

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the council meeting held on Wednesday, 12 December 2012 at 7.30 pm at the Council Office, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8DS

Present:

Cllr J Herschel – Chairman	Cllr J Gurney
Cllr D Onslow	Cllr C Jordan
Cllr J White	Cllr M Patel
Cllr J Bailey	Cllr M Wilkes
Cllr J Johnson	Cllr B Sadler
Cllr K Wood	Cllr S Herron

Also present: 2 residents from Ring Road, Flackwell Heath

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Forbes, Cllr Johncock, Cllr Digby, Cllr Dodds and Cllr Willis.

2. Declarations of member's interests in agenda items

There were none.

3. Purchase of Oakwood

Council was asked to resolve that the chairman of the council and the vice chairman execute the legal deed to purchase Oakwood.

Cllr Wood had requested that a special meeting be held following new information about the wood. In July 2012 Oakwood had been placed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory which offered the highest protection against development; at the point of placing the offer this had been unknown. It was felt that the extra costs for planning advice and permissions would make the wood too expensive for the council to maintain.

Cllr Bailey who had originally proposed the purchase advised that with the new information coming to light regarding the status of the wood, he believed his proposal was no longer valid and wished withdraw from the purchase.

Cllr Herschel explained that the classification of ancient woodland was to protect it from being bought, clear felled and developed for housing or similar. So long as proposals were reasonable, with appropriate protection of the flora and fauna and disturbance limited permissions could be sort without significant costs. The council are proficient in accessing grant monies and Cllr Herschel was confident that the council would be able to afford the site. As the council already maintain well over 200 acres of woodland for recreational use the site could always be re-sold if we did not wish to retain it as an amenity wood for the community.

Cllr White supported the purchase by adding that the wood would be a valuable asset to the community. He shared concerns that the wood could be purchased and potentially have the majority fenced off to stop public use only leaving the Chiltern Way open.

Further discussion continued about the use of the wood and that if pre planning advice could be sought to provide further information about what could be done in the wood this would be the only way to progress.

Cllr Herschel proposed that council go to a recorded vote.

The proposal in front of council was to resolve that the chairman of the council and the vice chairman execute the legal deed to purchase Oakwood as a amenity woodland for and on behalf of the council and the wider community from the Carington Estate.

Voting for the proposal; Cllr White, Cllr Herron, Cllr Patel and Cllr Herschel.

Voting against the proposal; Cllr Gurney, Cllr Sadler, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Wood, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Onslow and Cllr Wilkes.

One abstention; Cllr Jordan

The proposal to purchase fell.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment at the decision, thanked all present and the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed..... Dated