

## CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM WITH LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE

### PRESENT

Councillors: Keith Turnbull (KT), Paul Bown (PAB), Angela Gray (AG), Julia Witcher (JW), John Lewis (JL), Ian Houseman (IH),

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams, John Howard

Parishioners: There were 3 Parishioners

JL chaired the meeting in the absence of NB.

JL spoke of the dreadful fire in the village last week and how this tragic event was felt by the whole community. The PC send their condolences to the family and friends of resident Mr Matthews who died in the fire.

### PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner presented an idea for the Chearsley Carbon Neutral Group of having a community vehicle manned with volunteer drivers. This would serve doctors' surgeries, shops and the station of surrounding villages. The vehicle could be an electric lease vehicle and there could be a donations box for people to pay into. The scheme would require a lot of organisation but could perhaps be part of the Good Neighbour Scheme. The Carbon Neutral Group was asked to look at initial costings.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Robert Parkes (RP)

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

There were no interests declared.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2021 MINUTES**

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

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

- Bucks Best Kept Village competition. **ACTION: NB to enquire whether this will go ahead in 2022.**
- VALP. **ACTION: Councillors to read the VALP.**

#### **5. PLANNING**

- **21/03660/APP - The Long House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**  
A site visit took place, the designs were analysed and it was agreed that there was no adverse impact of the application. NO OBJECTONS were submitted to Bucks Council.
- **21/03477/APP – Donnalea, Aylesbury Road, Chearsley HP18 0BS**

A site visit took place, the application was considered and the view of the PC is that the application constitutes overdevelopment of the site. For this reason the PC OPPOSES the application.

- **21/03688/APP – Hillside, 7 Winchendon Road, Chearsley HP18 0DP**

A site visit took place and it was agreed that the extension is proportionate to the existing property and the materials are in keeping with the existing property. NO OBJECTONS were submitted to Bucks Council.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- The PC received 2 comments from parishioners regarding the planning application for Donnalea which were fairly similar to those raised by the PC. The PC would like to remind parishioners that they have the opportunity to comment personally on any planning application that is made via the Bucks Council website.
- The PC also received comments questioning whether the works already carried out at Donnalea are compliant. If anyone feels that works are in breach of an approved planning application, this should be raised with Planning Enforcement at Bucks Council.
- A complaint was received from a parishioner regarding noise from the village hall on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> September. **KT** responded to the complaint and reported that the music did stop at 11pm. Occasional labour is hired to represent the village hall to make sure that music is turned off by 11pm and the hall is vacated by midnight. Ways to measure the noise and a decibel limiter will be investigated.

## **7. FINANCE**

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors.

- Annual audit. The audit for 2020/21 has now been completed, and the certificate issued. Contrary to earlier expectations, there was no qualification relating to the treatment of the Village Trust funds. The only comment from the auditors related to the dating of the RFO's signature, which should have been before the accounts were submitted to the Council for approval.
- Income in September. The second half of the precept payment, £17,500, was received in the month.
- Expenditure in September. Two items, not previously approved, were paid in the month – both were contractual commitments.

Came & Co (insurance)	£475.29
Bucks Council (dog bins)	£103.47
- At the end of September, there was a balance of £89,322 in the bank account. Funds are due to be spent on future projects.

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

- **IH** attended 2 meetings of the 'Stop the Arc' group. The government has dropped the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway but there is talk of the development of 1 million homes between Oxford and Cambridge which the group opposes and are

campaigning against. Bucks Council are also against the development of the Arc. **IH** is on the 'Stop the Arc' committee and will keep us informed.

- **JL** chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the freight advisory group. The full group met on 5<sup>th</sup> October. They are trying to establish discussions with the planning authority so that construction traffic must follow set routes. Parish Councils are encouraged to do this in their own right. Four business parks in the area are being approached to help the group engage with vehicle operators. The group is also engaging with Thame Town Council. It is hoped that eventually HGV exclusion zones will be created for those vehicles that don't need to come through the village roads.

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

None.

#### **10. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Anthony Adams reported that the 3 kissing gates on footpath 10 behind Chearsley Hill House will be enlarged next Tuesday.

#### **11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS**

Four Seasons are scheduled to carry out work on 18<sup>th</sup> November on Farmyard Path. Three dead elms will be removed by Elmbrook Close, there will be pruning near The Rosary on Dark Lane and work on the hornbeams on the village green. A notice will go up on Farmyard Path as well as on the blog to inform residents of the work.

It was reported that the horse chestnut tree is in much better health due to the work to reduce the number of moths. This will be continued next year.

#### **12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

The village hall will be shut 29<sup>th</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> January for a deep clean and reseal of the floor. A quote is being obtained for ventilation as this was not installed as part of the build due to the cost.

#### **13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE**

Meetings have taken place with a student from Cambridge Sustainability Institute who is interested in doing some carbon footprinting work for the village. There is a meeting this week to make plans for ascertaining Chearsley's carbon footprint. Quotes are being obtained for the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the village hall car park. The Chearsley Carbon Neutral Facebook page now has more members. A village meeting is planned in January.

#### **14. HCI JUNCTION**

**NB** and **JL** met with Dan Pearson, the TfB designer on 6<sup>th</sup> October. He has received back details from the various utility companies on plant and assets in the area. This showed that there is not likely to be any significant impact from those assets on the planned work. The next step is to get a detailed assets survey done which will result in some spray painted marks on the road to indicate utilities and their depth. The designs can then proceed which should not be too complex a task. The hope is to get both preliminary and detailed design work done within the £9k budget. This will include contractor cost estimates and should be

complete by April 2022. The project is starting to move along and it is hoped that construction could start in the next financial year.

**15. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

A parishioner suggested that the PC should take a stance and object to the 1 million homes planned for the Arc and inform Greg Smith MP. **ACTION: Clerk to add to agenda for November meeting. IH to produce a resolution to be discussed.**

**16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**JW** has ordered the Christmas tree.

The **Clerk** has ordered the poppy wreath.

**JL** is chasing the contractors for a start date for the Stockwell restoration work.

**17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING in Chearsley Village Hall**

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm