

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 11th September 2023 @ 7.30pm
Great Missenden Memorial Centre, Link Road,
Great Missenden HP16 9AE



Public Forum: One resident regarding Prestwood Community Centre
One resident regarding Hildreth's firework event

Present: Councillor A Hewett - Chair

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

2023/278 Apologies

Cllrs V Martin, C Ormesher

2023/279 Declarations of Interest

Item 285 – Cllrs Pither & Bains

2023/280 Minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2023 – were agreed and signed as a correct record.

2023/281 Matters arising

- Suspected vandalism has been reported at Gryms Duke playground, Prestwood where the rubber surfacing has been significantly damaged and at Prestwood Community Centre where more of the external boarding has been cracked and removed.
- Bucks Council are reviewing their policy of offering 5 free days parking. No update is available currently.
- An application for £10,200 has been made to the Police & Crime Commissions Community Fund for 2 solar powered speed units, which if successful will avoid the batter theft problem.
- Bucks Councillor Peter Martin is following up with the road safety requests at Wycombe Road, Prestwood and London Road, Great Missenden.
- The Buryfield fencing replacement is now completed.
- The external sockets at the PCC will be fitted on 13th September.

2023/282 Prestwood Community Centre

1. Proposal to replace building with new brick built structure – Cllr Pither updated the council on the recent working party meeting. Initial ideas were discussed and a further meeting will be arranged.

2. Pool table – British Heart Foundation regret that they are unable to receive the pool table due to its size. The council agreed by resolution that it will be advertised on Ebay to go to a charitable cause.

2023/283 Parking

1. Buryfield car park lease – the request to reconsider extending the termination period by Bucks Council was discussed and it was agreed that there was no new information to warrant a further reconsideration of this as per the standing orders. The council agreed that the termination period should remain at six months as previously.

2. Buryfield car park – repairs – update from Bucks Council – the council noted the cost of repairing the gutter guards in Buryfield car park as £2,225 +VAT. As it does not

appear that the guards were replaced, but that the edging was just filled in, the clerk will ask for sight of the description of works and the invoice. Cllr Humphreys advised that this area should be monitored for any future deterioration.

2. Turning Circle – trees & weeds – it was noted that weeds were growing around the Buryfield car park in the area adjacent to the adventure play area. Some of the trees have also died in this area and in the gabion wall. Cllr Johnstone will contact HS2 who planted three trees and Cllr Hewett will contact Missenden Walled Garden who have assisted with weeding in the past.

2023/284 Councillor Surgery – proposal to purchase A-frame – the cost of £75 + VAT was resolved to purchase an A-frame to help advertise the monthly councillor surgery.

2023/285 Grow your Own project – update – request to consider DBS checks – Cllrs Bains and Pither reported that the ‘Little Green Fingers’ session at the Community Centre had been successful. Cllr Bains suggested that in order to run more regular sessions DBS checks would be required. The council approved this by resolution and a cost of £60 was resolved for these checks. The clerk will progress this. Cllr Bains & Pither may make a request for further sessions at the Community Centre and some funds for compost and refreshments. This will be considered on a future agenda.

2023/286 Community Board - Great Missenden – bus shelter – the council discussed the request from the Community Board to spend the £6,239.09 remaining in the Great Missenden Village improvements grant as soon as possible, as it was carried over from last year. The council requested quotes for a both a wooden bus shelter and a green roofed bus shelter for consideration at the October meeting. It was also suggested that a notice board with local support group contact information could be incorporated into the bus shelter project. In March 2023 the parish council agreed in principle to contribute additional funding to this project from general reserves.

2023/287 GMMC bollards – replacement – the council discussed the quote for replacing the two concrete bollards outside the Memorial Centre and the clerk was asked to obtain further comparison quotes.

COMMITTEES - Planning

2023/288 Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2023 – were approved as a correct record with minor amendments and will be signed at the next planning committee meeting.

2023/289 Terms of Reference for Planning Committee – these were discussed and amended terms suggested and approved. The clerk was asked to amend the draft to reflect the agreed terms.

2023/290 Request to consider delegated powers for Planning Committee – it was approved by majority vote to retain the current delegated powers for the planning committee and not extend these powers further.

2023/291 HS2- Update

1. Construction Update – The tunnel boring machines continue to progress and have passed the Little Missenden Vent shaft site. At the North Portal the headwall excavation is complete and hours of work approved up to April 2024. The earthworks excavation of the South Heath cutting is progressing. Footpath GM1/12 and Cottage Farm track overbridges are waiting for Thames Water to agree the designs and the piling should start in October for the GM1/12 overbridge. Preparation for the A413 diversion for the piers for the viaduct at Wendover Dean have started. There will also be lane closures on A413 at Little Missenden to allow Survey work to be carried out (11.09, 09.10, 06.11, 04.12)

2. Environment – the sinkhole at Shardeloes is now being filled in up to 400mm below existing ground level. This will be completed in future months once the ground has stabilised.

There are concerns over hydrology at Wendover with regards the ¾ mile tunnel box being built as part of the green tunnel alongside the Wendover Bypass. This may interfere with the water feeding the Grand Union canal and Weston Turville reservoir. HS2 have installed significant number of additional monitoring points for groundwater levels and results will be publicly available for 6 years.

