

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Keith Turnbull (KT), John Lewis (JL), Nic Brown (NB), Angela Gray (AG)

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: David Impey (DI), John Howard (JH)

Parishioners: There were 4 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner spoke on behalf of Chearsley Cycling Group regarding cycle routes and the proposed Haddenham to Thame Greenway. The group wish to seek the approval of the PC for this initiative. Mike Heybrook had a meeting with Cllr Greg Smith this week. The project would be a collaboration between Bucks Council and Oxfordshire County Council and funding would be an issue. The PC unanimously support the initiative.

It was commented that the widened footpath on the other side of the railway line could do with a strim as it is overgrown. Kevin Dennington will speak with Rose Dale.

A discussion took place about the Thames Water road closure on Aylesbury Road. The completion date is unknown but there is a TTRO in place until mid-December.

1. APOLOGIES

Ian Houseman (IH), Karen Vear (KV), Paul Bown (PAB)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2023 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Small tree by war memorial. ACTION: IH to ask Four Seasons if they can move the tree. ACTION: NB to ask lawnmower men and Ian Alamghir if they could move the old flagpole holder.** A date is also required from IH for the pruning of the walnut tree.
- **SID batteries. KT is struggling to find longer life batteries. ACTION: KT to send NB the details of the battery.**
- **Gov.uk email accounts for PC. ACTION: JL and KT to discuss further.**

- **No right turn** when coming from Long Crendon on the first right turning in Chearsley. **NB** has spoken to Steve Broadbent the cabinet member for transport about this. It is not a key priority, and it was suggested that perhaps a mirror could help. **ACTION: NB to follow up with signage and mirror.**
- **Redacted contact details on planning application forms.** This is done for data protection. If there is an agent, their contact details should be available to arrange a site visit.
- **20mph speed limits.** It would seem that Bucks Council are not giving this serious consideration at the moment.
- **HCI Junction Project.** **ACTION: JL to find out how much the detailed designs would cost.**
- **War memorial area.** Thanks to all for the splendid Remembrance Sunday service and event in the Village Hall afterwards. The silent soldier has disappeared, presumably stolen. It was suggested that it could be replaced and fixed more permanently. The whole war memorial area needs to be looked at. **ACTION: JH to obtain quote for replacement Chearsley flag.**
- **Long Crendon Surgery.** The Integrated Care Board are not favoured towards funding Long Crendon Surgery.

5. PLANNING

- **23/03156/APP – Wheyside, The Green, Chearsley HP18 0DJ**
Replacement of dwelling (Wheyside) and erection of new dwelling in rear garden with associated landscaping and parking.
The application was reviewed, a site visit carried out and comments submitted. **JL** was thanked for all his time and effort on this, protecting the interests of the village.
- **23/03160/APP - Barn Off Winchenden Road, Chearsley HP18 0DP**
Demolition of existing agricultural barn and erection of residential dwelling.
The PC reviewed the application, inspected the site, referenced the planning history of the site and decided to oppose the application.
- A new planning application has been received for the shop to change use from shop to residential. **ACTION: Clerk to contact PAB to arrange site visit.**

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 a number of payments in the month, and although some of these may have been approved, it was some time ago.

C Puttnam and Sons	£23,505.98, Church Lane work
K Dennington	£222.84, Salt bin repairs
Hugo Fox	£23.99, website, (note this will become a regular monthly payment)
Ramblers Association	£500.00, contribution to a footpath gate
RBL	£45.50, Wreath for War Memorial
R B Howson	£318.00, Christmas Tree
K Turnbull	£55.50, refreshments for team clearing footpath

Although this was probably reported at the last meeting, it is worth placing on record that Puttnam's charges were in line with their estimate provided almost a year ago.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £90,364.

- **Budget 2024/25**

RP brought to the attention of the PC the high reserves which the auditors will most likely flag. It was suggested that a project manager external to the PC might help to get the kerbing underway. **RP** has produced a budget document to help councillors with their thinking on next year's budget which will be circulated to councillors with the minutes. An informal budget meeting is planned for 11th December. **JL** will produce a draft budget from **RP**'s document.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Community Board Parish Workshop will take place in Chearsley Village Hall on 30th January.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

It was agreed that most communication would go to the whole PC team rather than only to councillors.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **AA** absent from the meeting.
- **DI** reported that he had looked at the speed humps on Woodways in Haddenham but did not think they were suitable for Chearsley as lighting would most likely be needed.
- **JH** thanked the organisers of the Christmas fair which took place yesterday. It was an enjoyable and well attended event. The history group will be meeting again soon, and a program of events will be put together for next year.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

IH was unable to attend the meeting.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Upgrading of the audio-visual facilities in the village hall is being looked at, to include a screen and projector.

13. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

None.

14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

It was reported that a message sent to the PC via the website had not been received.

ACTION: Clerk to confirm if the contact page on the website is working.

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

- Monday 11th December at 7.30pm – informal budget meeting (PC members only)
- Monday 15th January at 7.30pm – PC meeting