

Notes of Little Chalfont Parish Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15 May 2013 at 7.45pm
In the Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Members of the Parish Council Present: Cllr B Drew (Chairman); Cllr J Hinkly; Cllr V Patel; Cllr M Parker; Cllr D Rafferty and Cllr J Walford, OBE.

Speakers: Cllr Nick Rose, Leader, Chiltern District Council; Suzy Talbot, Editor, Amersham and Little Chalfont Examiner; Helen Petty, Manager, Dial-a-Ride; Little Chalfont Parish Council Representative Cllr Drew.

In Attendance: Mrs J Mason (Parish Clerk); Mrs K Sterling (Assistant Clerk).

Members of the Public (list only includes those who signed the attendance sheet): G Roberts; R Bidy; Mrs K Hinkly; H Redmayne; Mr R Funk; Cllr M Tett; Mr I Mackay; Ms E Nelson; Mrs G Glover; Mr J Wyper; Mrs M Wilkinson; Mr J Wilkinson; K Edmonds; Mr T Bradfield; A Moore; V Thorndike; M Thorndike; E Harris; Ms G Hone; Ms L Clarkson; Mr S Dunning; A Hamilton; I Hamilton; Mr M Rosemeyer; Mr D Nussbaum; M Berkerey; R Berkerey; Mrs D Drew; V Edis; T Asker; G Finch; Ms N Jones; Ms J Durey; Mr H Durey; K Collins; Z Sibilant; Ms C deCharmant; Cllr N Brown; Mr S Allen, Ms A Whiteley.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr L Hunt; Mr B Turney; Cllr D Phillips; Mr J Brookes; Mr I Sutcliffe; Ms A Chapman; Mr P Chapman.
2. **Notes of the Parish Meeting Held on 30 May 2012:** Mrs J Mason gave an overview from the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2012. These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Drew then explained the format for the evening and introduced our two County Councillors, Cllr Martin Tett and Cllr Noel Brown.
3. **Guest Speakers:**
 - a. **Cllr Nick Rose, Leader, Chiltern District Council.** Cllr Rose explained that, as well as being Leader of Chiltern District Council he was also the Councillor with responsibility for Planning within the Cabinet. The current planning regime began back in 2004 with the local development framework. Over several years the Core Strategy for Chiltern District was then developed. The focus for any increased housing was Amersham, Chesham, Chalfont St Peter and Little Chalfont as these are the main conurbations. If the district had had no Core Strategy we would have been vulnerable to attack by developers. The current document being worked on is the Delivery Development Plan (DDP). This document is available on the CDC website and responses to the consultation are needed by 7 June 2013. These can be made either via the website or, if preferred, a letter can be sent in. This feedback will be used to formulate policies and a revised document will then be produced which will be available for further public consultation. The results from this consultation will be sent to the Inspector who will decide whether or not to accept the content. Cllr Drew thanked Cllr Rose for his informative talk and urged people to go to the website and make any comments.
 - b. **Suzy Talbot, Editor, Amersham and Little Chalfont Examiner:** Ms Talbot introduced herself as a local girl who was born in Chesham and went to the Misbourne School. Her first reporting job was for the Bucks Examiner based in Chesham. She then moved to Surrey as a news editor, had a brief return to Chesham and then back to Surrey where she remained for 3 years. She is now the editor of the Examiner, the Advertiser and the

Harrow Observer. When she started as Editor of the Examiner and the Advertiser the papers' circulation was in decline and they had lost their community focus. There was a need to get back to grassroots as community papers. Ms Talbot has introduced the Lifestyle and Leisure supplement which give the communities a voice. Also local news is prioritised on pages 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the Amersham and Little Chalfont Examiner. The circulation has stabilised and is actually beginning to increase again. The paper has recently launched a Pride of Bucks Award and it is working with the local parishes and CDC to try and give back a little to the wider community. Cllr Drew thanked Ms Talbot for her excellent contribution.

- c. Helen Petty Manager, Dial-a-Ride:** Dial-a-ride is a door to door transport service for people with restricted mobility. Ms Petty has worked at Dial-a-Ride for just under a year and is working hard to make the service more financially independent and much more reliable. When she arrived the service was very basic and not at all dependable. A lot of work has been put into ensuring that drivers turn up when they are scheduled to do so and that they are able to complete more jobs per day. One initiative that is being launched is the Community Parish Project (CPP) which is being piloted in one area and will eventually roll out to other areas. A vehicle will be located in each area and will be available for local trips. The service is currently available from 8am – 5pm every day of the week and there are plans to extend the hours over time and when there are drivers available. As well as local trips Dial-a- Ride is also offering various day trips and outings that people can sign up for. Finally the new mascot made an appearance and Ms Petty announced a competition to name the mascot. The winner will win a ride, with friends, to a location of their choice. Cllr Drew thanked Ms Petty for her contribution and for her valuable and much appreciated work in the community.
4. **Chairman's Report** - The full report can be viewed on the Parish Council's website at www.littlechalfont-pc.gov.uk. The Chairman thanked the Council and staff for their hard work over the year and then explained the changes to Buckinghamshire Council boundaries which include the new Chess Valley division that incorporates part of Little Chalfont. Also, from 2015 the Parish will have an extra ward called Little Chalfont North-East and one extra Councillor. The Chairman then turned to significant events throughout the year, in particular the parking survey which received over 300 responses and allows the Parish to put more pressure on the District and County Councils, the changes that are going on at Westwood Park including the re-surfacing of the tennis courts and the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), the current status of the nature park and the plans for the new community building which received overwhelming support from the community (of the 651 responses received 630 were supportive of the idea).
5. **Open Forum:** A number of issues were raised (i) the parking issues and the impact in specific areas such as Bell Lane. Cllr Parker explained that in Bell Lane the issues were regarding parking near the traffic lights and parking on the pavements. The feasibility study would provide a lot more detail but he understood that the whole process was frustratingly slow; (ii) Whether the Parish Council were in touch with London Transport about the lack of fast trains to London during the day. Cllr Drew explained that the Council was happy to support any efforts by others but had not been directly involved in any discussions themselves; (iii) Traffic speed on Cokes Lane where it was estimated only 10% of drivers kept to the 30mph speed limit. Cllr Drew responded that the Council is in the process of trying to secure funding

for a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) from the Local Area Forum (LAF) which would be used at various locations in the village to display, and record, real- time speeds of cars; (iv) The bridge over the railway in the Bell Lane Housing estate needs to be tidied up and re-painted. Cllr Drew agreed and said that the Parish Council would ask London Underground but that currently we are having a number of problems with other areas that they have responsibility for such as the embankment in Beel Close and now also in Lodge Lane.

6. **Close:** The Chairman thanked everyone for their valuable contributions and reminded residents that there was a casual vacancy for the position of Parish Councillor and urged anyone interested to contact the Clerk.

Signed.....

Date.....