

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 9th December 2024 @ 6.30pm
Great Missenden Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden HP16 9AE

Public Forum: Representative of Leather Lane Conservation Group

Present: Cllr A Hewett - chair

Cllrs: C Bains, C Bunting, L Cook, J Gladwin, M Lee, M Johnstone, V Marshall,
V Martin, C Ormesher, R Pusey, T Stevenson

2024/410 **Apologies** – Cllr Lovegrove, Ormesher, Humphreys

2024/411 **Declarations of Interest**

Item 437: Cllr Hewett

2024/412 **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2024** – were approved and signed as a true record.

2024/413 **Matters arising**

- Buryfield zip line is now completed and open.
- A group of young people on bikes in the Buryfield adventure play area were verbally abusive to a visitor when he asked them to move to the skate park and he reported them to the police. The PCSO advised that he had spoken to the visitor following the report but there was not much that could be done. No Cycling signs have been put up around the play area.
- The dropped kerb licence for Gryms Dyke has now been approved. (A vehicular licence was required in the end which was £354 – as approved at September meeting (item 309).
- The fencing has now been repaired at Prestwood Recreation Ground.
- Two emails received regarding requests to reduce speed on the parish roads (Nags Head Lane & Wycombe Road). It was requested that these are added to the January 2025 agenda.
- Quotes are awaited for a streetlight lamp bulb replacement on Walnut Close, Great Missenden.
- Bucks Council have asked for information on allowance paid by the council for the Independent Remuneration Panel review, information on the chairman's allowance has been sent through.
- The consultation on the Bucks Council Highways Lane Rental Scheme was noted.

2024/414 **Councillor Vacancy** – as the vacancy has arisen within six months of an election the parish council do not have an obligation to co-opt. However it was resolved to advertise the vacancy and consider any applications for co-option at the February council meeting. This will allow more time for applications over the Christmas period.

2024/415 **Bucks Council – Devolved Services** – it was resolved not to submit an expression of interest for devolved services for 25-26. Bucks Council are not able to offer any confirmed pricing for these services until February/March which does not allow the parish council to consider the budgetary impact when setting their precept for 2025/26 which has to be submitted to Bucks Council ahead of this timeframe. A letter was requested to be sent reflecting this and also to mention if it is possible to split some of the devolved services, i.e weedkilling.

2024/416 **Meeting with Colts, Guides & Scouts** – the notes of the recent meeting attended by Cllrs Hewett, Pither & Bains to look at the future plans for Prestwood Common & Recreation Ground and the facilities with the important stakeholders was noted. The Scouts will continue their plans to replace their hut whilst the parish council

working party meet to explore all options for the future of the Community Centre and make a recommendation to the full council. The Guides will be handing back the hut to the parish council in December 2025. The Colts are considering extending the hours that they are able to supply food and drinks from the kitchen in the pavilion.

2024/417

Prestwood Community Centre

1. Vandalism – the replacement door and keypad are now installed and the foyer re-decoration is being completed. It has been necessary for the intruder alarm company to be called out to remove the contacts and then replace them following the installation of the new door. Invoices received from intruder alarm company to disconnect contacts and reconnect wiring are approximately £187.50 x 2 (+ VAT) and £385 (+VAT) for the new wiring. This will all be reclaimed from the insurers.

2. Security Alarm Contract – Council resolved to accept the quote from Homeguard for the annual alarm maintenance contract at £90 (+VAT). They are a local company and the quote is cheaper than the current contractor. Notice will be given to Scutum who currently maintain the alarm and the contract expires on 1st April 2025.

2024/418

South Heath Defibrillator – the council approved to maintain a new defibrillator at South Heath crossroads on behalf of South Heath Road Safety Group, in August 2024. However, the defibrillator is being donated by Align and is not new, there are also logistical problems with the location, such as electrical supply and something to attach the defib to. It was proposed and resolved that the parish council undertake this project including the purchase of a new defibrillator. A quote was requested from a company that can advise on location and availability of services for the council to consider. General reserves will be allocated for this project once the cost is known.

2024/419

Red Lion/Railway Station/SANG – Abbey Park, Great Missenden – update – The developers, Peker Holdings, have approached the parish council to consider managing the proposed Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) at Abbey Park, Great Missenden. This is a requirement of the planning application for the Red Lion/Railway Station development and a planning application for the SANG has been submitted. The developer is required to create the SANG and provide maintenance costs for 80 years. A statutory body can be nominated to manage the area. Peker are keen to progress the development at the Red Lion/Railway Station. It was discussed that further information would be required.

2024/420

Parking – free parking dates – 2025 – two dates need to be chosen by the parish council and submitted to the Community Board by 31st January. Council requested this is deferred to January meeting.

2024/421

30mph Speed Reduction – Wycombe Road –the council noted that the commissioning process has been started for the speed reduction on Wycombe Road, Prestwood. A quote for the legal work is expected in the next 4-5 weeks, possibly in the region of £15,000. The parish council have already resolved a figure of £30,000 for the whole project (November item 372). If the council accept the quote for the work this will then require payment before the formal commission can be raised. Typical timeframe for speed limit changes are between 6 and 18 months.

2024/422

Councillor Surgeries 2025 – the current format for councillor surgeries was discussed. It was agreed that advertising could be improved however was suggested and resolved to trial a new format. Residents will be encouraged to contact the parish council office and then be offered contact directly with a councillor at a convenient time. This will be trialled for one year.

COMMITTEES - Planning

- 2024/423 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **2nd December 2024** – were approved and will be signed at the next planning committee meeting.
- 2024/424 **HS2- Update**
- 1. Lighting & section 61 consent** – concerns have been raised by residents in South Heath around Bayleys Hatch, Sibleys Rise and Park Hill regarding excessive lighting and Cllr Johnstone has followed this up directly with the contractors. Changes have been made, the number of floodlights reduced, lower intensity bulbs fitted, lights tilted downwards and some lights turned off at the end of the night shift which seems to have currently improved the situation.
 - 2. Roadworks** – towards the end of November a number of roadworks, not all HS2, caused problems and confusion around the hilltop villages. OneNetwork is a useful website showing all non-emergency works by the utility companies. In 2025 further disturbances will arise from the closures of Rocky Lane for six months followed by a closure of Leather Lane for six months.
 - 3. Flooding** – the recent heavy rain caused problems again along A413 despite both Bucks Councils and HS2 contractors digging additional attenuation ponds, ditches and clearing out existing ones. Worst affected were the junctions with Leather Lane and Rocky Lane with the A413.
 - 4. Rail Systems & Contractors** – The railway systems contractors have now been announced, these will follow on once the civil construction works have been completed. The main rail systems contractors will be brought together under a collaborative Rail Systems Alliance, the alliance structure is designed to manage the interfaces between each contractor and resolve any conflicts in the programme.
 5. HS2 Social Value – donation of materials
- Open Spaces and Lighting**
- 2024/425 **Open Spaces Tender 2025-28** – On 18th November the working party consisting of Cllrs Hewett & Pither supervised the opening of all the tenders received. Cllr Pusey then joined the working party and using a scoring matrix ten tenders were compared and discussed. Cllrs Pusey & Hewett returned at a later date to complete their scoring. All the scores were then averaged to rank the tenders and the highest scoring tender was recommended to the council. The council therefore resolved by majority to accept this recommendation that the contract for 2025-28 be awarded to Sexton fencing at an annual cost £52,311 + VAT (subject to contract conditions).
- 2024/426 **Pressure washing of play equipment & benches** – the quote for two days of pressure washing play of equipment and benches in Great Missenden & Buryfield was discussed and a further quote was requested for comparison.
- 2024/427 **Grass cutting – Prestwood Recreation Ground** – the email from a resident of Gryms Dyke was discussed. It was resolved to advise the resident of the grass cutting schedule for Prestwood Recreation Ground so that cars that are parked adjacent to the Recreation Ground have the option to move to avoid any grass cuttings.
- 2024/428 **Tetherdown – Damage to grass** – a resident reported that a van recently tried to drive along the path at Tetherdown and became stuck on the grass. The grass has been damaged in several areas leaving large ruts. It is suspected that this was a contractor working in the area, however it has not been possible to identify them. The council asked the clerk to provide quotes to repair the surface in this area.

- 2024/429 **Buryfield Tennis Courts**
1. Quote for cleaning – the quote from ETC Sports Surfaces to clean the two tennis courts for £1,475.00 + VAT was resolved.
2. Proposal to remove one tennis net & buy mobile basketball hoop – it was discussed that one tennis net could be removed and a mobile basketball hoop be purchased to offer further variety of sports. This was resolved in principle and quotes will be sought for the mobile basketball hoop for council approval.
- 2024/430 **Request to use Buryfield – Gateway School** – the request to use the Buryfield path for a school mini marathon in late March was approved by resolution. It was proposed to run the event over 3 hours, to invite parents and to maybe offer refreshments.
- 2024/431 **Allotment shed request** – the request for a shed on allotment 27B at Nairdwood Lane was resolved.
Finance and General Purposes
- 2024/432 **Draft Budget 2025-26** – Cllr Johnstone advised that the adjustments requested at the November meeting have been incorporated into the budget, however Bucks Council had only distributed the tax base today. The revised budget will be distributed to the Finance Committee for any queries, a meeting arranged if necessary, and the final proposed budget will be presented at the January 2025 meeting for council approval.
- 2024/433 **Parishes Online** – the £360 + VAT renewal cost was approved by resolution, as was the request to continue to renew this every year moving forward to enable the software to be used to map the parish’s assets.
- 2024/434 **Office Electricity – Octopus** – the £100 referral credit on the electricity account was noted.
- 2024/435 **Parish Office – Christmas Open Hours** – it was proposed and resolved to close the parish office on 24th, 27th & 31st December. It was also agreed to close the office for the afternoon of 30th December. This will be notified on the website and in the parish office.
- 2024/436 Payment of accounts for **December 2024** numbers 193-215 **for the sum of £30,656.93 (inc VAT)** were all agreed and sundry items of **£118.12** were ratified.
Editorial Working Party
- 2024/437 **‘The Source’** – Cllr Hewett updated the council on the progress of The Source and the problems faced with transitioning to a charity. A further meeting is planned.
- 2024/438 **Reports from Representatives to outside Groups**
- Cllr Pither asked for thanks to be recorded on behalf of Prestwood Community Association for the recent grant.
 - Cllr Pither asked for thanks to be recorded on behalf of Plan-it Prestwood for the recent grant for the Christmas event, which despite the weather had been a great success.
 - It was reported from the recent GMVA meeting, including a query regarding the cost of the Christmas lights for Great Missenden next year. Cllr Hewett advised that the Traders Group were meeting in the new year and are hoping to resolve this.
- 2024/439 **Clerk’s Report** - noted.
- 2024/440 **Matters for information** – none.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Future Meetings

- a) Planning Committee – 7.30 p.m. Monday 6th Jan 2025 – Great Missenden Parish Office**
- b) Parish Council – 7.30pm Monday 13th January 2025 – Great Missenden Memorial Centre**