

The Lee Parish Council

Minutes of the THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM)
held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 21st May 2019 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillor C Sully (Chairman)	CS
	Councillor A Weir	AW
	Councillor R Fowler	RF
	Councillor D Chinnery	DC
	Councillor S Morris	SM
	Councillor C Little	CL
	Councillor C Perry	CP
	Mrs H Farrelly (Clerk)	HF
Apologies	County Councillor T Birchley	TB
	District Councillor N Rose	NR
In Attendance	6 x Members of the Parish	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

TB and NR had sent their apologies.

2. PRESENTATION TO THE PARISH

Colin Sully welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to allow residents to get together and review local matters of interest and/or concern. In order to facilitate this, a brief presentation was made on the following matters:

- The Lee Parish Council
- Local policing
- Unitary Authority in Bucks
- Serving the needs of all residents

3. THE LEE PARISH COUNCIL

Colin was pleased to report that all councillors remain in post this year and will be up for re-election in May 2020. The role of the councillors are:

- To monitor and maintain the parish councils assets which include the playground, allotments, playing field, well, memorial and some street furniture

- Comment and feedback to Chiltern District Council, on behalf of residents, on planning applications within the parish
- To monitor and report on matters affecting the Highways and Public Rights of Way
- To monitor and report on matters in relation to superfast broadband
- To monitor, report and comment on matters relating to HS2 and the impact on the parish.

4. LOCAL POLICING

Sadly, PC Kevin Flint, who was a local PC for the area passed away earlier in the year due to a tragic road traffic accident. PC Flint will be replaced by another PC from Chesham Police Station and we have asked for them to come and visit our parish so that we can discuss a number of parking and speeding issues along Chesham Lane and Oxford Street.

5. BUCKS UNITARY AUTHORITY

In 2018, the Secretary of State announced:

*“... that I have decided to implement... the locally-led proposal to replace the existing five councils across Buckinghamshire by one new single unitary district council...
My intention is that the new council will be established on 1 April 2020 with the first elections to the council to be held on 7 May 2020.”*

Currently local government is managed in a 3 tier system and under a unitary authority this will move to a 2 tier system (see appendix 1)

All council offices will be under review during the next year, whilst the Unitary Authority is being formed. There is a suggestion that there will be ‘hubs’ around the County for dealing with local matters, such as planning. Concerns were raised that planning officers, if not local, may not understand or appreciate our local parish and the needs of a rural community and this is one area that the parish council will be keeping a watchful eye on.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Why is there a reluctance to address the speed limits with Bucks County Council with a view to lowering them?

Councillors remain vigilant and equally concerned about the speed limits on a number of roads in the parish. The parish council is currently investigating the costs of using a Mobile Vehicle Automated Sign (MVAS) to collect data of speed and number of vehicles. BCC carried out a speed survey 8 years ago and as a result of this speed limits on some road were reduced from 60 to 40, and in others area down to 30.

	<p>The Chairman agreed to go back to BCC to ask for another speed review to be carried out on Chesham Lane..</p> <p>There is a significant number of assets in the parish for children and older residents have asked that the Parish Council consider providing an asset for them to use?</p> <p>A number of suggestions were put forward including a sensory garden, seating in the allotments, etc. A survey will be published in the newsletter to ascertain what residents would like to see in the parish. The Chairman highlighted that there were already a number of clubs in the parish, including the film club and music evening and all activities are published at the back of the Newsletter each month.</p> <p>How is the parish council addressing climate change and biodiversity in the parish? How is the parish council encouraging residents to initiate meaningful and purposeful change to support climate issues?</p> <p>A number of landowners in the area already plant trees and sow wild meadow fields. Whilst the parish council recognises the importance of climate issues, the parish council's role would be to act as a co-ordinator on green issues in the parish, rather than be the body that organises these initiatives. The parish council would be happy to support a meeting to discuss green issues further if a resident would be able to arrange the meeting.</p> <p>Have the parish council considered taking on devolved responsibilities (i.e. hedge cutting, sign cleaning, etc)?</p> <p>This is an area that the parish council are happy to look into further and will be contacting other local parish councils to understand the process and the benefits more fully.</p>
7.	<p>Colin Sully thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Residents were informed that the parish council will be attending The Lee Flower Show and offering an opportunity to drop-in and discuss matters with councillors.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

CURRENT 3-TIER LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Bucks County Council

Education; Highways ; Children’s services; Adults’ care services; Libraries;
Refuse disposal; Minerals and waste planning; Trading standards;
Fire brigade; Rights of way (footpaths & bridleways)

Chiltern District Council

Planning – development control; Refuse collection; Environmental health
Collection of local taxes; Benefits; Leisure and recreation services
Cemeteries and crematoria

The Lee Parish Council

Direct Responsibility	Consultative / advisor role
Playground; playing field	Planning applications (CDC)
Allotments	Roads, Footpaths & Bridleways (BCC)
Memorials & street furniture	HS2 (DfT); Broadband (CC)

PROPOSED 2-TEIR UNITARY AUTHORITY SYSTEM

Buckinghamshire Council

Education; Highways Children’s services; Adults’ care services Libraries; Refuse disposal Minerals and waste planning Trading standards; Fire brigade Rights of way (footpaths & bridleways)	Planning – development control Refuse collection Environmental health Collection of local taxes; Benefits Leisure and recreation services Cemeteries and crematoria
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The Lee Parish Council

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