



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 12th December 2023 @ 6.30p.m.
Committee Room, Great Missenden Memorial Centre, Link Road,
Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9AE

Public Forum: A representative from Great Missenden & Prestwood Revite Group regarding the Prestwood bike rack project.

Present: Councillor A Hewett - chair

Councillors: J Brooke, C Bunting, S Humphreys, M Johnstone, R Pusey, I Lovegrove, C Ormesher

Also present: Jane Hennessy, Clerk

2022/238 Apologies

Cllrs: L Cook, J Gladwin, M Lee, V Marshall, V Martin, K Pither, S Rhodes, T Stevenson

2022/239 Declarations of Interest

Item 266 – Cllr Bunting

2022/240 The minutes of the meeting held on **7th November 2022** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

2022/241 Matters arising

- There has been a slight increase in the playground equipment repairs, increasing to £7,069.42, the additional £69.42 has been approved by Cllr Pither.
- UKPN have found the fault with the electricity supply that feeds the lights in Buryfield car park. It was with the underground wiring from the feeder pillar at the side of the parish office. This has been repaired and the pathway made good.
- Bucks Council, as the managers of Buryfield car park, have advised that the proposed Greens Funfair vintage car display on Boxing Day, will require parking bays to be suspended, for which there is a cost of £15 / bay. This information has been passed to Greens Funfair.
- Missenden Walled Garden supplied the remembrance poppy wreath, at a cost of £45, with re-usable poppies. Cllr Hewett approved this expenditure.
- A resident of Church Street, Great Missenden, has asked that the parish council are made aware that large lorries are using Church Street to make deliveries to the school. The resident is also contacting the school directly.
- Graham Sexton raised concerns that as the hedges were cut in September, to avoid bird nesting season, that there may not be enough growth to warrant a cut in February. This will be discussed by the Open Spaces committee at their next meeting.
- A quote of £671.16 was presented for 2 LED lights to be replaced, one in Pines Close and one in Twitchell Road. This was agreed by majority vote and Lamps & Tubes will be instructed under clerks delegated powers, as the quote arrived after the agenda had been prepared.
- Legal Topic Note LTN54 was discussed in relation to ownerless land regarding Sheepwash Pond. It states that parish councils do not have the power for expenditure on ownerless land.
- Network Rail advised on a further consultation regarding the disposal of land at Great Missenden Station. The previous parish council response will be re-iterated.

- It was noted that one of the toddler swings at Ballinger Common needs replacing. Quotes are being sought.

- 2022/242 **Community Board – Honor Road** – email from resident – the council agreed that the changes proposed by Bucks Council Highways team to improve parking arrangements on Honor Road seem adequate. The residents concerns will be acknowledged and Bucks Council will be asked to ensure that a solution is implemented that is supported by the majority of the residents who have been consulted.
- 2022/243 **MVAS Rota 2023** – the proposed rota was approved by resolution of the council. It was noted that due to security issues none of the four speed signs were operational in the parish currently.
- 2022/244 **Great Missenden Village Improvements Project** - update – Cllr Hewett reported that Missenden Walled Garden will take responsibility for the maintenance requirements (grass mowing and tending of flower beds) at the Fire Station, Cage, Library & Abbeyfield, once completed. The Walled Garden will undertake this as a community project with no charge.
- 2022/245 **Grundon Bin Emptying** – it was agreed by resolution to stop the once a week additional empty of the Memorial Hall Grundon bin that the parish council are paying for. The Memorial Hall Committee will continue to pay for a weekly collection. The additional empty funded by the parish council can be restarted as and when required.
- 2022/246 **GMPRG – Request for support for bike racks in Prestwood** – the parish council agreed by resolution to assist with the streetworks 171 licence application on behalf of GMPRG and it was resolved to pay the £165 licence fee. It was agreed that there should be an owner of the project who would be responsible for agreeing the work with a contractor and for providing all the required documentation for the section 171 licence application.
- 2022/247 **Proposed telecommunications upgrade – Nanfans Farm, Prestwood** – the parish council had no objections to this upgrade to existing equipment.
- 2022/248 **Civility & Respect pledge** – the council discussed the NALC/SLCC civility and respect project and a proposal to sign up to a pledge. It was agreed to defer this item to the January agenda when more of the councillors are in attendance.
- 2022/249 **Buryfield car park – relining hatched area** – the council resolved not to go ahead with any relining works in the car park at this time.

