

The Lee Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of THE LEE PARISH COUNCIL (TLPC) held at The Lee Parish Hall on Tuesday, 26th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillor R Fowler (Chair)	RF
	Councillor A Bunce	AB
	Councillor D Chinnery	DC
	Councillor N Rose	NR
	Councillor C Sully	CS
In Attendance	Mrs H Farrelly (Clerk)	HF
	Bucks Councillor J Macbean	JM
	Bucks Councillor P Birchley	PB
	Three members of the public	
Apologies	Councillor C Little	CL
	Bucks Councillor M Fayyaz	MF
Abbreviations	The Lee Parish Council	TLPC
	Great Missenden Parish Council	GMPC
	Little Missenden Parish Council	LMPC
	Buckinghamshire Council	BC

Agenda Number	Action	Item
1.		22/66
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN		
Councillor Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
2.		22/67
APOLOGIES		
Cllr Little had sent his apologies.		
3.		22/68
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING		
The minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Tuesday, 17 th May 2022 and Monday, 27 th June 2022 were approved. The Chair signed the minutes and a copy will be published on the website.		
4.		22/69
MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES NOT ITEMISED SEPARATELY		
There were no matters arising.		

5.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON FORTHCOMING BUSINESS</p> <p>No declarations of interest.</p>	22/71
6	<p>RESIGNATION OF CLLR MOULE</p> <p>Cllr Moule had resigned (with immediate effect) earlier in the month (due to increased other commitments) and Cllr Fowler, on behalf of the parish council, took the opportunity to thank Cllr Moule for the work he undertook whilst he was part of the council. His wise counsel will be missed.</p> <p>In the interim, Cllr Nick Rose has agreed to take on the responsibility of lead councillor for roads, on a temporary basis.</p> <p>Councillors noted that the casual vacancy has been advertised and the closing date for applications is the 1st August 2022, should an election not be requested.</p>	22/71
7.	<p>REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Councillor Birchley highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buckinghamshire Council (BC) is disappointed on the outcome of the High Court on the 21st July 2022 which turned down the objection to four environmentally damaging HS2 lorry routes. BC will continue to challenge HS2. • Cllr Birchley thanked Cllr Sully and Cllr Fowler for their continued hard work in challenging HS2 and the impact on the parish. • The Community Board meets on Thursday and the subject for discussion this week is Youth. The Community Board are looking at different funding options for various organisation looking after young people. When the Community Board meets in October the subject for discussion will be the environment. • Waste update – crews will finish earlier in the hot weather. Every day performance is being reviewed and services are being adjusted to improve matters. <p>Cllr Sully asked Cllr Macbean if there was any further update on Swish, a new broadband provider, having attended a recent presentation on the proposal. Cllr Macbean agreed to seek a further update.</p>	22/72
8.	<p>COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Three members of the public raised concerns regarding the impact of deer at the allotments and that this year had been especially difficult with deer eating much of the produce. A request was made for TLPC to consider the installation of deer proof fencing to protect the allotments and a general</p>	22/73

