

All correspondence should be addressed to

**The Clerk to the Council**

Council Office

38 New Pond Road

Holmer Green

Bucks HP15 6SU

Phone: 01494 715429

e-mail [clerk@littlemissendenpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@littlemissendenpc.co.uk)

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, 24 January 2022 at 7:30pm  
on Zoom.

**Present:** Councillor S Burke (Chairman) Councillors S Baker, D Hill, A Breed, D McMillan, J Fallon, R Sapsed, T Brown, C Thirsk and D Baker.  
County Councillor P Birchley, M Harker and J Waters

**Proper Officers:** Dianne Camier - Deputy Clerk  
Lynne Lusby - Assistant Clerk

Councillor Burke welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and opened the meeting at 19:31.

Councillor Burke paused the meeting at 19:32 for the public forum.

### **C/1/22 Public Forum**

There were four members of the public in attendance. One member arrived after the Public Forum had closed.

One member of the public from Little Kingshill requested to speak about their concerns regarding the recent felling of trees and clearing of land taking place around Little Kingshill.

Councillor Burke restarted the Council meeting at 19:36

### **C/2/22 To receive Apologies from Councillors for non-attendance.**

Apologies were received from County Councillor P Martin.

### **C/3/22 To receive declarations of interest relating to this meeting.**

*(Under Sections 30(3) and 235(2) of the Localism Act 2011, Councillors are required to register their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in the Register maintained by the Monitoring Officer of the District Council. The Council's Code of Conduct also requests Councillors to declare these where they relate to any item of business to be discussed).*

Councillor D McMillan declared an interest in item C/6/22 6.2 a)1.

### **C/4/22 To receive and approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of 20 December 2021.**

Minutes from the meeting on 20 December 2022 were received approved as an accurate record and will be signed in due course by the Chair.

**C/5/22 To receive and note reports from Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillors.**

Councillor P Birchley reported that Buckinghamshire Council have announced fresh support for local businesses that have been affected by Covid. Government have given local councils funds to issue grants in the hospitality sector, leisure, transportation and events.

Councillor P Birchley reported that at a meeting with HS2 it was evident that contractors were not communicating with each other. When the A413 was due to be closed, there was not proper liaison between the different contractors. Residents have been deeply frustrated by the traffic lights and night time road closure on the A413 and the very long detours.

Councillor P Birchley reported that the budget for 2022/23 will include £100,000,000 to be spent on roads over the next 4 years. In addition to £120,000,000 on strategic highways improvements. The Council tax will be voted on shortly but recommendation is to increase it to 1.99% to cover inflation which is currently at 5%. This also includes another 2% for adult social care which will cost about £300,000,000 next year although 65% of older people living in Buckinghamshire pay for their own care. Which is one of the highest amounts in the country. In most counties far less people are in the position to pay for their own care. Adult social care costs are almost 40% of the council's budget.

Councillor P Birchley reported that there will be a Free Apprentice Fair taking place at Elgiva Theatre in Chesham on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, there will be companies from around Buckinghamshire coming to meet people that are job seeking.

Councillor M Harker told us that her big passion is community revitalisation and getting projects of the ground. All the County councillors have their different strengths and Councillor M Harker's is about community projects and at the moment they are still talking to people. They have funding available on the Community Board of which she is vice chairman and are looking for projects and improvements to be made to local areas. The aim of the Community Board is to gather the community together to achieve things for the local area. The deadline for applications is the end of Feb.

**C/6/22 Individual Committee Reports**

**6.1 Chairman's Report – Councillor S Burke**

- a) Boundary dispute update – The resident from 2 Silver Birches, Sheepcote Dell Road claimed the boundary was in the wrong place. LMPC disagreed. After many attempts to action a surveyor, to no avail. Councillor S Burke met with the resident to seek a solution. 2 Fir trees on the border were preventing the resident from starting his extension. It was discussed to straighten the boundary, as it had previously been placed around some trees, so the resident could erect a new fence. To allow the resident to remove the fir trees as they were in a poor condition, the resident would make a donation to LMPC to assist the council in erecting a new row of pleached trees to go above the new fence to make the area look more attractive. Councillor S Burke and the assistant Clerk visited the site to mark out the potential new boundary. It was suggested that LMPC look at the overall planting of the area once work is completed. - It was AGREED by council to proceed with the agreement of the new boundary, clear the broken tree and the planting of a row of pleached trees.
- b) HGSA update –LMPC have written to Bucks to say that the increase is unacceptable and are awaiting a reply. Councillor Burke has spoken to a surveyor regarding the valuation of the land, as it was suggested that we look into purchasing the land. Councillor Burke advised that

buying public land is not easy due to varying cost for different uses. Cost of a valuation could be £3,000. – It was AGREED that a budget of £3,000 was set for the costs of the valuation of the land.

