



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 @ 7.30pm**  
**Great Missenden Memorial Centre, Great Missenden**

**Public Forum:** One representative from Buckinghamshire Council Community Board

Two representatives from Thames Valley Police Community Support.

PSCO C Hinkley-Ging reported that Great Missenden is 'below average' in crime stats for the County. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to date there had been four outbuildings' burglaries in the parish to steal tools. PSCOs are being recruited across the Thames Valley. Great Missenden will remain with one PSCO because it is a low policing demand area. PSCO C Hinkley-Ging who has been office based for the last six weeks will be on Great Missenden roads with speed gun next week. The PSCOs were positive that Great Missenden Police Station lease will be renewed.

Cllr Bunting flagged Sheepwash Pond vandalism: aerosol cans, fires and burnt pigeons. PSCO Hinkley-Ging requested that the community report damage to the police or make reports to the Clerks.

**Present:** Councillor K Pither, vice-chair – chaired the meeting

Councillors: C Bunting, L Cook, J Gladwin, S Humphreys, M Johnstone, I Lovegrove, V Marshall, M Lee, R Pusey, T Stevenson

**Also present:** Tracy Georgiades, Deputy Clerk

2023/213 **Apologies:** Cllrs: A Hewett, C Bains, C Ormesher, S Rhodes, V Martin

2023/214 **Declarations of Interest**

Item 238 - Training – Civility Respect course funding – Cllrs: C Bunting, K Pither and M Johnstone – have a non pecuniary interest and as candidates will not vote

2023/215 **Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023** – were agreed and signed as a correct record.

2023/216 **Matters arising**

- The **Misbourne School** have made a request to cut back the hedge around the London Road gates - report of overgrown hedge causing safety problems. Graham is going to investigate and provide a quote. (Schools break up soon.)
- Unfortunately, there was not a majority approval to respond to the **Bucks Free Press** comment on Missenden being a stylish village. The journalist did not call back for the quote.
- The deadline for the **Parish Charter** responses has been extended to **31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023.**
- **PCC building repairs** are planned for today.
- **The Roald Dahl Museum** - closure for 18 months was noted. There are going to be some changes at the Museum. They have bought the buildings in Wheelers Yard and will be extending the galleries out that way.

2023/217 **Prestwood Community Centre – External Repairs** - The Mudan Building Contractors PCC repair charge, £750 + vat, was approved using clerks delegated powers and is minuted for noting. Cllr Pither commented on the high standard of the repairs.

- 2023/218 **Parking - Buryfield car park fence** - the dates for the removal and replacement of fencing running from behind the Parish Office and along the Link Road side of Buryfield car park were accepted. Bucks Council are aware of closures.
- 2023/219 **Parking in Great Missenden - draft letters** – all approved. A small amendment to the letter to Businesses of Great Missenden.
- 2023/220 **Request for speed tubes – A413 Great Missenden** – near Link Road roundabout. This is a response to public complaints to Thames Valley Police regarding speed safety and noise. The Council support an application for a grant to the Community Board for a speed survey (£550 + vat) from Bucks Council. If a survey is carried out the Council would share the results. The Community Board will confirm if they are able to help with funding.
- 2023/221 **Parish Meeting Room** - it was felt that a new television for the Memorial Hall Committee Room in a cost-of-living crisis was unnecessary. The TV in the Parish Office will continue to be used by the Planning Committee.
- 2023/222 **Pride Flags** – Following information received by Bucks Council regarding the legality of the pride flags, the council had voted by majority to leave the flags in place until the end of June, this was resolved under clerks delegated powers shortly after the June meeting. Cllr Bunting and family were thanked for taking down the flags at the end of Pride month in Great Missenden High Street.
- 2023/223 **London Luton Airport Expansion** – Cllr Bunting said Luton Airport expansion does not fit in with climate emissions targets. It would lead to increased traffic, car, and plane. Current air corridors will be very busy. Airbus and Boeing have orders for 2,000 more planes and Luton proposes a rise in passengers from 18m to 32m. Cllr Lee commented Luton expansion would be like Gatwick, single usage, Standard Instrument Departure, take off from SW then NW. Great Missenden is a protected air space, planes fly overhead at 6,000 feet. GMPC will point out the risks to ensure our air space is tightly monitored.
- It was agreed Cllr Bunting will compose a letter outlining the Council’s concerns for peace and quiet in Great Missenden and this will be circulated to councillors for agreement.
- 2023/224 **London Road, Great Missenden – speeding e-petition** – there are three issues here: -
- road safety for walking school children set down by lifts at Nags Head Pub and kids walking from Windsor Road,
  - flooding and puddle splashing
  - a car speed of 40 mph and visual splays
- Children coming from the Nags Head Pub don’t use the zebra crossing. They walk on the road from the Nags Head Pub because flooding leaves no alternative.
- It was agreed to discuss with Bucks Council’s Area Technician and to report flooding on Fix My Street.
- County Councillor Peter Martin is investigating and liaising with the community board. The community board will report back to the Parish Council and an update will be sent to all Councillors by email.

