

Minutes of a Meeting of Little Chalfont Parish Council
Held Wednesday 13 July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall
Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Present: Cllr M Dear; Cllr B Drew (Chairman); Cllr J Hinkly; Cllr L Hunt; Cllr M Parker; Cllr V Patel and Cllr D Rafferty.

In attendance: Mrs J Mason (Clerk)

Members of the Public: M Healy; J Grace; V Way; P Way; D Lane; S Packham; D Bell; P McArdle; M Dale; G Smith; D Phillips (CDC); J Harrington; J Letham; N Jones; R Phipps; S Phipps; G Stoller; J Potter; B Knight; D DuKhan; E Elliott; G Easter; Z Casey; P Martin (CDC); A Baxter; G Baxter; L Boylan; R Robinson; E Cooper and E Lawrie. (This list contains the names of those who signed the attendance sheet.)

(Note: The majority of the public departed after the discussion recorded in minute 6 below and all had departed by the end of discussions recorded in minute 12.)

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **Cllr Parker's declaration of acceptance of office:** Following his co-option on 28 June 2011, Cllr Parker had signed a declaration of acceptance of office on 5 July 2011, witnessed by the Clerk. This document was now received by the Council.
3. **To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council following the resignation of Cllr Smith on 9 June 2011:** Cllr Hunt proposed, seconded by Cllr Patel, that Cllr Dear be appointed Vice-Chairman of Little Chalfont Parish Council. Cllr Dear was unanimously appointed.
4. **To approve the minutes of meeting held on 8 June 2011 and the extraordinary meeting held on 28 June 2011:** These were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **To accept a proposal to suspend standing orders enabling members of the public to speak:** Before suspending standing orders the Chairman asked for the Council's agreement to vary the order of the agenda to enable Item 21, High Speed Rail, to be taken after the current item. This was agreed and the Chairman suspended standing orders. Directing his comments to members of the public, he welcomed them and advised that this meeting was a scheduled meeting of the Parish Council and not a public meeting to deal solely with the issue of HS2; it was apparent from e-mails circulating in the community and many comments received that day by the Council, that there was a broad expectation of the latter. A number of the members of the public spoke in opposition of the government's proposals for HS2 citing a variety of grounds. The Chairman reinstated standing orders.
6. **High Speed Rail: to discuss and, if appropriate, agree the Parish Council's response to the Government consultation.** Opening discussions the Chairman referred to the draft response which had been circulated earlier to Councillors and had also been made available to members of the public at item 5. He thanked former Parish Councillor G Smith who had stringently researched the government proposals and prepared the initial draft of the Council's response. The Council were opposed to the route on planning and environmental grounds. In the light of comments received from members of the public it was proposed by

Cllr Drew that a rider be added to the draft response to confirm that not only did some members of the Council question the economic benefits of a high speed network linking London with Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, but also comments expressed under item 5 suggested that public opinion locally was that the economic case for the network was flawed. Cllr Hunt seconded this proposal. The proposal was agreed by a majority vote. Cllr Rafferty abstained. It was further agreed that Cllr Hinkly would prepare the draft rider and circulate the amended response to the Council for agreement allowing its comments on the HS2 consultation to be submitted before the 29 July deadline.

7. **To receive declarations of interest:** None.
8. **Items for Any Other Business:** The following was agreed (i) Inconsiderate parking in Chenies Avenue (ii) Request from the police for assistance with future speed monitoring operations.
9. **Chairman's Report:** This had been previously circulated. The Council shared the Chairman's delight that Bell Lane School had been taken out of special measures following the recent Ofsted inspection. It was agreed that a letter should be prepared by the Clerk congratulating the school on this achievement. In addition, it was noted that the Chairman would be attending the end of year assemblies at both Bell Lane and Little Chalfont Primary schools to present prizes, in particular the Marion Orpen prize.
10. **Clerk's Report:** This had been previously circulated. It was noted that advice had been received from CDC at the Clerk's Liaison meeting on 11 July that depending on the circumstances unauthorised commercial use of Council owned facilities could be deemed to be trespass.
11. **Financial matters:** (i) *Income and Expenditure Report:* This was noted and discussed. Reserves currently stood at £397,708 and it was also noted that payment for the playground would be made in the next month to six weeks (£90,000) following which the tender for resurfacing the drive and car park at Westwood Park would be finalised (budgeted at £26,000). It was hoped that this project would be undertaken in the Autumn. (ii) *List of payments and cheques to be signed:* a schedule of payments totalling £13,914.87 was circulated, approved and signed by the Chairman. (iii) *To agree that the Parish Council meet the printing costs of the Core Strategy leaflet (minute 22, 8 June meeting refers):* It was agreed that the Council would meet these costs. A cheque for £155 will therefore be sent to the LCCA treasurer.
12. **Five Year Spending Plan:** The first draft had been circulated previously. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that Council members would meet informally over the Summer to put forward ideas and discuss options in detail. The Chairman would advise of dates he was available.
13. **Westwood Park:** (i) *Reports from recent working party meetings* – the Chairman reported that the opening ceremony for the new playground was being arranged for Wednesday 31 August. A competition had been organised for Little Chalfont children aged between 8 and 13 and the prize would be to participate in the opening ceremony. A budget of up to £400 was agreed if necessary to cover the cost of securing the services of one of the Olympic Mascots or something similar. Other options were also being investigated by the Assistant Clerk (ii) *Playground update* – Work was progressing well and should be completed in the next week or so. It might be necessary to call an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to sign off the contract completion certificate. The Chairman was pleased to report that

through the good offices of the LCCA it was likely that GE Healthcare would be contributing some money to spend on Westwood Park and this might help to fund additional toddler play equipment.