	<p>discussion regarding this issue took place between councillors and the members of the public.</p> <p>Cllr Fowler highlighted that some allotment holders had approached TLPC last year regarding issues the allotments with dogs and children and solutions to this had been looked quite considerably. Up until this meeting, deer had not been raised as an issue, including access to the allotments by deer through the hedges and therefore the discussion regarding fencing had not considered how to address this problem. Initial estimates for fencing were in excess of £10K but this did not include fencing that would deter deer. Cllr Fowler further highlighted that the precept simply does not allow for expenditure at this level and therefore external funding had been sought through HS2 as part of the Community Engagement work, should the project go ahead.</p> <p>In any event, any proposal to fence in the allotment area would require consultation with local residents and it is likely that there will be some opposition as it would significantly change the look and feel of the area.</p> <p><i>The three members of the public left the meeting.</i></p> <p>Councillors robustly discussed the advantages and disadvantages of erecting fencing in the allotments and also whether any proposed fencing solution would indeed, address the issue of protecting allotments from dogs, children and deer. Having considered the cost implications, ongoing maintenance, the proposed fencing and the issue in hand, Councillors unanimously agreed that fencing around the allotments was not a viable proposition and therefore would not take place.</p>	
9.	CLERK'S REPORT	22/74
	The clerk highlighted that the internal audit paperwork was approved at the meeting on the 27 th June 2022 and was published, including the statutory notice on the parish council's website and noticeboards on the 28 th June 2022.	
10.	FINANCE & GOVERNANCE	22/75
10.1	<p>Finance Report from the Finance Group See APPENDIX 1 for Financial Summary – 1st April 2021 to 30th June 2022</p> <p>Councillors noted and approved the circulated financial summary as a correct record of the TLPC accounts for the period up to 30th June 2022.</p>	22/75/1
10.2	<p>To note budget and projected income/expenditure 2022/23</p> <p>Councillors noted that there had been very little income/expenditure as it was early in the financial year, and therefore the projected income/expenditure remains as the original budget.</p>	22/75/2

10.3	<p>Invoices Noted as Paid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Water Bill (paid by the Clerk) - £78.45 • Newsletter Invoice - £135.00 • Colin Sully Expenses - £40.12 • DCK Accounting - £45.60 • IAC - £180.00 • Chesham Town Council - £102.00 • Chesham Town Council - £486.00 • Chesham Town Council - £114.00 • Clerks Salary - £1579.68 • HMRC - £375.40 • Jubilee Expenses – £250.00 • Jubilee Expenses - £107.00 	22/75/3
10.4	<p>To approve Governance Documents</p> <p>Having received the following documents prior to the meeting, subject to a few minor amendments, Councillors approved revised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Assessment • Asset Register • Co-option of Councillors <p>Insurance cover to be increased to cover the replacement cost for the new benches and picnic tables. Councillors also agreed to increase the value insured of the Jubilee Well.</p>	22/75/4
11	COUNCIL PROPERTY – REPORTS AND ACTIONS	22/76
11.1	<p>Playground (DC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of the top beam on the trim trail rope beam. - order to be placed (inspection issue). • Repairs to the embankment slopes on both sides of the tunnel - awaiting meeting with Chesham Town Council parks to agree a solution. • Timber treatment - awaiting clarity on quotation. • Recent grass cutting and strimming has demonstrated that the neoprene protection on the climbing frame legs is effective. • When memorial benches come to end of life, the families will be contacted to see if they wish to move the plaques onto the new benches. 	22/76/1
11.2	<p>Grass, Trees, Hedges, Gates, Benches at Allotments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new contract with Chesham Town Council (CTC) is working well and residents have commented favourably. • Benches in the allotments have been looked at by CTC, with a view to carrying out some maintenance work on them. 	22/76/2
11.3	Allotments (AB)	22/76/3

	<p>Allotments are, in the main, being cultivated on a regular basis. A number of free allotments, as well as a few that require some additional clearing, will be brush cut over the summer.</p> <p>Allotment tenancy letters are due to go out at the end of the September. At this point there will be an increase in rental fee from £22 to £25 per year.</p>	
11.4	<p>Well and Memorial (NR)</p> <p>The war memorial would seem in good condition but is mildly defaced by bird excrement. It might be worth considering cleaning latter in the year or possibly next.</p> <p>The well head structure appears to be in good condition but the weather vane needs some adjustment as the east pointer is currently facing North. The access to the well shaft is secure.</p>	22/76/4
11.5	<p>Roadside Benches (DC)</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	22/76/5
11.6	<p>Land Registration and Ownership (CL)</p> <p>The paperwork regarding the land registration for the war memorial has now been submitted to the Land Registry.</p>	22/76/6
11.7	<p>Barnaby Usborne Memorial Tree (NR)</p> <p>Nick Rose had considered a number of tree options, both of which would be acceptable. The parish council has already identified an area for the memorial tree.</p>	22/76/7
11.8	<p>Consideration of new fencing of the allotments</p> <p>This was discussed under minute 8.</p>	22/76/8
12.	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND CONSIDER ACTIONS ON BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL ISSUES</p>	22/77
12.1	<p>Footpaths (DC)</p> <p>The Chiltern Society PMV is planned to be active in our local area on 3rd and 19th August 2022.</p> <p>Cllr Chinnery asked that any issues are reported in the parish as soon as possible, and these can be progressed with Bucks PROW team.</p> <p>There is an ongoing debate regarding signage and diversions of footpaths closed by HS2.</p> <p>The checking frequency of footpaths will, in general, be once a year, or as deemed appropriate.</p>	22/77/1