- c) HS2 – review – Nothing to report
- d) LM- MVAS location and operational performance – Councillor S Burke and Councillor D Hill are meeting the Swarco engineer on site on the 1 February. The LAT has been to visit the site and has agreed that it is the best position for that side of the village. Councillor Burke has written to the property owner.
- e) MVAS contract for moving and charging units – It was AGREED that Councillor D McMillan and Councillor C Thirsk would look into options for positions/movements of the 2 remaining MVAS cameras to cover Little Kingshill and Holmer Green.
- f) Devolved services -update – Last July we were told we would get an answer to our request to join one of the Test programmes for devolved services, we have had no further response from Bucks Council. – Councillor Harker offered to chase Buckinghamshire Council on our behalf. **ACTION – Councillor S Burke to pass on details to Councillor M Harker**
- g) Petition calling on the Government and Parliament to allow councils in England to have the choice to meet remotely – it was AGREED to support the petition. A Quorum meeting will be held at 4pm on Tuesday 25 January to ratify all decision made during this meeting.

## 6.2 The Chair of Planning – Councillor J Fallon

### a) Planning applications

#### 1) 31 Parish Piece Holmer Green High Wycombe Bucks HP15 6SP

Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed loft conversion with rear dormer and 4 front rooflights.

**Reference:** PL/22/0003/SA

**Date validated:** 4 January 2022

**Consultation expiry date:** Not available

**Date received by LMPC:**

**Determination date:** 1 March 2022

**OBJECTION** - Due to the size of the Juliette balcony overlooking the neighbouring properties, which would cause a loss of privacy.

#### 2) 70 Beech Tree Road Holmer Green Bucks HP15 6UT

Part two, part single storey rear extension, loft conversion to living space with the addition of two front dormers and 3 side roof lights

**Reference:** PL/22/0016/FA

**Date validated:** 13 January 2022

**Consultation expiry date:** Not available

**Date received by LMPC:**

**Determination date:** 10 March 2022

**NO OBJECTION** – but to make a comment that the side window should contain obscured glass so as not to overlook neighbouring properties.

- b) HW8 - Update – Yeoman Homes have bought the orchard that has a temporary TPO placed on it. Yeoman homes have put in an application to remove the trees that are dead and remove any trees that are not used for commercial purpose. Councillor S Baker told us that HW8's plan states that the area needs to be an open space. There is concern that there are species of Cherry trees in the orchard that are very rare and are nearly extinct, this is an ancient orchard and needs to be protected. The temporary TPO needs to be defended.

Councillors that attended Hazlemere Parish Councils meeting regarding HW8, were concerned about a point raised regarding the number of homes that were allowed to be built under HW8 that has been exceeded with additional neighbouring developments. Questions will be asked regarding this.

- c) 20 mph zones – **County Councillor J Waters** – Councillor J Waters talked through the steps that needed to be taken now Town and Parish Councils sponsored 20mph schemes could now gain support from Buckinghamshire Council. Councillor J Waters spoke about gaining support, funding, costs, surveys and assessments. It is very important to think about location on these speed limits, the police will not do anything different than they do now. In terms of setting the 20mph speed limit it is important that it is self-enforcing. The report suggests that 20mph zones are more successful than individual roads and it is important to consider other traffic calming measures to ensure the result is successful. Costs involved need to be shared. The police are not against the 20mph speed limits but are not going to change anything they do. Councillor J Waters clarified that it is important to consider where it is going to be, where it is going to have the most impact, and the cost involved. There have been a lot of reports published that say that 20mph speed limits are not particularly good on the environment due to cars going at lower speeds produce more pollution in to the environment.
- Councillor S Burke thanked Councillor J Water for his advice.
- d) Update of Neighbourhood Plan- **Councillor S Baker** – Councillor S Baker reported that we will be holding an information evening for people interested in volunteering for the Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7pm at Rossetti Hall. The advert for volunteers will be posted tomorrow.

