

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 January 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 8DS.

Present:

Cllr J Herschel (Chairman)	Cllr C Jordan
Cllr I Forbes (Vice Chairman)	Cllr D Onslow
Cllr J Bailey	Cllr M Patel
Cllr C Dodds	Cllr B Sadler
Cllr J Gurney	Cllr J White
Cllr S Herron	Cllr M Wilkes
Cllr D Johncock	Cllr L Willis
Cllr J Johnson	Cllr K Wood

Also present: Four representatives from the Flackwell Heath Residents Association, Mr Cowley, Mr J Gibbs (County Executive Officer BALC), Cllr I Fraser (NALC Representative/BALC Executive Committee Chairman)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr S Digby.

2. Declarations of interest in agenda items

Cllr J Bailey declared a personal interest in agenda items 11 and 12 being a member of the Flackwell Heath Residents Association

Cllr D Johncock declared a personal interest in agenda items 11 and 12 being a member of the Flackwell Heath Residents Association.

Cllr D Onslow declared a personal interest in agenda items 11 and 12 being a member of the Flackwell Heath Residents Association.

Cllr J Johnson declared a personal interest in agenda item 15, cheque number 7762 expenses payment.

3. Council minutes

It was RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the council meetings held on Tuesday 6 November 2012 and the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 December 2012 be a true and accurate record.

4. Amenity Land Committee

The report of the committee meeting held on Thursday 22 November 2012 was received and noted

Cllr Wood drew attention to the working party that had been set up for the Railway Land site and advised that a management plan for the site would be prepared.

Amendment: spelling mistake on the Oakwood Consultation item should read Cllr Bailey.

5. Leisure Facilities Committee

The report of the committee meeting held on Thursday 6 December 2012 was received and noted.

Cllr Willis advised that the playground consultation was underway in Loudwater.

Cllr Johncock requested to have a response to his question asked at the meeting. Cllr Willis advised that an answer would be forthcoming.

6. Works, Services and Planning Committee

The report of the committee meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2012 was received and noted.

7. Finance and General Purposes Committee

The report the committee meeting held on Thursday 10 January 2013 was received and noted. Cllr Forbes drew attention to agenda item 3 seeking approval for a grant application for demountable posts on the Common at Tylers Green. The grant was approved.

8. Presentation by BMKALC

Members received a short presentation from John Gibbs, County Executive Officer of the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils and Cllr Isabella Fraser NALC Representative/BALC Executive Committee Chairman on the benefits and value the council has received as a result of its membership.

9. Setting the precept for 2013- 2014

Under Section 33 (1) of the Localism Act dispensations have been granted to those members who have applied, thus enabling them to take part in discussions on the setting of the precept.

It was RESOLVED that taking into account the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee not to increase the parish precept paid by individual households the precept be set at £327,826 to be made up by the LCTS Grant.

10. Community Orchard

Members ENDORSED the proposal for a consultation with residents to determine the feasibility of a community orchard in Loudwater as recommended by the Amenity Land and Leisure Facilities Committees.

11. Skills and Thrills in Kingswood

Members ENDORSED the project which needed to be expedited as the grant of £10k from the Chepping Wye Valley Local Community Partnership is conditional and must be used before the end of the financial year. It is intended that we use and refurbish an area behind the council offices where there are already 'bumps and jumps', though in very poor condition.

This site replaces the initial idea of a cycle trail in Oakwood and after the Special Council meeting on 12 December 2012 members informally agreed to pursue this option.

12. Complaint from the FHRA

Members were asked TO NOTE that a complaint had been received from the Flackwell Heath Residents Association on 20 December 2012 regarding the council's decision to remove and re-site the 'teen and skate' facility at the Straight Bit Recreation Ground. On 7 January 2013 a meeting was held with two representatives of the Flackwell Heath Residents Association and a representative of the 'Save the Flackwell Heath Skate Park' Petition in order to consider and respond to the complaint. Both sides felt that the outcome of the meeting was positive and would help progression.

Members heard a representation from the Flackwell Heath Residents Association and also a representation from Mr Cowley.

13. Propositions

Following the proposition proposed by Cllr Herschel and seconded by Cllr Forbes and Cllr Willis it was RESOLVED that the council will remove the ‘teen’ facilities after the spring half-term holiday ending Sunday, 24 February 2013 and before the school Easter holidays. The ‘teen’ facilities at the Straight Bit Recreation Ground being; one skateboard ramp, one funbox, grind rail, football goal and kickwall, basketball hoop and shelter. Any relocation will be carried out once a consultation has taken place.

Cllr Johncock requested a recorded vote as follows;

For the proposition: Cllr M Wilkes, Cllr K Wood, Cllr B Sadler, Cllr C Jordan, Cllr L Willis, Cllr C Dodds, Cllr J Gurney, Cllr J Herschel, Cllr I Forbes

Against the proposition: Cllr D Onlsow, Cllr D Johncock, Cllr J Bailey, Cllr M Patel, Cllr J Johnson

Abstained: Cllr S Herron, Cllr J White

Cllr Johncock withdrew his proposition to leave the existing facilities in place.

14. Questions by members of the council.

Cllr Johncock asked for clarification on the tree planting at Oakwood in Flackwell Heath. When was it approved and how was it funded?

15. Public participation

There were no questions.

16. Accounts for payment

It was RESOLVED that;

The accounts for payment cheque number 7759 to 7772 and direct debits to Orange, Thames Water, Affinity Water, Unicom, E-ON and Shell UK be approved for payment and the cheques duly signed.

17. To set staff salaries for 2013/2014

Confidential item – exclusion of the public and press

Members of the public and press were excluded so that an open discussion on the staff salary proposals for 2013/14, recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, could proceed.

It was RESOLVED that;

The salary recommendations be implemented without any modifications and matched contributions to the Clerk’s individual pension provision be made. An increase of 1% of salary for staff but for the Clerk an increase of £1,000 per annum.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed **Dated**