12.2	<p>Roads</p> <p>Many of our local roads are seriously affected with potholes with little remedial activity recently, although the resurfacing of part of highway at Swan Bottom is an improvement.</p> <p>A general observation is that in several places the roadside hedges have not been trimmed and the resultant vegetation is causing a significant narrowing of the roads with an adverse effect on road safety and difficulty in vehicles passing each other. Councillors discussed the need to highlight roadside hedge cutting on private land, at the appropriate time of the year in the newsletter.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council has recently freshly repainted the white road speed markings but the overall condition of the tarmac highway in many places is not good.</p>	22/77/2																																				
13	PLANNING APPLICATIONS	22/78																																				
13.1	The Clerk reported the following:	22/78/1																																				
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	Decision yet to be submitted	
	PL/22/2211/FA - Swyllmers Lee Clump Road The Lee Buckinghamshire HP16 9NA	
13.2	<p>Other Planning Matters</p> <p>It has come to the attention of the Clerk that a number of planning applications have not been notified to the parish council from the planning department. This is disappointing as one application has already been determined, whilst the other is still to be decided.</p> <p>The clerk has raised this with the planning department again and will continue to check, on a regular basis, the weekly/monthly lists published by the planning department.</p>	22/78/2
13.3	<p>Guidelines for Planning Leads</p> <p>Councillors agreed that a checklist of how planning applications are considered would be useful. Cllr Little has agreed to put together a checklist and Cllr Rose offered to assist with this checklist.</p>	22/78/3
14	HS2 CONSTRUCTION AND ENGAGEMENT	22/79
14.1	<p>To receive an update</p> <p>See Appendix 2</p>	22/79/1
14.2	<p>Leather Lane Overbridge</p> <p>The meeting between the Leather Lane Campaign Group and EKFB in May has resulted in an exchange of recorded bat data in the area and more bat surveys being carried out through the summer by both groups.</p> <p>The next step is for the project team to review this information - with HS2 Ltd, with Bucks Council and possibly with the campaign group – before submitting a formal plan for the bridge and road design to Bucks Council for approval.</p>	22/79/2
15.	PARISH COMMUNICATIONS	22/79
15.1	<p>Website/Forum Developments</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	22/79/1
15.2	<p>Emails and Sharepoint</p> <p>Emails Following their stepping down from the Parish Council, the email accounts formerly used by ex-Councillors Moule, Perry and Weir have now been secured, archived and closed.</p>	22/79/2

