**LATIMER AND LEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Latimer and Ley Hill Annual Parish Meeting**

held on Wednesday 17th April 2019 at Ley Hill Methodist Church - 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Anne Birkett AB

Cllr Lesley Sunderland LS

Anne Hyde (Clerk) AH

Cllr Chris Gregory CG

Cllr Rae Bramwell RB

Noel Brown NB

Andrew Garth AG

Fourteen Parishioners –Lindsay Faulkner, Karen Holt, Stephen Hedges, Jenet Hill, Jane Hanley, Richard Lewis, Chris Lewis, David Darvell, Ian Walter, Ros Walter, Mike Appleby, Angie Reynolds, Ian Cullen and Carol Cullen

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|  | Item |  | Who to Action |
| 1 | **Open the Meeting and Welcome** | Cllr Birkett opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. |  |
| 2 | **Apologies for Absence** | Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Hill, Cllr John Drewery, Joe and Joanna Barclay, Sarah and David Peterson, Trish Baptist, Neil Lamond and Tim Hyde. |  |
| 3 | **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25th April 2018** | These were agreed as a true record and were approved. |  |
| 3 | **Update on The Parish Councils Activities – 2018/2019** | **Report from Cllr Birkett**  Cllr Birkett reported that the Parish Council had been very active this year. Masterminded by Neil Lamond the Parish commemorated WW1 on the 11th November with over 600 people in attendance. The Burial Ground now has a Garden of Remembrance and a bench was purchased in memory of the Late Cllr Richard Sanders which has been installed by the Beacon. Due to Botley Stores closing, a new Post Box and noticeboard have been installed on the other side of the road. Tai Chi sessions were organised as part of the Health and Wellbeing Funding which 7 residents took up. A further groundscrew for the Movable Vehicle Activated Sign was purchased for Rushmere Lane, Orchard Leigh. Two Defibrillators have been purchased. One is installed on the wall of the Crown, Ley Hill and the other will be installed in the next couple of months in the Phone Box in Latimer. In March with some of the Health and Wellbeing Funding a Health Fair was organised in the Memorial Hall, Ley Hill with approximately 200 people in attendance. The Parish Council have been involved with saving The Swan Pub over the past few months and that we hope residents will attend the Planning Meeting on the 18th April 2019 to give their support. |  |
| 4 | **Update on the Community Speedwatch Scheme and the Movable Activated Sign** | **Report from the Clerk**  In November 2017 we installed three groundscrews in Jasons Hill, Botley Road and Stony Lane Latimer and more recently in Rushmere Lane, Orchard Leigh for the Movable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS). The MVAS records the speeds of all the cars that pass and will flash up the correct driving speed. Over these months we have kept weekly records and analysed the results. Some of the results have been alarming.  Community Speedwatch began in March 2018 with some volunteers being trained by the Late PC Kevin Flint. Everyone was saddened by his untimely death. Without Kevin, we would not have been able to set this scheme up and he is very much missed. Kevin also worked with the Parish Council in helping to reduce the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit by bringing to Botley Road his camera.  In 2018, 535 drivers received letters from Thames Valley Police and so far, this year, 59 have been reported.  The Parish Council decided to trial leaving the MVAS on Botley Road for 3 months and there was a huge reduction not only in the number of cars speeding but also there were far less of the higher speeds. When we started, 90% were speeding and we found by February this year we were down to 38%. This is attributed to the hard work of all the volunteers involved with the MVAS, Community Speedwatch and Thames Valley Police.  Thanks must go to Anne and John Birkett, Jerry Harbourne and John Robertson who have helped move the MVAS. Also thanks to Jerry Harbourne, John Robertson, Ros Walter, Steve Thorp, John Bicker and Mike Appleby, all of who have helped with the Community Speedwatch.  Currently the MVAS is on Rushmere Lane and this will be moved in the next couple of weeks to Latimer before moving back to Botley Road. The MVAS first pointed in the direction of Bovingdon towards Chesham and the percentage of speeders ranged between 41 – 43%. The percentage from Chesham to Bovingdon is showing higher percentages, between 42 – 53%. Supprisingly in this direction the percentage has increased rather than decreased. Now that the weather is improving, more Community Speedwatch sessions will take place around Ley Hill. The MVAS results have been analysed in order that we can target the times when we know that drivers are exceeding the speed limit excessively. We are awaiting to hear who will be replacing the Late PC Flint in order that we can arrange for the Thames Valley Police van / camera can go out on the roads.  Anne Birkett will be working with Ley Hill School after Easter with the children on safety and letters will be sent out to the parents/carers advising them to drive and park more considerately.  To help reduce the number of cars speeding, we are reliant on volunteers and the more we have the less onerous it is. It does not take much time – an hour of your time and you can go out with the camera as much or little as you like. All training on moving the MVAS or using the Community Speedwatch equipment is given. If you would be prepared to get involved, please contact the Clerk. |  |
