

**CANDOVERS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Date:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Venue:** CVC, Brown Candover

<b>Present:</b>	Jonathan Moseley	Chairman
	Sue Marriott	Lady Vice-Chair
	Di Peisley	
	Edwina Curtis-Hayward	
	Adam Willmott	
	Wendy Simson	Clerk
	PC Andy Reid	
	Anna McNair Scott	County Councillor
	Peter Shelley	Head of Passenger Transport
	Jeff Soul	Cresta Coaches
	25 members of the public	

**Apologise:** None

**1035 Public forum**

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers. The Clerk then talked through the progress to date along with issues which had been raised by the public around the changes in the bus service C41 which runs from Basingstoke to Alresford.

The Chairman then introduced Peter Shelley and asked about the timetable on the website being from 2015 and how the new timetable had been communicated to commuters. Mr Shelley explained that the new timetable had been handed out on the service and that he would ensure that the website was updated with the new version.

Mr Shelley talked through the changes which have happened to the bus service over the last 5-6 years starting with the Cango buses. This service was a bookable route and was run by a call centre which served several routes, the call centre cost £100,000 a year to run and when the equipment required updating it was decided that it was no longer viable. The service then moved to a fixed route.

In the past the contractor who ran the C41 route also held the contract for the school service but this has now been moved to a different provider and the C41 service as it would cost £113,000 a year to run. The budget costs would no longer allow for this service to be funded at the current level and so a survey was carried out to ask for customer feedback about the best days for the service to continue as it would be required to be cut to 3 days per week from 6.

Although Saturday was the most popular day on the survey, there would be an additional cost of £20,000 for this. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday were priorities as the essential transport times.

Mr Shelley acknowledged that the timetable for Wield and Bradley were incorrect and that 3 hours in Alresford was too long. He also agreed that the connection could be better and that marking all stops on the timetable would ensure customer knew the route. The 4 stops in Eastrop were not necessary as these are served by a local Basingstoke bus. Peter agreed that the timetable being on the website did not suit all customers and explained that there were also leaflets given out on the buses to inform customers of the changes.

Mr Shelley then invited Jeff, from Cresta coaches to speak about the work he has done to amend the timetable to sort out these issues. Geoff showed the meeting two timetable options and asked for feedback and comments.

**Action:** Clerk to circulate the proposed timetables and collate comments

The Chairman then opened the floor to questions

- A resident from Ellisfield commented that the village was not well served by the new timetable as there were 10-20 children who were involved with after school clubs and could no longer catch the bus home. Jeff suggested that there may be an opportunity for a private hire timetable to be created to service this need.
- A resident from Bradley who had been in the Communications Board at Perins School in Alresford, agreed with the previous comment but added that there are not facilities for children to wait in Alresford for parents, 50% of the children surveyed said they could not do after school clubs because they couldn't get home. It was also suggested that the issue was not only with school children but also those in college.
- A resident from Ellisfield said the new service now stopped at the "top of town" and the station in Basingstoke which was great, however not having a late bus home at 17:30 meant that he had to drive in.
- A Wield resident raised the issue of the "uni-rider" service not working with Cresta as it did with Stagecoach meaning those at College are paying full fair.
- A Parish Councillor from Ellisfield asked why the school service had been split from the C41 service, making the C41 service un-economic? What is the current cost of this new service? By reducing the bus service, more people would use other methods of transport which made the service even less economic. Mr Shelley responded by informing the meeting that the current service costs £36,000 a year to run and Hampshire County Council have a commitment to ensure that no rural community is left without a bus service. In some cases, this has been covered by shared taxis.
- A resident from Wield asked why the service to Basingstoke had been cut and now did not allow for people working in Basingstoke to use the bus in the morning and evening to get to and from work.
- A resident from Bradley explained that the new service did not allow for any bus back to the village
- A resident from Brown Candover asked how many people would be required to make the service financially viable? The service is a lifeline to those who use it to get to doctors, shops, and friends. Mr Shelley responded that the service needed to be commercial and Jeff explained that the number of customers required would depend on the ticket price.

- A Preston Candover resident asked for more information about the shared taxi service. Mr Shelley explained that the numbers using the buses (17-18) were too high for this to be an option.
- A Brown Candover resident asked how she and other were to get to specialist clinics in Alresford such as Diabetes which are only on Thursdays
- A Preston Candover resident asked if the service could stop in the centre of the village by the village hall
- A resident from Axford explained that several children used the Saturday service to meet friends which was an important part of growing up but these changes had meant this was no longer possible.
- An Axford resident asked if the old booking service could be reinstated. Mr Shelley explained that this was too expensive.
- A Wield resident asked if the increases in the Council Tax to cover Social Care could be used to continue to fund the service.

Anna McNair Scott then spoke to thank everyone for the feedback. The issue of after school clubs and College transport were not covered in the budget for school transport. Also, the Council Tax for Social Care was spent on providing care to residents in their own homes and could not be allocated for the bus service.

