

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

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

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: John Howard, Anthony Adams

Parishioners: There were no Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner expressed their thanks to Anthony Adams, footpaths officer, for the work that had been done on the Farmyard Path steps. It is a vast improvement, looks good and is safe.

1. APOLOGIES

Julia Witcher (JW), John Lewis (JL)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Purchase of SID for Winchendon Road.** Applications to the Community Board for grants open on 1st April. There is a HS2 Road Safety Fund for highways projects, this could be a source of funding for a 4th SID or perhaps the Chearsley junction project. **ACTION: NB to seek the opinion of JL on which project to put forward for the HS2 Road Safety Fund. ACTION: Clerk to recirculate email regarding HS2 Road Safety Fund.**
- **Stockwell Project.** NB made a phone call to Putnams to thank them for their work.

5. PLANNING

- **22/00677/APP – Merrydowne, 2 Crendon Road, Chearsley HP18 0DL**
A site visit has taken place. The PC OPPOSES the application and has concerns over the overall bulk of the proposed extension to the rear which would have a major impact on the property next door which would suffer from obstructed views and light reduction. There are also concerns over the parking arrangements.
- **22/00852/APP – The Long House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**

This is similar to the previous application. Councillors will take another look at it and a site visit will be organised.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

An email has been received regarding the ploughed field next to Long Meadow. Concerns were raised that the water filled ditch may contain contaminants. **ACTION: IH to contact the Environment Agency.** **ACTION: Clerk to contact parishioner to inform them we are looking into it and will report back.**

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

2021/22 year-end

The current financial year ends at the end of March.

In this context, the Council agreed:

- The format of the year-end report. Unless otherwise advised, the report will follow the same lines as last year
- The timetable. It is proposed that a draft report is submitted to the April meeting and a final version be presented to the May meeting, for approval.
- Appointment of internal auditor. In previous years, the internal audit has been carried out by JEA accountants, and they have agreed to do the same for 2021/22, at a cost of £165.00. Further, it is suggested that they be appointed for the next three years, rather than on an annual basis.

No instructions have yet been received from the government appointed external auditors.

Payments in the month

The only two payments, not already specifically authorised by the Council, made in February were:

4 Seasons	£2340.00
British Gas	£12.54

At the end of the month, the bank account stood at £73,227.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- KT attended a meeting of the Village Hall trustees. There was an update on the playground proposal which was agreed. The total cost is £45,000. Funding will need to be sought. A quote is being obtained for a picket fence to separate the play area from the car park.
- The Carbon Neutral Group held a meeting on 17th March which 20 people attended. There were 2 speakers, one talking about heat pumps, the other about solar PV panels. The next meeting, the leaky homes road show, is on 23rd March.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- Footpaths: The gate by Haystacks is not great and needs repairing.

- The noticeboard is in need of repair. John Howard is obtaining quotes for repair.
- John Howard is sourcing new flags for the flagpole.
- A litter pick took place on 10th March which was well supported.
- There was an excellent Church History Day on 20th March. It was suggested that there could perhaps be a more permanent display of this information somewhere in the village.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

- The turfing of the area around the Stockwell has gone well.
- A review of the trees on Church Lane is needed.
- Some of the trees in Lower Green Lane look as though they are falling over. **ACTION: IH to obtain quotes.**
- It was suggested that a path could be put in from Chearsley to the baulk.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

This was covered under item 8.

13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE

This was covered under item 8.

14. REPORT ON THE RESURFACING WORK THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE

The work was very well received and disruption was kept to a minimum. **ACTION: Clerk to send note of thanks on behalf of the PC to Bucks Council. ACTION: NB to give Clerk contact details at Bucks Council.** There will be a post-evaluative audit to restore the banks and verges. The white lining is to be agreed by the PC.

15. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SIGNAGE

Councillors agreed to purchase Community Speedwatch signs to be placed at each entrance into the village. **ACTION: KT to order the signs.**

16. HS2 FUND APPLICATIONS

This was covered under item 4.

17. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- An email has been received from Gigaclear who provide ultrafast full fibre broadband. They are planning to include Chearsley in their upcoming network build and have requested a meeting with members of the PC to discuss their upcoming plans. Councillors are happy for this meeting to go ahead. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Gigaclear and ask for dates for a potential meeting.**
- The date for the AVM was agreed as 30th May. **AG** has volunteered to advise all the groups in the village and invite them to prepare something for the evening.

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

- Tuesday 19th April at 7.30pm