

Minutes of the Eleventh Little Chalfont Parish Meeting

Held in the Village Hall, Cokes Lane, Little Chalfont

Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr D Alexander; Cllr M Crowe; Cllr B Drew; Cllr I Griffiths (Chairman); Cllr C Ingham; Cllr M Parker; Cllr V Patel.

Members of the public: Drina Parker, Mike Mason, Cllr Martin Tett, Roger Funk, Veronica Way, Peter Way, Olive Mead, Carol Mead, Gwen Moys, Peter Moys, Steve Melhuish, Phyll Griffiths, Adrian Lockyer, E Evans, Peter Burgess, L Patten, J Watkins, Jon Fantes, Baiba Sejejs, Parry Hughes-Morgan, Dorothy Drew, Tony Duparr, Ted Cooper, Alan Hamilton, Jackie Hamilton, Sohil Moody, Mike Elliott, Audrey Elliott, Sylvia Martins, Peter Martins, Tony Dawson, Gill Glover, Terence Glover, Shirley Strange, J Wilkinson, Derek Redmayne.

In attendance: Mrs N Meldrum (Parish Clerk) and Miss S Matthews (Assistant Parish Clerk)

- 1. Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence:** Cllr J Walford, District councillors Cllr C Jackson, Cllr P Martin, Cllr D Phillips, and County Councillor Cllr N Brown
- 2. To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 May 2017:** The minutes had been previously circulated and were approved. The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.
- 3. Welcome.** Cllr Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all of the councillors to the audience, highlighting their areas of responsibility. Cllr Griffiths then introduced the first speaker, Rob Hacking headmaster of Little Chalfont Primary School.
- 4. Rob Hacking, Headmaster, Little Chalfont Primary School.** Mr Hacking reported that he had joined the school in January 2018 and was keen to develop links with the local community. It was noted that there had been substantial cuts to the education budget to schools outside London and this was not expected to improve. The level of pupil premium was also much lower than some London schools. The school needed to be creative particularly in its provision of teachers. It was fortunate to have a base of very engaged parents supporting the school. Mr Hacking also talked about methods of enriching the curriculum. Year 6 were creating sculptures to leave their legacy to the school. There were also a number of fundraising projects underway for example the new pond area, and new trees which had been applied for from the Woodland Trust. Practical support was required including materials, power tools, plants and financial support, as well attendance at the summer fair.

The following questions were raised asking for thoughts on potential new housing (700+ homes). Mr Hacking acknowledged some of the difficulties for parents which may arise but needed to wait and see what happens and to explore all options. It was asked how children prepare for secondary school. In years 5 and 6 there are residential trips and more opportunities for independent action. There is work around mental health and well being as well as business enterprise opportunities and buddying programmes with younger children. Coaching for 11+ was also raised where Mr Hacking reiterated the work on mental health with the children to reduce anxiety levels. Mr Hacking was also asked if there was a school travel plan. It was confirmed this was in place. The implications of the financial cuts were also raised. At the school the aim was to try to have an experienced teacher in every year group. Additional funding from parents has been invaluable. Communication was taking place with Chalfont Valley E-act Academy and it was hoped this would increase more in the future. Mr Hacking was asked the focus points for improvement. Reducing levels of anxiety in Year 4 and 5 and enriching the curriculum in science, ICT and music were noted.

5. Jake Rigg, Affinity Water. Mr Rigg reported that Affinity Water were the largest supplier of clean water in the country. Billing still took place on behalf of Thames Valley Water for sewerage. Affinity Water are currently consulting on a 60 year plan. The aim is to ensure that demand does not outstrip supply. There is a need to create new sources. In 2014, demanding water leakage targets were set which have been achieved. Water metering was being increasingly invested in and used. It was also noted there was a Drought Management Plan. Mr Rigg noted Affinity Water fed into the Local Plans with regard to the infrastructure arrangements. He recognised the importance of engaging with local communities and local authority.

Affinity Water's recent record with dealing with roadworks was raised. Mr Rigg acknowledged the company were trying hard to improve communication with roadworks and needed to inform councils, highways and residents about work taking place wherever possible. A question was asked about the water supply. This is a long term challenge for Affinity Water. One element is to try and change behaviour with regard to water usage. In new homes and social housing, water saving measures are being incorporated. It was reported that Affinity Water are also trying to improve the quality control of their contractors in order to improve the service. It was asked what Affinity Water do with regard to reducing the plastic pollution. It was reported that the water is of very good quality with many spot checks on the water taking place. A question was asked about Affinity Water's involvement in HS2. While they are not a statutory consultee, Mr Rigg noted it was important to ensure the chalk aquifer under the Chiltern Hills is protected. A related question was also asked with regard to PO6. Mr Rigg explained the two different approaches enlisted with regard to planning for potential new developments. As part of the planning work the top down approach is based on population. In addition, the bottom up approach involves analysing Local Plans and speaking to the local authorities to ensure sufficient supply. Reports are analysed to consider the environmental impact.

6. Chairman's Report: Cllr Griffiths highlighted some of the key areas detailed in his report. The proposal to build an additional 700 + homes in the village has been a major issue over the past year which the Co-ordination Group (members of the parish council and the community organisation) have responded to. A public meeting was held in January with 500 people attending. Most recently a letter has been sent to the district council regarding some issues regarding methodology. The proposed new community centre is another ongoing issue which, in the view of the parish council and the vast majority of residents, is very much required, given the increase in population of the village since the existing hall was built. Chiltern District Council had raised some issues with the original planning application. This application was withdrawn and the work is being undertaken to address the concerns raised by the case officer. The application will be resubmitted shortly. Parking is a continual issue in the village. The recent changes have in general worked well, however there have been some issues of displacement. It is likely that there will be a consultation taking place in a few affected roads in Little Chalfont.

7. Open Forum: A question was asked about the future of the Sugar Loaf. Roger Funk reported that the owners were refurbishing the pub and would be installing a new tenant. Contractors have started work. It was hoped that the community would have the opportunity to have a say on the type of pub they would prefer.

The Local Area Forum funding for a feasibility study on the junction of Cokes Lane and Nightingales Lane was raised. This study will give some suggestions on what can be done to make the area safer for pedestrians and vehicles.

A concern was raised about the gridlock of traffic in the village each weekday morning and evening, particularly as traffic tries to turn into Chenies Parade causing a large backlog. It was asked if Transport for Bucks would be able to help. Cllr Tett acknowledged the problem. The situation has currently worse because of the construction on Chenies Mews. The volume of traffic has also increased by one third since 2000.

The recent letter from the parish council and community association to the district council regarding PO6 was also raised. A vote of thanks was given to the authors for their work in constructing the letter.

It was noted that a litter bin had been removed which was adjacent to the fish and chip shop on Nightingales Corner.

It was asked what shops would be opened in the new area of Chenies Parade. This was unknown at present but it was expected the building company would be able to inform. There would not necessarily be an eating outlet.

A question was asked about the implications of Buckinghamshire becoming a unitary authority. Parish councils may be offered the opportunity to take on more services, but this was not compulsory. Further information would be available dependent on the decision by the Secretary of State.

There were no further questions and Cllr Griffiths closed the meeting.