

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

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

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Parishioners: 16 Parishioners and Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher from BKVBucks

BEST KEPT VILLAGE BUCKS

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher presented the Dashwood Trophy and certificate to Chearsley for the best runner-up in the smaller village category, with populations between 500 and 1,500 inhabitants. Chearsley scored 97 points out of a possible 100. **NB** thanked the village for getting us here and looks forward to next year's competition. It is hoped that going forward the competition will have more of an eco-focus and thanks go to Michael Heybrook for pursuing this.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

1. APOLOGIES

Robert Parkes (**RP**).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2019 MINUTES

Minutes were **agreed** as a true record and signed by **JH**.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Approved contractor list. ACTION: PAB to send list to MH.**
- **Driveway 'gravel spillage' in Shupps Lane.** There has been an improvement. The resident intends to put in a new granite threshold.
- **Stockwell. ACTION: PAB and JH to resurrect the Stockwell project.** The Stockwell will need draining in order to have a proper look at the work required.
- **Anti-social behaviour in Church car park.** **PAB** has met with Danny Fahy. The PCSOs have made several visits to the car park and the youths are now parking at the bottom of Church Lane. **PAB** does not think any additional signage regarding parking is needed.
- **Planning guidelines.** This was discussed at the last two planning site meetings. **ACTION: PAB to arrange a separate planning meeting.**

- **Car service for parishioners.** Two services are currently available, one run by the Long Crendon doctors group and another in Haddenham, both covering Chearsley. A volunteer to co-ordinate a Chearsley service has probably been found.
- **Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.** The PC now formally oppose the plans and has written to a number of MPs, local Councillors and Highways England to express our view. Bucks CC and AVDC also oppose the OCE plans. The next significant event will be the Highways England consultation. Chearsley need to consider whether they wish to put up signs opposing the Expressway at a cost of £15 per sign. More detail is needed before a decision can be made. **ACTION: JH to circulate an email with details of the sign and banner.** The next meeting of the 'No Expressway' group is on Tuesday 29th October at The Old Fisherman in Shabbington. Ian Houseman has produced a draft report on Chearsley Parish assets to assist the PC's response to the OCE proposals. **NB** thanked Ian for his very comprehensive report.

5. PLANNING

Site visits took place on 5th October.

19/03511/APP The Old Bakery, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DF

Demolition of outbuilding and erection of carport.

Councillors agreed to submit NO OBJECTIONS to AVDC but would like to add the following comments:

1. The Parish Council were pleased to see that further off road parking would be provided from the application.
2. The outbuilding due to be demolished is in a very poor state of repair and as far as the Parish Council is concerned can be demolished. However, the property is situated within the conservation area and as some of the walls appear to be made of witchert, we defer to the AVDC to consider this aspect of the application.
3. We would ask the applicant/architect to assess the light aspect and see whether it would be possible to remove the Velux windows facing the adjoining property?

19/03491/APP The Pightle, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH

Proposed side extension to the existing garage.

Councillors agreed to submit NO OBJECTIONS to AVDC but would like to add the following comment:

The proposed extension brings the building line closer to Church Lane than other properties in the locality.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Emails received regarding verge damage in Shupps Lane and Winchendon Road. This is a problem throughout the village. Resurfacing work is planned so the PC have held off with verge repairs until the resurfacing work is done. Some work has been done to the corners of the Village Green but the PC needs to do further work to protect the village verges. It is an ongoing battle.

- Letter regarding bank clearance School Lane. About a third of School Lane has already been cleared but the rest needs to be done. There is a large, dying elm tree in need of attention. Quote to be arranged for work.
- CHUF email regarding grant application for notice board at Village Hall. The PC are satisfied with the notice board by the side entrance and will sign to approve the grant.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AVDC AND BCC COUNCILLORS

Cllr Clive Harriss was unable to attend but informs us that the new parliamentary candidate to replace John Bercow has been selected. His name is Greg Smith, an experienced campaigner and former deputy leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council.

8. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to Councillors.

