

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Nic Brown (**NB**), John Lewis (**JL**), Paul Bown (**PAB**), Martin Hearmon (**MH**), Keith Turnbull (**KT**), John Howard (**JH**), Julia Witcher (**JW**),
Mike Hawkett

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (**RP**)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- Best Kept Village Bucks AGM – Michael Heybrook missed the meeting but reported that his proposal for including an eco-award in the competition was rejected. It was suggested that this may be something for a different competition. Michael Heybrook to send the email he received from BVKBucks to the Clerk.
- It was reported that the gulleys are blocked on Aylesbury Road, below The Old Vicarage, by Lammass Lane. **ACTION: NB to phone contractor who cleared the drains last year.**

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2019 MINUTES

Minutes were **agreed** as a true record and signed by **NB**.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Approved contractor list.** **MH** has the list. He will meet with **PAB** to discuss.
- **Stockwell Project.** The Stockwell has now been cleared out. **PAB** is trying to get hold of the bricklayer.
- **Planning guidelines.** **PAB** has contacted AVDC planning for guidance but little information was forthcoming. He is happy to lead planning for the PC. **JL** suggests we create our own guidelines. **ACTION: PAB to arrange a separate planning meeting.**
- **Horse chestnut trees.** **ACTION: NB to request Ian Houseman to arrange a separate meeting regarding the problems experienced by the trees in his recent report and possible actions.**

5. PLANNING

Two planning applications were received after the agenda was issued. Views from local residents are invited. Please email the Clerk.

19/04048/APP Merrydowne, 2 Crendon Road, Chearsley HP18 0DL

Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of one detached dwelling with associated external alterations, amenity space and detached garage.

Councillors agreed to submit NO OBJECTIONS to AVDC.

19/03279/APP & 19/03280/ALB Willow Corner, School Lane, Chearsley HP18 0BT

Removal of the existing brick outbuilding and replace with single-storey side extension.

Councillors agreed to hold a site meeting on 3rd December at 10.30am. **ACTION: Clerk to advise resident.** Any Councillors unable to attend the site meeting will submit their views via email.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AVDC AND BCC COUNCILLORS

Nothing to update.

8. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to Councillors.

Income

The LAF contribution to the 'Horse Chestnut Study' has been received since the last report, (£3,537.50).

Payments since the last meeting, (excluding scheduled payments)

BMKALC	£140.00 (books)
4 Seasons Tree Care	£300.00
M Hearmon	£232.40 (expenses for various CPC meetings)
SLN	£2925.00 (kerbing)
K Turnbull	£41.55 (course fees)
RBL	£25.00 (wreath)

At the present time, there is slightly more than £60,000 in the bank. Note however, that we still have not yet received a properly validated invoice for the village signage.

2020/2021 Budget

A budget planning meeting was held last week, attended by **NB, JL** and **RP**. A budget proposal has been distributed to Councillors. The precept in 2019/20 was £30,000, the proposal for 2020/21 is for a precept of £35,000. **RP** explained the proposal to Councillors. Expenditure is likely to be around £59k, with £37k carried forward from this year and nothing in the budget for the OCE campaign. **MH, JH, JL** and **NB** agree with the proposal, **PAB** would like to reduce the precept to no more than £30k and **JW** and **KT** would like a budget meeting. It was agreed to hold a budget meeting on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm, venue tbc. The budget will then be ratified at the next PC meeting on 20th January.

ACTION: Clerk to request extension to 22nd January to submit precept request to AVDC. Any thoughts or ideas on the budget are to be sent to **RP**.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **JH** attended the BMKALC Liaison Meeting on 6th November. An email was circulated to Councillors summarising the main points. Planning was discussed - representatives from South Bucks stated that currently they experienced a very efficient planning regime and were concerned that the service would deteriorate when all the planning services were merged under the new unitary authority. The performance of AVDC planning had been very poor in recent years with increasing delays being experienced, due to lack of resources and competence of planning officers. This was recognised by the current authority and it was planned to hold a 'workshop' in the near future to identify solutions for the future including issues relating to 'enforcement'.
- **KT** attended a BALC GDPR and web accessibility training session on 7th November. There are a lot of potential consequences for the PC and as individual councillors which have to be moderated by our limited resources and scope and what is called 'proportionality'. **KT** will distribute the main presentation when it is available.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

11. OFFICERS' REPORTS

None.

12. UPDATE ON OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

The PC are keeping the community informed and attending meetings. Ian Houseman's report on Chearsley Parish assets has been published. It has been agreed to purchase 4 banners to go on the village gateways, showing our opposition. The next milestone will be the Highways England report.

13. VILLAGE TRUST

The discussion of objectives will be carried forward to a future meeting. **NB** is in the process of trying to re-establish the old bank account and get the funds released. Councillors are asked to read through the objectives in **JL**'s terms of reference document and submit their views to him.

14. TREES

Councillors need to investigate the possibility of carrying out some small crowning works to the three Hornbeam trees on the village green.

Following a meeting between **PAB**, **KT**, and Four Seasons, the following work is proposed:

- Memorial oak tree. Raise crown and trim.
- Removal of the Indian chestnut tree on the boundary of the village hall and the planting of a couple of new trees.
- School Lane. The overhanging tree should be pruned back, ivy removed and the brambles cut back to the pavement. This would retain the 'greenery' down the lane, but make the footpath usable.

- Church Lane limes. Raise the crowns of the trees on PC land as agreed at the last meeting.
- Church Lane hawthorn. Recommend removal of this tree.
- Churchyard lime trees. Awaiting Diocese approval.

Councillors approved the proposed work up to a total cost of £3000 + VAT.

15. PCs AND CLIMATE CHANGE

At the BMKALC Liaison Meeting on 6th November, it was suggested that all PCs should familiarise themselves with the recently published guidance by Friends of the Earth for 20 practical actions which might be taken by town and parish councils. Not all of these actions would be relevant for Chearsley but they should be considered going forward. The PC should demonstrate to the community that they have the environment in mind.

16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- A separate meeting is to be arranged to look at the various ways of communicating with the community.
- **Anti-social behaviour in Church car park.** This is a PCC matter and they have a meeting tomorrow. Michael Heybrook has agreed to cut the hedge around the Church car park. There are ongoing discussions regarding CCTV.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING in Chearsley Village Hall

- Monday 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm