

# PARISH OF CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 23<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Present: Cllr John Allen (Chairman and Cholesbury Village Hall Management Committee), County Cllr Mrs Patricia Birchley, District Cllr Nick Rose, Mrs Susie Bell (Parish Clerk), Cllr John Horn, Cllr Liz van Hullen, Cllr Francis Sanger, Cllr Chris Brown, Shirley Judges and several members of the public. In all about 17 people.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Blomfield.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010, taken as read, were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
3. HS2 report: Cllr Sanger introduced Shirley Judges, a director of STOP HS2 and representative of the Bucks Chiltern Parishes on the Chilterns Conservation Board. Shirley gave a very informative talk about the extent of the damage and destruction that the HS2 construction process – and the final railway – will have on the Chilterns, and that it will be far greater than official estimates. Given that the benefits of such a line are dubious nationwide, it is not surprising that councils along the entire length of the proposed line are unanimous (bar one, Birmingham City Council) in their opposition. She encouraged everyone to join local opposition groups, spread the word and sign the petition.  
David Clarke asked why the government is so keen to promote it. Shirley explained that many MPs are too busy to consider the case against it and the rail companies are keen to push it through. Another member of the public asked whether it could be run underground the whole way but Shirley explained that the environmental impact would be huge under or overground. Cllr Birchley urged everyone to make a stand against the HS2 proposals. Caroline Coates asked for guidance on how to write to MPs and Shirley promised a leaflet would be circulated. Cllr van Hullen asked how other areas could be persuaded to join the fight and Shirley said mainly on grounds of the huge cost to the entire country. Windsor Thomas urged people to go to the roadshows to object and Shirley confirmed that public consultations would be considered in the final decision. She reminded everyone that these works would directly affect areas well beyond the immediate route for many years in terms of construction traffic and the like.  
Cllr Sanger thanked Shirley for her talk and announced that there will be a meeting to consider the HS2 process at St Leonards Parish Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- 4a. Parish Council, Chairman's report: Cllr Allen outlined the role of the Parish Council and reported the Council's activities for the year. He highlighted the ongoing efforts to improve the roads in the parish and thanked Cllr Birchley for her help negotiating with Bucks CC. He reported a successful pantomime with the surplus of £1,800 being split equally between Cholesbury Village Hall and St Leonards Parish Hall.
- 4b. Parish Council, financial report: David Clarke presented copies of accounts for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. He retires at the end of May and Susie Bell started as the new Parish Clerk on 1<sup>st</sup> May.
5. Bucks County Council: Cllr Birchley said that Bucks CC will be spending a lot of money on road repairs and resurfacing in 2011 as they recognise the serious damage done over the last two bad winters. She warned that adult social care will be changing significantly in the future. She said there are proposed boundary changes which will affect her representation in certain areas (as well as the Local Area Forums) and she asked everyone to consider

opposing the changes when the time for public consultation comes. She is involved in the libraries consultation and hopes they will all be able to stay open.

6. Chiltern District Council: Cllr Rose is willing to serve as Chairman if selected for again for 2011-12. He has been involved in the core strategy for development and building, Cholesbury and The Lee being considered 'areas of restraint' with limited development opportunities. A joint waste collection to pool resources and give better services has been set up with Wycombe Council and kerbside collections of tins and plastics have been proposed. Going forward, he highlighted the huge budget cuts and the ways CDC is trying to minimise public impact. CDC is officially against HS2 and will continue to fight it.
7. St Leonards Parish Hall: David Clarke reported a successful year for the Hall with the major project being resurfacing the drive which is now much improved. He thanked Philip and Trafford Matthews and Sally Reynolds in particular for their help over the past year. The 2010 fete was a huge success with a profit of over £6,000. The Hall's finances are good but he is making provision for playground repairs which will be very expensive.
8. Cholesbury Village Hall. Cllr Allen reported the Hall thriving and thanked the Parish Council for donations which enabled them to install a new serving hatch. The next project is to refurbish the toilets when finances permit.
9. Hawridge and Cholesbury Church of England Combined School: Judy Joseph, vice chairman of the Governing Body, reported a good year with new computers for all classes and a variety of school trips. Their spring fair raised £1,400. The sale of the old school building was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> May and the project the new building has started.
10. Chiltern Local Area Forum: Cllr Brown said the LAF meets every three months and distributes some money locally across the Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards parish from a budget of about £9,000. This covers roads and transport, snow clearance, adult care, local groups funding and improvements to the fire fighting teams covering the parish. He noted that healthcare in the area will be supplied by a national consortium in the near future.
11. Chesham Rural Neighbourhood Action Group. Cllr Brown has taken over from Caroline Coates. It is a consortium of local rural parishes with close ties to PC Kevin Flint and two PCSOs. It is fostering better relationships with the local police. Issues investigated include speeding surveys and crime levels. PC Flint has been invited to visit the area.
12. The Turpin Charity: Cllr Allen is now a Trustee and the Charity is in the process of granting an option to a developer along with Arla Dairies for a new dairy and warehousing as the Charity's land is part of the site in question. If Aylesbury Vale DC grant consent, the Charity will sell the land to the developer and have the money to use for the benefit of those living in the parishes of Aston Clinton and St Leonards.
13. Any other business: Cllr Allen thanked David Clarke for serving as Parish Clerk for nearly eleven years and he presented a token on behalf of his colleagues. Cllr van Hullen said PC Flint had given her some DVDs on how to protect against rural crime which she will lend out as requested.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and contributions. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....