

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 7th October 2024
Prestwood Village Hall, Wycombe Road
Prestwood HP16 0NZ

Public Forum: One member of public present.

Present: Cllr A Hewett - chair

Cllrs:, C Bains, C Bunting, L Cook, S Humphreys, M Lee, I Lovegrove, V Marshall,
V Martin, R Pusey, S Rhodes, T Stevenson

2024/331 Apologies: Cllrs, J Gladwin, M Johnstone, C Ormesher, K Pither

Also Present: J Hennessy, clerk

2024/332 Declarations of Interest – none.

2024/333 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

2024/334 Matters arising

- £2,000 grant has been received by Stoke Mandeville & Other Parishes Charity. This was a generous donation towards the recently installed multiplay equipment on Prestwood Recreation Ground.
- Thames Water were called out following overflowing drains along the main sewer through Buryfield and outside the Memorial Centre. This was after a recent downpour. Thames Water were able to clear a blockage in the drains towards the Abbey Walk side of the Buryfield.
- Remembrance wreaths – Missenden Walled Garden are supplying a wreath to be placed at St Peter & St Pauls Church (£45) and the British Legion are supplying a poppy wreath for the wall by the war memorial on Great Missenden High Street (£25). These costs were approved by Cllr Hewett.
- Quotes from steel fabricators for the replacement part of the Prestwood Recreation Ground bollard have not been forthcoming. Cllr Humphreys will speak to a local firm.
- A request from a resident for further speed signs on Martinsend Lane will be added to the November agenda.
- All councillors were reminded to review their register of interests form.

2024/335 Memorial Centre

1. Agreement – further historic documentation is required from the 1970's in order to confirm aspects of the proposed new management agreement.

2024/336 Speeding – Lodge Lane, Prestwood – Cllr Hewett gave an update on the recent meeting between Cllr Pither and a resident of Lodge Lane. It was agreed that the resident will monitor this stretch of road (the beginning of Lodge Lane from the Nairdwood Lane junction) and will report back to Cllr Pither.

2024/337 Prestwood Community Centre

1. Vandalism – the new door specification has been confirmed and the order will be placed by the contractors shortly after confirming the colour, which will be a silver colour to closely match what is currently there.

2. CY Ventures – it was agreed to waive the charges for the three sessions booked which are for two and a half hours each over the next three months. It is understood that the first session was attended by 23 young people. CY Ventures will then be reviewing the plan to move forward with these sessions.

3. Car Park surfacing – a revised specification for the re-surfacing of Prestwood Community Centre car park was agreed by resolution. This was as new information has been provided advising that the current base layer is not in need of replacement.

The new top layer will be a 6mm-0mm granite to a depth of 25mm which is a more accessible surface. The maximum value of £12,200 + VAT was also agreed by resolution and two additional quotes will be provided.

- 2024/338** **Sustrans – Village Gate** – the further design information for the proposed gateway feature on Aylesbury Road was discussed. It was noted that the design has been submitted to Bucks Council by Sustrans. The council agreed to wait until feedback has been received from Bucks Council regarding the design before agreeing to adopt the gateways. It was also noted that Great Missenden Village Association would also like to meet with the parish council to discuss the design of the gateway.
- 2024/339** **Bus route 41** – Cllr Bunting updated the council on a recent meeting with Bucks Council, GMVA and Carousel buses regarding the change in bus route 41. Unfortunately the route can't be changed however Carousel may be able to reroute a couple of buses a day to stop at Amersham Hospital. The overall message is that usage of local buses does need to increase and if this is the case it may be viable to increase the number of services that Carousel provide.
- 2024/340** **Library Flex consultation** – the response from Bucks Council addressing the concerns of the parish council was noted.

COMMITTEES - Planning

2024/341 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **30th September 2024** were approved and will be signed at the next planning meeting.

2024/342 **HS2- Update**

- 1. Programme Delays** – excavation work has been delayed due to protracted discussion between HS2 Ltd, the contractors and the Environment Agency over the design of the cut and cover Wendover green tunnel. It has now been agreed that EKFB will continue to construct the whole of the green tunnel.
- 2. Chesham Road Intervention Shaft** – a recent site visit by councillors learned that the mechanical and electrical installations of the buildings at this location should be finished by the end of December 2024, landscaping will start early 2025, Align will demobilise from the site in 2025 with anticipated completed in March. Timing of the installation of the rail and operating systems has yet to be determined.
- 3. Update on Leather Lane Overbridge design** – a stakeholder meeting was held with an update of the proposed design, however this information will not be publicly available until the Schedule 17 application planned for Spring 2025.
- 4. Drop-in Sessions** – The next drop in session to be held on Wednesday 27th November at Great Missenden Memorial Centre between 5-7pm.
- 5. HS2 Social Value – donation of materials** – with the demobilisation of the South Portal and other sites materials are becoming available for donation to the community. Four fridges have been reserved for the Community Fridge.

Open Spaces and Lighting

- 2024/343 **Prestwood Recreation Ground – dropped kerb** – the Bucks Highways Local Area Technician has confirmed that a vehicle access licence is not required for the dropped kerb, however a streetworks licence 171 is required (this is a slightly reduced cost of £193). The remaining paperwork from the contractor is awaited and then the streetworks licence will be applied for. The licence takes approximately four weeks for approval. It was also noted that a dropped kerb would fall under permitted development for planning purposes.
- 2024/344 **Allotment Competition prizes** – Hildreths have kindly agreed to sponsor the allotment competition prizes again this year. Thanks for this is recorded.

- 2024/345 **Feedback from Allotment Training Course** – Cllr Bunting reported back from a recent training course, which included adding policies alongside the tenancy agreement and considering the presence of animals. This will be discussed further at the next Open Spaces Meeting, on 23rd October at 5pm.
- 2024/346 **Playground Inspections** – the suggestion of quarterly operational playground equipment safety checks was discussed. This is in addition to the current weekly visual checks and the annual inspection. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next Open Spaces meeting for a recommendation to be made.
- 2024/347 **Request to use Buryfield – Bootcamp** – the request from Smith Health Fitness to run a bootcamp on Buryfield hardstanding area over the winter months on a Wednesday evening from 6.30pm-7.30pm was approved by resolution.
- 2024/348 **Request to use Prestwood Recreation Ground – Touch Rugby** – it was approved by resolution that the Touch Rugby group can use Prestwood Recreation Ground on a Tuesday evening. This is an all year round group and is not run as a business. A copy of the public liability insurance has been sent through.
- 2024/349 **Use of Buryfield – Great Missenden Football Club & Circus** – this was deferred as the council are waiting to hear back from the circus.
- 2024/350 **Ballinger Common – request for path & car park surfacing repairs** – it was agreed to approach contractors for advice and quotes for repairs to the Ballinger car park surface and also for the possibility and price of a short path on Ballinger Common around the front of the play equipment to the car park.
- 2024/351 **Streetlight – Electricity Contract** – the difficulty with unmetered non half hourly contracts for streetlighting was discussed. An OFGEM regulation to discontinue non half hourly meters has made suppliers reluctant to offer unmetered contracts. Utility Aid have found an unmetered contract for one year with Ecotricity for two of the three meters. The remaining meter is a class 8 which none of the suppliers are offering contracts on and so will need to remain with SSE. (This meter has a small estimated usage). The council resolved to accept the one year contract with Ecotricity estimated at £8,411. The clerk is following up with UKPN regarding the remaining meter. The council agreed by resolution for the setting up of a new direct debt for Ecotricity.
- 2024/352 **Buryfield Toddler Multiplay – quote for surfacing** – Southern Landscapes provided a quote for £2,900 + VAT to install TigerMulch under the Buryfield Toddler multiplay equipment, which is uneven and muddy currently. This was agreed by resolution under clerks deleted powers and is due to be carried out in the next few weeks weather permitting.
- 2024/353 **Buryfield hedge – quote for annual prune** – it was resolved to accept the quote from Sexton Fencing for £795 + VAT for the annual cut of hedge around Buryfield.
- 2024/354 **Buryfield Path – update** – the new path is nearing completion. An additional £360 + VAT was approved by Cllr Hewett to reinforce a small sloped area of path near the zebra crossing. It was also proposed and resolved to insert a clause in the contract for use of Buryfield that the entrance should be covered with board to protect the area from damage from vehicles.
- 2024/355 **Buryfield Tree Work – update** – the work on the trees on Buryfield around Abbey Walk has started, but not completed yet due to weather conditions. An additional £250 was approved by Cllr Hewett to remove two dead trees (hazel and elderflower) that were in the hedge along Buryfield Lane but are hanging over the footpath and one of the school entrances.

Finance and General Purposes

- 2024/356 **Financial Regulations – submission of tenders by email – Open Spaces Contract** – it was agreed to allow submission via email for the Open Spaces Contract tenders. A separate email address will be provided and will only be accessible by the clerk. The process will be reviewed after this contract to ensure it provides protection for both the council and the clerk, should it be used again.
- 2024/357 **Request for a grant – Great Missenden Village Association** – the grant for £750 towards three new information signs for Angling Spring Wood was approved by resolution.
- 2024/358 **Request for a grant – Missenden Walled Garden** – the grant for £1,500 for additional tools and equipment was approved by resolution.
- 2024/359 **Grant Refund – The Source** – the request for a refund of a portion of the recent £1,000 grant was noted. This is as the insurance policy for which the grant was awarded has been cancelled and under the terms of the grant policy should now be returned to the parish council.
- 2024/360 **Parish Office – Electricity contract** – the quote from Octopus Business Energy for a one year contract for £497 excluding VAT was approved by resolution. It was also resolved to approve a direct debit is set up for Octopus Business Energy.
- 2024/361 **Parish Office – cleaning** – it was agreed to look for a weekly cleaner for the parish office.
- 2024/362 **Budget Ideas** – all councillors were reminded to send through ideas for the 2025-26 budget. The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 31st October @ 5pm to discuss a first budget draft.
- 2024/363 Payment of accounts for **October 2024** – numbers **141-161** for the sum of **£20,206.50** (inc VAT) were all agreed and petty cash/Equals Card items of **£120.48** were ratified.
- 2024/364 **Editorial Working Party**
1. **'The Source'** – a new issue is planned for November, however this is not yet confirmed as The Source is hoping to transition to a charity and this may delay a next edition.
 2. **Photography Exhibition** – it was agreed that the exhibition will be set up at Prestwood Community Centre on the evening of 25th October and will be open on 26th & 27th October. Cllrs Bains and Lee asked for volunteers to help over the weekend and Cllr Cook agreed.
- 2024/365 **Reports from Representatives to outside Groups** – none.
- 2024/366 **Clerk's Report** – noted.
- 2024/367 **Matters for information** – none.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Future Meetings

- a) **Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 4th November 2024 – Great Missenden Parish Council meeting room.**
- b) **Parish Council – 7.30pm Monday 11th November 2024 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre.**