

CHEARSLEY ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Minutes of Annual Village Meeting held in the Village Hall Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.30pm

Chairman: Nick Richards, **Councillors:** Simon Jacobs, Karen Vear, Carol Kearney, **Parishioners:** there were approx 45 parishioners.

1. **Apologies** None.

2. **Reports**

A. **Chearsley Parish Council**

Please see the PC report which is [available on the website](#).

Nick Richards, Chairman of Chearsley Parish Council, explained that the council largely comprised new members, and were grateful for the considerable support from retired councillors. They were getting to grips with the issues associated with the trees and verges, the sunken lanes and kerbing amongst others

Finance Report from RFO Martin Johnson (Sheepy) - the opening balance of £82K at May 2025 has risen to £101K, this is mostly earmarked for projects carried over from the previous council. The new council are assessing the needs of the village

Simon Jacobs outlined the Bucks Local Plan and the timeframe for this. In the meantime, the council have paused work on the Neighborhood Plan to ensure that it aligns with the new Bucks Local Plan. Parishioners asked questions about the potential development North of the Crendon Road. The council and many parishioners have responded to Bucks CC

Karen Vear spoke of the urgent need for more councillors, currently there are only four councillors, and it becomes difficult to deal with council business when we are inquorate
Carol Kearney introduced herself and supported Karen's appeal for new councillors

B. **Community organisations**

• **Church & Bell Ringers**

The Church is here for everyone. There is a Sunday service every week. Monday evening is bell ringing. On Tuesday mornings there is a baby and toddler group in the Village Hall. There have been a great many other events run throughout the year. One of our church wardens – Darren Sampson will be ordained by July 2027 which will be of great assistance to our vicar and the village

• **WI**

The WI meet on the third Tuesday of the month. They have speakers who come in and other groups that run, such as, singing, art & craft, walking, book club, supper club and more.

• **Historic Chearsley**

Celebrates its 7th year and aims to hold three events a year. These have included 'Chearsley Voices', Beating the Bounds, the history of Haddenham Airfield. The Society are archiving material gathered recently

• **Village Hall**

A tree and plaque in the Village Hall grounds has been planted in memory of Keith Turnbull. The Village Hall continues to be well used. The bank balance is healthy but lots of maintenance is needed to keep the hall in good condition. A shipping container arrives this month to offer more storage and the leaking roof continues to be an issue.

- **Cricket Club**
The club had a successful last season with men's, ladies, and junior teams. The pavilion needs some TLC. There is a calendar of social events planned.
- **Classic Car Show**
In 2025 the show had 250 cars and despite poor weather raised £6,700. £1,500 was given to local charities, the remainder went towards the renovation of the club house
- **Village Trust and The Chearsley Village Fund**
The Village Trust is a pot of charitable cash held by the village for the village. The Fund currently stands at £5,500 and there are 5 trustees. The [criteria for applications](#) is on the website. Applications for grants £50-£500 are welcomed from individuals and village organisations. The Chearsley Village Fund has been set up by Simon and Sarah Vickers who will donate £5,000 per annum for 20 years, applications will be for grants £500 and upwards
- **Chearsley Show**
The 2025 show was a notable success including entries in categories including baking, arts and crafts, they would like to see increased participation from children.
- **Good Neighbours**
Good Neighbours was set up during covid and is still active giving people lifts to local appointments, collecting prescriptions etc. There is a purpose-built vehicle available from Haddenham. There are 30 volunteers but only one application for help was received in 2025. Wider awareness of this service is needed
- **Chearsley Cycling Action Group**
This group campaigns for cycle routes. Of particular interest to the village would be a route to Haddenham Station. Other routes include Thame to Haddenham and Chearsley/Cuddington to Aylesbury
- **Manor Farm**
Local food systems are becoming more important and enhancing soil life is vital. One goal for the farm is to see the river swimmable again. School visits are encouraged
- **The Bell**
The pub offers innumerable events including quizzes, a meat raffle, race nights, music, please support the pub, any suggestions will be welcomed

3. Parishioners Open Forum

- A parishioner thanked the council for their transparency
- A parishioner suggested that the community should buy the Bell
- Nick Richards thanked the village community.

4. Date of the next Annual Village Meeting - Monday 15th March 2027