

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Keith Turnbull (KT), John Lewis (JL), Nic Brown (NB), Paul Bown (PAB), Karen Vear (KV)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

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

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

There were no parishioners present.

1. APOLOGIES

Robert Parkes (RP), Ian Houseman (IH), Angela Gray (AG)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2023 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Small tree by war memorial.** The WI are happy for the tree to be moved as long as it stays in the same area by the war memorial. **ACTION: IH to ask Four Seasons if they can move the tree and also the old flagpole holder.**
- **Noticeboards.** Both noticeboards have now been repaired.
- **SID batteries.** **ACTION: KT to investigate the purchase of longer life batteries.**
- **Grit bins.** These have now been refilled.
- **Gov.uk email accounts for PC.** **ACTION: JL and KT to discuss.**
- **23/01363/APP – 2 Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH.** **ACTION: NB to follow up the concerns outlined in the August minutes with Bucks Council.**
- **23/02450/CPE - Land To Rear Of 1 Winchendon Road, Chearsley.** Comments have been submitted.
- **Play area.** CHUF have agreed that the gates to the play area will remain unlocked in future.
- **Planning.** PAB requested that the description of each planning application is included in the minutes in future.
- **No right turn** when coming from Long Crendon on the first right turning in Chearsley. **ACTION: NB to talk to Steve Broadbent the cabinet member for transport about this.**

5. PLANNING

- **23/02772/APP - Chearsley Hill House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**
Householder application for two storey rear extension with additional below ground basement.
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council.
- **23/02872/APP - Tree Tops, Watts Green, Chearsley HP18 0DD**
Householder application for erection of outbuilding for ancillary use to main dwelling.
Site meeting arranged for 19th October at 10am.
- It was agreed that going forward the Clerk will organise site visits. It can be difficult to contact owners and agents to arrange site visits as the planning application forms are redacted. **ACTION: NB to discuss with Bucks Council.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received regarding advertising of 2 Christmas markets in Haddenham. It was agreed that they could be advertised on the noticeboard if there is room and in the newsletter.

ACTION: JH to speak to Andy Yorke regarding the removal of the Classic Car Show sign.

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Income

The second half precept was received at the beginning of September, £19,000.

Payments

There has been only one payment, not previously approved by the Parish Council, in the month and that was to Gallagher's, insurance brokers, for £769.95. It should also be noted that the monthly rent for the Village Hall has increased to £15/meeting. In percentage terms, both of these represent major increases. The insurance, in particular, is considerably higher than last year.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £115,219.

Six month summary

As per the draft budget, the expenditure for the year was seen as +/-£52,000. Expenditure to date has been slightly less than £9,500, although it should be stressed that the work planned for Church Lane has been carried out, but, as yet, not invoiced. The cost of this work is like to be around £25,000.

There have been no invoices for grass cutting, although most of the work has been done, nor any costs for signage or village paths/gates.

In rounded terms, the break down of the £9,500 is as follows:

Salaries: £1,690

Admin costs: £2,265

Grounds mtce: £2,400

Furniture mtce: £690

Village events: £1,270

Other Village projects: £1,185.

'Other Village Projects' refers specifically to the purchase of a new flagpole, and flags.

Budget 2024/25

At the next meeting, (November) the broad parameters for next year's budget need to be agreed in order for a detailed budget to be prepared and then agreed, at the December meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to add 'budget 2024/25' to November agenda. A small group of councillors will come up with a proposal for the next meeting.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **KV** and **JL** attended the Parish Workshop in Brill on 7th September. Notes from the meeting have been circulated to councillors. Discussions took place around road safety, particularly 20mph speed limits, warm hubs and rural GP services. Inspection and maintenance of playground equipment was also discussed. **ACTION: NB to follow up with JL and Bucks Council regarding 20mph speed limits.**
- The Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board main meeting took place in Chearsley Village Hall on Thursday 14th September.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

JL has asked the Community Board about funding to take the HCI Junction Project forward. The Community Board has already funded the initial design but has no further funds available for roads projects. The HS2 Road Safety fund might have funds in the future but has none available now. Alternatively, the PC could get the detailed designs done with PC funding and then try to obtain grants for the implementation.

It was agreed that adopting this approach would depend on the cost. To date the PC and Community Board have each spent £9k. **ACTION: JL to find out how much the detailed designs would cost.**

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **AA** reported that the gate post by the donkey footpath has now been repaired. The gate going towards Cuddington Mill will be replaced.
- **JH** reported that an event will take place in the Village Hall on Remembrance Sunday. **ACTION: Clerk to order the poppy wreath.** The soldier also needs to go out. The possible addition of a new WW1 memorial bench was discussed, and it was also suggested that the Coronation bench could be situated by the war memorial. The war memorial area needs to be looked at to ensure it does not become cluttered. The current Chearsley flag need replacing. **ACTION: JH to look at cost.** The bus shelter roof was very kindly repaired free of charge by roofing contractor R.Stevens who is based in Cuddington. The PC would like to thank Ryan.
- **DI** reported that there was a Speedwatch session on 4th September with lots of speeders. All information is passed onto TVP.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

DI agreed to cut back the tree in front of the SID on Winchendon Road. The tree by the Chearsley sign on Crendon Road also needs cutting back.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Village Hall Committee met recently. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated. The accounts are healthy. There have been complaints that the floor is sticky so there will be a deep clean soon. The hall has been decorated. Bin collections have been increased to twice a month. Paula Johnson is doing a great job with the Village Hall bookings.

13. PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

After much research and consideration Councillors agreed not to adopt the child protection policy. We do not need one at the current time, but this can be reviewed if we need one in future. It was agreed to keep the current health and safety policy. Policies are reviewed annually at the AGM in May.

ACTION: Clerk to open a health and safety file on OneDrive and add the health and safety policy, risk register and risk assessment template.

14. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

None.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- We are now paying £20 per month for the website. The Village Trust and Chearsley Village Historical Society will have pages on the website so that they are not paying £20 per month for their own websites.
- It was asked what is happening with Long Crendon Surgery now. **ACTION: NB to ask.**
- The Chearsley Village Historical Society treasure hunt was well attended. Congratulations on a great event.
- A planning application has been submitted for Wheyside (the burnt down house on the Green) which will be online shortly.

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

- Monday 20th November at 7.30pm