#### **COMMITTEES - Planning**

- 2023/225 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023** – were approved with a amendment to the ‘thank you’ in Matters Arising from 2a/2b and will be signed at a later date.
- 2023/226 **Terms of Reference for Planning Committee** – this will be deferred to the August agenda for discussion.

- 2023/227 **Request to consider delegated powers for Planning Committee** – deferred to the August agenda.
- 2023/228 **Oak Tree, Greenlands Lane** – the letter was approved by resolution and will be sent to Dave Roberts Head of Highways. Thanks are recorded for Cllr Rhodes for drafting the letter.
- 2023/191 **HS2- Update**
- 1. HS2 Project Review** - a further two year delay on the project has been announced. HS2 are rebalancing responsibilities between EKFB and Align in the Chilterns area. Details for the works in the parish are not yet available.
  - 2. Construction Issues**

**Chiltern Tunnel** – the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMS) - The TBMs Florence and Cecilia started in May 2021 have completed 11.5 km of tunnelling.

**Just under 4.5km tunnelling to go** - The twin bore tunnel continues the hill into the Great Missenden parish just before Hyde Lane, then to the Chesham Road Vent Shaft by the former Annie Baileys, under Sibley’s Coppice and Frith Hill (SHL), to the north portal...about 4.5km to go.

We are seeking assurances that we do not experience similar problems as the boring machines approach the North Portal to those experienced at Ruislip and Shardeloes, such as ‘bubbling’ mud pools from the grout sealant and ground movement causing a sinkhole. We already know that the ground around the North Portal contains a large amount of clay and the chalk approaching the portal is fractured which is why the barrettes were constructed so it is a cause for concern!

Instrumentation and Monitoring Movement detectors in the form of studs have been placed around the portal and on Chiltern Cottage the closest home to the portal.
  - 3. Chesham Road Intervention Shaft (CRIS)**

The shaft has been dug and is being fitted out and the structures for the headhouse and Auto Transformer Station started. The design approach aim to integrate the scheme into the rural landscape with buildings that resemble modern agricultural storage buildings.

The TBMs will pass through in November 2023 and the schedule is for the site is to be completed in early 2025
  - 4. North Portal and South Heath cutting**

The earthworks for the South Heath cutting continue in the good weather and the construction of a concrete batching plant will start shortly at the bottom of the cutting for the construction of the portal structures and fitting out the tunnel after the TBMs have been dismantled in summer 2024.

The Schedule 17 plans for the portal building and tunnel portals have been submitted. The building and porous portal will be at the bottom of the South Heath cutting. Following comments raised at the Key Design Exhibition, the hardstanding for the compound will now be comprised of a light grey/buff course stone surfacing to blend into the surrounding railway cutting and Chilterns AONB!

The porous portals are located at the Chiltern Twin Tunnel entrances. The lengths of the entrance and exit portals are staggered at 220m for the entry portal and 135m for the exit portal to respond to differing air pressure created by passing trains. Both portals are 12m in height and 10m wide.

Final works to the access road to prepare it for operational readiness will take place once the railway systems have been installed and intensive use of the access road by

construction traffic is no longer required. This will involve removing the substantial haul road to the link roundabouts to the south and utilising the Frith Hill access! External lighting will be on a Passive Infra-Red (PIR) sensor which will illuminate the compound in the case of unwanted intrusion or in an emergency. There will be no permanent lighting of the ancillary building or compound area. However, we have concerns over the positioning of the lighting as it could be intrusive, these and other factors that concern us will be raised when the following Schedule 17 submission to cover the landscaping of the north portal is available.

#### **4.2 The South Heath cutting earthworks continue in the good weather**

Pre-grouting and piling have started for the preparation of the overbridges for footpaths GMI/2 & GMI/12. For GMI/2, UKPN will remove overhead power cables and place them underground which we had asked them to do years ago but it was too expensive.

**4. Leather Lane Community (LLC) Group** – We and county councillors have pursued with EKFB their offer to reconvene last year’s closed meeting with restricted attendance from County Councillors, BC officers and the conservation group, with Colin Sully and me as observers from the local parish councils. We have offered the Memorial Hall. We are anticipating a response from EKFB soon unless it is delayed with the reorganisation of activities between the contractors.

**5. Roadworks** – Construction activities are continuing at a pace for the Wendover and Small Dean viaducts and the Wendover green tunnel. The associated roadworks will continue to have a significant impact on traffic in the area.