14. **Parish Council Newsletter:** *to discuss and, if appropriate, agree the publication date of the next newsletter* – it was agreed that the next issue should be prepared for circulation in September/October.
15. **Red Cross First Aid Training 19 September and 17 October 2011:** *Three places are available for Councillors on this training course at the Village Hall (two evenings).* Cllrs Rafferty and Patel will attend.
16. **To review membership of committees and outside bodies in the light of recent changes within the Parish Council:** The following amendments were made to the memberships agreed at the annual meeting on 11 May 2011 (i) *Hall Management Committee* – Cllr J Hinkly was appointed in addition to existing members (Cllrs Drew and Rafferty); (ii) *Buildings Working Party*- Cllrs Dear and Parker were appointed in addition to existing members (Cllrs Drew and Hunt); (iii) *Little Chalfont Community Association* – Cllr Parker was appointed to this liaison role to replace Cllr Rafferty who in turn was appointed to the liaison role with the Association on the Turner’s Field development; (iv) *Little Chalfont Youth Club Management Committee* – Cllr Drew would resign from this role which would continue to be undertaken by Cllr Rafferty; (v) *Denham Aerodrome Consultative Committee* - Cllr Hinkly was appointed.
17. **Reports (as appropriate) from outside bodies:** (i) *Library Committee*- Cllr Hunt reported that the fund raising Open Garden on 3 July hosted by the library committee chairman had gone well. (ii) *Local Area Forum*-Cllr drew reported that the LAF was meeting that evening and he had been in discussions with BCC representatives about the status of the Parish Council’s delegated budget bids for transport projects. Not only had the additional funding previously anticipated now been diverted, quite understandably, to highway repairs, it transpired that the Beel Close underpass lighting project would cost much more than BCC had anticipated. Furthermore, BCC had just found out that the land affected was owned by Network Rail and were now proposing that a feasibility project (estimated cost £2000) be undertaken. It was likely that any decisions on all projects would now be deferred until the LAF’s October meeting. The Parish Council hoped that the project for two dropped kerbs in Chalfont Avenue could still be achieved at least. The Chairman would report back to the LAF Chairman Cllr Butcher (BCC) and in the meantime the Clerk would make separate enquiries about lighting in the Beel Close underpass. (iii) *Little Chalfont Youth Club* – Cllr Rafferty reported that a meeting of the Committee was scheduled for the coming Friday when it was hoped to recruit more parents to help. The AGM would be held on 9 September when a new Chairman might be elected.
18. **LAF Local Priorities** – it was confirmed that following the Chairman’s 6 July e-mail to Councillors the information requested had been forwarded to the LAF on behalf of this Council. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their input.
19. **NAG Review:** *to receive the protocol agreed between Parish Council representatives, LCCA and the Amersham Neighbourhood Policing Team:* This had been previously circulated and was noted by the Council.
20. **Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority Public Safety Plan Consultation:** The Clerk’s 6 July e-mail was discussed and it was agreed that a response should be drafted on

this basis incorporating comments made by Cllr Hinkly regarding staffing arrangements at Amersham Fire Station. The draft would be circulated to Councillors prior to sending the final response.

21. **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places:** *To discuss the proposals set out in CDC's Electoral Services Officer's 20 June e-mail* – it was agreed that a response should be sent (i) agreeing to the suggestion that the name of Little Chalfont Ward be amended to Little Chalfont (North) Ward and (ii) confirming the Council's wish that for all future elections Little Chalfont (South) residents should vote at the Village Hall.
22. **Allotments:** It was reported that although an e-mail had been received from Paradigm Housing's Assets Officer confirming agreement that the land under discussion could be used for allotments, no detailed proposals had yet been received in writing. The Clerk would follow this up but in the meantime was unable to move forward other aspects of the project.
23. **Notifications and Correspondence:**
 - a. 22 June e-mail from Jim Brooks containing invitation to an Open Garden event on 3 July 2011 to raise money for the Community Library.
 - b. 15 June letter from the District Manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau thanking the Parish Council for their £750 donation.
 - c. 14 June letter from Democratic Services at CDC inviting applications from Town and Parish Councillors to fill two vacancies on the Standards Committee (closing date 1 August 2011 – if interested refer to the CDC website or contact the Clerk).
24. **Any Other Business:** (i) *Parking in Chenies Avenue* - Cllr Patel reported that commuter parking along this road was causing problems for drivers and residents. Other Councillors agreed that such parking was indeed a problem here and in other roads. Obstruction of the highways could in some circumstances be dealt with by the police. However, the issue of legal yet unwanted parking in residential roads could not be tackled piece-meal but had to be addressed on a wider basis through the offices of BCC. It was agreed to initiate contact with them on this issue. (ii) *Assisting the Police with Future Speed Monitoring Operations Elizabeth Avenue/Bell Lane Area* – although dates had still to be set Cllrs Parker, Hinkly, Patel, Rafferty and Drew volunteered to help. The Clerk would pass this information to the police.
25. **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:**
 - (a). Buildings Working Party – Minuted in confidential minute 25(a) of this 13 July 2011 meeting of the Parish Council
 - (b). Grounds maintenance and street lighting maintenance contracts – Minuted in confidential minute 25(b) of this 13 July 2011 meeting of the Parish Council.The resolution was agreed.
26. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 14 September 2011 at 7.30pm

Signed.....

Date.....