

Minutes of a Meeting of Little Chalfont Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 2 September at 7.30pm in the Village Library
Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Present: Cllr B Drew, Cllr C Gibbs, Cllr C Ingham, Cllr A Tate, Cllr G Smith and Cllr F Wilkinson

In attendance: Mrs J Mason (Clerk), Dr T Bamber and Mr D Philips (CDC Councillor)

Members of the public: Mr C Stapleton, Ms J Brock and Mr J Purr (Beechwood Avenue residents)

1. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Cllr M Dale and Cllr D Marshall.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 15 July 2008:** These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Suspension of standing orders enabling members of the public to speak:** It was agreed to suspend standing orders and Mr J Purr addressed the Council on the issue of replacement trees for those that had been cut down in Beechwood Avenue. He explained that the residents were very keen to work in partnership with the Council to replace the trees and participate in their upkeep to the overall benefit of the road. He indicated that it might be possible for residents to contribute financially and to help with planting and future care, including watering. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution.
4. **Declarations of interest:** There were none to declare.
5. **Presentation by Dr T. Bamber on air traffic issues:** Dr Bamber, a pilot and expert on local air traffic, was introduced to the Council. He spoke first on the causes of aircraft noise, explaining that although newer aircraft were less noisy, increasing runway length was a significant factor in cutting down on noise at take off. Turning to recent proposed changes in the South East, he advised that revised flight paths from the major airports did not significantly impact on the local area. However, increased executive traffic from Northolt and Denham did. During discussion it was clarified that whilst the authorisation of sites for frequent helicopter use was not a council planning issue but one governed by the CAA, the District Council could probably influence associated environmental issues. The flight path from Denham was such that increased engine noise was experienced as planes reached Chalfont St Giles. In conclusion, the Council thanked Dr Bamber for a very informative presentation.
6. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that he had had a meeting with Carol Castle at CDC's offices about the future feasibility of enhancing and developing the *village hall site*. A major factor for consideration would be the proportional increase in parking spaces any development would necessitate. He had also attended the end of term *prize giving at Little Chalfont Primary School* and had been very impressed by the atmosphere in the school. Turning to the Village centre, he sought Council approval for the installation of some *cycle racks on Chenies Parade* for which permission had been given by the management Committee. It was agreed that this would be appropriate as the provision of racks had been requested by a number of individuals and previously supported by Councillors. Depending on the success of this initiative, further provision of racks would be looked at next year and a grant application to cover the cost considered. It was also agreed that bollards be purchased for installation at the *Citygate* end to discourage parking on the verge. The manager had agreed to tidy up the area as a result and remove the A-Board presently

positioned there. The *memorial bench* previously discussed had now been installed in Westwood Park and had been the subject of an article in the local paper the previous week. Finally, he had discussed the *Council's budget* with the Clerk who was revising the current year's and preparing next year's proposals.

7. **Clerk's Report and Financial Matters:** the Clerk reported that the *annual return* to the External Auditors had been sent off in July and thanked Councillors for their advice on this. She confirmed that work on the *budget* was being undertaken as discussed above and added that she had a meeting arranged with Amersham Town Council's Clerk for the following week to discuss the service and maintenance contract. The bank reconciliation summary for 31 July was circulated together with the current balance sheet; the latter was signed by the Chairman. More *regular hall bookings* had been taken (Mondays and Fridays) and this football season would see the use of *Westwood Park* by a junior league and appropriate sized pitches were being marked out.
8. **Reports from Council representatives on local groups :**
9. (a) Village Society: In Cllr Dale's absence, Cllr Drew reported that the new secretary had started and the next meeting was 2 October. (b) Revitalisation Group: Cllr drew reported that a new Chairman was still sought. (c) NAG: Cllr Smith reported that he would be attending the inaugural meeting under the revised arrangements on 7 October. (d) Websites: Cllr Marshall had sent apologies for absence; however he had e-mailed colleagues a few days ago with an update.
10. **Trees in Beechwood Avenue:** the Clerk updated the Council on an e-mail exchange she had had with BCC on this issue. Initially, it had been advised to her that the County would take over maintenance of newly planted trees once they were established. However, this undertaking had been reneged upon which was very disappointing. The Council were agreed that replanting trees was to be supported; however, they were at a loss to understand the logic of the decision taken. After all, BCC would still be responsible for the other trees in Beechwood Avenue. It was agreed that the Clerk should press BCC for the procedural basis of the decision given and seek advice from Cllr Tett.
11. **Fly Tipping in Chenies Parade:** Cllr Drew updated colleagues, who were aware that the area had been screened off. There was a question over the height of the screening and whether it required planning permission. It was agreed that given the shortage of parking in the Village, the Chairman should pursue options for opening up the area for this use and explore with CDC the feasibility of compulsory purchase.
12. **Village Hall Redecoration:** This was scheduled to commence on 13 October and finish on 2 November. The majority of work would be done with minimum disruption to hall users. The main hall would be painted during half-term and users that week had been advised appropriately. The Clerk had spoken individually to some members of the Hall Management Committee and would appreciate their advice on some of the issues and decisions associated with the work.
13. **Potholes in approach road to Westwood Park:** The Clerk reported that the road into Westwood Park was in need of repair. In the longer term she would seek quotes for resurfacing, however, she sought Council support for some urgent patching of the road and, if necessary, the car park. This was agreed.
14. **Consultation and notifications:** The following were noted:

- (i) BCC Speed Limit Review area briefing 15 September 2008 (Cllr Drew and Clerk to attend)
 - (ii) Visits to Parish Council Meetings by CDC Cabinet Members (circulated- advise Clerk if wish to invite a Cabinet Member)
 - (iii) BCC Martin Tett 1 August letter re Update on BCC Energy from Waste Initiative (circulated)
 - (iv) Circular from CDC received August re monthly meetings with police “Have Your Say” (circulated). It was also agreed that Cllr Smith would find out how this initiative fitted into the NAGS set up.
 - (v) BCC Getting Closer to Communities – First issues of the Chesham and Chalfonts Area Newsletters (copies circulated)
 - (vi) The New Deal for Buckinghamshire- BCC 31 July letter and attachment (available in the Parish Office)
 - (vii) BALC publication for August 2008 “Matters Arising” (circulated)
 - (viii) Citizens Advice Chesham – 26 August letter re AGM Tuesday 30 September (Clerk to attend).
15. **To consider a resolution that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting and be instructed to withdraw.** Members of the Public had already left.
16. **Update on Discussions with ATC:** The Chairman reported that both he and ATC representatives had been seeking the names of prospective mediators but had been disappointed by the delay caused by the August holiday period.
17. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 7 October 2008 in the Village Library.

Signed.....

Date:.....