#### **6. Engagement –**

Opportunities to engage with HS2 were reviewed

Drop-in dates from 3 to 7pm

Great Missenden Memorial Hall, Link Road, HP16 9AE

- 14 September
- 7 December

Amersham British Legion Hall, Whielden Street, HP7 0JB

- 13 July

Mobile Visitor Centre (MVC)

10 am to 3 pm

- Visits have been paused for the summer

A meeting of the GMPC HS2 Working Party had been arranged for the 11<sup>th</sup>

#### **Open Spaces and Lighting**

2023/230 **Prestwood Common – vandalism:**

Recent vandalism includes, exterior boarding pulled off the Community Centre, the Colts’ pavilion lock, damage to scout hut roof, damage to guide hut door, damage to bench and another bench was burnt. There has also been abuse to Nairdwood Lane Allotment holders and hirers of the Community Centre

Cllr Pither met with a representative from the scouts, allotment holders and PCSO Chris Hinkley-Ging who asked that the Council reports all vandalism in the area and encourages residents to do the same. He recommended an article in The Source.

PSCO Chris is now focusing his patrols in the area and neighbourhood policing.

The Council approved Cllr Humphreys offer to mend the seat of the bench.

The Council is also being offered bench from a resident.

- 2023/231 **Swarco – Maintenance Contracts for MVAS speed signs:**  
 It was agreed to:  
 - monitor what other Parish Councils do  
 - to wait and see what further security measures are introduced by Swarco to deter battery theft  
 - to postpone the annual service contract renewal for the four speed signs.
- 2023/232 **Great Missenden Annual Playground Inspection Reports** – it was agreed to set up a working party as in previous years to review the reports and prioritise the work.
- 2023/233 **Ballinger Common – Cricket Club improvements**  
 The Parish Council will make the planning permission application on behalf of the Waggoners for the following:  
 1. The extended patio area  
 2. The new hardstanding area behind the pavilion and a new shed  
 3. A sign in/near the hedge advertising the cricket club.  
 The cost of the planning application (£117) will be passed to the cricket club.
- 2023/234 **Quote for 2x LED Streetlights – Winslow Fields** – The council approved Lamps & Tubes quote E5449/23 £771.56.
- 2023/235 **Prestwood Common Sport Surface** –The Agri-Flex surface sample was discussed and dismissed as plastic and too rough for child usage. Cllr Pusey visited Aston Clinton Park and was impressed with the paintable tarmac surface and would be interested in prices. Thanks are recorded for Cllr Pusey’s research into this.  
 It was resolved to put this item onto the Open Spaces agenda for further discussion.
- 2023/236 **Request to use Buryfield – Gateway** – the council resolved to commit to a trial of one term. Gateway School will be asked to check availability and condition of the Buryfield with the Parish the week before use as the condition of the grass will need to be checked. The Council agreed to charge Gateway.
- Finance and General Purposes**
- 2023/237 **VAT - Buryfield Car Park** – based on recent advice the charging of vat by the Parish Council on any annual income from Buryfield Car Park should be charged and back dated 4 years. Bucks Council is being approached.  
**PCC** - the implications of the VAT threshold were noted to PCC expenses by the parish council. If an expensive refurbishment goes ahead the council will review it in relation to the vat exempt threshold.
- 2023/238 **Training – Civility & Respect** - the seminar attendance cost for 3 was approved and the allocation to the training budget.
- 2023/239 **Parish Warden** - the Council agreed that further discussions on salary requirements were needed. An additional consideration is tools.
- 2023/240 **IT Quote assistance** – the IT quotes were at the level accepted at the last meeting.
- 2023/241 **Request for grant** – Dementia Carers Respite – the council voted by majority to decline this grant request.
- 2023/242 **Request for Source grant** – the grant for £798.00 was approved and it was noted that this is 2<sup>nd</sup> grant to the Source in the current year.
- 2023/243 **Press & Media Policy** - based on SLCC template was deferred by majority to August.
- 2023/244 Payment of accounts for **July 2023** – numbers **64-82** for a sum of **£19,349.91 (inc VAT)** were all agreed for payment and petty cash items for June of **£65.02** were ratified.

**Editorial Working Party**

- 2023/245 ‘The Source’ –Cllr Bunting agreed to contribute an article.
- 2023/246 **Reports from Representatives to outside Groups**

Discussions with Great Missenden Village Association (GMVA) were reported over jointly pursuing improvements to the village entrance signs, replacing signs at Angling Spring Path, the Bus shelter and equipment for the Buryfield Park. Proposals are being developed.

2023/247 **Clerk's Report** – was noted.

2023/248 **Matters for information** – none.

Meeting closed 9.30pm.

**Future Meetings**

**a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre**

**b) Parish Council – 7.30pm Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Prestwood Village Hall, Bucks**