

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting took place at St Leonards Parish Hall on Tuesday, 26th November 2024 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs Ingram, Maury, Matthews, Wellenreiter, Neighbour, Baddon and Kersting
In attendance: Parish Clerk Mrs Hayley Farrelly, County Cllr McBean and 3 members of the public

- 5706) To receive apologies for absence
Apologies received from County Cllr Birchley
- 5707) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on 15th October 2024 and deal with any Matters Arising
Approved and signed by the Chairman
- 5708) To receive declarations of interest
None
- 5709) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors
Cllr Jane McBean reported:
- Budgets are put together for next 4-year cycle but government are late in getting funding information to Buckinghamshire Council (BC) so this has yet to be agreed
 - BC is running at a deficit at the moment and not likely to improve. SEN and social care are huge in terms of expenditure.

Cllr Matthews raised the issue of the unresolved problems at Sandpit Hill and the fact that the road has been closed for 2 days without any sign of improvement. Councillors heard that Balfour Beatty were there surveying and mapping what is going on under the surface. There is notice of a road closure for late January 2025 into early February on one.network. Cllr Ingram has spoken with the LAT who said that it is the works to repair the issues at Sandpit Hill. Dates have not been confirmed.

- 5710) To suspend standing orders and invite questions from members of the public
A number of residents were at the meeting and made representation for The Green at Buckland Common to be cut on a more regular basis for use of local families and children. The clerk had received a number of emails on the topic, some in support of the regular cutting and some asking for the space to be left in a more natural state and this was reflected in door-to-door discussions with residents around The Green by Cllr Maury.

Councillors listened to both sides of the argument and also recognised that they had a duty to determine the best use of the council budget for the maintenance of The Green. In addition, the council noted that it would not be possible for volunteers to cut the area as the insurance policy does not extend to volunteers and the equipment that they use as this is not maintained by the council.

After further discussion, it was agreed that The Green would be cut by Philip Matthews Agricultural Contractors Ltd (PMAC) under their liability. When residents wish for the agreed area at the top of The Green to be cut, they will get in contact with PMAC direct. The area around the bench will also be cut.

This arrangement will be reviewed on a regular basis. PMAC highlighted that if, at any time, there was problems arising from this arrangement by residents, then the offer would be retracted.

- 5711) Reports
- (a) Chairman's Report
Cllr Ingram explained that the devolution agreement that had been received from Buckinghamshire Council was for cutting grass verges in the parish and that these had been determined as any sitting within a 30-mile speed zone, to which there are very few. Unfortunately, Highways have also confirmed that there is no budget for cutting grass verges under their responsibility in rural areas. Councillors were extremely disappointed with this incomprehensible situation. On this basis, it was agreed that the budget should not include the devolution grant or verge cutting.
- Cllr Ingram updated Councillors on email discussions with Cllr Peter Strachan regarding the ongoing lack of planning enforcement in the parish, in particular with regard to the traveller site. In addition, Cllr Ingram has been in contact with the enforcement team regarding the change of use of The Black House Inn into a dog walking/kennelling business. Cllr McBean asked to be copied into all enforcement matters.
- (b) Clerk's Report to include governance document review
Councillors approved the following documents:
- Asset Register

- Complaints Policy
- Electronic Payments Procedure

5712) Finance

- (a) To note the following regular orders of payments
- (i) Clerk's net salary for November, including back pay from April to October - noted
 - (ii) Clerk's net salary for December - noted
 - (iii) HMRC – £170.20 - noted
 - (iv) HMRC - £136.40 - noted
- (b) To approve the following orders for payment and any other arriving after this notice
- (i) Clerk's Expenses - £14.50 - approved
 - (ii) Dog Bins - £319.20 - approved
 - (iii) Hall Hire - £14.00 - approved
- (c) To discuss the budget for 2025-26
A proposed budget was circulated to all councillors. Cllr Ingram highlighted that some assumptions have been made including estimates for pay scale increases and inflation.

Since the Parish Council are still trying to improve reserves back to the recommended amount, a 30% increase in the precept is necessary.

Cllr Ingram, Baddon and the Clerk will meet in January 2024 to determine the likely expenditure for the next financial year, and this will be brought to the parish council meeting on the 7th January 2025.

This will mean that the budget for 2025/26 can be approved ahead of setting the precept by the deadline of the 31st January 2025.

- (d) To note the Q2 financial report
Councillors noted the Q2 financial report
- (e) To note the National Salary Award 2024 and the increase in pay and back pay for the Clerk
Local Government have now agreed the pay scale increases from the 1st April 2024 for the clerk role. Back pay from April to October will be paid in the December payroll.

5713) Planning (see planning schedule)

- (a) To note any responses to planning applications since the last meeting
- (b) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of this notice:
- (i) PL/24/3395/UA - Land Adjacent To Shire Lane Cholesbury Buckinghamshire – no comment
 - (ii) PL/24/3238/FA - Meadow Cottage The Vale Hawridge Bucks HP5 3NS – no comment
 - (iii) PL/24/2717/CONDA - Home Paddock, Cholesbury Lane HP23 6ND – councillors noted this has already been determined.
- (c) To receive decisions from Buckinghamshire Council
See schedule
- (d) To receive notice of appeals
None
- (e) To receive an update on enforcement matters
Discussed under Chairman's Report under minute 5711a

5714) To consider matters relating to Highways and Rights of Way
Discussed under minute 5711

5715) To consider matters relating to the Green at Buckland Common, Springall Hill Allotments and other maintenance matters
Discussed under minute 5709 and 5710

Allotments – request for a meter reading from Castle Water – not sure if the meter has been replaced. Cllr Kersting will check.

5716) To note date of the next meetings:

- (i) Tuesday, 7th January 2025 at 6.30pm

| Application No | Address | Description of Proposal | Date Submitted | Parish Council Response | Status / Additional Comments |
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| Decided | | | | | |
| PL/23/2479/FA | Land Off Hog Lane Hog Lane Ashley Green Chesham HP5 3PS | Change of use to the mixed use of land for the keeping of horses and the stationing of caravans for residential purposes with the erection of 2 dayrooms and laying of hardstanding. | 21 Aug | Sept 23 Comments submitted | Refuse Permission |
| PL/23/2818/FA | Chiltern Rise Jenkins Lane St Leonards Buckinghamshire HP23 6NW | Loft conversion with rear dormer and single storey rear extension | 11 Sept | Sept 23 – No comments | Conditional Permission |
| PL/24/1154/FA | Land at Hawridge Hill The Vale Hawridge Buckinghamshire | Replacement agricultural building | 13 May | May 24 No comments | Refuse Permission |
| PL/24/1895/FA | Ridge Cottage Hawridge Common Hawridge Buckinghamshire HP5 2UQ | Single storey rear extension | 20 Jun | August 24 No comments | Conditional Permission |
| PL/24/2717/CONDA | Home Paddock Cholesbury Lane Cholesbury Buckinghamshire HP23 6ND | Approval of condition 11 (scheme of ecological enhancements) of planning permission PL/21/2677/FA - Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings and construction of a replacement dwelling, garage and pool house with new carport and greenhouse, installation of ground mounted solar panels, new front wall and gate and associated landscaping | 3 Sep | No comments | Condition Accepted |
| New | | | | | |
| PL/24/3395/UA | Land Adjacent To Shire Lane Cholesbury Buckinghamshire | Consultation under The Electricity Act (Section 37) 1989 on the proposed addition of a third conductor to existing overhead electricity line | 1 st Nov | November 24 No comments | |
| PL/24/3238/FA | Meadow Cottage The Vale Hawridge Buckinghamshire HP5 3NS | Single storey front and rear extensions. Upgrade to existing external walls with new rendered out leaf, and upgrade to existing roof to meet current building regulations. | 23 rd Oct | November 24 No comments | |