

# CHENIES PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 9 May 2007

**Present:** Mr N Ince *Retiring Chairman (in the Chair)*  
Mr P Ashby *Councillors elected 3 May 2007*  
Mr D Betts  
Ms M Newton  
Sir John Quinton

**In attendance:** Mrs K Le Neve Foster *Clerk*

**Members of the public:** Mrs E Allsop *Retiring Councillor*  
Mrs G Leaper

The Chairman welcomed the new Parish Councillors.

### **1 Apologies**

Received from Mr R Arthy (retiring Councillor).

### **2 To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Declarations of acceptance of office were signed by Mr Ashby, Mr Betts, Ms Newton and Sir John Quinton.

### **3 Election of Chairman of the Council**

Mr Ince called for nominations. Sir John Quinton was proposed by Ms Newton and seconded by Mr Ince. There were no other nominations. Sir John was duly declared Chairman and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Mr Ince thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their support over the past four years.

Sir John Quinton took the Chair, and thanked Mr Ince very much for his very great contribution to the Parish Council over a period of some forty years. He said that his hard work and experience would be greatly missed.

### **4 Election of Vice-Chairman of the Council**

Sir John proposed Ms Newton for the position of Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr Ashby. There being no other nominations, Ms Newton was duly declared Vice-Chairman.

### **5 Democratic Quarter Hour**

Mrs Leaper mentioned the overhanging trees at the lower end of Place House Copse. The relative absence of birdsong was noted and it was felt some thinning of the wood might help.

**6 Code of Conduct**

Having studied the new code of conduct to be used from 3 May 2007, it was agreed that this code should be adopted by the Council. Declarations of acceptance of the code of conduct were signed by Mr Ashby, Mr Betts, Ms Newton and Sir John Quinton.

**7 Any Change of Interests/Register of Interests**

Sir John Quinton and Ms Newton declared no change. Mr Ashby and Mr Betts completed and signed the Register of Interests and passed these to the Clerk, who will forward a copy to Mr H Patterson, Head of Legal Services at Chiltern District Council. The Parish Council will hold copies of the forms.

**8 Co-option to fill vacant seat**

Mrs G Leaper was proposed by Sir John Quinton and seconded by Ms Newton. There were no further nominations, and Mrs Leaper was duly declared a co-opted member of the Council. The Clerk will supply her with the necessary forms in advance of the next meeting.

**9 Matters arising by Statute**

None

**10 Appoint Standing Committees if necessary**

No action necessary.

**11 Appoint a Representative to the Local Area Committee**

Ms Newton was duly appointed.

**12 Countess of Warwick Charity – appointment of trustees**

The current trustees are Mrs E Macleod Matthews, Mr N Ince, Mr D Le Neve Foster and Mrs T Betts. The Rev D Allsop is a trustee ex officio. To avoid any discrepancies it was agreed that the current trustees should be re-appointed en bloc for a further term of three years.

**13 Consider payment of any Subscriptions to be paid annually**

The Clerk confirmed that a subscription of £37.39 had been paid to the BALC, and that the subscription to the Chiltern Society would be due in June.

**14 Note Deeds and Trust Instruments in the Custody of the Council**

The Clerk confirmed being in possession of the new lease and the old leases of the Village Green, the Management Scheme and Bye-laws made by Chiltern District Council and the Allianz Cornhill insurance policy AC/5275905.

## 15 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 March 2007

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007, having been approved, were signed by the Chairman.

## 16 Matters arising from Minutes

- Seat for walkers along the green sward – the Clerk has been advised by Colin Jenkins, our area technician, that Bucks CC Highways Department would have no objection in principle. They would need to be consulted on the precise positioning of the seat, and it would have to be installed by Council-approved contractors. The Clerk has established that the County Leadership Fund offers grants for such projects annually, so this could be applied for later this year as the deadline for the current financial year had passed. It was agreed that the Clerk should pursue this matter.

