

Chesham Bois Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Kings Church, Raans Road, Amersham at 8.00pm on Monday 14th February 2022

PRESENT: Cllr D Conway Read (Chair), Cllr S Staite, Cllr J Bailey, Cllr D Buckingham, Cllr J Harris, Cllr D King, Cllr P Eckersall, Cllr L Winrow, Cllr A King

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Dealey (Clerk)

73.1 Questions and Comments from the Public None received

73.2 Apologies for Absence. Cllr R Heath, Cllr C Baldwin

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

None received

73.4 To Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th January 2022

Minutes were approved.

73.5 Chair's report

Chair's report was noted

The Chair confirmed that a response is awaited from the General Register Office as to the status of the registration of the Chapel as a place of worship.

Council resolved to name the meadow next to the burial ground the Thomas Harding Meadow.

Council resolved to name the area of the common by the pond, where the fete is held, the Jubilee Field

73.6 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

- a. Council resolved unanimously not to initiate a permit system for the removal of wood from the common
- b. Council resolved unanimously that Council should start the process of revising the bylaws to include a clearer statement regarding removal of wood from the common and unauthorised use of power tools on the common.

Action: Clerk

73.7 Finance

- (a) The financial reports were noted
- (b) Working Group Report was noted and it was agreed that any virements necessary will be agreed at the March Council Meeting

73.8 To Receive Reports from Working Groups

a) Burial Grounds Management WG Chair's Report

Chair's report was noted:

- i) It was unanimously resolved to add a fourth tier of fees for memorials of those living outside the former Chiltern District Council area, at three times the fee for residents of the parish.

- ii) It was unanimously resolved to increase memorial fees (to include headstones, raised tablets, kerbstones) by approximately 5% from 1st April 2022
- iii) It was unanimously resolved to increase the cost of subsequent inscriptions and garden of remembrance plaques by 10% from 1st April 2022
- iv) The Burial Ground Fees include the option to sponsor a wildlife box. This will be reviewed at the March Council Meeting.

b) Common, Woodlands and Burial Ground Maintenance:

Chair's report was noted:

- i) Bricky Pond – Quote and plan of action received from Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust for the restoration and management of the pond. Quote total £2,061 plus VAT with additional cost per day for ongoing support. Council unanimously resolved to go ahead with quote. Pond reserve funds are available.

Action: Clerk/CWBGMWG

- ii) Tenterden Spinney – Chiltern Rangers have provided a quote for £350 plus VAT for clearing around planted trees and clearing brambles and undergrowth which is getting close to the path. Council unanimously resolved to go ahead with quote.

Action: Clerk/CWBGMWG

- iii) Maintenance contract for common and burial grounds – WG met and meeting held with E&SWG to review the contract. Revised contract to be send to Bucklands for quotes.

Action: Clerk/CWBGMWG

- iv) Quotation received from South Bucks to produce rustic benches to replace those near the pond. Funding may be available from Community Board. Council unanimously agreed South Bucks should create five benches. Three for the pond and 2 for the cricket pitch.

Action: CWBGMWG

- v) Council agreed that sections of fallen timber should be offered to Heatherton House School for the Forest School.

Action: CWBGMWG

- vi) Burial Ground railings in need of repair – one quote received. More quotes needed.

Action: CWBGMWG

c) Environment and Sustainability WG Chair's Report

Chair's report was noted:

- i) Council unanimously approved the appointment of Cllr L Winrow as Chair. Cllr Winrow thanked Cllr Conway Read and Cllr Baldwin for leading the WG to date.
- ii) Environment and Sustainability WG remit approved with updated members.

d) Transport:

The Chair's report was noted

- i) Meeting was held with Chesham Town Council together with the E&SWG to discuss frequency of grass verge cutting and whether cutting should be less frequent to allow wildflowers to grow. Current agreement is for 12 cuts per year between April and September. Meeting to be arranged with Local Area Technician.

Action: TWG/E&SWG/Clerk

- ii) Street lighting – a new certificate has been issued by UK Power Networks and this has been sent on to SSE Southern Electric. We await confirmation of revised charges.

e) Village Community

- i. Spring Common Clear up – 2nd April 2022
Council agreed that refreshments would be provided at this event. Clerk to invite local schools and brownie and guide packs

Action: Clerk

73.9 Resolutions:

- 1. Council unanimously resolved to accept the offer of a Platinum Jubilee bench from the Amersham Community Board provided Council can specify the type of bench and the location. Suggested location would be the new Jubilee Field.
- 2. Council resolved not to approve the use of stabilising matting materials on a shared access route on Amersham Road. Councillors objected to the use of plastic as this would not be in keeping with the surrounding area and is a potential pollutant. Council voted with 8 votes against and one abstention. Clerk to advise contractor of Council decision.

Action: Chair/Clerk

Action: Clerk

73.10 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 24th January 2022 were noted.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm