

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 7.30PM WITH LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE

PRESENT

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

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

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Ian Houseman, Anthony Adams

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2020 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Footpath signs.** Those that need fixing have been logged with Bucks Council. Please inform Anthony Adams of any signs that need fixing or replacing.
- **Flooding on Chilton Road.** **NB** has visited Mr and Mrs Mole to thank them for their help. **ACTION: JL to order PC ownership stickers.** **NB** has cancelled the order for hi-vis sand bags as it was decided they are not necessary. Anthony Adams received one quote for a depth gauge for £750 and is now getting a quote from another supplier.
- **AVM.** A meeting took place to discuss the upcoming AVM.

5. PLANNING

- **21/00532/AGN - Chearsley Hill House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**
The Parish Council had previously objected to several proposals for residential development beyond the existing building line in Chilton Road and whilst this latest application related to an agricultural building the PC had the same concerns on the negative effect on the open views to and from Chilton Road. The PC also noted that the building at 970m² appeared to be very large in proportion to the 14.8 hectares of land it was servicing and that any reduction in size would lessen the negative impact on the countryside.

The PC had no grounds to offer a formal objection to the application but in the light of the concerns raised were unable to support it and asked the planning authority to take account of the concerns raised.

- **21/00812/AGN - Grove Farm, Chearsley Road, Long Crendon**

The PC requested that the Highways authority review the access aspects as a further agricultural building in addition to the recently added agricultural dwelling intensified the use of the access. The PC also expressed concern that there were already a large number of agricultural buildings on the farm totally some 4000m2 serving 80.9 hectares of farmland and queried the building/land ratio. An additional building would create another incursion into the open countryside. The PC neither supported or opposed the application and asked the planning authority to take the PC's concerns into account.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- An email was received from a parishioner regarding dog fouling on the grass banks near the Stockwell. There are already dog bins in that location. An option to consider would be a Public Spaces Protection Order. You can get localised dog control orders which stipulate that dogs need to be on leads in certain areas and fines can be issued for dog fouling by enforcement officers. Signage would be required. **ACTION: JW to contact Connor at Street Scene for advice.**
- An email was received from a parishioner regarding the changes to the footpaths paralleling Church Lane. Wire meshing has been added to a stile, preventing dogs from getting through and a gate has been replaced by a stile which is difficult to access. **NB** has responded to the email. **JL** has met with Rose Dale today, they had a useful discussion with a positive outcome.
- An email was received from a parishioner regarding a broken stile. **PAB** will be dealing with Rose Dale directly on this matter.
- Permission has been given from Simon Vickers to put in 2 new kissing gates at the bottom of his land.

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report and draft Annual Report and Accounts have been circulated to councillors. Councillors approved the appointment of JE Accountants as internal auditors for this year. There have been no unplanned payments in the month of February, other than British Gas, £11.70.

At the end of February, there was £66,516 in the bank account, of which £6,874.04 is held on behalf of the Village Trust. This will need to be explained to the auditors. Councillors agreed to submit the accounts in this format. **ACTION: JL to chase up the opening of the new Village Trust account.**

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **JL** attended the East West Rail HS2 working group of Bucks Council. Issues were mostly around those villages suffering heavy traffic as a result of the works.

- Next Monday **NB, JL** and **JH** are having a phone call with Greg Smith MP and his parliamentary secretary, Ian Kelley, about the HCI junction improvements and freight traffic. **JH** will also discuss the resurfacing of the Aylesbury Road.
- **NB** has a call later this week with Greg Smith MP and the MD of Network Rail regarding the fencing that has been erected at the railway line. Mike Heybrook has also written to Network Rail. **ACTION: Clerk to add update to agenda for next meeting.**
- **JH** attended the TfB Stakeholder meeting. Bucks Council are looking at the whole process of devolved services and will be doing some trial work. There is probably a good case for Chearsley to be involved in this as we are not getting the services that Bucks Council should provide. The situation with drainage was another topic, Bucks Council are saying that they now have the funds to do all the drains over the next 12 months and catch up on missed work. The drainage problems at the bottom of Lower Green Lane have been resolved and the Church Lane drains are on the radar. Any drainage problems should be reported on 'Fix My Street'. **JH** will submit his report of case studies of 'Fix My Street' shortly.
- The Clerk attended the elections briefing run by Bucks Council last week. The Clerk has seven hard copies of nomination papers if anyone requires them, otherwise they can be printed from the PC website. Nomination papers need to be submitted in person to Bucks Council by 8th April. **ACTION: Clerk to email JL the telephone number of the elections office to add to the PC website** so that people can phone if required to obtain their polling district code and elector number.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

None.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Tom Audley will be resuming duties shortly, when required.

Plans are still being worked on for the Stockwell project. Derek Allen is looking at the physical aspects and speaking to contractors. Ian Houseman is working on plans for the surrounding area. Plans will be communicated to the village once they have been finalised.

The work on the gabions, which requires clearing the bank area behind the Stockwell on Church Lane, will be easier to do from the Heybrooks land rather than Church Lane. **ACTION: JL to request permission from Rose Dale.**

12. FOOTPATHS AND GATES

Covered under agenda item 6

13. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

An email was received from a parishioner supporting action on dog fouling, and also enquiring about Chearsley Hill House which now requires a full planning application so can no longer be viewed on the planning portal.

14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- **JL** has written to Elaine Hassall regarding the funding application for the horse chestnut junction. It is progressing slowly and an answer is expected by the end of June.
- The first draft of the Chearsley Business Directory, comprising of about 20 businesses, is almost ready for publication.
- **NB** has been attending other local PC meetings. He thanked Chearsley PC for their professionalism and proactivity.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 19th April at 7.30pm by Zoom videoconference with live YouTube feed.
- Monday 17th May – first meeting of the new PC.
- Monday 24th May – Annual Village Meeting. **ACTION: NB to prepare a report/presentation from this PC for the AVM.**