

The Lee Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of a meeting of THE LEE PARISH COUNCIL held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th January 2018, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr C Sully (Chair)
Cllrs: D Chinnery, A Weir, C Little, S Morris , C Perry
The Clerk
County Councillor P Birchley, District Councillor N Rose (late arriving)
Members of the public: Mr B Usborne. Mr J Wilkinson

18/01 Apologies for absence

Cllr Fowler sent her apologies and Cllr Rose will be late arriving.

18/02 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2017:
Minutes were approved with a spelling amendment to item 17/85.

18/03 Matters arising from Minutes not itemised separately

None

18/04 Declarations of interest on forthcoming business

None

18/05 Report from County/District Councillors

County Cllr Birchley:

- C Gillan & D Liddington have both been listed in the New Year's honours list
- BCC is going through the budgeting process at the moment, the cost of adult social care is increasing, therefore putting a strain on budget. The proposed increase on council tax = 5%
- Roads – many are in need of repair, the annual resurface meeting is due to take place in a couple of weeks

Cllr Sully added that many roads within the parish are in serious need of repair; Chesham Lane and Oxford Street to name only 2. Cllr Perry added that Oxford Street causes increasing concern as it is no longer acceptable for disabled users. Cllr Birchley suggested Oxford Street be proposed in the 2018/19 budgeting process. She also advised that TfB has significantly increased road inspections over the past 18 months.

Cllr Sully mentioned that roadside drains and gullies are still in need of clearing

Cllr Birchley suggested a meeting between herself, Scott White (LAT), the Clerk and a couple of councillors.

Action: The Clerk

Cllr Birchley provided clarification on the LAF Priority Workshop – which will set priorities for the coming year. Cllrs Little and Sully will attend and both reiterated that roads need to be a priority.

District Councillor Rose

- There were a few problems reported with Waste Collection over the Christmas break but hopefully these are now resolved
- Rates for 2018/19 will be set at the end of Feb
- Confirmed that the Parish Council could respond to the informal consultation on Kingsgate Farm
- Confirmed, in response to a question from Mr Wilkinson, that in the case of planning applications and appeals, information received outside of the consultation period may be considered, it would depend on the individual case, but that any evidence used by the Council at appeal stage would be disclosed to the appellant .

18/06 Comments or questions from the public

Mr B Osborne reported on areas of ground disturbed by the Freedom Group when burying the cables, and remaining poles to be removed. The Clerk will arrange to meet with The Freedom Group, Mr Osborne and Mr Ruttle, to discuss. Cllr Chinnery added that the path through the allotments and playground needs surface repair to help manage the mud.

Action: The Clerk

Mr Wilkinson advised that he understands Lee Clump, Lee Common & Sly Corner are all to be connected to the Fibre cabinets.

Mr Wilkinson also commented on the volume of potholes in the village roads, the BCC TFB link to reporting potholes will be repeated in the next Newsletter article.

Action: The Clerk

18/07 Clerks report

Contents of the Clerks Report were noted

18/08 Finance & Governance:

i) Financial report from Finance Group on Accounts to 30th November 2017: Cllr Sully advised that the forecasting exercise for the remainder of 2017/18 had reduced the estimate of allotment income – all agreed.

Cllr Sully also advised:

- that within Expenditure; Administration is more than as forecast because of some extra training costs, Clerks salary was a little overestimated, allotments costs are coming in under budget largely due to help received from volunteers.
- professional fees are above budget due to payroll costs and the War Memorial valuation fee
- General Asset maintenance budget will go towards 50% of the costs for the Well refurbishment and for 2018/19 it is proposed that the figure covers the rest of these costs @ £1700
- Year end expenditure is expected to be £13,000.00
- There will be an approximate underspend of £1000
- £750 will be put in the Playground Reserve
- £250 will be put in the General Reserve

- ii) Precept – The Finance Group proposed an increase of 5% for 2018-2019. All agreed. The Clerk will submit the precept request by the end of January. **Action: The Clerk**
- iii) Invoices to pay:
 - DCK Accounting – Payroll
 - Clerks Salary
 - Cllr Chinnery - £22.00 Repair materials
 - J S Stonemasonry Ltd - £150.00
- iv) Risk Register: All agreed to adopt this.
- v) Register of Assets: to be agreed at the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk

18/09 Council property – reports and proposed actions

i) Playground– Cllr Morris Reported:

In early December we had on site meetings with three playground construction firms to brief them on the current state of the Playground Fort and to ask what they would advise.

In particular they were asked to provide us with:

- a) Alternative options for removal /replacement /refurbishment of the fort
- b) Cost estimates for the above
- c) Any sources they may know of for external funding for the options

The firms we met were:

Handmade Places Ltd (James Wilkinson), Wicksteed Ltd (John Hambrook), and Playground Facilities (Jason Balmer).

We did ask them if possible to get back to us before the meeting on 9 Jan but they all felt this was ambitious and would need longer to be able to make a proper response. To date we have not had any responses. They did all believe that, since refurbishment would have to comply with current regulations, it would be rather more expensive than a rebuild.

We expect to hear from them by the end of January.

The playground equipment is in good condition but muddy.

ii) Grass, Trees & Hedges Cllr Perry Reported

The grounds and boundary hedges will benefit from the spring cut but don't appear to need anything more. The area around the bench which was cut back last year will need to be trimmed to keep it. The entry and path need attention following the recent works. All Seasons will be asked to provide an estimate to carry out tree & hedge work along the far side.

Action: The Clerk

Cllr Weir raised a request from a member of the public that the grass within the football pitch be kept a little shorter. Cllrs agreed to address this during the spring/summer 2018

A dead tree on the site has been cut down and removed.

iii) Allotments Cllr Weir reported:

The Lee Village Scouts have agreed to refurbish the 3 benches at the Playground, in the Spring. Cost of materials to be advised

Long term allotment holder Gary Fowler will write an article for the February edition of The Lee Newsletter.

The footpath through the allotments/playing field is as expected in poor condition after works carried out to bury the overhead power cable. The company are aware and will restore the path at some future date.

At the March meeting the PC should discuss the clearing of the former school allotment.

Allotment 2B has recently been rented to a local resident.

iv) Other assets – Cllr Fowler

War Memorial: Photographs and notes have been sent to the Clerk to add to the PC records. A cost to value the Memorial has been received and progressed.

The Well: Costs to refurbish the Well have been received and Cllr Fowler has given her recommendations. The work will need to be split across 2 financial years, but will be funded wholly by the PC. Councillors agreed to go ahead.

Action: Cllr Fowler

18/10 Footpaths Cllr Chinnery reported:

Chiltern Society activity in the Parish

1. A metal kissing gate has been installed on Lee Clump Road at the junction with footpaths TLE/22 and 23 replacing a damaged stile and providing safer access from footpath to the road. (TLPC area3)
2. Fallen tree clearance and improved way making has been carried out on footpath TLE/11 in Lordling Wood behind Cornerwood.(TLPC area 1)
3. Way marking has been reinstalled on footpath WEN/40 leading to TLE/9 at Kings Ash.

Other Matters

1. The metal bridleway finger post at junction of Chesham Lane and Timberley Lane TLE/13 has been pushed over (TLPC area 1). Reported to BCC ROW
2. The surface condition on footpath TLE/31 across the allotments and playground remains in very poor condition as a result of electrical cable installation. (TLPC area 4) action in hand
3. The surface condition on footpath TLE/1 across the paddock behind Kings Ash farm is very poor. (TLPC area7) weather and horses etc no action proposed

Cllr Sully added: The hedges either side of L7 on the north side of Chesham Lane have been 'trimmed' following a call at the house, more could be done and it may be worth considering a polite letter, and gate repair has taken place at the junction of L7 and L15.

If Cllrs are aware of any further issues please let Cllr Chinnery know. Please also advise on level of inspection achieved. Issues to be noted include:-

- Obstruction due to overgrowth of hedges and trees, including bridleway headroom.
- Fallen trees
- Path surface overgrowth causing obstruction or other significant matters
- Damage to stiles and gates
- Inadequate or difficult access at stiles and gates
- Damage to way mark posts or discs
- Insufficient or unclear way marking or signing
- Any other relevant matter

18/11 Roads Cllr Little reported:

Chesham Lane gullies, ditches and culverts are still all heavily silted and blocked

The soakaway at the base of Red Lion Hill appears to be working, albeit slowly

The bends east of the Ballinger Road flood almost continuously which is a serious hazard because it forces vehicles into the middle of the road at a bend with very limited visibility forward. The ditch here is ineffective.

Timberley Lane - the water run-off is becoming worse with each storm
Oxford Street – repairs at each end have been carried out to a poor standard, the surface is deteriorating.

Overhanging trees and hedges, into the highway along the Chesham Lane boundary of Oaklands, and some broken uncleared heavy branches on the margins northwest of Swan Bottom and up Chesham Lane on both sides of the road east of and beyond Timberley Lane.

18/12 Planning applications

Planning – comments submitted:

CH/2017/1941/FA, Cymba, Oxford Street, HP16 9JP. No objections. NB regarding parking spaces and parking of construction vehicles.

CH/2017/1401/FA, Trevona, Swan Bottom. Planning enforcement

Outstanding – to be submitted:

CH/2017/2228/FA, Juniper Cottage, Oxford Street, Lee Common HP16 9JJ

CH/2017/2235, 1 & 2 Kingswood Cottages, Swan Lane, The Lee HP16 9NU

Planning – decisions:

CH/2017/1740/FA, Dell Cottage, Oxford Street. HP16 9JY – Permission granted

CH/2017/1773/FA, 1 Ivy Cottages, Swan Bottom, HP16 9NJ – Refused

CH/2017/1761/FA, Kingswod Lodge, Swan Lane, HP16 9NU – Permission granted

CH/2017/1941/FA, Cymba, Oxford Street, HP16 9JP - Permission granted

18/13 Parish Communications

- i) Drop-in: February 3rd- to include an update on HS2 and information to date on the playground refurbishment
- ii) Items for next Newsletter: Playground refurbishment, Allotment article, update on Drop-in, links for reporting potholes and overgrown hedges.

18/14 HS2 Hybrid Bill Cllr Sully Reported:

(a) The PC has responded to the HS2 Chiltern Review Group's Draft Detailed Design Principles document (DDP) for building the railway in the AONB.

Our view was that the document added little overall to the design process. We commented on: Noise (the document was light on this impact compared to ecological and visual impacts); green bridges (we specifically supported what they had to say on this) and a proposal to put a bridleway alongside the eastern edge of the railway once built.

(b) I attended a recent presentation at Great Missenden on the plans to start works in the summer of this year on the A413, the Great Missenden Link road and the temporary access haul road a summary report will be included in next month's Newsletter.

(c) We have the next joint-parishes meeting (TLPC, GMPC and WPC) with HS2 and their contractors next week. We hope to find out more about viaduct design, spoil movement strategy and tunnelling timetable.

(d) A response from HS2 to our latest request/suggestion that matters construction, environmental, financial and social might be greatly improved by more tunnelling in the AONB, implies that HS2 will not consider further tunnelling.

18/15 LAF Matters

Cllr Little will have more to report after the pending LAF meeting next week and once he has completed his review of roads within the Parish.

Action: Cllr Little

18/16 Superfast Broad band

Since the last PC meeting the Government has said that British homes and businesses will have a legal right, under a universal service obligation, to High Speed Broadband (HSB) (defined as 10Mbps) by 2020. Broadband providers will now have a legal requirement to provide HSB to anyone who requests it, no matter where they are in the country. BT has tried to side step such legislation by pledging that it would “voluntarily” close the gap between cities and rural areas and would start work immediately. It argued that legislation on this could slow progress down but the Government has refused to take the legislation off the table. This decision by the Government could be useful in the fight for SFB for premises excluded in the roll-out.

On the SFB roll-out front in this area there has been some encouraging news. A few months ago it was understood that people connected to CAB 1 for their phone service were not included in a roll-out programme. However more recently some of these people have learned from Connected Counties that they now are included in a programme which should deliver SFB in 2019. In addition we have heard of one premises on CAB 1 that will receive a Fibre To The Premises(FTTP) SFB connection. This would give the premises the fastest SFB connection BT is currently providing.

However, in a meeting Nick Rose and I had with Steve Bambrick , Director of Services at CDC, at the end of November, Mr Bambrick explained that the contract between BT and CDC, South Bucks and Aylesbury Vale Councils for delivering SFB provided for rollout to at least 95% of premises. He said it would not be economically feasible to supply 100%. I have recently emailed Mr Bambrick asking him if he could help us get the details of those premises in The Lee Parish Council area that will be excluded from the roll out under the current contract with BT. We could then help those excluded to require BT to provide HSB to their premises if they wanted it. This should at least give them some relief and may be another way to put pressure on BT to extend the provision of SFB. Mr Bambrick also explained that CDC would be prepared to provide some revenue funding for the SFB roll-out but, because of the terms of the contract with BT, CDC was unlikely to be able to provide more capital funds.

Colin Sully has a response to his excellent letter on the Broadband roll out to Cheryl Gillan which she forwarded to The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, the Minister of State for Digital. The the intention is to discuss it at the meeting on 9 Jan. However it is useful that our concerns have received the attention of the Minister.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th March 2018.

Signed Date