

**Minutes of an extraordinary Little Chalfont Parish Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**held in Little Chalfont Village Hall @ 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr V Patel (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Crowe, Cllr C Ingham, Cllr J Walford, Cllr D Nussbaum .

**In attendance:** Mrs S Butcher (Assistant Parish Clerk)

**1) Apologies for absence:** Cllr B Gallagher, Cllr N Henry-Ames, Cllr D Silverstone, Cllr C Jones.

**2) Members of the public:** None

**3) Declarations of interest:** None.

**4) To consider the parish council's approach to the appeal on planning application PL/21/4632/OA, appeal reference APP/X0415/W/22/3303868 Land between Lodge Lane and Burtons Lane, Little Chalfont.**

Councillors held a preliminary discussion of whether the council and the community association should apply for "Rule 6 participation" in the appeal process. The financial cost would be high as it was usually necessary to retain a barrister, and call witnesses who would also have to be paid. There was some risk that the appeals inspector might award costs against the parish council if any of its actions were considered by the other parties to be unreasonable. Rule 6 participation was normally sought only if it was necessary to make points which the local planning authority would not make in its case. However, such points could also be made in a fresh written submission if we chose not to participate under Rule 6. Work was still under way to discover whether there are such points of any importance. Advice from an experienced planning barrister was to be obtained on 31 August.

It was agreed that the cost of the above meeting with the barrister should be paid from the planning allocation in the budget.

It was agreed that Rule 6 participation should be applied for only if it was clear that the cost would be proportionate to a significant improvement in the chance that the appeal would be dismissed. Councillors expressed preliminary views both for and against participation.

**5) CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

The Lodge, Westwood Park. Cllr Ingham reported that a draft lease renewal agreement had now been cleared with ATC, who had asked for some minor and acceptable amendments. PainSmith solicitors had undertaken to make these and provide a text for final signature before the deadline of 1 October. The cost would be 2 – 2.5 hours work at £270 an hour. It was agreed to pay such a sum.

The council noted that ATC had offered to make a goodwill contribution to the cost of PainSmith's work on the lease renewal document. It was agreed to discuss this with ATC after signature.

**6) Any Other Business**

**7) Date of the next Parish Meeting:** Wednesday 14th September 2022 at approx. 7.30pm in the village hall.

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....