COMMITTEES - Planning

- 2022/250 Minutes of the meeting held on **5th December 2022** were approved and will be signed at a later date.
- 2022/251 **Neighbourhood plan working party update** – Cllr Gladwin, as the chair of the working party, updated the council on the recent meeting and suggested that a further working party meeting is arranged in order to come to an agreement on the way forward to be recommended to the council. Cllr Lovegrove asked that his thanks were recorded for Cllr Gladwin taking over the chair of this working party.
- 2022/252 **Procedure for parish council call-ins** – it was resolved that the Planning Committee would have delegated power to initiate any call-ins to Bucks Council's Planning Committee, on behalf of the parish council. It was agreed that the full council should be made aware if any call-ins are requested.
- 2022/253 **HS2- Update** – Cllr Johnstone updated the council, a summary of which is below.
1. Tunnel Boring Machines – the two TBM's (Florence & Cecilia) are about 49% through the 16km Chiltern Tunnel and are approaching the Amersham Vent Shaft.

2. Chesham Road Intervention Shaft - excavation of the shaft is complete, a large concrete pour in early December will form the base slab allowing the internal staircase to be started. UKPN will connect the Chesham Rd intervention shaft to mains electricity. This will require traffic management. 44 properties are expected to lose power for 10/45mins whilst the connection is made. The use of generators has been requested.

3. North Portal – the barrettes have been completed and some of the construction site is being demobilised. The office block will be retained. The new access road leading into the portal has been seeded with grass.

UKPN will close Frith Hill (South Heath leg) for approx. 6 weeks to connect the North Portal to mains electricity. Questions are being asked if the footpath can be left open, how much of Frith Hill will be dug up and will residents lose their power at all.

4. Leather Lane – Update – The realignment of the overbridge – the Schedule 17 submission has been put back to June/July 2023. With the bats currently hibernating, survey data is now being shared and analysed. It is understood that HS2 are still reviewing options regard Ilona, the lone oak. A written update was also provided on the above by the Leather Lane campaigners for the council.

5. Various Updates

- A drop in event was run by Align and EKFB in Tuesday 6th December
- The conveyor at Wendover crossing the A413 should be working by Christmas
- 30m lengths of steel from France will start being delivered at the end of February 2023
- From 19th December there will be heavy traffic on part of the A413 as a major concrete pour will be taking place for the north abutment to the viaduct
- Overnight closers of A413 at the Wendover end are planned over the Christmas period.

Open Spaces and Lighting

- 2022/254 **Land at London Road** – the council resolved the quote from Sexton’s to cut the hedge running alongside the London Road. The cost is £230.00 + VAT.
- 2022/255 **Prestwood Recreation Ground** – A response is still awaited from Bucks Council’s legal team to progress the lease.
- 2022/256 **Land at Link Road – update** – Bucks Council have indicated that they are still considering the options for this land and hope to have an update for the parish council by the February 2023 meeting.
- 2022/257 **Westrick Walk trees** – the council noted the response from the recent survey of 11 residents of Westrick Walk. 8 responses confirmed that they would be in favour of reducing the size of the trees, on the grounds of safety and light to their properties. One response was not in favour of any work. (9 responses received in total). A quote to reduce the size of the four trees which received the most requests for work will be sought.
- 2022/258 **Streetlights – LED replacements** – it was agreed to continue with the policy of upgrading the streetlights to LED lamps as and when the sodium lamps fail.
- 2022/259 **Allotments** – the request for a shed on plot 10 at the Ballinger allotments was resolved, providing the required dimensions are followed.
- 2022/260 **Ballinger Waggoners Cricket Club licence** – the council discussed the request from BWCC for a £5million public liability requirement, however as the parish council insure all their other open spaces up to £10million, it was resolved for the licence requirement to remain at £10million.

