

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Little Chalfont Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 at 8 m
In the Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont
(Following the Planning Committee held at 7.30pm)

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

In Attendance: Mrs J Mason (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** None.
2. **To accept a resolution that standing orders be suspended** to allow any members of the public to speak (10 mins): Not applicable.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2014:** Approval deferred until 12 February 2014 meeting.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** To note that the relevant Council members have declared a DPI in relation to discussions under item 5, Budget and Precept, and have applied for and been granted a dispensation enabling them to speak and vote on item 10. (Note, the dispensation applies until May 2015.)
5. **Budget and Precept 2014/15:** *To set the precept for 2014/15 and to review and finalise the draft budget in the light of this decision* – Various options were discussed. However, it was agreed unanimously to defer the decision to enable the Chairman to report back from the Town and Parish Chairmen Liaison Meeting scheduled for later that week at Chiltern District Council. It was hoped that further clarification would be given at that meeting about the status of the grant being awarded by CDC to offset the impact of the localisation of council tax benefit. The Clerk would, as necessary, arrange an extraordinary meeting the following week to set the precept and finalise the budget.
6. **HS2 Response – Update:** Cllr Hinkly reported that he had been liaising with other groups and councils in drafting the response. The deadline had been extended until 10 February and there was the likelihood of a further extension. Cllr Hinkly asked that councillors pass any ideas and contributions on to him. The impact on traffic and the pressure of the many extra vehicles would be amongst the objections cited together with the possible adverse effect on emergency services. As agreed at the 8 January meeting, the draft response will be circulated and then finalised by e-mail. Cllr Hinkly also reported that on 30 January he would be attending a seminar at County Hall that would provide attendees with detailed information to enable them to petition Parliament in response to the High Speed 2 Bill. He would report back to the Council to enable it to decide if any action is required in this respect.
7. **Little Chalfont Nature Park – Brief update on future format of discussions with LCCT:** Cllr Drew reported that the chairman of the Little Chalfont Charitable Trust had requested an informal meeting to discuss items that might be included in any future agreement between the LCCT and the Parish Council about the management of the Nature Park, particularly in the light of discussions with the Charities Commission. He and the Clerk had been invited; however, he would like another councillor to attend with them. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman should meet with LCCT representatives together with another member of the Council. In the meantime, Cllr Rafferty suggested that the Clerk should investigate the arrangements for the management of King George V playing fields in Amersham. The Clerk also reported on the expert advice she had received about the claiming back of VAT on Nature Park set up costs. The issues were complex and she was awaiting further advice about the feasibility of perhaps setting up a Parish Council Working Party to initiate fund raising applications for approval and submission by the Council. Whatever was eventually

agreed, it would seem sensible to seek advice direct from HMRC before embarking on a particular course of action.

- 8. *A resolution was agreed 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. (Minuted below as no confidential information is included.)*

9. Buildings Working Party:

(i) To receive Amersham Town Clerk's 15 January letter - The letter had been previously circulated and was formally received;

(ii) To give permission for the work suggested to be carried out by the occupier – It was agreed that the Clerk should give permission for this work to be carried out in her reply to the 15 January letter referred to in (i) above. She would ask that the work be carried out by a suitably qualified contractor and that she must be told who was proposed in advance of work starting;

(iii) To ask the Parish Council Clerk to instruct the solicitor to prepare the agreed lease for signature - The Clerk will instruct the Council's solicitor. The Clerk and two Councillors (Cllrs Drew and Hunt if available) will sign on behalf of the Parish Council.

- 10. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 8.15pm in the Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont (following the Planning Committee meeting which starts at 7.30pm). An extraordinary meeting may also be called in the interim – see minute 5 above.

Signed.....

Date.....