Half year Precept

The second phase precept payment, (£15,000), was received towards the end of September.

Payments since the last meeting, (excluding scheduled payments)

NGW Property Services	£295.93 (work on green electrical box)
2D Print World	£75.00 (printing for Oxford-Camb. Expressway meeting)
M Hearmon	£280.42 (expenses for various CPC meetings)
BWB	£7500.00 (reduced to £3750 due to LAF grant)
Came and Co	£408.63

At the present time, there is slightly more than £60,000 in the bank. Note however, that we still have not yet received a properly validated invoice for the village signage.

2020/2021 Budget

At the November meeting, the Council will be asked to begin the budgeting process for next year.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

JH attended the TfB Transport Focus Group on 21st October. An email will be circulated to Councillors summarising the main points. Parishioners are encouraged to report any street or road defects on the new online 'fix my street' reporting system. The presence of 'white lines' around road defects is only an indication that an inspection has taken place and is no guarantee that remedial works will follow. TfB will consider using different colours depending on the status – e.g 'red' would indicate that an inspection has taken place and repairs are imminent. Resurfacing work on the Long Crendon Road, due to take place during 2020-21 is part of the 'strategic' programme for heavily used roads. The Cheersley to Cuddington road is more in need of work but is classed as less heavily used. Further specific information on the Bucks Freight strategy will be published shortly.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

11. ROAD JUNCTION STUDY

A sub-group met to look at the final report from the study of the horse chestnut junction. The report detailed 12 options for improvement and the PC considers 3 of the options worth further consideration. One option involves the reshaping of the junction, another option is reshaping the junction and the implementation of further measures and a third option is providing a mini-roundabout. Councillors agreed the way forward on the study is to publish the report and invite comments from residents. **NB** thanked Ian Houseman and Brian Green for their input on this project and **JL** for all his work.

12. VILLAGE TRUST

This was discussed at the July meeting. **JL** has drafted terms of reference for a new Trust and distributed them to the PC. The objectives need to be looked at in more detail. **ACTION: Clerk to put on agenda for discussion at next meeting.** **NB** has had some success in tracking down the old bank account but this is still work in progress.

13. TREE MATTERS

- School Lane. Work is now complete on the walnut tree. **ACTION: PAB to arrange a quote for bank clearance and work on the dying elm tree.**
- Pruning of the two lime trees at the entrance to the churchyard. The PC are still awaiting final approval from the Diocese.
- Village Hall trees require some work. **ACTION: PAB to ask Four Seasons to advise on the work required.**
- Church Lane lime trees. The PC gave their approval for the 3 trees on PC land to have their crowns raised and be made safe. The quote is awaited.
- The lime tree near the old shed in the churchyard also needs work.
- **NB** thanked Ian Houseman for his report to the PC on the problems being experienced by the horse chestnut trees in and around the village. They are being attacked by a leaf-mining moth. There is currently one means of control, pheromone traps, which cost about £16 each plus the cost of the pheromone lure. Leaf litter also needs to be removed and burnt. The PC needs to consider the purchase of pheromone traps. **ACTION: Ian Houseman will organise a separate meeting and the report needs publishing.**

14. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- Ian Houseman feels his report on Chearsley Parish assets needs further work. He would like it to be updated regularly and seen as a working document to be promoted around the village. **ACTION: KT to add report to Chearsley blogspot.**
- Best Kept Village Bucks. Michael Heybrook would like the competition to include an eco-award. Michael would like to attend the AGM to present his ideas, once the date is confirmed.
- A parishioner expressed their thanks to the PC for all their hard work.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- The 75th anniversary of VE Day is in May 2020. The PC are asking for volunteers to organise the celebrations.

- Following a recent report on crime incidents in neighbouring villages, it was suggested that Chearsley may benefit from a Neighbourhod Watch scheme. Residents are also reminded to be vigilant.
- **NB** thanked the residents of Regency Cottage for the good quality of the works they had carried out.

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

- Monday 18th November 2019 at 7.30pm