| 5 | **A Report on the Heath Fair** | **Report from Cllr Bramwell** |  |
|  |  | The Parish Council's first Health Fair was held on Sunday, 24th March at the Memorial Hall. The event was organised by a small committee, Cllr Anne Birkett, Anne Hyde (Clerk), Cllr Rae Bramwell and Jane Hanley who is a Governor at Ley Hill School. The event was sponsored by Bucks County Council and County Councillor Noel Brown was in attendance, giving an opening speech and welcoming everyone.  Noel is the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, so he was extremely supportive of the Health Fair. Chesham Town Mayor, Jane MacBean, also came along to support us. Our aim was to promote health and wellbeing within our community, as well as starting some new social events and extra-curricular activities for all ages within the village. Goody bags were given to attendees, including health literature, a bottle of water and fresh fruit. The children could enjoy colouring at the activity table and received their own goody bags which kept them amused for the afternoon.  There were over 18 stand holders some of which included the Scouts, Botley Carers, Diet Clubs, Chesham Photographic Club, Ley Hill Cricket and Golf club, Pilates and a local chiropodist. During the event Parishioners could partake in some reflexology or watch a demonstration of salsa and tai chi. Live Well Stay Well offered free health checks for those attending on the day, including blood pressure and cholesterol checks. This was a huge success as they were fully booked throughout the event.  There was also a demonstration on using the defibrillator, which is located outside The Crown and is a much needed lifesaving piece of equipment for the village. We have also purchased one for Latimer, which is yet to be installed. There were some great tombola prizes which had been kindly donated, comprising of fruit hampers, a Snow Centre voucher, a month's gym membership and many more. Between the tombola and the refreshments, which were donated by Sainburys and Waitrose, we managed to raise a grand sum of £289.15. The funds raised will be donated to Botley Carers and The British Heart Foundation as they both provide an integral service. Also, some of the funds will allow the Parish Council to organise further activities to improve health and wellbeing.  We received some fantastic feedback and many expressed that they would attend the event again next Spring, which is great news. We could not have held such a successful event without the large number of attendees, all those that kindly donated prizes and lastly all those who helped us on the day! So should you wish to take up a new hobby in the future, such as Salsa dancing, walking or learn how to use an iPad, just a few of the many activities on offer, please let one of the Parish Councillors know after the meeting and we'll make sure you're kept informed of the planned dates. We also plan to start holding community coffee morning's soon. |  |
| 6 | **A Report on the Litterblitz** | **Report from Cllr Birkett**  This year for the first time we held 3 Litter Blitzes adding one in the summer in June when we were ably assisted by the scouts. This past year we have regularly had at least 15 people helping to pick litter which has enabled most areas of the village to be cleaned well. After their hard work the pickers have enjoyed well deserved refreshments at the Crown and at the Cricket Club for the summer one. We intend to repeat this for the following year. However, we are quite concerned about the amount of Litter that appears soon after picking, especially along Bovingdon Road and Blackwell Hall Lane. I have requested signs from the Waste team to be put up around the common but I’m not very sure how effective they will be. We constantly report fly tipping to the council which in case you don’t know can also be done by anyone. Just send the location, a description of the rubbish and preferably a photo to the Fix my street website.  However, if you are willing to pick in between times we have all the equipment – pickers, vests etc which we would be happy to loan. Just let me know.  As always, we must thank Lindsay and Margaret Faulkner for their help with the collection of the bags at the end of the session and a big thank you to everyone who has helped to clean up our village, including all the dog walkers who keep our footpaths clean. |  |
| 7 | **A Report on the Village Survey** | **Report from Cllr Hill read by Cllr Birkett**  As you probably know, at the end of last year, the beginning of this year, we asked parishioners for suggestions on how to improve the village.  As you can imagine we received a wide variety of replies: some relatively simple suggestions which we have completed already and some that are in progress. There were some that are the responsibility of other agencies like the District Council, Transport for Bucks etc. Some ideas are very expensive, some will take a long time to achieve and some are difficult to proceed with.  We have been researching the costs and the viability of these suggestions so within the next few months we will be able to produce a plan showing our priorities over the next few years.  Here’s a summary of the suggestions:   * Reducing the unnecessary speed of cars (13 responses) - e.g. boundary signs to the parish showing speed limit * Roads and footpaths (21 responses) - e.g. replace broken styles * Common land (7 responses) - e.g. clear the shrubbery in front of the Ley Hill Memorial Hall * Street lights (7 responses) - e.g. replace our street lights with more effective LEDs (done) * Post box (2 responses) - e.g. improve Botley stores post box * Common (15 responses) - e.g. sitting area near the beacon * Bus service (2 responses) - e.g. Request stops both sides of Jason’s Hill * Memorial Hall (2 responses) - e.g. More health events (done) * Others (26 responses) – e.g. Keep the Swan, Tennis courts, Cricket Club facilities, Village archive.   We will communicate our plan via our website, the Parish Newsletter and News and Views. |  |
| 8 | **An update on The Local Plan** | **Report from District Cllr Garth**  The Local Plan is moving to a conclusion in the next few months with a final consultation in May. Notification of this will be sent out and then submitted in the Autumn. The number of houses at the back of Brushwood School to Lye Green are yet to be decided because of poor air quality. Some of the gardens in Ley Hill we come out of Green Belt.  Concerns were raised that notices to inforce Rights of Way had been put up between the Hen and Chickens, Kimblewick Feeds and Botley Playing Fields. County Cllr Brown said that this was Green Belt and District Cllr Garth said that this was not on the Local Plan.  Ros Walter asked if the Local Plan will meet Government requirements and County Cllr Brown confirmed it would. |  |
| 9 | **An update on Meadhams Farm** | Statement from the Clerk  The Clerk had received a statement from David Ward Jnr, Director of the London Green Company which was as follows:  “The site remains suspended currently and engineering works that were due to have started around now are paused.  In light of the contact to date regarding the former Brickworks and the extremely heated local opinion, we are minded to consider all options for the site including that of a potential use.  We have recently started those investigations and they will progress for a while. When there is something to update, we shall do so.”  County Councillor Brown informed the meeting that the area will have to be infilled before any further works can take place. |  |
| 6 | **To invite the Public to raise any matters**  **Litter**  **Unitary Council**  **Activities for 2019/20**  **Vote of Thanks** | Concerns were raised about litter and that there would be more bonfires and fly typing. The Clerk had received an email from Joe Barclay complaining that after Serco had completed a collection, there was rubbish around the lanes. The Clerk had concerns over Serco continually blocking driveways with the bins once they had emptied them.  The Clerk to contact Sally Gordon at Chiltern District Council to complain. County Cllr Brown reminded the meeting that tins were being collected for Artic One at the Recycling Centre.  County Cllr Brown confirmed that this was going ahead with a new Council. Over the next five years the number of Councillors will be reduced to between 80-90. The Parish Councils will not be changing. The County and District Councils will be abolished and be replaced with The Buckinghamshire Council and the start date will be May 2020 when elections take place.  Cllr Birkett invited the meeting to look at the display board on what the Parish had worked on over the past year and to sign up to activities that they may be interested in the Parish Council organising including Neigbourhood Watch, Coffee Mornings and assisting with the Community Speedwatch Scheme.  Ros Walter thanked the Councillors for all their hard work over the past year, especially as their roles are voluntary. | Clerk  Parish Council |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr Anne Birkett

Chairman

Latimer and Ley Hill Parish Council

**The Meeting closed at 8.30pm**