	<p>As has been the case previously when councillors have stepped down, any new emails that may be received by their closed PC email addresses will be rerouted to the Chair, and dealt with as appropriate.</p> <p>New email accounts have been set up for Cllrs Rose and Bunce, and there is currently one unused license which will be allocated in due course to whoever is co-opted as the new councillor.</p> <p>Sharepoint As above, Sharepoint access has been removed from ex-Cllrs Moule, Perry and Weir, and access granted to Cllrs Bunce and Rose.</p>	
15.3	<p>To agree items for the next Newsletter</p> <p>The following items will be included in the next Newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor resignation and co-option of new councillors • Fencing at the Oxford Street allotments • Speed Limits • Duke of Edinburgh Scheme • Hedge cutting schedule for the Parish Council and responsibility of property owners to cut roadside hedges. 	22/79/3
16	LOCAL ENGAGEMENT	22/80
16.1	<p>Jubilee Celebrations</p> <p>Thanks to Phil Harrison and his team of helpers, for arranging a wonderful day of celebrations in respect of the Platinum Jubilee, have been published in The Lee Newsletter on behalf of TLPC.</p>	22/80/1
19.2	<p>The Lee Flower Show</p> <p>The TLPC stall at the Flower Show was well attended and Cllrs Sully, Rose and Chinnery had many useful discussions with residents as well as Sarah Green MP.</p> <p>Thank you to Cllr Sully and Mrs Sully for donating the prizes for the stall competition.</p>	22/80/2
19.3	<p>Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme</p> <p>Following a number of concerns raised recently by residents and councillors, TLPC wrote to the D of E co-ordinator raising the following concerns about participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not walking in single file facing oncoming traffic when on a road without verges or pavements - some groups on the contrary walk several abreast in the centre of the road • picnicking on grass verges but sitting close to the edge with their feet in the road, thus causing other road users to swerve (not only cars, but also cyclists, horse riders and other walkers) 	22/80/3

- picnicking right across public footpaths, thus completely blocking the way for other walkers
- urinating on public footpaths close to people's homes
- defecating on public footpaths close to people's homes, including leaving soiled tissue behind
- widespread littering, including throwing a bag full of rubbish into a paddock
- walking through fields with no public rights of way
- chasing sheep when walking through their field, and pushing them through an electric fence for fun, causing the farmer to spend several hours trying to round up a flock of stressed animals plus the following concerns about assessors:
- calling the Police when a cow and calf chased students, even though video evidence showed that the students had upset the animals first - Thames Valley Police were not impressed with this waste of their time
- organisers parking and leaving cars:
 - in the middle of bridleways (on which, unlike BOATS, motorised vehicles are not permitted) thus blocking access for landowners
 - in front of field gates, thus preventing access by farmers
 - at the entrance to narrow lanes, preventing access by large vehicles such as farm machinery or fire engines
- setting up drink's stations in the middle of bridleways, again blocking landowners' access
- using obsolete maps which require participants to use footpaths closed by HS2, thus resulting in them walking through fields without public rights of way in an attempt to find a path that hasn't been closed - for avoidance of doubt, paths TLE/9 (WEN/40), TLE/6 (WEN/36), TLE/5 and TLE/2 are all closed at the point at which they cross the HS2 track whilst it is being constructed, and only TLE/3 which runs alongside Bowood Lane remains open for its full length.

The response was very standard, but stated that the complaint has been passed to the regional teams and the national complaints department for them to advise DofE centres of the issues raised and to help with training of participants and adults.

It was stressed that, if a similar incident occurs in the future, it would aid the investigation greatly if residents could obtain some information that would help identify the group(s) in question so as assistance and training can be targeted. It was suggested that residents speak directly to the group and ask which school they are from or try to identify their school from any logos on clothing or on a minibus, however this is not always practical as there are often many groups in the village at the same time and some are not open to being approached.

20	DATES FOR MEETINGS 2022		
	Date for next full meeting is:		22/81

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday, 20th September 2022 at 7.30pm 		
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.00pm</p> <p>CHAIR..... Date</p>		

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REPORTING PERIOD:
1st April 2022 - 30th June
2022

1. Current account bank reconciliation			
	Opening balance 1 April 2021	17,296.31	Statement 10
A	Income - current year	9,933.61	
	Income Subtotal	9,933.61	
B	Cheques paid last financial year and presented this year	-	
C	Expenditure - current year(minus unrepresented chqs in this financial year)	10,109.14	
D	Expenditure Subtotal	10,109.14	
E	Closing balance = (Opening Balance + A)-D	17,120.78	Statement 12
F	Cheques paid last financial year that have not been presented	-	
G	Unpresented cheques this year	-	
H	Unpresented cheques total	-	
	Total Committed Expenditure to date for financial year (D+H)	10,109.14	

HS2 Update for TLPC

(a) The A413 and Rocky Lane

The **construction of the conveyor** to take excavated spoil over the Chiltern Rail line and the A413 at London Road continued through July. The impact on The Lee community also continued and included:

- **lane closure on the A413 at London Road**
- **full overnight closures of the A413**
- **full closures of Rocky Lane**

The conveyor work is not yet complete (the opening date has been put back from July to September) but there are no more closures expected in association with this work. However, the next phase of highways impacts will be those associated with piling works on Rocky Lane (originally due to start in July), preparation for the re-alignment of the A413 itself at Small Dean (September?) and renewed works on Leather Lane (autumn?).

The Parish Council has complained about the frequency of local closures and disruptions - to Bucks Council, to EKFB, to HS2 Ltd, to our MP and to the HS2 Independent Construction Commissioner, noting in particular the requirements of U&A 992 given by the Sec of State to Bucks Council in connection with hilltop lanes. As a result, Bucks Council Officers attended our regular catch-up meeting with EKFB, to hear our concerns first-hand, and County Cllr Peter Martin also raised the issue with senior EKFB and HS2 Ltd managers.

The next phase of Rocky Lane closures (in association with the piling works, due to start on July 18th and to last for 5 weeks), has now been delayed / deferred so that the project team can *“review the method in which we can carry out the works... and if there is a way to minimise disruption further.”*

This is a small concession, but nonetheless welcome.

(b) Other complaints

We have also received responses to our formal complaints with HS2 Ltd about **signage during road closures** and the **lack of ‘No HS2 works traffic’ signs on Rocky Lane and Leather Lane**. They apologise and say that lessons have been learnt... we shall see.

Our belief remains that engagement, complaining and appealing to Bucks Council (the appropriate planning authority for much of the detailed approval of HS2 works) are the only ways of registering our concerns about the lack of care and respect for local communities being shown by the project.

(c) Mobile Visitor Centre

The HS2 Mobile Visitor Centre was ‘un-invited’ to the Flower Show but continues to visit Great Missenden and Wendover. It is hoped to have it back in The Lee again in September.

(d) Footpaths crossing the line

Parish Cllrs are due to meet with EKFB and the Chiltern Society on Kings Lane on Monday 25th July to review the confusing state of footpath signage in the area. We are also seeking a formal response as to the reasons for the apparent closure of the TLE/3 crossing to walkers over the weekend 16th-18th July, which gave rise to considerable aggravation and concern amongst walking groups (including D of E) trying to cross the line. It is understood that a change of security contractor may have been the cause.

(e) Bucks Council

The outcome of Bucks Council’s Judicial Review appeals over the Planning Inspector’s decisions with respect to six local traffic applications has not been announced, although it may be known by the time of our meeting.

(f) Chesham & Villages Community Board

TLPC has also prepared an update on HS2 for the Chesham & Villages Community Board meeting to be held on 28th July. (See below)

HS2 update for the Chesham & Rural Villages Community Board: July 2022

*This update focusses on the **impact of HS2 construction work on the Chesham and Villages Community Board area**. A more detailed presentation of **HS2 construction activities in the whole of the Chilterns**, made by Keith Hoffmeister of*

Buckinghamshire Council's July HS2 update on '**What is Buckinghamshire Council doing on behalf of residents?**' can also be found here: [Update on HS2 from Buckinghamshire Council](#).

1. Summary of current local construction work affecting the Community Board area

2022 has seen significantly more HS2 construction activity in the local area than we saw in 2021, with all the associated lorry movements.

a) Align – Main Works C1 (Hillingdon to South Heath)

- The two **tunnel boring machines** are due to arrive at the North Portal at South Heath in early 2024, having linked-up with the ventilation shafts in the Chalfonts, at Amersham and Little Missenden, and the intervention shaft at Chesham Road.
- **At South Heath**, the construction of 'barrettes' (deep concrete piles) has begun to support the Chiltern tunnel as it comes to the surface through the friable chalk.

b) EKFB – Main Works C2 (South Heath to Brackley)

