

# CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20th JULY 2020 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT  
7.30PM WITH LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE

## PRESENT

Councillors: John Lewis (**JL**), Paul Bown (**PAB**), Martin Hearmon (**MH**), Keith Turnbull (**KT**), John Howard (**JH**)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Ian Houseman

## PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner enquired what was happening with the Stockwell. The growth of vegetation needs to be kept on top of and the repair needs to be progressed. A volunteer is needed to take ownership of this project, perhaps a local resident rather than a Councillor. **PAB** will arrange for the vegetation to be cleared, hopefully next week.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Nic Brown (**NB**), Julia Witcher (**JW**), Robert Parkes (**RP**).

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared.

### **3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2020 MINUTES**

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

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Non-financial risk assessment. **ACTION: KT to amend the draft risk register and circulate to PC.**

### **5. PLANNING**

- No new planning applications received.
- **20/01790/APP – The Lodge, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DF**  
The PC opposed the application. Full details are available on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Chickens for the village allotments. The idea of keeping 8 chickens on one of the spare allotments is being investigated. An email has been received requesting a 50% donation from the PC of the initial set up cost of £895. The remaining cost and the ongoing costs would then be supported by those allotment holders involved in the project. The PC support the idea in principle but further information is required, particularly how many people are involved and is there an assurance that the

remaining funds and ongoing costs can be raised. **ACTION: KT to contact Mark Gillis to ask for the information.**

- An email has been received from someone considering buying 9 Elmbrook Close requesting information regarding the responsibility of nearby trees. **ACTION: PAB and Ian Houseman to take a look on Wednesday and respond to the email.**
- An email has been received from a parishioner regarding the traffic survey and the proposal of a cycleway to Haddenham that was discussed at the last meeting. The email suggested that all Councillors should be participating in the traffic survey. The Councillors are all unpaid and lead busy lives but do as much as they can. They are very grateful of the the help of so many parishioners with the survey. The email also suggested that some of the Councillors may have 'vested interests' in not wanting the cycleway. The Councillors do not have any personal vested interests and are passing on the views of villagers. **ACTION: Clerk to respond to email, asking for further clarification.**

## **7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BC COUNCILLORS**

There were none present.

## **8. FINANCE**

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

- **2019/20 year end**

Other than an acknowledgement of the receipt of the 2019/20 AGAR, there has been no news from the auditors.

- **Payments**

Apart from regular, pre-authorised payments, the following payments have been made since the last report:

JE Accountants	£150
Speed Gun	£129
Refreshments for roadworkers	£140.10

In addition, the salary 'catch-up' payments have been made.

The standing order payment to the Village Hall continues.

At the month end, the bank account held £57,850.

- **Banking arrangements**

The arrangements for a second councillor to have read-only access to the bank account has now been processed by the bank.

- **Village assets**

Work has begun on the review of the village assets. It is proposed to present the final recommendations, together with the half-year review of the accounts, in the October meeting.

## **9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- **MH** attended a workshop via Zoom on 17<sup>th</sup> July regarding a Parish Councils Carbon Footprinting Tool that is being developed. He will circulate the report once it arrives.
- **JH** explained that Chearsley will be involved in the Waddesdon Area Freight Strategy Project but that at the moment nothing is happening with this. The traffic survey will

take place on Thursday, there are still 1 or 2 empty slots. Another survey will be needed in September.

#### **10. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION**

None.

#### **11. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Pheromone traps. The lures in the traps on the horse chestnut tree at the junction have been changed today with 469 dead males counted. The leaves are infected but not as bad as last year. Thank you to Jay Gibson for his help with this.

#### **12. UPDATE ON OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY**

The expressway group are looking for new people to take work on. Even if the road does not go ahead, there could still be significant new housing. **ACTION: Clerk to remove as regular agenda item.**

#### **13. TREE MATTERS**

- Tree survey. The PC has previously agreed to proceed with a survey to list all the trees within the village. Ian Houseman has kindly offered to undertake this exercise himself. As we had agreed to outsource this exercise we're grateful to Ian for offering to undertake it.
- A quotation has been received for the work required on Hicks path, Dark Lane etc. Approval was given for a maximum expenditure of £2370 plus VAT for these works. There is a dead walnut tree on Farmyard Path that needs removing. A quote for £725 to remove the tree has been received. Further quotes are required.
- Rose Dale has been appointed as an advisor to the PC on tree and planting matters. She has been asked to look at the verges and suggests that they are cut twice a year at a specific time by Bucks Council and that we carry out 'maintenance' in between (cut the verge areas every 2 weeks ideally) and commence the work on the areas beyond the first 2 metres. Tom Audley has approached the PC about taking on this additional mowing/work and we are awaiting his quote. Groups of villagers could also be involved to manage their own verges. Some thought will need to be given as to how this can be publicised. Councillors were in support of the proposal. Thank you to Rose for all her work.

#### **14. ROADS AND KERBING UPDATE**

- Most of the work to the main road through the village is complete. The edge white lines need to be extended to the village boundary on the Crendon Road and also hopefully on the Aylesbury Road.
- Kerbing work. Two quotes have been obtained to repair the damage around the horse chestnut island. The second quote is £6,000 plus VAT. This is to repair 6 sites of kerbing and to reinstate the tarmac in front of the tree. An updated first quote is awaited. Councillors agreed to carry out this work and approved up to £7,500 expenditure.

- HCI junction study. **JL, JH** and Peter Smyth from TfB had a discussion on what they wanted to achieve. The PC requested funding from TfB, they had a look at the proposals and are happy to work with us. The PC would also approach the Community Boards for funding.

**15. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- **KT** reported that the speed gun has arrived. Consideration needs to be given as to where a speed indicator device could be mounted in the village.
- Ian Houseman is taking part in an online lecture tomorrow about natural capital.

**17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm. Probably again by Zoom videoconference with live YouTube feed.