



AKELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Terry Cavender (Chairman), Joanne Eastwood, Clair Flynn, Lorna Joy, John Hockley (Vice Chair) and Ellen Sayer (Clerk).

M.o.P.: The Chairwoman and Clerk from Maids Moreton Parish Council + 1, Councillor Warren Whyte and David Jones (Bucks CC).

1. APOLOGIES: Mike Mortimer (School Governor's meeting), Mary Taylor

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA: None

ITEMS OF INTEREST & PUBLIC SESSION

- **Guest speakers Councillor Warren Whyte and David Jones – The case for a unitary authority.**

Mr Jones explained that in 2010, government funding to Bucks CC was £88 million. In 2020, it will be zero. With ever-increasing demand on resources, it was necessary to investigate ways to remodel the structure of local government. Following surveys etc., the feedback indicated that what is required and wanted is local government that is simple, cheap and accessible. The single unitary authority proposal is the most economic option, saving £18.2 million a year, with transition costs of £16.2 million, saving £45 million over 5 years. This would see the abolition of the existing 5 local councils in Buckinghamshire and the creation of one new authority, which would have 98 councillors. There would be 19 Community Hubs (e.g. in libraries). It would cover 5 planning areas (Aylesbury Vale would have 2 planning departments - an urban and a rural). Likely savings to be made by AVDC in such a proposal are not yet available.

3. The **MINUTES** of the last meeting, held on **14th September 2016** were proposed and seconded as a true record (JH, LJ) and signed by TC.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

4a. Recreational Field - Grass cutting – the contractor (E.Scapes Ltd) has provided a good service throughout the year and has been asked to quote again for next year. RoSPA report action on the **Children's Play Area** – all remedial work has been carried out apart from replacing the pyramid caps, which are on order. Thanks to Debi Lee who has agreed to act as the P/Council's **County Wildlife Site Officer**. A scheme offering trees will be applied to.

4b. Devolved grass cutting of verges – satisfactory. **Churchyard grass** – After 14 years, David Dunkley has stepped down and a replacement will be sought.

4c. Roads and traffic – 2 footpaths with dangerous defects to be reported. It was agreed that weeds along kerbs and footpaths should be sprayed twice a year (late spring and mid-summer). Grass frontages not owned by residents should also be sided out to prevent them encroaching over the footpaths (the worst next year and the rest the following year). E.Scapes to be asked to give a price for this.

A request for Speedwatch volunteers to be repeated in the next Akeley News.

5. FINANCE and ACCOUNTS

The **accounts** for the periods 10/9/16 to 10/11/16 were proposed and seconded as a true record (CF, JH) and signed by TC who, along with the Clerk, signed the Receipts and Payments Book.

Proposal to impose **referenda principles** to local government re. 2% precept increases – in light of this and the devolvement process, it was agreed that a substantial increase should be made to the precept for 2017-18. This will be set at the January meeting.

Audit complete – no comments from the auditors other than when minuting the agreement of the precept figure, the approval of the annual budget should now also be recorded.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Sunday 11/11/2018 **Beacon** lighting to mark the end of WW1. If this goes ahead it must be organised by a Parish Councillor (CF?) with the aid of others e.g. the Events Committee. JE will contact the Scouts and possibly children from the village school would participate.

Mapping lost **Rights of Way** – CF has kindly volunteered to lead this project in Akeley. Volunteers to assist her have been requested.

Theoretical **S106 payment** in respect of **The Leys** proposed development – the relevant department at AVDC has been contacted stating that the Parish Council is, without prejudice, looking into how the funds (£86K) could be utilised to refurbish/extend the play area.

7. PLANNING

- **16/03173/AOP** – Land off Leckhampstead Rd (The Leys field) - **Applic. for outline planning consent with all matters reserved for a residential development of up to 24 dwellings including creation of new highway access, associated public and private open space and car parking provision** (determination deadline 19/12/16).
- **16/03461/APP** – Land adj. Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane – **Applic. for a 2 bedroom bungalow.**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.....January 9th 2017

Ellen Sayer Clerk to the Parish Council 15/11/16