- 2022/261 **E-Scooters – liability on parish council land** – the council discussed the liability of possible accidents caused by e-scooters on parish owned land. The parish council understand that currently e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988 which means that rules that apply to a motor vehicle apply to e-scooters. Prestwood Common has signage that prohibits the use of motorised vehicles.
- 2022/262 **Sexton Quotes for approval** – the following quotes were approved by resolution:-
- Cut up and remove 3 larch trees that have fallen into neighbouring field £1,100
 - Gryms Dyke playground repair fence £95
 - Install bollard in Buryfield car park £395
- 2022/263 **Buryfield – rat bait boxes – for discussion** – it was agreed by majority vote to suspend the use of the bait boxes on Buryfield for three months, and then review. This was on the grounds of accordance with the biodiversity policy.
- Finance and General Purposes**
- 2022/264 Minutes of the meeting held on **22nd November 2022** were approved and will be signed at a later date.
- 2022/265 **Budget 2023/24** – Cllr Johnstone summarised the first draft of the budget following the meeting of the Finance Committee. An increase of 4.84% in the total precept, utilising £48,000 of reserves was proposed. A further meeting of the committee on 19th December, was planned and a final recommendation would be presented for approval at the January parish meeting. A less than 5% increase was agreed as acceptable, in principle. There has been a slight increase in the tax base this year and this will affect the overall percentage. The earmarked reserves were also discussed.
- 2022/266 **Request for grant – Plan-It Prestwood** – the request for a grant of £2,000 towards the lights for the Christmas tree at Chequers Parade was resolved by majority vote. It was noted that this was approximately £1,500 over the budget line, however it was agreed that reserves can be used.
- 2022/267 **Request for grant – The Source** – the grant for £832 for printing the latest edition of The Source was resolved by majority vote. This is £204 over the budget for The Source, but it was agreed that the general reserve can be used.
- 2022/268 **Request for grant – The Colts** – the grant for £1,720 towards a defibrillator at Prestwood Common was approved. As this was not budgeted for, general reserves were agreed.
- 2022/269 **Request for grant – Citizens Advice Bucks** – the grant for £5,000 towards volunteer recruitment and training was resolved by majority vote. This is over the budget line but general reserve use was agreed.
- 2022/270 **Internal Auditor 2022/23** – the quote from Bridget Knight for £198 for the 2022/23 internal audit was resolved by unanimous vote.
- 2022/271 **Legal Notices** – LTN13 and LTN 54 were noted.
- 2022/272 **Payment of accounts for December 2022** numbered **183-209** in the sum of **£32,630.73** (inc VAT) were agreed for payment and petty cash items for December of **£97.35** be ratified.
- Editorial Working Party**
- 2022/273 **'The Source'** – Cllr Hewett thanked everyone for their recent article submissions. The next meeting of the working party will be in January.
- 2022/274 **Reports from Representatives to outside Groups** – none.
- 2022/275 **Clerk's Report** – noted.

- It was agreed that the parish office hours between Christmas and New Year would be 28th & 29th Dec – 9am – 12.30pm and 30th Dec 10am-1pm.
- It was agreed that the clerk and deputy clerk could carry over 6 days annual leave to be taken in 2023.

2022/276 Matters for information

- Cllr Stevenson reported on recent energy monitoring he had carried out at Prestwood Community Centre and encouraged an early resolution for a new heating solution.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Future Meetings

a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre

b) Parish Council – 7.30pm Monday 9th January 2023 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre