

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 5 April 2017 at 7.00pm
at the Council Offices, Cock Lane, Tylers Green**

Chairman of the meeting: Cllr K Wood - Chairman of the Council

The following council members were also present:

Cllr I Forbes, Cllr S Digby, Cllr J White, Cllr E Johncock, Cllr B Sadler, Cllr J Johnson, Cllr C Leonard, Cllr J Gurney, Cllr C Dodds, Cllr C Jordan, Cllr J Herschel, Cllr L Willis

The attendance book was signed by:

2 residents from Loudwater, 9 residents from Flackwell Heath, 3 residents from Tylers Green, a representative from Capita (Kingsmead Business Park), CWPC Warden, CWPC Asst Clerk, CWPC Clerk and Cllr D Johncock (WDC)

1. Welcome

Cllr Wood welcomed everyone and provided an outline of the meeting. Advising that the parish council were still undertaking some long-term projects namely play equipment, signage and LED footway lighting all of which would be explained as the meeting progressed.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr J Savage (WDC), Cllr H Darch (CWPC), Cllr M Wilkes (CWPC) & Cllr L Pinner (CWPC).

3. Minutes of the last annual parish meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 April 2016 were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr Forbes – Chairman of the committee advised those present;

- The parish council had high solvent balances however, the LED project could have an impact
- A parish council decision had been made not to take any devolved services – so no budgetary pressure
- Precept Band D £54.02 to £54.33 (31 p per annum)
 - Rationale – just to replace loss of WDC grant
 - Inflation = Efficiency
 - LED lighting to come
- Byelaws - have now been signed off by the Secretary of State. Cllr Forbes thanked Cllr Herschel for all the work he had done
- MVAS team – a meeting would be arranged for all MVAS volunteers. The data for the parish council website had been tweaked and all the data was being sent through to the police.
- Audits – continuing to go well - thanks to the Clerk
- FoI – not the only organisation to have vexatious and time consuming issues
- Health & Safety nothing had happened over the year.
- Staffing – one member of the office team on long term sick.

5. Leisure Facilities Committee

Cllr Willis, Chairman of the committee advised the following;

The committee was run on a £28k budget with approximately £14k income from parish owned facilities rented or leased.

- Play areas;
 - Boundary Road was now complete
 - Derehams Lane installation of a fitness trail around the senior football pitch and a small play area near the pavilion.
 - Ashley Drive – further improvements were required
 - Straight Bit – not complete – next phase planned for later in the year.
- Allotments;
 - Chapel Road allotments (Flackwell Heath) – track had been re-surface
 - Summer BBQ had been a great success with about 50 people attending.
 - Ashley Drive allotments (Tylers Green)– Summer picnic was well received with lots of homemade produce.
 - Work would be undertaken to clear some of the overgrown allotments on the site.
- Derehams Lane Recreation Ground, Loudwater;
 - Football pitches were looking better than ever – thanks to the hard work of the warden.
 - Loudwater Bowls Club – always looking for new members
 - Community Orchard – looking to expand the plot and looking for more members.
 - Ladderboard – installed, part of the signage project
 - It had been reported that youths had been congregating on the site – possibly buying/selling/using illegal substances. The police had been informed.
 - Ongoing re-development project for the site – how to enhance the facility.

- SSE will be asked to locate the cables that run under the current entrance in order to make the entrance slope less steep.
- Straight Bit Recreation Ground;
 - Both the Tennis and Bowls Clubs were looking to expand and would like to encourage new members.

6. Works, Services & Planning Committee

Cllr White, Chairman of the committee advised the following;

- LED Footway lighting – this project would be starting shortly in Flackwell Heath and Loudwater and it will save a fortune year on year.

Cllr Herschel advised that the council had begun to think about the project 6 years ago and now were in a position to start following a tendering process and a successful loan application to SALIX Finance; the loan would be payable over a five year period from the savings made. The project would also be paid for from the Earmarked Reserve for the lighting project. The current lighting had come to end of its natural life along with some of the aluminium columns that would be replaced with galvanised steel.

The plan, going forward, was to replace all 500+ lamps with an LED warm white lamp.

A question was raised about whether the new lights would be lighting just down.

Cllr Herschel advised that this was the case – there would be no light spill other than down onto the footpath, which the council was responsible to light.

Another question was raised about the rationale of changing out aluminium columns for galvanised steel.

The new galvanised steel columns would have an expected life of 30 years.

Another question was raised – would the lamps on telegraph poles be replaced like for like.

This would be the case – however it was hoped that the bracket holding the lamp could be standardised.

Cllr Herschel finished the update by advising that the current annual maintenance expenditure of about £12.5k would be reduced to approximately £2,500 per year.

- Signage Project had started with ladderboards installed at Widmer Pond, Derehams Lane Recreation Ground, Green Dragon Lane Recreation Ground and Straight Bit Recreation Ground.
- Cemeteries
 - The path at Cock Lane Cemetery had been re-shingled with the help of a Community Payback team
 - The path leading the St Margaret's church had been repointed and the Vicar had advised that he was pleased with the work.
- Zebrites had been installed at the Station Road crossing in Loudwater and also the Heath End Road crossing in Flackwell Heath – this had been made possible with matched funding from the Local Area Forum.
- Ecclesiastical Boundary Stone – the one that had been found at Wycombe Heights Golf Club in the middle of a tree had now been removed from the site and been cleaned and re-painted and was now waiting to be re-sited.
- Planning
 - Cllr Forbes was asked to give an update on Penn School.

The site had been bought by the EFA (Education Funding Agency) for £11 million about 12 months ago. The site was currently under review by the Department for Education. All in Penn and Tylers Green were concerned that the proposal for a large secondary school would overwhelm the area and there was a preference for a smaller school with possible housing.

A question of timescale was raised.

A decision after Easter was expected.

A question about the listing of the main building was raised.

The main house was unfortunately not classified as listed. However, the site was part of the Green Belt, AONB and conservation area.

Ashwells

Cllr Forbes advised that this development had been slower than expected, however WDC Cabinet endorsement was expected in June.

- Restoring the Record

Cllr White advised that the parish council had joined this project with Bucks County Council.

Laws relating to footpaths would be changing – if a path had not been registered and was not on the definitive map the path could be closed.

Cllr Sadler, Cllr Herschel along with Cllr White were the parish council's representatives and had been able to list quote a few undefined routes that are known.

Cllr White encouraged attendees to get involved.

7. Amenity Land Committee

- King's Wood

- All Ability Track resurfaced - once again OK for both wheelchairs and buggies – do use it
- Dead Larch Plantation – dead trees taken down and natural indigenous growth already well established
- Tree Vandalism near Southcote Way
- WDC grant aid – arising from Gomm Valley Ashwells Development there may well be some funding for improvements to the infrastructure (paths, drainage works, Armco barriers) and
- Clearance of rides, bridleways and scalplings (loads of work)
- CP clearing back from paths holly etc
- Keeping FC Bio diversity grant

- The Common TG

- TNT lorry damage – all costs recovered though need to wait till reseeded can be done
- Firebreak opened up (to minimise mud as grass ought to regrow)
- Giant Redwood trimmed behind bus stop
- Signage going up

- Widmer Pond Works

- Path extended alongside road - a joint project with Penn Parish Council
- Fencing still up to allow grass to re-establish
- Steps remodelled and handrail installed
- Repointing of wall will be undertaken by Penn Parish Council
- Boulders to be reset as some have fallen into the pond.
- Larger litter bins with lids (overflowing and large bags being the issue)

- Magpie Wood

- Excellent work being done by a very small group of volunteers

- Dog bin installed
- Much thinning has been undertaken
- 'Bug hotels' and habitat piles have been created
- Management Plan being smoothly implemented
- Railway Land
 - Management Plan Updated in 2016
 - Site visit to be undertaken in the Summer
- Tree Safety work dominated last year
- Public meeting for local residents
 - Management Plan and Tree Policy distributed
 - Local residents wanted more trees removing near their boundaries
- 2017/18
 - Budget increased
 - Boundary marking to be improved (as well a tree safety works)
 - Looking at possibility of reducing some major trees near the boundary – action from public meeting

8. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions from the public as questions had been asked during the meeting.

9. Vote of thanks

The chairman of the meeting Cllr K Woods proposed a vote of thanks to the council's staff; Wendy and Suzanne in the office along with Graeme, Johnathan and Darren the grounds team. Members were also thanked for their continued support throughout the year.

The chairman of the meeting declared it closed at 8.20pm, thanked everyone for their attendance and invited all to stay for refreshments and an opportunity to speak to members of the council present.

The 2018 Annual Parish Meeting would be held in Flackwell Heath venue and time to be confirmed, this would be available on the parish council's website nearer the time.

Wendy Thompson
Clerk to the Council
12 April 2017