

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held at Cholesbury Village Hall
on Monday 18th May 2009 at 8 p.m.

Present: Cllrs Blomfield, Brown, Allen, Coates, Sanger and Horn.

Also present: Mr Clarke (Clerk), District Cllr Rose, County Cllr Birchley, Mark Rowe and Sean Rooney (Bucks Highways) and two members of the public.

625) Election of Chairman.

Cllr Blomfield was elected as Chairman and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

626) Vice Chairman.

Cllr Brown was elected as Vice Chairman.

627) Apologies for absence - None.

628) Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 27th April 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

629) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brown declared an interest in agenda item 14 as part of the website management team.

630) Highways.

The meeting was addressed by Mark Rowe, Alliance Service Leader and Sean Rooney, Compliance Manager, Contract and Locality Strategy for Bucks County Council.

Cllr Allen said that highway maintenance is a key issue including planing and resurfacing, lack of feedback on repair of roads which is appallingly awful, lack of gully cleaning and lack of feedback on road gang operations, if any.

It was noted that, under the new contract arrangements, all works will be monitored electronically and work will be paid for only when completed to the required standard. Vehicles will be fitted with cameras and location monitors. The Parish Council contacts will continue to be Chris Schwier and Mike Barber. A schedule of works is being compiled and will be copied to the Parish Council. Communication and feedback will be improved for both road gangs and scheduled works. Cllr Birchley noted that major repairs to Chambers Green Lane will be charged to last year's budget. It was accepted that school bus routes should be taken into account when compiling a gritting schedule and it was noted that the gritting fleet is to be replaced with new vehicles equipped with GPS. New vehicles will also be provided for gully clearance and will be equipped with GPS and boom cameras to enable compilation of an accurate database leading to a detailed programme of works. Additional funding has been obtained for white lining, although some members felt that the lack of white lines helps to keep speed down.

It was generally felt that the new organisation should be given a fair chance and that its operation should be carefully monitored over the next few months.

631) Standing Order 7 was suspended enabling members of the public to speak.

County Cllr Birchley said that problems had been reported with water leakage in the Vale. It was noted that the Parish Council already had an on-going dialogue with Thames Water on this matter. She congratulated Hawridge and Cholesbury Church of England School on their magnificent new extension. She said that Buckinghamshire is

the best performing council in England, having achieved a four-star rating, and publishes members' expenses on its Internet site.

District Cllr Rose said that Chiltern District is also four-star rated and also publishes members' expenses.

- 632) Questions to the Chairman – None.
- 633) Cooption of new member to replace Cllr Newall.
Philip Matthews was co-opted as a member of this Council and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 634) Reports.
- Local Area Forum. Cllr Brown said that the Chesham Local Area Forum had no date for its first meeting.
 - NAG. Cllr Coates said that Police speed checks had been carried out on Cholesbury Common between 5 and 5.30 pm on a weekday. There are likely to be more checks. The next NAG meeting will consider problems of fly-tipping. Some people had been apprehended by the Police in connection with local crimes.
 - Widow Turpin Charity. The Clerk awaits a reply from Aston Clinton Parish Council in response to his enquiries regarding the state of the Charity.
- 635) Finance.
- The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009 were approved.**
 - The following payment was approved.
Broker Network Ltd (insurance) £370-54.
 - The effectiveness of the Council's financial controls and procedures was reviewed.
 - The Council's compliance with legal requirements was reviewed.
 - The effectiveness of internal audit systems was reviewed.
 - The Annual Governance Statement was completed and approved.**
- 636) Planning.
- Applications.
0633. Kingston Cottage, Cholesbury Lane. Felling of a birch and a cypress within the Conservation Area. **No comment as insufficient information is provided to make a judgement.**
0619. 5 Sandpit Hill Cottages, Cholesbury Lane. Detached garage and associated retaining walls. **No comment.**
0574, 0573, 0572. Bower Farm, The Vale. Erection of a detached out-building containing a double garage, stable and W.C. **No comment.**
0448. Midwinter Cottage, The Vale. Single storey rear extension. **No comment.**
0474. Dundridge Manor, Oak Lane. Agricultural building. *Cllr Matthews declared an interest in this application as he is related to and provides contracted services to the occupants.* **No comment.**
 - Decisions. None.
 - Appeals. None.
 - District Cllr Rose continues to make enquiries regarding change of use of land opposite Shire Lane Farm.
 - Cllr Brown asked for the Planning Committee to be re-appointed at the next meeting, for representatives to be appointed and for Standing Orders relating to the Annual Meeting of the Council to be followed in future.**
- 637) Parish Council 75th Anniversary.
Cllr Brown had walked the route for beating the bounds and he confirmed that two portable toilets would be provided free of charge. Cllr Coates said that the Bank Holiday events had been a great success despite the weather and the inter-pub cricket

would probably be repeated next year. **The event on 11th July will be discussed at a meeting on 19th May.**

638) Website.

The Clerk was asked to take responsibility for updating Parish Council details on the Parish website owned and run by Steven Clark.

639) Annual Parish Meeting.

It was noted that no specific theme will be adopted for the Annual Parish Meeting on 1st June. **The Clerk will now find a suitable speaker in the usual way.**

640) The next agenda will include:

Hospital car parking (Cllr Horn).

The meeting closed at 10.12 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Date of next meeting: Monday 22nd June 2009 at St Leonards Parish Hall.