

The Lee Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a meeting of THE LEE PARISH COUNCIL
held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 13th March 2018, at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr C Sully (Chair)
Cllrs: D Chinnery, A Weir, C Little, S Morris , C Perry, R Fowler
The Clerk
County Councillor P Birchley,
Members of the public: Ms A Lukasiewicz

18/17 Apologies for absence

Cllr Rose sent his apologies.

18/18 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2018: Minutes were approved with no amendments

18/19 Matters arising from Minutes not itemised separately

None

18/20 Declarations of interest on forthcoming business

None

18/21 Report from County/District Councillors

District Cllr Rose – apologies received

County Cllr Birchley:

- The consideration of a Unitary Authority for Bucks has been recommended by central government. Although by no means a definite yet, and would not come into effect until 2020 at the earliest. An increase in workload would be countered by cost savings (and potentially more spend on road repair).

Cllr Sully questioned the impact that this would have on the small, rural parishes and suggested he circulates a draft for consideration by councillors, before the response deadline of 25th May.

Action: Cllr Sully

- LAF – next meeting is 14/3/18 and Cllr Little is unable to attend.
- School Governor – Cllr Birchley would like to nominate a governor for the Lee Village School, Cllr Sully will send some suggestions.
- LAT Roads - Cllr Birchley will drive around with the new LAT, Chris Nash, on 15/3/18. Specifically they were asked to look at Arrewig Lane, Leather Lane, Chartridge Lane to The Lee, Oxford Street.

Action: Cllr Sully

- HS2 – there is still no final strategy for the preparation of local junctions and spoil movement. Cllr Sully stressed that locals must be advised in advance. Cllr Sully expressed concern about the potential secondary traffic effect on Rocky Road / A413 to Swan Bottom, and that a potential upgrade to B status may exacerbate this. Cllr Birchley has taken this on board.

18/22 Comments or questions from the public: None

18/23 Clerks report

Contents of the Clerks Report were noted

18/24 Finance & Governance:

i) Financial report from Finance Group on Accounts to 31st January 2018:

Cllr Sully advised that the final 2017/18 income would come in slightly under forecast because allotment rent was over forecast. Expenditure would be slightly less (£500) because of an underspend on Clerks Salary and hedge cutting, however part of the underspend has been, by agreement, allocated to refurbishment of the Well, due to start later in the month.

The precept for 2018/2019 is a 5% increase on 2017/18.

The 3 year rolling forecast shows a surplus of approx. £1575.00 per annum on 'routine expenditure' - 50% will be put into general reserves, 50% will be put into the playground reserve.

ii) The Asset Register is now up to date

iii) Invoices to pay:

Clerks Salary

Cllr Sully - £6.90 HS2 Meeting refreshments

Playground Facilities - £60 x 5 (£300) playground inspection fees

18/25 Council property – reports and proposed actions

i) **Playground– Cllr Morris Reported:**

Playground inspections are up to date.

The Fort refurbishment - designs and associated costings have been received. The next stage will be to consider funding and grants.

Cllr Chinnery suggested that robustness of equipment is a key factor during the supplier selection process, Cllr Weir suggested they look at other Parish Council playgrounds.

Cllr Sully proposed the council approaches HS2 for funding in the first instance.

Action: Cllrs Morris & Sully

ii) **Grass, Trees & Hedges** Cllr Perry Reported

The hedge work has been carried out. The grass cuts will start as soon as weather permits and the football pitch will receive an extra cut at the end of the year.

Action: The Clerk

iii) **Allotments** Cllr Weir reported:

Cllr Weir is still in discussion with Cllr Rose regarding the water but covers. She and Cllr Chinnery will provide a detailed specification.

Action: Cllr Weir

iv) **Other assets – Cllr Fowler**

War Memorial: Valuation complete

The Well: Refurbishment work will start w/c 26th March.

Benches: Cllr Weir reported that that Scouts will invoice a small amount to cover the cost of materials when they start work on the benches. The bench at Swan Bottom will be added to the list.

Cllr Weir also reported on a recent case of fly tipping – over which BCC acted swiftly and efficiently. Information and appropriate links will be included in the next newsletter article

Action: The Clerk

18/26 Footpaths Cllr Chinnery had nothing to report.

18/27 Roads Cllr Little reported:

The parish roads following the Great Freeze are in a diabolically poor state. It is now clear that TfBs repair policies, lack of supervision or quality control and fundamentally poor specification and workmanship has made a significant contribution to the current state of disrepair.

Many road edges are now suffering even more from major incursions and potholing which is in many cases both deep and dangerous. Some holes are more than 50-70mm in depth and previous poor repairs are so extensive that they are causing vehicles and more importantly, cyclists to drive/ride in the middle of the road. Because TFB does not deal with drainage problems the effects of water erosion have been more acute than ever before, basic attention to bottoming ditches is not done, gullies and culverts are not being cleared despite being reported and it is thus difficult to anticipate any rapid or indeed any improvement at all in our road system in the foreseeable future.

18/28 Planning applications

Planning – comments submitted:

CH/2017/2228/FA, Juniper Cottage, Oxford Street, Lee Common HP16 9JJ *No objections*

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

CH/2017/2242/EU Oaklands, Red Lion Hill, The Lee HP16 9NF *No objections*

CH/2017/2332/FA Evenley House, Village Road, Lee Common HP16 9LD *No Objections*

Outstanding – to be submitted: None

Planning – decisions:

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

CH/2017/2242/EU Oaklands, Red Lion Hill, The Lee HP16 9NF *Agreed*

CH/2017/2332/FA Evenley House, Village Road, Lee Common HP16 9LD *Conditional permission*

18/29 Parish Communications

i) Annual Parish Meeting – 22nd May – The Fort refurbishment, HS2 and SBB.

ii) Items for next Newsletter: The Clerk vacancy, Fly tipping.

iii) The Clerk vacancy will be advertised in the Village Shop and the school. Application deadline 7th April, interviews the following week.

Action: The Clerk & Cllr Sully

18/30 HS2 Hybrid Bill Cllr Sully Reported:

(a) The issue over the use of lanes used by way of a diversion is being addressed.

(b) The Chiltern Society has a proposal to pose a ban on HGV's and/or a one way system on certain local roads. BCC will be raising this with HS2.

18/31 LAF Matters Cllr Little reported that a recent Priorities Workshop run by the LAF had identified the following priorities – Roads, Elderly Care and Youth Care. Cllr Little will not be attending the next LAF meeting scheduled for 14th March 2018.

18/32 Superfast Broadband Cllr Morris reported:

It's definitely happening!

CAB 2 - Ballinger Hill (serving 114 Ballinger residents + 1 The Lee resident) - the cabinet is live and BT are taking orders for Infinity.

CABs 3 and 4 - Lee Clump Road and Oxford Street (serving The Lee, Lee Common, Sly Corner, Lee Clump, etc) - the cabinets are installed, connected and being tested but BT not yet taking orders. Openreach says *"Your area is enabled for Fibre but your cabinet is not ready yet so you can't place an order today. It is in our plans to be upgraded and we update this info weekly, so please check back later."*

CAB 1 - Red Lion Hill (serving Swan Bottom, Lee Gate, Kings Ash, Chartridge) - situation still not clear but something is planned. Openreach says: *"You're in a fibre plan and we're looking at the existing network in your area to see how we will design the upgrade."*

The uncertainty continues for those in CAB 1, and Colin and I continue to be in touch with Connected Counties keeping the pressure up for more news.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.37pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th May 2018.

Signed Date