

## LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 15 April 2008**

**at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont.**

**Present:** Cllr. M Dale, Cllr B Drew, Cllr. C Gibbs, Cllr. C Ingham, Cllr D Marshall, Cllr A Tate (Chairman), Cllr G Smith (item 4 onwards) and Cllr F Wilkinson

**In Attendance:** Mrs J Mason (Clerk); Councillor M Tett (Chiltern District Council)

**Members of the Public:** Ms C Ingram, Ms H Ingram, Ms S Selahi (all from Floral Art), Mr I Morris (Chalfont Art and Frame), Ms M Filippetto and Mr Filippetto

Prior to the start of the formal business of the agenda, the Chairman welcomed Mrs Mason to her first meeting as Parish Council Clerk. Then, suspending standing orders, he welcomed the members of the public who were present and invited them to speak. On behalf of the group present, Mr Morris expressed concern over the ongoing debate about the positioning of advertising boards which had resulted in some of them being removed by the Council. Ms Filippetto added that it was also the view of the group that the rules on the use of boards were not being enforced equitably throughout the village. Ms Ingram endorsed these comments. The chairman noted their concerns and stated that whilst the issue was not on the agenda for tonight's meeting, a response would be given in due course.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – there were no apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes of the meeting Held on 18 March 2008** – These were approved and signed by the Chairman
- 3. Declaration of Interest** – Mr Drew declared an interest in view of item 7 and his membership of the committee seeking support.
- 4. Co-option of New Council Member** – Mr G Smith was proposed by Cllr Wilkinson to be co-opted as member of the council following the resignation of Cllr Dykins and the subsequent advertising of that vacancy. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Drew and all were in favour. Mr Smith then undertook and signed, witnessed by the Clerk, a declaration of acceptance of office.
- 5. Financial matters** – (i) *Internal Audit* The Chairman reported that the internal auditors report had now been received and that the clerk would be meeting with the auditor and implementing the recommendations. (ii) *Accounts* The annual accounts had been drafted and at this stage showed a closing balance of £110,841. The Clerk would be undertaking more work and a report would be made to the next meeting.
- 6. Risk assessment** – The revised risk assessment proposals were circulated. It was agreed that these be reviewed and discussed again by the Council in 6 months.
- 7. Village Day 28 June** – (i) *Funding* The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from the Little Chalfont Revitalisation Group (Village Day Events) requesting financial support for

four portable toilet units and a display of birds of prey. This proposal was discussed and approved. (ii) *Parking* it was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with Chiltern District Council to ensure the public free use of the pay and display car park on Village Day.

- 8. Report to Buckinghamshire County Council on Potholes-** Councillor Drew had prepared some information earlier in the year, however, the timescale envisaged for a report on potholes had been pre-empted by an inspection visit that day by District Councillor Martin Tett. Additionally, the County had just announced a new initiative dealing with potholes, signs, verges and foliage etc. This involved two day visits on an eight weekly basis by a team designated to repair items brought to their attention by parishes. It was agreed that Cllr Drew's existing list would provide at least two days work for the team. It was agreed to review the situation at the next meeting and ensure that the list of outstanding repairs was kept up-to-date.
- 9. Air Traffic Volume** – The Chairman reported that he had attended a public meeting on this issue. It was agreed that the matter should be kept under review and in the meantime the clerk should be asked to find out about the Chalfont St. Peter Council clerk's membership of a Denham Aerodrome liaison group and report back.
- 10. Refurbishment of the Village Hall** – It was agreed that the Clerk find out what quotes had, if any, been received and report back to the next meeting.
- 11. Village Hall Management Committee Minutes of 10 March 2008** – These were circulated to the Council. It was noted in particular that no hall hire charge increases were being proposed until work on the hall is completed. It was agreed that rates be frozen and that the management committee put forward a future schedule of charges for consideration by the Council. On the issue of the outside storage sheds it was agreed that the Clerk should organise a general clear out by the organisations using the area to create more room.
- 12. Donation of Furniture-** The Council asked the clerk to write to Mrs Dykins asking her to nominate a local charity to whom the £100 donation, previously agreed, might be donated.
- 13. Little Chalfont Library** – It was decided that before any agreement was reached on the possibility of future funding for the library, the chairman of the Friends of Little Chalfont Library be invited to submit a proposal to the June Council meeting for consideration.
- 14. Correspondence** – Cllr Ingham had prepared and agreed with councillors a reply to BCC on the consultation exercise on the local strategy. The deadline for responses had been extended and he would therefore copy the proposals to Cllr Smith prior to the Clerk sending of the finalised response.

Other items of correspondence were included with a view to alerting councillors to issues being debated of which they might wish to receive more details. It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate by e-mail a list of such correspondence to all councillors on a regular basis. Individuals could then contact her to request relevant copies if they wished.
- 15.** In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was resolved that in the public interest the members of the public present be asked to leave.

**16. Discussions with Amersham Town Council** – Councillor Wilkinson gave an update and a general discussion took place. An update would be given at the next meeting

**17. Maintenance- Green and Triangle** – A discussion took place on the revised maintenance contract and the state of the Triangle which the Clerk would ask to be included, for the time being, in the general maintenance contract.

**18. Next Meeting** – Tuesday 13 May 2008 (AGM). This meeting will be held in the library.

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**Signed**

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**Date**