

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST AUGUST 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Ian Houseman (IH), Angela Gray (AG), John Lewis (JL), Nic Brown (NB), Paul Bown (PAB), Karen Vear (KV)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: David Impey (DI), John Howard (JH), Anthony Adams (AA)

Parishioners: There were 3 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A Parishioner reported an overgrown tree on Lammas Path. **ACTION: IH to assess the tree. AA to ascertain ownership.**

1. APOLOGIES

Robert Parkes (RP), Keith Turnbull (KT)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF JULY 2023 MINUTES

The Minutes were **agreed** as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Flagpole.** The Cricket Club have agreed for the old flagpole to be installed there.
- **Small tree by war memorial.** This needs moving to give it more space. **ACTION: IH to ask Four Seasons if they can move the tree and also the old flagpole holder. DI suggested that the tree could replace the 2nd tree on Chilton Road which is dead. ACTION: JL to ask permission from WI.**
- **Planning pre-application advice.** PAB has drafted and circulated a guidance note for publication. This was approved subject to JL's comments.
- **Square wooden posts to protect verges.** **ACTION: NB to circulate more details. KV put forward the idea of metal bell-shaped bollards. ACTION: KV to photograph the bell bollards in Bell Lane, Wheatley.**
- **Glass front for village hall noticeboard.** **ACTION: NB/JH to liaise with Neil Warburton to schedule the work and also maintenance to the noticeboard by the bus stop.**
- **SID batteries.** **ACTION: KT to investigate the purchase of longer life batteries.**
- **Strimming.** The footpath on David Littler's land has been strimmed. The stinging nettles on Church Lane verges have been strimmed.

- **Grit bins.** These have been repaired. **ACTION: Clerk to remind Colin Woolford about grit bin refill once he returns from annual leave and to ask KT if the PC can store grit at the village hall.**
- **Gov.uk email accounts for PC.** **ACTION: JL and KT to discuss.**

5. PLANNING

- **23/02314/APP - Chearsley Hill House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council.
- **23/02450/CPE - Land To Rear Of 1 Winchendon Road, Chearsley**
This is a complex planning application and a site visit will need to be arranged.
- **23/01363/APP – 2 Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH**
The application was granted planning permission on 14th July. There are a couple of areas of concern:
 1. According to the officer's report nothing had been received from CPC on the date of determination despite the response being sent on 27th June. Furthermore the response is still not showing on the Bucks Council portal.
 2. There is no report from Highways showing on the application and irrespective of the fact that CPC raised the issue of parking, turning spaces and access off the sunken lanes, there should in any case be a report from highways.**NB** has received an apology from Bucks Council for the oversight. **ACTION: NB to follow up with Bucks Council.**
- An email was received from BMKALC on 9th August with 3 consultations on planning changes. **ACTION: PAB to respond if necessary.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that all correspondence should be officially responded to.

An email was received from a Parishioner regarding the poor state of the footpaths between Church Lane over the railway bridge and on towards Notley.

A message was received via the website regarding how the PC approaches its work.

Gigaclear have completed their works in the village and the PC carried out a works inspection with the contractor Bethmar.

7. FINANCE

Year-end

The audit of the accounts, year ended 31 March 2023, has been completed, and signed off with as 'clean' audit report. This concludes the financial year 2023. Thanks to **RP** for all his work on this.

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Payments

There has been a number of unscheduled payments in the month. Those which were not preapproved by the Council:

- R Parkes, £38.06, stationery;
- K Dennington, £50, and Chearsley Village Hall, £24, defibrillator training;

- T Audley, £220, work on the verges.

The flagpole, already approved, was also purchased in the month.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £99,737.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- Freight TTRO project. **JL** attended a meeting with Graham Hillary on 11th August. There is a proposal from Atkins for leading on the formal consultation.
- Kerbing. The work will take place w/c 11th September. The permit has been applied for. **JL** will put a note out to the village. The cost is £19.4k +VAT.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **AA** reported that the landowner has agreed for the PC to put in gates on the footpath between Chearsley and Nether Winchendon. £500 was agreed to replace the stile with a gate. The gate by the donkey footpath is still awaiting repair by UKPN.
- Chearsley Classic & Vintage Show will take place on Sunday 10th September. The Historical Society is looking into organising a treasure hunt to involve families and younger people on Sunday 15th October. An event may also be organised for Remembrance Sunday.
- **DI** reported that 2 Speedwatch sessions were completed in August. The first session recorded 21 speeders and the second session recorded 25 speeders. Data from the Crendon Road SID showed that the average speed on entry to the village is 38mph.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Quotes from Four Seasons for the work to be done on the walnut tree on the green and the sycamore trees on Lower Green Lane were agreed.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

5 points were deducted in our entry for the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition as the play area gate was locked while CHUF were using it. **NB** offered to write to BKVB. Councillors agreed that the gates to the play area must remain unlocked so that it can be used by the public. **ACTION: KT to take forward and let PC know what actions CHUF will take.**

13. PC WEBSITE

From October, Hugo Fox will no longer offer a free website service. Councillors agreed to use the silver package at a cost of £20 a month.

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Work needs to be done on the health and safety and safeguarding policies. They may need to be linked to the village hall policies. **ACTION: NB to see if there are Bucks Council policies we could adopt. ACTION: Clerk to see if BALC or NALC can help.**

15. FORMAL ADOPTION OF PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

Councillors agreed to adopt all policies except the health and safety policy which will be reviewed.

16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

It was suggested that it may be wise to have no right turn when coming from Long Crendon on the first right turning in Chearsley. **ACTION: NB to talk to Steve Broadbent the cabinet member for transport about this.**

It was also brought to the attention of the PC that people are ignoring the SLOW sign at the junction by the old shop and an accident is likely to happen there.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- KV commented that the verge cutting looks good.
- The first Parish Workshop will take place in Brill on 7th September.
- The next Community Board meeting will take place in Chearsley on 14th September.

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

- Monday 16th October at 7.30pm