Plans for a green overbridge at Bowood Lane have been rejected by Bucks Council. An appeal is in progress.

Leather Lane Conservation Group – it appears that EKFB have submitted plans for the overbridge to HS2 for approval in advance of the Schedule 17 application, however no detail is available to us yet.

The following plans are all due to be submitted to Bucks:-

GM1/12 overbridge, noise barrier in CDC P01, GMI/13/3, resubmission 1 – South Heath Landscaping. These will be submitted under Schedule 17 applications and there are few grounds on which Bucks Council can refuse.

3. Engagement – the Mobile Visitor Centre is being deployed in the Aylesbury/Wendover area –Wendover, 27th Sept – Ellesborough Parish Hall. There is also a North Portal Community Event on 14th Sept at Memorial Centre, Great Missenden.

Open Spaces and Lighting

- 2023/292 Prestwood Recreation Ground – Lease – update** – Bucks Council have the signed copies and the parish council’s solicitors are awaiting confirmation that Bucks Council have signed and sealed the documents.
- 2023/293 Prestwood Recreation Ground – hedge with Honor House flats** – it was noted that this hedge is on the border of the leased land. Confirmation from Bucks Council is awaited to see if the parish council will be responsible for maintenance on the whole hedge or if it is shared responsibility with Paradigm. The clerk is awaiting an update.
- 2023/294 Tree Report** – the annual tree work was noted as was the list of tree works recommendations. There are 7 high priority items (six months) and the remaining are moderate or low. Quotes will be sought for the council to discuss.
- 2023/295 Ballinger Car Park – surface** – potholes in this car park were discussed and it was resolved to obtain quotes for the repairs. Cllr Humphreys will confirm the scope of works to the clerk.
- 2023/296 Buryfield hedge cutting** – the council resolved to accept the quote from Sexton of £695.00 + VAT for the annual prune and feed of the Buryfield hedge.
- 2023/297 Buryfield Adventure Play area – multiplay equipment** – the proposed replacement multiplay equipment was approved. The cost of this type of equipment is approx. £51,322.00. Local examples for the councillors to visit were requested. As per Standing Orders, Contract Finder will be used to tender this work. Meanwhile funding assistance will be investigated.
- 2023/298 Prestwood Recreation Ground – consider multiplay equipment** – Cllr Pither proposed that the same multiplay equipment as in item 297 was considered for Prestwood Recreation Ground. This was approved by majority and will be included on the same Contract Finder advert. Funding assistance will also be investigated for this.

- 2023/299 Buryfield – Great Missenden Football Club** – it was resolved to write to Great Missenden Football Club to confirm fixture dates for the next season and also any training sessions to help with coordinating parking with other hirers of the hall.
- 2023/300 Buryfield – Chequers Tree – request to pick fruit** – a resident has requested this to perhaps make a small batch beer with Malt Brewery. This was resolved by majority approval.

Finance and General Purposes

- 2023/301 Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting 2nd August 2023** – were approved as a correct record and will be signed at the next Finance Committee Meeting.
- 2023/302 Draft Investment Strategy** – the strategy was resolved by majority vote. As was the proposal to mitigate the risk of holding all the parish council’s funds in Lloyds Bank and to diversify into other one year bank accounts. It was agreed to start by opening two further bank accounts and move funds across.
- 2023/303 Conclusion of External Audit 2022/23** – Cllr Johnstone reported that the external auditors had completed their audit and had not found any matters that gave cause for concern. The public posting of the conclusion of the annual audit and accounts were noted. The clerk was thanked for her diligence at maintaining the accounts and their submission for the audit.
- 2023/304 Parish Warden – update** – the updated job description was accepted with amendments by resolution. This will be shared with the prospective candidate, following previous advertising, along with the salary details and if agreeable an interview will be arranged.
- 2023/305 Press & Media Policy** – the amended version was approved by resolution.
- 2023/306 Insurance renewal** – the annual renewal of £4,560.32 was approved by resolution. It was noted that this is the 3rd year of a 3 year agreement.
- 2023/307 Request for a Grant – The Source** – the request for £798 for the printing of The Source was discussed. This brings the total for this year £308 over the budgeted amount. It was resolved to approve this out of general reserves.
- 2023/308 Legal Update – LTN78** The Equality Act - was noted.
- 2023/309 Payment of accounts for September 2023** – numbers **104 – 126** for a sum of **£31,900.87** (inc VAT) were all agreed for payment and petty cash items for September of **£67.20** were ratified.

Editorial Working Party

- 2023/310 ‘The Source’** – Cllr Hewett thanked Cllr Bains for her article for the next edition.
- 2023/311 Reports from Representatives to outside Groups** – none.
- 2023/312 Clerk’s Report** – this was noted and Cllr Hewett volunteered to progress item 2 – Buryfield step project.
- 2023/313 Matters for information**
- Community Speeding Meeting – 7th November with Thames Valley Police at Great Missenden Memorial Centre

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Future Meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 2nd October 2023 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre**
- b) Parish Council – 7.30pm Monday 9th October 2023 – Prestwood Village Hall**