Cllr Conway Read/Clerk**

iii. *Protect & Enhance Biodiversity:* It was noted that Bucks Council had been selected by DEFRA to be one of five local authorities to pilot a key part of the Government's National Recovery Network initiative. A link to this section of the Bucks Council's website will be added to the Environment & Sustainability page on the Council's website. **Action: Clerk**

- iv. *Promote Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*: The owners of Londis have agreed to site the book exchange box within the shop. The scheme will commence once coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Action: Cllr Conway Read

- v. *Single Use Plastic Free*: As previously agreed the village fete stallholders will be asked to be single-use plastic free.

Action: Clerk

c) Parish Centre Redevelopment: Cllr Woolveridge's report was noted.

- i. *Collate & Disseminate information*: A review of the revised transport and parking proposals was commissioned. **It was resolved to approve the expenditure of up to £500 from the Village Community budget for an independent transport report on the revised transport and parking proposals.**

Action: Clerk

- ii. *Engage with the community to gather views*: A number of residents have asked for further information to clarify Council's decision on 5th October 2020. A draft response has been distributed to Council for approval.

Action All/Clerk

- iii. *Proposal to widen access splay over Common Land*: The amended planning application indicates a need for access splays to be widened to ensure safe access and egress. The Church's transport report states that the Church is in the process of investigating a Section 38 application. It was noted that Council have not received notification of a Section 38 application having been made. It was agreed that Council would not consider any requests until a Section 38 application has been approved.

d) Village Community: Cllr Bailey's report was noted.

- i. Arrangements for *Remembrance Sunday [8 Nov 20]*: Posters will be displayed informing residents that there will not be a parade or service at the War Memorial due to current coronavirus social distancing rules. A trumpeter will play the Last Post at dawn and dusk. Council will lay their wreath at dawn. Other groups will be advised to lay their wreaths throughout the day.

Action: VC WG

- ii. Arrangements for *Christmas Lights Switch On [4 Dec 20]*: Council agreed that this agenda item be deferred to the next Council meeting so that the working group can meet to discuss the arrangements.

Action: VC WG

- iii. *Litter Collection & Provision of Bins*: **It was resolved to add the responsibility for litter collection issues and the provision of litter and recycling bins to the Village Community Working Group remit.**

Action: VC WG

e) Burial Ground Management: Cllr Large's report was noted.

- i. *Applications for Benches in the Woodland Burial Ground*: Current burial ground regulations do not include memorial benches within the Woodland Burial Ground. When the first draft of the digital plan for the woodland burial ground is available the working group will identify preferred sites for bench locations for Council's approval.
- ii. *2020 Cemetery of the Year*: It was noted that Chesham Bois Burial Ground has won the Cemetery of the Year 2020 Silver award in the Parish Town and Community Council Cemetery category of the National ICCM awards for the second year running.

f) Transport: Cllr King's report was noted.

- i. *MVAS*: Data from the sign on Copperkins Lane indicates that the majority of non-compliance occurs between 2pm and 6pm. This data has been forwarded to Thames Valley Police who have committed to carrying out enforcement activity in Copperkins Lane.
- ii. *Amersham Community Board*: The deadline for submitting match funding transport schemes is 31st October. Councillors are asked to inform Cllr King if they are aware of any schemes.
- iii. *Glebe Way Streetlight*: The new streetlight has been installed and is fully operational.

55.12 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14th September 2020 were noted.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm