

Minutes of the Meeting of Turville Parish Council on Thursday 8th January 2015 at Turville School, Turville commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: David Cairns, Chairman
Ray Jones, Vice Chairman
Barbara Phillips
Veronica Ramsay

In attendance: Deirdre Hansen- Clerk.

Also attended by Garrick Steventon, Danny Fois and Kate Ashbrook.

The Chairman explained that the change in the usual agenda format was due to allow for in depth discussion on the budget and the precept for 2015/16.

334. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr M. Drage due to illness.

335. No disclosure of interest in items on the agenda was made.

336. The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 30th October 2014 were confirmed as true record and signed by the Chairman.

337. Report on matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

- The Chairman thanked the organisers of the Christmas Party and the Carols On The Green for their efforts and ensuring that both events were enjoyed.
- The Chairman thanked Danny Fois for his efforts on dealing with the resurfacing of Turville Valley Road. The first part of the work had been completed and the second part, tarring and chipping, is due to occur in the spring.
- The Chairman thanked John Hancock for reporting the flooded gully on Drovers Lane.
- Community Valley Bus Service: the Chairman reported that Ray Jones had agreed to be the parish representative on the joint Hambleden and Turville organising committee. Cllr Jones reported that the service will start in the week commencing 12 January for an initial trial period of six months. An article had been included in the Valley magazine. Ray Jones had also distributed a leaflet to Turville village residents highlighting Turville specific and important matters concerning the service. He had agreed to include an item on Turville.net. In its first year the service will be totally funded by the County Council. To maintain the service beyond six / 12 months it will need to be used by residents.
- The new residents welcome letter is being revised by the Clerk and Sarah Evans.

338. Meetings attended:

- The clerk had attended the WDALC meeting and AGM on 11/12/14 and gave a brief report.

339. Planning:

- a. The letter sent to WDC Head of Planning and Sustainability expressing the PC's dissatisfaction with the procedures followed, the unanswered questions and the inconsistencies in WDC's approach to planning applications has been acknowledged by the Head of Planning and Sustainability, who has informed the PC that a response would be forthcoming in the new year.
- b. WDC decisions:
 - 14/07656/CTREE Cobstone Mill Farmhouse. Various tree works. Reduce height of cherry by 4-5 metres to provide clearance from telephone wires, fell sycamore: reduce cedar, 2 Scots Pine and a spruce by 20-30%. PC no objection. WDC made a tree preservation order on cedar, 2 Scots pines and a

larch on the boundary of the property, but not on a sycamore and a cherry tree nearer the dwelling house. The PC noted that the applicant had lodged an appeal with WDC against the decision to make TPOs on the four trees

- 14/07711/CTREE Turville Park. Removal of one limb overhanging the drive to one horse chestnut. PC no objection. WDC decided not to make a tree preservation order.
- c. New applications:
 - 14/08160/FUL Juniper Cottage, Northend. Householder application for erection of single storey side extension with habitable rooms in roof space. The PC had no objections, but requested that if WDC were minded to approve the application a condition was added for the retention of boundary hedges.

340. Finance:

- a. Bank balances: 29/12/14- £ 8,281.65, Nationwide £ 1,792.06
- b. It was agreed to renew the WDALC subscription 2014/15 @ £10.
- c. The clerk's salary incl. working from home allowance December 2014 by S/O of £274.93 per month was approved.
- d. It was agreed to implement the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) national recommend pay scale increase for the clerk.
- e. An amendment to the bank mandate reflecting the clerk's salary increase including the working from home allowance to £ 277.75 was approved.
- f. A one-off non-contributory payment of £12.80 to clerk as agreed by NALC was approved.
- g. The PC agreed to make a donation to the Chilterns Conservation Board of £50 and a donation to Henley CAB of £50.
- h. The following payments were approved and the cheques signed;

Cheques approved:		
WDALC	Subscription	£ 10.00
D. Hansen	one-off non-contributory payment	£ 12.80
D Hansen	Clerk's expenses Nov/Dec	£ 141.13
Chilterns Conservation Board	Donation	£ 50.00
Henley CAB	Donation	£ 50.00
Total		£ 263.93

In between meetings cheque 000152 to R.J. Symes for grass cutting invoice 4213 @ £28.80 had been signed.

341. Budget and precept setting for 2015-16:

It was agreed to close the meeting to allow for public participation in a discussion about the proposed budget.

The meeting was reopened.

In the knowledge that the PC will have a substantial surplus at the end of the financial year 2014/15 and if the Precept is not changed or expenditure undertaken a larger surplus can be expected at the end of 2015/16, the PC held a working meeting to consider the situation.

The PC considered the recommendations formulated at a working meeting on 9 December 2014 see appendices 1 and 2.

The PC also noted that members of the public had put forward the following uses of the surplus:

- Support for accelerated high speed broadband
- Repairs to bus shelters
- Repairs to the Turville phone box.

Before considering the use of the surplus for new activities the PC considered the repairs for the bus shelter in Turville Heath and the Turville telephone box. The clerk to obtain a quote for the required work and to present that at the next meeting. Subject to the PC agreeing the expenditure required from a quote at the next meeting, the PC agreed that it would increase the estimated expenditure on maintenance in 2014/15 to £400 and the budget for maintenance in 2015/16 to £400.

The meeting agreed that the first priority for the use of the accumulated surplus was the repair to the damaged road surfaces and agreed to use surplus funds for this purpose. The clerk reported that Transport for Buckinghamshire, who deal with all road matters for Buckinghamshire County Council, refused the PC's offer to fund some road repairs. The Local Area Technician would prioritise the resurfacing of the lower part of Dolesden Lane and had offered to tour and review the state of the parish road network with the Chairman in the spring. In view of the refusal of funding by Transport for Buckinghamshire for road repairs, the PC agreed to prioritise other uses of the accumulated funds.

It was resolved that the PC would in principle prioritise the use of its accumulated funds for the following items:

1. It was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Ramsay and unanimously resolved that the PC would contribute to the removal of invasive plants on commons (private land that has public access) in the parish, budgeted cost £3,500. The budget for 2015/16 was amended to reflect the decision. Barbara Phillips agreed to contact Chiltern Rangers, Robin Harman and others including landowners and residents to get detailed information and a proposal for dealing with the problem including quotes for the work that would be required to be carried out. Cllr Phillips to present a detailed proposal including costings at the next meeting.
2. It was proposed by Cllr Ramsay and seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously resolved that the PC would contribute to improvement to footpaths in the parish. This would be done by replacing stiles with gates under the "Donate a Gate" scheme run by the Chiltern Society at a cost of £250 per gate. This would improve public access to the footpath network in the parish. In principle it was agreed to replace 4 stiles per annum. It was agreed that £1000 should be spent in 2014/15 and the same in 2015/16. The estimated expenditure for 2014/15 and the budget for 2015/16 were amended to reflect the decision. Veronica Ramsay will identify the priorities for the replacement plan and present a detailed proposal and costings at the next meeting.

Furthermore the following was considered:

3. Concern had been expressed about litter at road edges and the installation of litter bins was suggested. In general, no great need was perceived, but the matter would be kept under review.
4. A suggestion for the creation of playgrounds/play areas for children within the parish had been discussed. No suggestions were made about their location but it was noted that the Parochial Church Council is considering such a possibility on the land around the church and that it will be consulting parishioners and the PC on any proposals. Cllr Phillips also proposed that consideration should be given to the construction of a public tennis court in Northend.

5. Councillors had noted that the first year's operation of the Hambleton valley community bus service would be fully funded by BCC (through the LAF) and that no other funding would be required until January 2016 at the earliest.
6. The PC noted that it will receive a share of community infrastructure levy (CIL) money in 2015/16 if the planned works on the respective properties in the parish are started by 30 September 2015.

The budget for 2015/16 was adjusted to reflect the above decisions and the budget and estimated expenditure figures for 2014/15 were adjusted to reflect the spending decisions made. (See appendix 3)

It was proposed by Cllr Phillips and seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously resolved to set the precept at £6,500 for the year 2015/16.

342.Revised Parish Plan: it was agreed to modify the Parish Plan to reflect the consequential changes based on the budget for 2015/16. The modified Plan to be discussed at the next meeting.

343.The date of the next Meeting was confirmed as Thursday 19 March 2015 at Turville Village School starting at 7.30pm.

The Chairman.....date.....