

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH JULY 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

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

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: David Impey (DI)

Parishioners: There were no Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

1. APOLOGIES

Robert Parkes (RP), Karen Vear (KV), John Howard (JH)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2023 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Small tree by war memorial.** This needs moving to give it more space. It was agreed that a small digger will be hired (up to the cost of £200) and a working party will carry out the work in the autumn, once the tree is no longer in leaf. The digger will also be used to install the old flagpole at the cricket club. **ACTION: AG to speak to Terry about relocating the flagpole.** It was agreed to spend up to £200 on a finial and ground sleeve for the flagpole.
- **Planning pre-application advice.** **ACTION: PAB to draft a guidance note for publication.**
- **Square wooden posts to protect verges.** NB has photographed 2 or 3 locations in the village where these could be trialed. **ACTION: NB to circulate more details.**
- **Kings Cross junction safety study.** It was agreed to contribute £1500 towards the study to improve the safety of the Kings Cross junction on the A418.
- **Coronation bench.** This has been purchased, a coat of teak oil applied and now needs to be engraved. It will be located on the site of the old phone box.
- **Glass front for village hall noticeboard.** **ACTION: KT to chase quote.**
- **CCTV in village.** It was agreed to put this project on hold at present. The project has been further complicated by the lack of power supply. **ACTION: KT to publish statement to explain decision to village.**
- **SID batteries.** **ACTION: KT to investigate the purchase of longer life batteries.**

5. PLANNING

- **23/01363/APP – 2 Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH**
A site visit took place and comments have been submitted.
- **23/01492/APP - Land Adj Chearsley Hill House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council.
- **23/02127/APP - Tower View Cottage, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DF**
Householder application for single storey side extension.
Comments due 10th August.
Site visit to be arranged 10am Saturday.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Year-end

There has been no response from the Council's auditors, as yet.

Payments

There has been a number of unscheduled payments in the month. Those which were not preapproved by the Council:

- N Brown, £107.07, provision and installation of bird spikes
- The Bell, £50, to cover final costs for the Coronation celebrations
- K Turnbull, £204.00, maintenance of the defibrillators
- Information Commissioner, £35.00, information governance.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £101,317.

Progress against budget

The total spending for the first quarter of the year was £4,394, including the costs of the Coronation celebrations.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

None.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **DI** reported that 3 people are now registered with Thames Valley Police for Speedwatch. It will start this week and the plan is to carry out one Speedwatch session per month for at least an hour.
- **JH** reported that the Historical Society Steering Group is pressing ahead with plans to create a more formal structure for its new organisation with a varied programme of events.

- The organising committee of the Chearsley Classic & Vintage Show is pressing ahead with detailed plans for this year's event on Sunday 10th September.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

The verges on Lower Green Lane have been trimmed back by Tom Audley.

The Walnut tree at the junction of School Lane and Dark

Lane is scheduled for a major trim of the branches overhanging the junction.

An Elderberry tree on School Lane (by the Old School House) will be removed shortly.

ACTION: IH to contact David Littler regarding the strimming of the footpath on his land.

ACTION: IH to look at the verges on Church Lane following a request to trim back the stinging nettles.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Trimming of the village hall hedges has been organised for the end of July. The total cost is £1200. This cost will be split between the village hall (75%) and the PC (25%).

2 CPR training sessions have been held in the village hall with another one planned. The PC have paid for the hall hire and agreed to pay £25 per training session. Thank you to Kevin Dennington (First Responder) for running these sessions.

Improvement of the audio-visual equipment in the village hall is ongoing with quotes being sought.

13. TO FINALISE REVIEW OF ALL PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

Councillors have reviewed all PC policies. There will be a change to the Code of Conduct to reflect the Standing Orders so that a Councillor will not be present in the room if they declare an interest on a planning application.

ACTION: JL to produce new set of policies following the review.

ACTION: Clerk to add to agenda formal adoption of policies at next meeting.

14. LOWERING OF SPEED LIMIT IN THE LANES

DI has drafted and circulated to the PC a discussion document concerning the pros and cons of introducing a 20mph zone in the village. It is recommended not to adopt a 20mph zone.

The introduction of a 20mph zone in Chearsley would have the following outcomes:

- Safety: marginal benefit if any. Most drivers are considerate given the confined nature of the lanes.

- Environmental concerns: there is little environmental benefit. In published studies, the reduction in speed limits is accompanied by an environmental deficit.

- Signage and expense: new signage would have to be applied for by the Parish Council from Bucks Council and then paid for out of PC funds.

- Enforcement: given the infrequent traffic through the lanes, enforcement by means of the Speedwatch team is not expected to be effective.

The PC could apply to the '20's Plenty' campaign for wheelie bin stickers to be applied by those residents who are willing.

Bucks Council are unlikely to support the introduction of a 20mph zone.

Councillors support DI's findings and agreed not to pursue a 20mph zone. **ACTION: JL to publish the full report on the website.**

15. HCI JUNCTION

JL contacted Elaine Hassle for an update. She is waiting to be advised by the new contactor, Atkins, of the process with the Community Boards. This is expected very soon, then Elaine can advise how we move forward.

There is no money left over from the detailed designs stage. The Community Board contributed £9000.

Councillors agreed to formally adopt the following motion:

“Having studied the Initial Designs for the HCI Junction re-alignment, the Council wishes to proceed with Option 3. It is noted however that this option has a number of elements and the Council will wish to engage with the designers at the Detailed Design stage to ensure an optimum overall solution is agreed.”

16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- The grit bins are in need of repair. **ACTION: KT to obtain quote for work from Kevin Dennington. ACTION: Clerk to ask Bucks Council to refill grit bins before winter.** It was suggested that the PC may need to keep a stock of grit salt in the village.
- Gov.uk email accounts for PC. **ACTION: JL and KT to discuss.**
- It was reported that Gigaclear are due to start work on Winchendon Road tomorrow.
- It was reported that correspondence with Putnams regarding Church Lane kerbing has been difficult.
- The Freight TTRO project is making progress. The Waddesdon informal engagement phase has been submitted to Atkins as the new Highways partner to work through the designs and costs. This is expected back in the next couple of weeks. Business Support/Comms have been engaged to cover off social media, press aspects etc. Engagement with the public, local member group and local businesses is also planned.

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

- Monday 21st August at 7.30pm
- There will be no September meeting.