

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH JULY 2021 BY VIDEO
CONFERENCE AT 7.30PM WITH LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE

PRESENT

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

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams, John Howard, Tim Bradley

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

An email had been received asking if consideration could be given to updating the playground and surrounding benches. **KT** agreed that the benches need replacing and invites ideas for how the playground could be improved. It is hoped that via grants, PC funding and with help from CHUF something can be done. One of the new PC officers may be able to lead this project. All councillors gave their support for this project. **ACTION: KT to discuss with the Village Hall committee.**

1. APOLOGIES

Julia Witcher (JW).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2021 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Payroll scheme for Clerk.** Councillors agreed to go ahead with DCK Beavers for payroll provision as per the quote that had been circulated via email.
- **Second Speed Indicator Device.** **KT** has placed an order for this.
- **New officer appointments.** Tim Bradley and Anne Burnett agreed to be new officers of the PC. This was approved by all councillors.
- **Neighbourhood Plan.** **ACTION: Clerk to put on agenda for next meeting.**
- **CCTV.** **KT** and **NB** visited the operations room of Aylesbury based UK Security Group and saw a range of current recordings. The company seemed professional and the technology is such that it has a privacy setting so that it openly looks at the target areas with all housing and gardens blanked out. This project could perhaps be led by one of the new officers, a separate meeting is needed and the community will need to be involved.

5. PLANNING

21/02559/APP - Regency Cottage, Watts Green, Chearsley HP18 0DD

Prior to submitting the proposals, the applicants sought informal views from the PC and received unanimous support.

The PC agree with the Heritage statement that the existing flat roof over the garage (which has to be replaced anyway due to fire damage) has no historical merit or value, is out of context with the Grade 2 Listed building and detracts from the visual aspect of the structure and street scene.

The PC SUPPORTS the application.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- An email had been received asking the PC to remind landowners about maintaining rights of way. There are some in the village in need of attention. An unstable stile has however recently been repaired. A discussion took place around whether it was acceptable to modify the route of footpaths if there is a benefit to the public or whether original footpaths should be stuck to. **ACTION: NB to meet with Anthony Adams to look at Long Meadow this week.**
- An email had been received asking the PC to reinforce the advice from the RSPB NOT to feed the red kites. **ACTION: KT to put a note out on the blog and JL to put out a note to the PC mailing list.**
- An email had been received asking the PC to look into a road that has been put across agricultural land from Chilton Road to Cheersley Hill House. It looks like it is a hard standing road. It would appear that no planning laws have been broken as a landowner of agricultural land is allowed to put in a road to take vehicles across his land without planning permission.

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors.

- Annual audit. There has been no feedback from the auditors on the annual returns submitted earlier this year, other than an acknowledgement of receipt.
- Payments in the month. No payments were made in the month that had not already been authorised by the Parish Council.
- Progress against budget. The budget for the year was £78,500, leading to a precept of £35,000. At the end of June, ie, the first quarter, total expenditure was £1,613.

RP commented that the PC is not carrying out the commitments it has made and is not spending as per the budget. The Village Trust money is still in the PC account as they are still unable to open their own account. **RP** suggested opening a sub account from the PC account to hold this money and offered to administrate this if it would help the Village Trust get started.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **JL** had a meeting with representatives from the Community Board and Transport for Bucks regarding the application for funding for the horse chestnut island project. It should be feasible for us to apply for funding for the initial design phase. An application has gone in for £9000 but it may only cost £6000. The Transport Action Group have agreed this but formal approval is needed which should happen this week.

- **JL** attended the Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board meeting and gave a summary of the items discussed. Anyone can be a member, not just councillors and details are available on the BC website or from **JL**. Going forward there will be 4 action groups. It is important to make sure the PC is represented on all 4 groups:
Environment (**IH** member)
Highways and Travel (**KT** member)
Economic Recovery (**JL** member)
Health and Wellbeing – we need a representative, **NB** suggested **RP**.
There are also 3 advisory groups:
Freight
Flood risk
HS2/EWR.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

Any votes taken tonight will need to be ratified at the next meeting.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- The Ramblers Association can enlarge the two gates behind Chearsley Hill House to make them more accessible. The one by the stables also needs doing. **ACTION: Anthony Adams to speak to Sam Sampson.**
- John Howard reported that a lot of work is going on behind the scenes at the Stockwell. Movement from BC is needed, there are problems around testing, additional costs and feasibility studies. The drainage work needs to be done by BC before we can start.
- The HGV incident that took place in June has not resulted in a satisfactory outcome as none of the 3 companies contacted will take responsibility.
- Tim Bradley is going to be involved in the Chearsley Carbon Neutral Working Group.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

BC have strimmed what we requested. This work will be topped up by Tom Audley.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Carried forward to next meeting.

13. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

KT attended a meeting with other parish councillors about eco initiatives that are going on in local villages. There are a lot of good ideas. **KT** is meeting with Bucks Community Energy at the Village Hall on Wednesday to explore the possibility of more solar panels and electric vehicle charging points.

Thanks to **KT** for helping Shabbington to get a Covid restart grant of £8000 towards their new village hall.

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

- Monday 20th September at 7.30pm