

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Keith Turnbull (KT), John Lewis (JL), Nic Brown (NB), Paul Bown (PAB), Ian Houseman (IH), Karen Vear (KV)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

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

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner enquired about the blocked drain on Aylesbury Road which is causing flooding. This has been reported to Bucks Council. The flooding on Aylesbury Road near the river is outside the village boundary and the responsibility of Winchendon and Cuddington.

1. APOLOGIES

Angela Gray (AG), Robert Parkes (RP).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2024 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Gov.uk email account for PC.** ACTION: JL to attend briefing on Wednesday and follow up.
- **HCI Junction Project.** ACTION: JL to find out how much the detailed designs would cost. JL has written to Bucks Council but has yet to receive a reply.
- **Chearsley flag.** ACTION: JH to obtain quote for replacement flag.
- **Biodiversity.** JL has circulated a note and added information to the website, inviting thoughts and ideas. Antonia Stratford may be interested in carrying out an audit. ACTION: NB to speak to Antonia.
- **Footpath by donkey field.** KT and NB met with the landowners who agreed to introduce wood chipping and keep it cut in the growing season.
- **Signs.** Bucks Council will replace existing footpath signs as needed with a standard sign. ACTION: JH and AA to clarify that the PC can put up their own non-standard signs. JH to report to Bucks Council signs that need replacing.

5. PLANNING

PAB will attend the Bucks Council Planning Forum tomorrow.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. FINANCE

Monthly finance report

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Income

There was no income in the month.

Payments

There have been only three payments in the month which require notification:

Mrs S Olding £100.00, the PC's contribution to the team supporting the church premises

The Bell £44.00, refreshments for the 'tree team'

N Brown £25.00, disposal of Christmas tree.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £83,719.

Precept

The Parish Council has approved a precept of £38,000 and the formal request has been submitted.

2023/24 Year end

A draft of the year-end financial reports will be presented to the March meeting, for comment/approval.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Community Board Parish Workshop took place at Chearsley on 30th January. The meeting is useful to hear what is going on in other PCs. A discussion took place around the purpose of the workshop.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **AA** reported that a number of footpaths are currently under water.
- **JH** reported that the Historical Society is having an open meeting on 22nd February where there will be a presentation on the Great Train Robbery. The Car Show will take place on 8th September.
- There are plans to have a village archive of physical documents. It has been suggested to install racking in the Village Hall loft to accommodate this at a cost of up to £800. Councillors agreed to fund this jointly with the Village Hall.
- **Convex mirror on Crendon Road.** The resident has agreed to the installation of a pole outside his property to mount the mirror.
- **Wooden Roadside Bollards.** **DI** has obtained a quote of £8612 for 70 bollards at 5 metre intervals on Winchendon Road. The 9 affected properties on Winchendon Road received a leaflet asking for their views. 3 responses were received, 2 in favour and 1 not. The bollards would encourage people to park their cars on the road rather than on the verges. Councillors discussed whether bollards should be put around the HCI or just either side of Winchendon Road. Having taken account of all

feedback, councillors agreed to the installation of bollards either side of Winchendon Road at 4.5 metre intervals from Church Piece to just clear of the HCI. One bollard would be placed either side of the Village Hall entrance. The grass verges would be reinstated.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Nothing to report.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The AGM took place on 1st February. The accounts have all been approved and submitted to the Charity Commission. There are some leaks in the roof. The hall is intensively used and it needs to be ensured that the local community are getting enough use of the hall. The possibility of more storage is being looked into. The bank balance is healthy.

13. TO AGREE AVM & AGM DATES

It was agreed to hold both the AVM and the AGM on 20th May.

14. UPKEEP OF VERGES

IH informed the PC of his resignation due to health issues. The PC would like to thank IH for all his valuable work over the years. The care of the horse chestnut tree and the responsibility for the upkeep of the verges will need to be passed to another councillor or officer. **ACTION: Clerk to start the casual vacancy process.**

15. CAR PARKING IN THE VILLAGE

Car parking is an issue in the village. A separate site meeting is needed to see if a car park can be created near the Village Hall with screening so that it does not look urban.

16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

None.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None.

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

- Monday 25th March at 7.30pm