

Chesham Bois Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting held in the Parish Centre, Glebe Way, Chesham Bois at 8.00pm on Monday 13th June 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Dealey (Clerk)

77.1 To Elect a Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Deborah Conway-Read stepped down as Chair and Councillor

It was resolved that Cllr Lesley Winrow be elected Chairman

77.2 To Receive Acceptance of Office

The Clerk confirmed that the new Chair had signed the Declaration and Acceptance of Office.

77.3 Questions and comments from the public

Jill Staite and Nikki McGrath from Sustainable Amersham presented their proposal for Community Allies in support of Amersham being single-use plastic free by 2025 and requesting the support of the Council. The Environment and Sustainability Working Group will carry out an internal survey and make their recommendation at the next Council Meeting **Action:E&SWG**

77.4 To Receive Apologies for Non-Attendance

None received.

77.5 To Receive Declarations of Interest or Dispensations Relating to this Meeting

None received.

77.6 To Agree Membership of the Planning Committee and Working Groups.

It was resolved that members of the Planning Committee and Working Groups are as follows:

- a) *Planning Committee:* Cllr Staite (Chair), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Eckersall, Cllr Harris, Cllr A King
- b) *Burial Ground Management Working Group:* Cllr Baldwin (Chair), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Staite, Cllr Winrow, Cllr Eckersall, the Clerk and the Sexton.
- c) *Common, Woodlands & Burial Ground Maintenance Working Group:* Cllr Harris (Chair), Cllr Bailey, Cllr Eckersall, Cllr A King and Cllr Buckingham.
- d) *Environmental & Sustainability Working Group:* Cllr A King (Chair), Cllr Winrow, Cllr Heath, Cllr Staite and Cllr Bailey
- e) *Finance Working Group:* Cllr Heath (Chair), Cllr Eckersall, Cllr Winrow, Cllr D King, Cllr S Staite
- f) *Transport Working Group:* Cllr Eckersall (Chair), Cllr Baldwin and Cllr Heath.
- g) *Village Community Working Group:* Cllr Bailey (Chair), Cllr Buckingham, Cllr Eckersall, Cllr Harris, Cllr Winrow and Cllr Staite.

77.7 To Agree Representation to Outside Bodies.

It was resolved that members of the following outside bodies are as follows:

- a) *Amersham Community Board:* Cllr Winrow
- b) *Duke of Bedford's Trust:* Cllr Bailey and Cllr Staite.

77.8 Cllr Winrow was elected as the Council's Safeguarding Officer

77.9 To Approve the Minutes of the 9th May 2022 Council Meeting

Minutes were approved

77.10 Chair's report

The Chair's report was noted

77.11 Finance

- a) The Accounting Statements 2021/22 were approved
- b) Payments were approved
- c) Confirmation of the commencement date of the exercise of public rights was noted

The Chair reported that the new accounts software was operational. There will be a gradual roll-out of log-ins for Councillors to view financial information online.

77.12 To Receive Reports from Working Groups

a) Burial Grounds Management WG Chair's Report

Chair's report was noted. The request by the Sexton to amend the charge bands for Band C and D for burial plots and interments was discussed. In accordance with Standing Order 7, this will be added to the agenda for the July Council meeting.

b) Common, Woodlands and Burial Ground Maintenance:

- (i) It was agreed that item 77.12 b(i) would be discussed later in the meeting
- (ii) The quotes for the exterior redecoration of the Burial Ground Chapel were reviewed. Quotation in the sum of £2,450 was approved. Clerk to contact contractor **Action: Clerk**
- (iii) The quotes for the repairs to the Chapel roof were reviewed. Quotation in the sum of £2,280 was approved. Clerk to contact contractor **Action: Clerk**
- (iv) The issue of overgrown hedges in the parish was reviewed. Issue to be included in the next article in Your Amersham reminding residents of their responsibility. There is a two step process implemented to contact residents where hedges are overhanging footpaths/splays. Residents should be encouraged to contact the Council where there is an issue.
- (v) Requests to plant memorial trees will be considered by the Working Group on an individual basis to decide on a possible location. These requests will be considered later in the year during tree planting season.

The gate by the pond is in urgent need of repair. H Schneider to be contacted to organise repair as soon as possible. H Schneider to carry out installation of new posts on the common.

c) Environment and Sustainability WG Chair's Report

Chair's report was noted.

There has been feedback from two residents regarding the new mowing regime. A few residents have mowed their own verges. The contract for the maintenance of the verges is due for renewal in 2023.

d) Transport:

- (i) It was resolved to accept the terms of the Cricket Club lease
- (ii) It was resolved to allow the loan of the community Speedwatch equipment. This equipment does not belong to the Council, it is on loan. Trained people would be permitted to use the equipment and train others.

e) Village Community

Jubilee Fete on 11th June was very successful. The Working Group will hold a debrief meeting to note any improvements for the next event. The bunting on the Jubilee Field to be removed and reinstated prior to the Picnic on the Common on 16th July.

- (i) It was suggested that a Working Group be set up to monitor communications and develop community engagement. Cllr Winrow currently manages Facebook and Twitter and the Clerk manages the website.
- (ii) Communication Policy to be developed to promote the Council's website, Facebook and Twitter pages. It was noted that the website is not compatible with mobile phones, this should be investigated.
- (iii) A Communications Working Group to be formed. Members - Cllr Winrow, Cllr Eckersall, Cllr A King and the Clerk.

77.13 Council to resolve to increase the matched funding contribution for the supply and installation of the proposed VAS on Amersham Road

Council voted by majority to increase the matched funding for the installation of the hard-wired VAS unit on the Amersham Road. This is an important location for road safety and the Council has already made a considerable financial commitment. Despite dragon teeth markings and 30 mph signs, traffic continues to break speed limit.

77.14 To establish a temporary Working Group to engage with the Landlord and agree a lease for the office premises used by the Parish Council in the Parish Centre

It was resolved not to establish a temporary Working Group.

77.15 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 23rd May 2022 were noted and approved.

Item 77.12 b(i) was discussed

To review terms and conditions of potential easement on Common and resolve a course of action:

It was discussed at length whether or not this Council wished to grant an easement to a resident along the bridleway forming part of the Common. There are two planning permissions granted. Previous Council agreed in principle to the easement but this was not taken further with regard to price or terms. A formal valuation has now been obtained. This area is a part of ancient woodland and Council was concerned that the potential development would trigger the requirement from the Highways Authority for the current bridleway to be increased to a double width road for 10 metres from the junction with the Amersham Road. It has the potential to set a precedent. Council was also concerned that this development would result in material disruption. Council voted by a majority, with one abstention, not to grant the easement. Clerk to write to resident.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm