

Minutes of a Meeting of Little Chalfont Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 8 September 2010 at 8.35pm in the Village Hall
Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Present: Cllr M Dear; Cllr L Hunt; Cllr C Ingham and Cllr G Smith (Chairman).

In Attendance: Mrs J Mason (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** These were received from Cllr M Dale; Cllr B Drew and Cllr P Martin.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 14 July 2010:** These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Proposal to suspend standing orders enabling members of the public to speak:** No members of the public were present.
4. **Declarations of interest:** None.
5. **To agree items for Any Other Business:** The following were agreed (i) Future meeting dates (ii) Farmers' Market and (iii) LCCA newsletter distribution arrangements.
6. **Chairman's Report:** This had been circulated previously and the Clerk reported that Cllr Drew had particularly wished to emphasise his thanks to the core strategy group and his regret that Cllr Gibbs had resigned from the Council. She had worked very hard first on Amersham Town Council and latterly as a Little Chalfont Parish Councillor; she will be missed. Turning to Westwood Park and the disappointment over the withdrawal of the Playbuilder funding, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Martin Holt, Head of Health and Housing at Chiltern District Council, asking for help in seeking other funding options. Cllr Ingham emphasised the need to liaise formally with the police about security and anti-social behaviour issues should funding be secured which would allow the project to go ahead.
7. **Clerk's Report:** The Clerk had submitted the LAF delegated budget proposals to Chris Schwier (BCC) and had heard from his colleague, Mr Moloughney, that the replacement village entry sign would be installed this month. Discussions at the Clerks' Liaison Meeting on 19 July had included waste collection, legal services and polling stations. Councillors were also updated on repairs and maintenance; two incidents at Westwood park; football bookings for 2010/11; arrangements for Christmas lights and forthcoming items for discussion at the 13 October Council meeting.
8. **Financial matters:** (i) *Income and Expenditure Report* - this had been previously circulated and the Clerk briefed Councillors on expenditure to date (ii) *List of payments and cheques to be signed* – Payments totalling £21,337.51 were approved and the list was signed by the Chairman.
9. **Report on tree survey and appointment of a contractor to carry out the work recommended:** The Clerk summarised the paper circulated previously which outlined the work required and the prices that had been received from three contractors. The comparative prices and qualification of each contractor to undertake the work were discussed. It was agreed to appoint Spruced-Up to undertake all the work identified in the survey. These works would cost £3,850 (net).
10. **Westwood Park Lodge- Exterior Redecoration:** The Clerk reported that she had still only received two quotes; four had been requested and only two firms had replied. She was concerned about the variance between the two prices and wished to clarify a number of points with the contractors. The Council gave the Clerk authority to proceed with the lower tender price once she had satisfied herself that all the required work had been included. She would report back at the next meeting.
11. **To discuss and if appropriate agree the procedure for the co-option of Councillors:** The paper circulated with the agenda was agreed.

12. **Update on Councillor vacancy following the resignation of Cllr C Gibbs:** The Clerk reported that she had contacted CDC and a vacancy notice would be posted in the next few working days. If there was no request for an election the vacancy could be filled by co-option. In this case, in accordance with paragraph 3(i) of the above procedure, it was agreed that the Council would aim to fill the vacancy at the 10 November meeting of the Council.
13. **Reports (as appropriate) from outside bodies:** *Library Committee* – Cllr Hunt reminded the Council about the fund raising quiz on 9 October. *NAG*- Cllr Smith reported that the next meeting was on 29 September. *Chiltern Heights Committee* – The Clerk reported that the committee comprising representatives from CDC, the police, Paradigm, the Parish Council, residents and other local agencies, had arranged a family picnic and games event on 28 August. Not many families had turned up although Paradigm representatives felt it was more successful than previous events. *Hall Management Committee* – Arising from Cllr Gibbs resignation a second Council member needed to be appointed. Cllr Hunt kindly volunteered to fill the vacancy on an interim basis. This was agreed. Should a vacancy occur in the future Cllr Dear would consider filling it depending on what time of day the committee met.
14. **Notifications and Correspondence:**
- i. Chiltern and County Times – issue 1 June 2010 (new BCC/CDC newsletter)
 - ii. 15 July 2010 letter from Thames Valley Police advertising the TVP open day on Saturday 4 September (publicised on our notice boards)
 - iii. BALC Matters Arising Summer 2010 (copies for each Councillor were handed out)
 - iv. 22 July 2010 letter from Site Director, The Grove Centre regarding GE Healthcare’s intention to transfer some of their manufacturing to Chicago. (Circulated by e-mail to Councillors 30 July.)
 - v. 3 August 2010 letter from Ed Gurney, Transport for Buckinghamshire, BCC re postponement of Local Transport Plan 3 public consultation pending clarification from the government on a number of issues.
 - vi. 4 August 2010 letter from Chairman of HS2 to consultation respondees. (e-mailed to Councillors 4 August.)
 - vii. 10 August 2010 letter from BCC legal department confirming order 2010 to divert public footpath no. 7 (part).
 - viii. 12 August 2010 letter of introduction from the BALC new county executive officer John Gibbs.
 - ix. 17 August 2010 e-mail from Maureen Keyworth, Democratic Services Officer, and BCC attaching invitation from NHS Buckinghamshire to AGM and Health Fair 29 September 2010. (e-mailed to Councillors 23 August.)
 - x. 20 August e-mail from HS2 confirming launch of the exceptional hardship scheme. Also confirms “full public consultation on the high speed rail link in early 2011”. (e-mailed to Councillors 23 August 2010.)
 - xi. 25 August 2010 invitation from CDC Councillor Linda Smith to the Chiltern Business Meeting on 6 October 2010 at 4pm. (e-mailed to Councillors 27 August 2010.)
 - xii. Saturday 9 October 2010 – poster from Little Chalfont Community Library advertising “Round the Library Quiz”.
 - xiii. Chilternnews – Chiltern Society magazine September 2010 (available in Parish Office).
15. **The Bucks Debate:** (i) to discuss and agree appropriate action in response to *Bill Chapple’s (Deputy Leader of BCC) 29 July 2010 letter (e-mailed to Councillors 3 August 2010)*. Leaflets advertising this initiative had been placed on the Parish Council notice boards and given to members of the public when the opportunity arose. However, it was agreed that resources were such that it would not be possible to organise an event to provide feedback to BCC. However, the Clerk would attend one of the public meetings organised by the

County and report back. (ii) **Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases** - on this separate but related issue, the Clerk had circulated to Councillors (1 September) an e-mail exchange between BALC and the Department of Communities and Local Government. It was disappointing to note that the document did not seem to have been circulated to towns and parishes and the closing date for comments was in two days time. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to DCLG supporting the comments made by BALC and emphasis any issues as appropriate.

16. **Household Waste Recycling Centres** – *to discuss a response to M Tett's 4 August 2010 letter (e-mailed to Councillors 4 August 2010)*: The Council was of the view that the questionnaire was aimed at householders rather than organisations such as the Parish Council. Indeed, some Councillors had responded in their private capacity and the questionnaire had also been forwarded to the LCCA. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond on behalf of the Council, drawing attention to the possible impact of the joint waste contract discussed at the 19 July Clerks' Liaison meeting.
17. **To consider a resolution that Chiltern District Council be formally asked to make arrangements, prior to the May elections, for all Little Chalfont electors to vote at the Village Hall.** The resolution was agreed and the Clerk was asked to write to CDC once she had received any relevant background information from Cllr Butcher.
18. **Any Other Business.** (i) *Future Meeting Dates*: The dates circulated by the Assistant Clerk earlier in the week would be finalised subject to confirmation from Cllrs Ingham and Drew. (ii) *Farmers' Market*: Saturday would be the first anniversary of the Farmers' Market and the market manager was organising a prize draw. The Assistant Clerk had suggested that the Parish Council donate a three hour children's party slot at the village Hall as a prize. This was agreed. (iii) *Parish Council and LCCA Newsletters*: Cllr Ingham reported that the LCCA were planning their next edition of their newsletter. He had been asked by their Chairman to seek volunteers from the Council to help with delivery. This was agreed although the Clerk hoped that the arrangement might be reciprocal given that the Parish newsletter would be circulated in October.
19. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 13 October 2010 at 7.30pm

Signed.....

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