### 6.3 **Chair of Finance – Councillor D Hill**

- a) Agree monthly payments - monthly payments were AGREED
- b) Review of Budget against expenditure – This will be updated for the next meeting.
- c) Appointment of Internal Auditor - it was agreed to accept Bridget Knight as Internal auditor.  
**ACTION- Deputy Clerk to contact Bridget Knight and PO to be raised.**
- d) Queens Platinum Jubilee Funding - Council previously agreed that rather than LMPC organising Queens Jubilee events that we would support local events in the way of funding. It was suggested that organisations applying for support, would need to provide information on what was planned, and exactly what the funding would be spent on. It was AGREED that a budget of £6,000 was set to support Jubilee funding across the wards **ACTION- Clerks to prepare a form for organisations to complete to apply for funding.**
- e) Election costs – Councillor S Burke advised Council that after receiving the invoice for non-contested Election costs from earlier this year. The costs we were notified of, were exceeded.
- f) Payment on account for Elite Law – Councillor S Burke advised Council that 2 years on from the lease extension negotiations regarding HGSA, it was appropriate to make a down payment on account to Elite Law that have been working on our behalf. A payment of £600 was AGREED.

### 6.4 **Chair of Open Spaces – Councillor S Burke** – Nothing to Report

### **C/7/22 Councillors Items for Discussion and, where necessary, approval**

- a) Webpage update – **Councillor R Sapsed** - A meeting with Councillor R Sapsed, the Clerks and Aubergine was held this morning and we now have a list of documents that need to be added to the website to make sure the website is compliant. Councillor Sapsed reported that the website should hopefully be live by the end of next month. Councillor S Burke suggested that we may have to consider some temporary help for the clerks to assist with updating policies and loading documents onto the website. Clerks are weighing up the options and assessing how much work needs to be completed and there may be a request for some additional temporary staff.
- b) Website use of Stripe for incoming payments – **Councillor R Sapsed** - It was decided when we took on the website project that we needed a payment portal on the website. Stripe is the preferred provider of this. However, there is a fee associated with that 1.2% on incoming payments. It was AGREED to take on stripe for incoming payments on the website. **ACTION- Clerks to sign up to Stripe.**
- c) Parish Piece and the lack of speeding Control – **Councillor D McMillan** - Councillor D McMillan was concerned about the lack of speeding signs down Parish Piece. Should there be more signage? The road contains brick paving parts which used to be raised but over time these have worn down. Holmer Green Councillors are in discussions with the 3 schools regarding traffic issues. HGSS do regularly send out emails to parents asking them to not use Parish Piece. **ACTION- Holmer Green Councillor to discuss the issue and come back to council with a proposal**
- d) Litter Picks – **Councillor D McMillan** - Councillor D McMillan is concerned about the Litter in Holmer Green. Village litter picks happen on Saturday before Remembrance Day, yet the village is the same a few days later. Words used by residents to describe Holmer Green were dirty, scruffy and untidy. Councillor J Fallon reported that she along with Holmer Green Village Society have organised the litter picks in the village which happen twice a year once in spring and once in November, she has also distributed litter pickers to anybody who has requested them. The Parish Council support the Village Society with the litter picking. 30 volunteers came to the last litter pick and every single road in Holmer Green was cleared. **ACTION- Councillor J Fallon and Councillor D McMillan will discuss.**
- e) Community Board Funding for the MVAS units - Community Board Funding application for the MVAS unit funding was lower than expected as the figure on the original letter to us was incorrect. The funding has now arrived. **ACTION- Clerks to write and thank the Community Board.**
- f) Quote from Sparkx for 3 replacement lanterns in Holmer Green - Quote was AGREED **ACTION- PO to be raised.**
- g) Heritage Listing initiative - Councillor S Baker would like Holmer Green to create a list for submission. **ACTION- Clerks to check files for previous lists that may have been compiled.**
- h) Grass area on the corner of Wycombe Road and Sawpit Hill – Councillor J Fallon - There have been concerns from residents regarding the parking of cars on the grass area on the corner of Wycombe Road and Sawpit Hill. Residents on Wycombe Road would like to put in bollards to stop people parking there. People are also using it to cut the corner if there is a traffic queue. Transport for Bucks are now involved. Councillor J Fallon is meeting with the area LAT, Councillor J Waters and the residents. The land belongs to Buckinghamshire

Council. Councillor J Fallon requested funding for a cultivation licence. A budget of £200 was AGREED.

21:02 Councillor Thirsk left the meeting

- i) Holmer Green Pond including Broken Branch removal – Councillor J Fallon - There is a large part of a tree that has fallen into the pond. Councillor J Fallon requested that this be removed. A quote has been sought from Chesham Town Council. On the 9<sup>th</sup> March Chiltern Rangers along with Berks and Bucks Wildlife, will be building a dead hedge in the pond, planting reeds between the inflows and the dead hedge, in the attempt to build a natural filtration system for the pond and are hoping to replant the floating island, and clean up and paint the duck houses. Councillor S Burke requested that they also look at improving the slope up to the house for ducklings.

21:07 Councillor Sapsed left the meeting

- j) Review of Land assets- Councillor A Breed - Councillor A Breed would like to request that the clerks carry out a review of the land assets of LMPC. Councillor S Burke reported that due to the amount of work that needs to be done in the office, this is yet to be completed. A budget was set of £11,000 to get this project completed, Council have spoken to a solicitor previously but what they needed from us was not possible at the time. This project was discussed when the Deputy Clerk was interviewed and in her appraisal. If the Clerks were overloaded then we discussed the possibility of taking on an extra person to oversee this project. The problem was made worse a few years ago when previous Councillors decide to do their own clearing of the files. Councillor S Burke welcomed any suggestions of people that may be able to help or we wait until the Clerks have reviewed how they are working in the office.
- k) Update on Holmer Green Community Garden – Councillor S Baker - Councillor S Baker played a video showing the progress of the Holmer Green Community Gardens.

**C/8/22**     **Rossetti Hall** – Nothing to report

**C/9/22**     **Youth Matters** – Nothing to report

**C/10/22**    **Allotments**

- a) Antisocial behaviour at Beech Tree Road allotments – There has been some anti-social behaviour at Beech Tree Road allotments the other week, five sheds were broken into, the only item that appears to have been stolen was a sledge hammer, local police have been informed and are doing regular checks. Because of this, locks have now been added to the gates.

**C/11/22**    **Ward Reports and Updates**

- a) Holmer Green – Nothing to report
- b) Hyde Heath – Nothing to report



- c) Little Kingshill – Councillor A Breed shared with us maps and pictures of Little Kingshill. A week and a half ago, next to the full moon pub there was a field that had a copse of wood, and there was a digger in there ripping everything up. In Stoney Lane there is a walkway that goes up towards the arboretum which was also being removed. There was a walkway through what was a wooded path into field where there were diggers clearing the undergrowth and removing various trees. Various residents complained, Keith Musgrave (Bucks Tree Officer) visited he got the forestry commission involved and has been there since. The fields at the back where people have been walking for years, Councillor are investigating the possibility of putting in claims for rights of way as there are a lot of different pathways. The residents have spoken to ward Councillors and the clerks, and they feel like this could be just the beginning of some overall development the equivalent of a Tralee being built in the future. This is all pre-Build so we just have to wait for something to be submitted to planning. Councillor A Breed is concerned about the area around Meadow Cottages as the playground could be in the area of a possible access road in to a possible new development.

Councillor T Brown reported that the residents of Stoney Lane have been contacted by a planning consultant working on behalf of the owners of the fields and green belt land. There is a path way that comes off Stoney Lane and runs in to the arboretum that has been used for generations to get access. This is the official route that the Priestfield association use to access the Arboretum. There was a lot of mature trees has now been indiscriminately wiped out. It is believed that there are plans to put a house in there between two existing plots. The concern is that if planning permission gets accepted for a house in the plot that this will cut of that part of the green belt and will make it ripe for development.

Caravan Park, Windsor Lane, Little Kingshill - enforcement is due to make a decision hopefully this week. There could be some retrospective licencing issues.

- d) Little Missenden- Nothing to report

**C/12/22 Items for Next Agenda – Heritage Listing initiative**

Councillor Burke Closed the meeting at 21:36

Signed as an accurate record of this meeting: -----

Councillor S Burke (Chairman)

21 February 2022

***Dates of next Meetings:***

**Full Council Planning:** Monday, 7 February 2022

**Full Council:** Monday, 21 February 2022

