



Latimer & Ley Hill Parish Council Meeting | MINUTES

28 November 2023 | 7.15pm | St Mary Magdalene Church, Latimer

ATTENDEES

CLlr Anne Birkett (AB), Cllr Steve Thorp (ST), Cllr Chris Gregory (CG), Cllr Emily King (EK) and Claire Leek (Parish Clerk)

AGENDA TOPICS

| Agenda topic 1 | Apologies for Absence

Cllr Rae Bramwell, Cllr John Drewery, Cllr Chris Harris

| Agenda topic 2 | Register of Interests

None

| Agenda topic 3 | Public Quarter Hour

No members of the public present

| Agenda topic 4 | Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Formally approved by all. Signed by Chairman and Clerk to upload to website.

| Agenda topic 5 | Outstanding Actions from Previous Minutes

None.

| Agenda topic 6 | Finance

- a. **Approval of October finance report.** The finance reports were approved and will be uploaded to the website.
- b. **2024 Budget considerations.** The PC would like to look at the opportunity of including two new noticeboards in the budget for 2024/2025 – a replacement for each village. The budget will also allow for money to be allocated to the upkeep and maintenance of Latimer Village Green. However, we are still waiting to hear back from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the request to take on the piece of land.
- c. **Precept decision.** A discussion was held around the precept for 2024-2025. The PC are keen to keep this at a minimum, and will aim for no more than 2.5% increase on last year – the budget will be pulled together with this in mind, and a decision made that will allow us to remain within this boundary.

Action: Clerk to finalise budget and circulate for review.

- d. **Business Energy Fund.** SSE have advised that the PC are eligible to receive a business support fund and will be crediting the electricity account, used to pay for the streetlighting in Ley Hill, with 25% of annual consumption. No action is required, the credit will be automatically applied.

| Agenda topic 7 | Burial Ground

- a. **Enquiries.** The Clerk has received a number of enquiries. There will be a funeral for a full burial carried out early December, an ashes interment in February and 2 further ashes interments have been discussed but do not yet have scheduled dates or arrangements.
- b. **Maintenance.** Callum has carried out the final cut of the burial ground until Spring, and it was agreed that the additional cut at the beginning of November is required and will be added to the contract going forward. The front hedge cutting has been arranged and will be carried out as per the contract before the end of the year.
- The rear hedge will be cut by parishioner Witney King, between now and February. Permission has been granted by the landowner to drive on their land to use the machinery needed to substantially cut the hedge.
- The brambles alongside the fence behind the grave diggers hut, and covering the area recently exposed by the tree works at the bottom of the burial ground, adjacent to the road, have been sprayed and will now die back.
- c. **Bench Request.** The PC approved the request for a rustic bench to be placed in memory of Jenet Hill, situated underneath the tree, looking towards the grave diggers hut.

| Agenda topic 8 | Planning

a. Planning applications for consideration

- i. **PL/23/3118/FA – Cowcroft Farm, Tylers Hill**

No comment.

b. Lawful Development applications

- i. **PL/23/3517/EU – Stable A, Birch Tree Grove**
ii. **PL/23/3587/EU – Stable 2, Birch Tree Grove**
iii. **PL/23/3611/EU – Stable U, Birch Tree Grove**
iv. **PL/23/2836/FA - 1 Blackwell Farm Cottages, Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer,**

No comments.

- a. **D-Day 2024.** The PC have been requested to join in a national lighting of beacons on 6th June 2024 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. This was agreed by the PC. In the new year the PC will look into a suitable person to light the beacon and will advise The Crown of the plan as they may want to join in and mark the occasion.
- b. **Meeting dates.** Going forward the meetings will be on a Tuesday evening, providing this works for the church hall. The dates will be forwarded to ensure all dates are available and once confirmed, the dates will be added to the website.

Action: Clerk to confirm dates and publish on website.

- c. **Walks and footpaths management.** Cllr Anne Birket met with Andrew Clark, who is associated with the Chiltern Society, and Paul Cook, a local resident who regularly arranged local walks, to discuss the opportunity of pulling together, and making accessible, a list of local walks that start and finish in the parish. This was suggested in the last parish survey, and is something the PC are keen to explore. Discussions are at an early stage but it is proposed that a list of 12 walks, some longer than others, would be available as PDFs to download from the website, and a possibility of printing a handful in a leaflet to be picked up from The Crown pub or Latimer House.

Action: AB to ask DeVere if they are happy to be a 'base' for some of the walks to provide parking as a starting point

Discussed the opportunities around footpath management in the parish. As a PC we are responsible for reporting issues but not carrying out the works. Some parishes have taken on this responsibility through devolution but this was not thought to be the best approach for LLHPC. Reporting of issues is carried out via the Rights of Way team, but the PC's experience is that this can be very slow to see any resolution. Landowners are responsible for maintaining footpaths and bridleways that cross over their own land. As a PC it was agreed that all that can be done is to continue to report issues raised by parishioners.

- d. **Meadhams Farm.** There has been increased activity in and out of Meadhams Farm over recent weeks. The PC no longer has a line of communication with the owners, since the change of hands. The PC feel that having open communication was beneficial and will try to re-establish this so operational and logistical plans and timelines can be shared with the community.
- e. **Latimer post box.** Earlier this year the PC helped to get a replacement post box installed in Latimer after the previous post box was stolen. The new post box has been in position for 4 months but is still covered up and non operational. The Clerk has contacted the Royal Mail installation team and they have confirmed the local Royal Mail office is waiting for keys and time plate to be provided. They anticipate this will take another few weeks.
- f. **Latimer Green.** The PC have not received a response to the letter sent to Buckinghamshire Council requesting the ongoing maintenance and responsibility of The Green is handed over to the parish council. Assuming this will be granted, the PC need to allocate money in future budgets for the maintenance of the area. There is work

required to maintain The Green. Ideally this will be carried out prior to LLHPC taking on responsibility, however, money will be set aside to carry out this work ourselves if needed.

Action: Clerk to chase the Estates team at Buckinghamshire Council

A.O.B

- a. Spring Quarry.** Following a complaint from a resident in Latimer, the PC discussed the options available for reporting the apparent tipping from lorries at the Spring Quarry. The quarry is not within the parish of Latimer and Ley Hill but concerns have previously been raised with Flaunden PC. They in turn, have reported the activity at the quarry to Dacorum and Herts County Council who claim there is no evidence of tipping. Any concerns need to be raised with Dacorum CC in light of a potential breach of permissions.

- b. Gracies Farm (Chicken Farm) - Latimer.** There has not been a date provided for the hearing for the appeal against the enforcement. Buckinghamshire Council have chosen not to issue a stop notice on the farm whilst awaiting result of the appeal. LLHPC will challenge this decision.

Action: Cllr Chris Gregory to write a letter to challenge the decision of Bucks Council to not issue a stop notice.

Meeting Closed at | 9.10pm |

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Councillor Anne Birkett (Chairman)
Latimer and Ley Hill Parish Council

Next Meeting | 9th January 2024 | St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Latimer | 7.15pm