

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

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

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

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

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- A parishioner enquired whether there would be a community shop. It is not likely to happen. Not many volunteers have come forward and it would require a lot of work.
- A parishioner asked what the latest situation is with the school bell. The late Michael Edmonds was the last custodian of the school bell. JH has asked Terry Gadsby who has agreed to have a look in the loft.

1. APOLOGIES

Karen Vear (KV), Angela Gray (AG).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023 MINUTES

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **EV charging points.** KT has put forward Chearsley for the Bucks Council scheme and awaits an update.
- **Pebbles at the bottom of Dark Lane.** Colin Woolford was reluctant to get involved. NB has put in writing to Bucks Council.
- **Blocked drains on Lower Green Lane and Dark Lane.** ACTION: NB to follow up with Colin Woolford.
- **Hedge on footpath 9 to Notley between the farm track and the railway in need of trimming.** An update is needed from Mike Heybrook. ACTION: Clerk to send email.
- **Raising the bridge across Chearsley Brook on the path from railway to Notley.** Bill Piers from North Bucks rRIPPLE has contacted Bucks Council. It is likely that Nick Reynolds from Notley Barn will provide help and support.

- **Four Seasons work.** The bottom of Dark Lane and the brambles on School Lane need cutting back. The tree on the School Lane/Dark Lane junction needs an overhanging branch removing. **IH** is waiting for Four Seasons to come out and quote.
- **Village shop.** Jey in the Cuddington shop is happy to provide a delivery service to Chearsley in order to help out but does not wish to promote this.
- **Flagpole.** It was agreed that the flagpole needs to be moved forward as it is obscured by the tree. It was suggested that the flagpole may need replacing. A supplier and cost will need to be found. **ACTION: NB to ask Jay to investigate.**
- **Local Plan for Bucks Evidence Base - Settlement Review.** This has now been completed and submitted to Bucks Council.
- **CCTV in village.** **ACTION: KT to arrange survey to ascertain residents' views.**
- **Presentation awards for the shop.** **ACTION: NB to invite Jey and Jeff to the next meeting where the awards can be presented at the start.**

5. PLANNING

- **23/00421/ALB – Longhouse, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH**
Listed building application for replacement of 2 windows in single storey extension and replacement of 6 windows in two storey extension.
Comment date: 16th March
A site visit is due to take place on 3rd March at 3pm. **ACTION: NB to request from the residents a more accurate plan of the locations for the replacement fenestration.**
- **23/00467/VRC - The Lodge, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DF**
Variation of condition 10, 11, 12 (landscape/boundary plan) relating to application 20/01790/APP (Demolition of existing garage/workshop, and erection of a detached two storey dwelling, plus amended parking to serve existing house).
Comment date: 14th March
Clerk to submit "no comment" to Bucks Council.
- **Planning Appeal 23/00003/REF - South Mead, Bernards Close, Chearsley HP18 0BY**
Installation of solar panels.
The PC received a letter informing them that an appeal had been lodged against Bucks Council's decision in respect of this site.
- Councillors discussed the benefits of residents having pre-application discussions with the planning department in advance of submitting a planning application.
ACTION: PAB to draft a guidance note for publication.
- **Local Plan for Bucks – Infrastructure Baseline**
ACTION: NB and JL to work on and circulate to councillors. Deadline 31st March.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- An email was received regarding the new stiles on the Moles' land, asking if dog doors could be put in. **AA** is in dialogue with the landowner and will be meeting him to discuss various dog and kissing gates.

- An email was received regarding the overgrowing hedges in Dark Lane. Four Seasons will be carrying out this work soon.

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Precept

Following the decision taken at the January meeting, the precept request has been submitted to Bucks Council.

Payments

There are only two unplanned payments in the month of January, both in connection with the erection, dismantling and disposal of the Village Christmas tree:

Sharon Woodward	£81.60
N Brown	£10.00

In addition, the cost of widening the footpath towards the railway line has been settled, as agreed earlier.

At the end of the month, the bank balance stood at £88,800. This would allow the PC to proceed with some of the planned kerbing work, if desired.

A draft proforma of accounts for 11 months will be available at the next meeting.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **NB** reported that the Settlement Review and Infrastructure Baseline which parish councils are being asked to complete will be crucial for the Local Plan for Bucks. A number of meetings are going on around this at Bucks Council.
- A newsletter was received from the Stop the Arc Group. It will be good to know what Bucks Council's position is on 'the Arc'. **NB** will ask the question at the next full meeting of Bucks Council.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

KT, KV and **RP** met in January to look at priority areas for kerbing and have produced a report which includes lots of recommendations. We now need to work out how to take this forward. An informal working group will need to be set up to decide the priorities and produce an action plan. A preference for early evening meetings was specified. **ACTION: NB to ask KV to head up the working group.**

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **DI** reported that he is now registered for Community Speedwatch and holds the speed gun. He will advertise for volunteers to join Chearsley Speedwatch. It was reported that many HGVs are coming through the village, mostly HS2 vehicles, with as many as 8 reported in a period of 15 minutes. **DI** will present a traffic calming proposal at the next meeting.
- **JH** reported that a Church History Day and Historical Society meeting are planned in March. Planning for the 2023 car show starts tomorrow.

- Plans for the King's Coronation were discussed. The Church and The Bell both have some events planned. **ACTION: NB to ask AG if she is willing to co-ordinate the plans for the weekend.**
- It was reported that the gate on the donkey path is falling apart and requires attention. It appears that the post is the problem. The electricity company caused the problem and are supposed to be coming back to make the repair. **ACTION: AA to speak to Terry.**

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

The brambles on School Lane are due to be cleared next week. Four Seasons are coming out to trim back the School Lane side of Dark Lane.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The village hall accounts have been submitted to The Charity Commission for public viewing.

13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE

It was confirmed by DI that solar panels cannot face the highway in the conservation area.

14. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner asked for an update on the burnt-out house next to the pub. We are waiting to hear who may take the house on.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- It is hoped that the HCI junction work can now move forward as Gigaclear have worked out their plans.
- HGVs through village. JL reported that the wide area Freight Traffic Regulation Order seems to be moving forward. The public consultation document is 80% complete.
- Church Lane kerbing – we are waiting for a date from Putnam to carry out the work.
- The Gigaclear village meeting took place last week in the village hall. Notes from the meeting have been published. Reviews are mixed.
- PC annual Xmas dinner. **ACTION: NB to send out email to agree date.**

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

- Monday 20th March at 7.30pm