

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting met at the meeting room at
The Full Moon on Tuesday, 7th January 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs Ingram, Maury, Matthews, Wellenreiter, Neighbour, Baddon and Kersting
In attendance: Parish Clerk Mrs Hayley Farrelly, County Cllr Macbean and Birchley

- 5717) To receive apologies for absence
Apologies received from Cllr Maury and County Councillor Fayyaz
- 5718) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on 26th November 2024 and deal with any Matters Arising
Subject to a minor amendment the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman
- 5719) To receive declarations of interest
Cllr Matthews declared an interest in a current planning application.
- 5720) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors
Cllr Birchley reported on discussions with the LAT with regard to flooding in the parish and highlighted that the ground water is extremely high at present which is causing problems widely. Buckinghamshire Council budgets are extremely stretched, and this adds to the continued issues.

The Chairman explained that he has been in discussions with Highways with regard to the continued issues at Sandpit Hill.

- 5721) To suspend standing orders and invite questions from members of the public
None
- 5722) Reports
- (a) Chairman's Report
Flooding issues in the parish continue to be a concern with very little progress made on addressing them by the Highways teams. Jane MacBean explained that there are currently budget freezes on the use of the super sucker, but that cleaning will continue to take place as per the cyclical maintenance programme.
- The Chairman had met with Peter Strachan last year regarding enforcement in the parish and discussed how to get the enforcement team to take action to re-instate hedges and fencing. There was an issue that the travellers wanted to retain the gates and temporary structure. No further feedback since November. The consistent message from the enforcement team is that they will not take legal action if there were no financial gain. Jane Macbean explained that she will continue to put pressure on enforcement to insist that gates are removed as there is no planning for access. Cllr Baddon asked if there was any legal action that the parish council could take and at this time it was not clear if there was.
- (b) Clerk's Report
Governance documents were reviewed by councillors and the following were approved, subject to a few minor amendments:
- Code of Conduct
 - Publication Scheme
 - Publication scheme to revert back to May 2023.

Proposed Filming in the Parish

Two members from Pinewood Studios attended the meeting and explained that they are in pre-production of Marvel TV Show. Part of the filming required a brief to find a country pub and they had looked at over 60 and thought that The Full Moon fitted this brief. The purpose for attending the meeting was to formally introduce themselves and to also discuss how the film company can offer a donation for community benefit to the parish council. Dates for filming are possibly March or April and will only need to be filming in the area for one whole night. Any noisy work/filming will be done before midnight and communication via letters to residents will be important in order to reduce the impact that it might have on the community.

Councillors discussed that it would be advisable to have a community liaison group and that the use of Grapevine and Hilltop news will be used to communicate to local residents. Bill Ingram

highlighted that it is especially important to animal owners if there is to be loud noises from replica weapons.

The production crew confirmed that there will be police presence during filming due to the use of replica weapons and that the road will likely be closed with a diversion during filming. The production crew noted that any request for road closures would need to be applied for to the Buckinghamshire Council.

Councillors were happy with the proposal.

5723) Finance

- (a) To note the following regular orders of payments
 - (i) Clerk's net salary for January 2025 - noted
 - (ii) HMRC - £136.40 - noted
- (b) To approve the following orders for payment and any other arriving after this notice
 - (i) Clerk's Expenses - £8.00 - approved
 - (ii) Matthews Agricultural/Hedge Cutting - £108.00 - approved
 - (iii) St Leonards Parish Hall hire - £14.00 - approved
- (c) To note the Q3 statement

Noted
- (d) To ratify the approval of grants payments to Cholesbury Village Hall and St Leonards Parish Hall

Councillor approved the annual grant payments to the halls via email. The decision was ratified.
- (e) Budget 2025-26 - to consider and agree

The current year enjoyed a windfall in the form of the Devolution Grant which incurred no expenses attached to it. Since we observed total disfunction in the Bucks admin of the devolution process, we cannot plan on receiving this funding in any subsequent years.

Our reserves at the end of this year will reach an estimated 67% vs guideline levels of 50%. Salaries and Insurance premiums will increase next year in the 12% range. In addition, we have planned for one off expenditures for website software of £750, offline file backup drive of £600, Election Expenses of £250 and a provision for Training of £200. Even with a 35% increase in the precept for 2025/26, our reserves would drop to 31%.

The current provisions for subsequent plan years have generally 4% increases in the precept and expenses. Reserves as consequence will rise to 42% at the end of 2026/27 and 52% in 2027/28. In the upcoming growing season, we need to assess the health of the trees in the hedge on the Springall Hill side of the allotments. We could find that there is a risk of having to undertake expensive remedial works. Hence the need to achieve substantial reserves.

Councillors approved the proposed budget for 2025-26.

- (f) Precept 2025-26 – to consider and agree

Having approved the budget, Councillors subsequently approved the precept of £17,550.00. The Clerk will notify Buckinghamshire Council of the decision.

5724) Planning

- (a) To note any responses to planning applications since the last meeting

See schedule
- (b) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of this notice
 - i) PL/24/3691/FA - Land at Holmwood Cholesbury Lane Buckland Common Buckinghamshire HP23 6NQ – no comment
 - ii) PL/24/3586/FA – Hayford Parrotts Lane Cholesbury Buckinghamshire HP23 6ND – no comment
- (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 Chairmans report

5725) To consider matters relating to Highways and Rights of Way

Discussed under Chairmans report.

5726) To consider matters relating to the Green at Buckland Common, Springall Hill Allotments and other maintenance matters

The Go-Slow sign has now been installed on the Green. The fallen Little Twye sign is going to be restored by a local resident.

Councillors discussed that there were some gaps in the hedging at the allotments and additional hedge planting will be arranged for the current planting season by the chairman and vice chairman.

- 5727) To note date of the next meetings:
(i) Tuesday, 18th February 2025 at 6.30pm

Application No	Address	Description of Proposal	Date Submitted	Parish Council Response	Status / Additional Comments
New					
PL/24/3586/FA	Hayford, Parrotts Lane Cholesbury Buckinghamshire HP23 6ND	New front porch	3 rd Jan	Jan 2025	
PL/24/3691/FA	Land at Holmwood Cholesbury Lane Buckland Common Buckinghamshire HP23 6NQ	Creation of highways crossover and associated hardstanding for vehicles, to serve existing paddock	19 th Dec	Jan 2025	
Decided					
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	No comment	No objections
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	No comment	Conditional Permission