Anna then introduced the “good neighbour” scheme which is active 17 local communities. The project identifies members of the community who are willing to give a lift to fellow residents and fill the gaps in the service. The drivers would be asked to complete DBS checks and additional insurance cover would be provided by the charity. Anna suggested that she would put the Chairman & Clerk in touch with the charity.

#### **1036 Apologies**

None

#### **1037 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes for the last meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 were reviewed and agreed by the Council as an accurate record. The Chairman signed to confirm they were an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **1038 Matters arising**

**Additional Bank Account for Lengthsman Grant** – The Clerk has not set up this additional account but plans to do so soon.

**Action:** Clerk to set up new bank account

**Grass cutting on the Oxdrove** – The landowners, in the past, were expected to keep these clear. This was always possible until tractors and their mowing gear became so large that they damaged the base of the path and made them at least 12ft wide. Clearly this was unacceptable for a country path and so the HCC take on the clearing themselves with quad bike type cutters.

**War Memorial** – Councillor Willmott confirmed that he would get this work completed prior to the Remembrance Service in November.

### 1039 Police update

PC Reid informed the Parish Council that there had been no reported crimes in Brown or Chilton Candover since the last meeting and four incidents in the same period, they are:

- 31/7 – a deer road accident on Bugmore Hill
- 12/8 – a verbal domestic dispute in Brown Candover
- 20/9 – 3 men were seen with lurchers in Brown Candover, a unit was called to give chase but stopped when the vehicle was doing 80+ mph and turned it's lights off.
- 24/9 – a man from Farnham fell off his bicycle in Spybush Lane

To date in 2017 there have been several crimes in Brown Candover including:

- Criminal damage to crops
- A public order issue with a Police Car being rammed
- Theft of batteries
- Stolen plant pots
- An assault

In Chilton Candover there have been the following crimes:

- An incident of harassment
- An assault after a damage road traffic accident

The Chairman thanked PC Reid for all the work he does to keep the community safe and the audience gave a round of applause.

### 1040 Financial Update

The payments to be made at the meeting are: -

- Clerk's salary (Jul - Sept) - £180
- PAYE (Jul - Sept) - £120
- External Audit - £120

The following payments had been received since the last meeting:

- £2,200 – Lengthsman grant from Wield North Waltham + 10% admin
- £1,650 – 50% of precept

The grant for the CVC was discussed and it was agreed that the £1,000 grant be increased to £1,500 as no grant was given in 16/17.

**Action:** Clerk to pass on payment to CVC and ensure a receipt is signed

The external audit has been complete by BDO and there are no actions

An allocation of section 106 money has been made for Swarraton farms. The Chairman queried this payment and agreed to confirm that it was to be made to Candovers Parish Council.

**Action:** Chairman to report at next meeting about section 106 funds

### 1041 CVC Update

The Chairman updated the Councillors about the CVC and that it still is not able to raise sufficient funds to cover the £7,000 costs a year. The rentals are increasing and there is now a pilates class on Mondays and possibly Wednesday, along with the Scouts, Darts Matches and the Young Farmers use the facilities and last Friday put £250 over the bar.

The community was being asked to ensure that subscriptions were paid and donations were being requested.

**1042 Website**

Councillor Peisley confirmed that the website was up to date.

**1043 Planning**

**Fell 2 Beech Trees at 4 Spybush Cottages** – The Tree Inspector from Basingstoke and Deane came and looked at the trees and confirmed that the roots had been undermined by ploughing in the field and ivy had been allowed to strangle the trees. It was his recommendation that the trees be felled.

**1044 Community Store**

A piece had been put in the Oxdrove about progress with the community store which is now planning to construct a separate building next to the village hall in Preston Candover.

**1045 Lengthsman Grant**

Two more Parishes have been added to the Candover Cluster, they are Wield and North Waltham. Both have signed the contract and funds have been allocated.

The Chairman explained that the Lengthsman contract will be put out to tender again in 18/19.

**1046 General correspondence**

None

**1047 Any Other Business**

The Clerk had been asked to raise the issue of the speed limit not covering the 3 homes in Chilton Candover as you travel towards Preston Candover. When the limit was put into place these three homes were “too dispersed” to be covered by the limit but it was agreed that this would be revisited. The Clerk has been asked if this can be investigated. The road between Totford and Brown Candover is also national speed limit and vehicles speed along there and then need to negotiate the sharp bend into Brown Candover.

**Action:** [Councillor Curtis Hayward to investigate the limits](#)

Councillor Peisley asked about the lights at the barn in Brown Candover which seems to be on all night.

**Action:** [The Chairman to investigate and ask to be turned off if required](#)

Councillor Willmott informed the Councillors that a text had been sent about shoot days following the issues last year.

**1048 Date of next meeting**

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November