## 17 Finance

The account balances on 3 May 2006 were as follows:

	Current	£ 237.61
	Deposit	£4,073.30
	High interest Deposit	£ 907.00 (£4.52 interest received)
Receipts:	First instalment precept	£2,100.00
	BCC – for verge mowing	£ 225.00
Outgoings:	Great House Farm (leaf clearance)	£ 150.00
	BALC – subscription	£ 37.39
	BALC – BKV entry fee	£ 8.00
	Allianz Cornhill (insurance)	£ 727.79

Banking: the Clerk suggested that the mandate to the Bank authorising new signatories to the account should be completed at the next meeting when the new Council would be fully formed. In the meantime two signatories remain from the previous Council.

## 18 Planning

CH/07/0131/OA	Fairfield Farm	Pending
CH/07/0472/EU	The Cottage, Chenies House	Pending

New application:

CH/2007/0717/FA	“Barley Croft”	To be opposed
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Enforcement matters:

The Enforcement Officer has advised the Clerk that the owner of the Long Field had been told to apply for permission for change of use and for any development.

## **19 Footpaths**

- The Clerk has spoken to Jon Clark's replacement at Bucks CC, Rachel Ward, about the gate needed on FP 25 (between Claypits and the Cricket Club) and this has now been agreed and should be installed within three months.
- FP25 near Claypits Cottages is very overgrown with nettles – the Clerk will attempt to ascertain ownership to get this dealt with.
- The signpost on Monk's Walk (FP37) needs replacing.
- There is a fallen tree in the woods on FP15 (C Club to Turveylane Wood).
- The Clerk will create a map of the parish showing footpaths and the parish boundary for the benefit of the new Councillors.

## **20 Traffic Matters**

- Pinch points down White Hill – the Chairman will follow this up.

## **21 Highway Matters**

- Holloway Lane – the gate is still awaited. There is some discussion about the need for a special opening to allow access for horse-drawn vehicles. Ms Newton volunteered to be responsible for the litter bin at the bottom. The bin at the top had been destroyed by fire and it was agreed not to replace it for the time being.

## **22 Place House Copse**

The Clerk has spoken to John Morris at the Chiltern Woodlands Project, who had thought repayment of the grant money would be required. However when she spoke to Colin Finlay at the Forestry Commission he advised that sufficient of the grant conditions had been filled for repayment not to be necessary, and in any case the grant expired in 2001.

Mr Finlay offered help and advice should the Council wish to attempt to preserve the woodland, and mentioned that the Buckinghamshire Biodiversity Partnership had identified the Chess Valley as an area worthy of special consideration. It was agreed to form a sub-committee comprising of the Chairman, Mr C Macleod Matthews, Mr Betts and Mrs Leaper to investigate ways of managing the woodland for the future, and a meeting would be planned with John Morris to discuss this.

## **23 Chenies Community Fund**

The Trustees of the Fund are Mr R Grundy, Mr D Cottingham, Mr P Loring, Sir John Quinton and the Rev D Allsop. They would be meeting soon to discuss potential projects.

## **24 Chenies Village website**

Mr Ince had spoken to Mr A Homewood who had agreed to help set up a website for the village at a start-up cost of £300-500, and he had agreed to help manage it free of charge for the first year. Ongoing running costs would be £120 per two-year period for the domain name and hosting. A proposal had been put to the Chenies Community Fund that they should cover the initial start-up costs, and it was agreed to wait for the Fund's decision.

## **25 Best Kept Village Competition**

Chenies has been entered for this competition, which this year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the competition in Buckinghamshire. Judging will take place between 22 May and 1 July. A tidy-up day has been planned for 19 May. A clear-up of the debris on the Village Green prior to the start of the mowing season had been most effective, and thanks were expressed to members of the Chenies Village Society.

## **26 Correspondence**

- The Clerk had written to the occupant of Keeper's Cottage about the felling of a large beech tree without planning permission.

## **27 Any Other Relevant Business**

- Comments were made about the large plastic advertising banner outside the Cricket Club – the Clerk was asked to investigate.
- It was regretted that there had apparently as yet been no prosecution of the person who fly-tipped in Holloway Lane, leaving traceable evidence of identity.

## **28 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Chenies Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4 July 2006, at Chenies School.

The meeting closed at 10.04 pm.