- Excavation work continues at the North Portal of the Chiltern tunnel **at South Heath**, and in the cuttings heading north through **The Lee**.
- **Internal access roads** from South Heath through to Rocky Lane have been completed to facilitate this excavation and keep some construction traffic off the A413.
- Work has started on the foundations for the **Wendover Dean and Small Dean viaducts** and **Rocky Lane under bridge**.
- **A temporary conveyor** is being built over the A413 at London Road, near the bottom of Rocky Lane to carry some of the spoil from the cuttings over the A413 and the Chiltern Railway. This is expected to start operation in September 2022.
- **Leather Lane** A local campaign group is trying to improve the ecological mitigation in this area by challenging the design of the overbridge and the re-aligned lane. At the time of writing these issues have not been resolved. Meanwhile, the actions of this group have already resulted in some re-thinking by EKFB of the alignment of the lane and over bridge and a significant number of trees will be 'saved'.

Construction work will continue at all these sites until at least 2025, when the handover of sections is due to begin to the (yet-to-be-appointed) rail-systems contractors, who will install the track, signals, catenaries and lineside equipment.

2. Summary of construction impacts and mitigation

Most of the above works fall within the neighbouring Missendens and Wendover Community Board areas, but the impacts - particularly on the roads - are felt keenly by residents of The Lee and others within the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board area. These impacts continue to cause many concerns, including:

- The volume of **HS2 traffic on the A413** (the official construction route for all sites between Amersham and Stoke Mandeville) continues to increase. We await an announcement of the result of Bucks Council's appeals over decisions regarding HS2's local construction routes.
- The impact of **HS2 traffic using other roads** in the area. We continue to see and hear reports of HS2 construction traffic using non-approved routes and further enforcement and signage has been requested of the contractors.
- **Bowood Lane** has been closed to all vehicles from 1st March 2022 for at least 18 months.
- **Rocky Lane** and **Leather Lane** have also been the subject of frequent closures over the past six months, and complaints have been made to EKFB and HS2 Ltd about their lack of concern about the impact of the cumulative effect of road and lane closures in the area on local communities.

As a result, the period of the lane closures on Rocky Lane in July was reduced by reopening when the work moved further away from the road, and the July/August full closure has been deferred by EKFB so that they can "review the method of working". There is a possibility that the full closure (previously planned for five weeks) may be reduced in impact by the replanning. This is a small sign that the project managers are finally starting to think, albeit in an extremely limited way, about the impact on residents and not just on the project's needs

- Information on **Non-HS2 traffic 'rat-running'** on rural lanes because of the frequent closures in the area, is now being collated and discussed on a regular basis.
- As the programme of works accelerates, there are also increasing concerns about the extent that the project is relying on **extended hours of working**. It appears that Main Works Contractors are using the extended hours provisions of Sch 61 to 'catch-up' on delays to the project, which is not what local communities believe was envisaged in the Act. Further discussion with Bucks officers has been requested on this issue.

- At the top of Bowood Lane, the project has supposedly completed its first piece of major **tree planting in the AONB**. Local parish and county cllrs have raised concerns with HS2 Ltd about the poor management of this ecological mitigation.
- The closure of many **footpaths in the area** continues to give rise to confusion for walkers and a further review of signposting has been requested. The footpath carrying the **Chiltern Way** through this area is supposed to remain open (albeit diverted). There has recently been some confusion over this with security contractors apparently failing to abide by this decision.

These topics have become regular points of discussion at local liaison meetings.

3. Local engagement

The framework for regular engagement by BC Officers and Cllrs, and Town and Parish Cllrs with HS2 Ltd and their contractors, to run alongside the statutory engagement processes, continues to evolve.

- Local County Cllrs are now meeting on HS2 as a 'Members Interest Group'.
- Parish Councils and local County Cllrs have regular engagement with the contractors' Community Engagement Managers, and others as necessary.
- Face-to-face open events are now taking place again and we are seeing regular visits to the area by the EKFB mobile visitors' centre (MVC). *[The next scheduled visits by the MVC are at Butler Cross (27th July) and the Bucks Show (1st September).]*