

## CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT  
7.30PM WITH LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE

### PRESENT

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

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams, John Howard

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

### PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner commented that he was pleased to see the formation of the Chearsley Carbon Neutral Group. It would be useful to know what money is spent locally in the shop and pub. This group will tie in where it can with Bucks Council who now have a cabinet member for climate change. No information has been received yet on whether the Bucks Best Kept Village competition will go ahead next year. **ACTION: NB to enquire.**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Julia Witcher (JW), John Lewis (JL), Ian Houseman (IH), Tim Bradley.

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

There were no interests declared.

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

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

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

- **Playground.** Anne Adams is looking into new equipment for the playground. She will seek the views of the Village Hall committee. A further update will be given at the next meeting.
- **Long Meadow footpath.** The landowner has been very supportive. The ditch has been drained and dug out and the original diagonal path cut out.
- **Gate by stables.** Anthony Adams has spoken to Sam Sampson and the Ramblers Association will be coming out to enlarge the gate to make it more accessible.

#### **5. PLANNING**

- **21/03031/APP - Meadows End, Lower Green Lane, Chearsley HP18 0BZ**

The application was reviewed, a site visit carried out and NO OBJECTONS submitted to Bucks Council. There was no loss of privacy to the neighbours and a request was made for small vehicles to be used during the works.

- **21/03391/APP - Vine Cottage, Dark Lane, Chearsley HP18 ODA**

The application was reviewed, a site visit carried out and NO OBJECTONS submitted to Bucks Council. Again a request was made to limit vehicle size during the works in order to protect the lanes.

- **21/03518/APP – Middlewood, 9 Elm Brook Close, Chearsley HP18 ODB**

A site visit is being arranged.

- **21/02875/APP – The Old Bakery, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 ODF**

PAB will send a note around with comments for approval.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- An email had been received asking if the rights of way around Long Meadow and down Farm Path can be cut as the nettles are huge. Farm Path has already been cut and councillors will take a look at Long Meadow.
- An email had been received asking whether telegraph poles can be replaced by underground lines. The cost of this is too high so the PC is not in a position to support this at the moment.

## **7. FINANCE**

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors.

- Annual audit. As yet, there has been no reaction from the Auditors to the Annual Report and Accounts submitted earlier this year.
- Expenditure July/August. There have been some unscheduled payments since the last report:  
BMKALC £38  
T Audley £480  
N Brown (briefing of new PC Officers) £49.20  
Traffic Technology £2,872.80
- At the end of August, there was a balance of £79,700 in the bank account, including the funds of the Village Trust.

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

Freight Activity:

- Two informal meetings of small groups have been held to address specific aspects of this work. One was a joint meeting with Haddenham to discuss their issues and agree a way forward on Freight control, and the second with TfB to discuss how they can help with traffic surveys on the rat runs through country roads. Good progress was made and it looks as if we will soon have definitive plans for the surveys which are an essential step in implementing Freight Traffic control orders.
- The next meeting of the CB Freight Strategy Group is planned for 5 October at 18.30, by Zoom.

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

None.

## **10. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Already covered under 'matters arising'.

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

Councillors agreed to go ahead with tree work as outlined in the Four Seasons quote circulated via email on 25<sup>th</sup> August. The hornbeams on the village green will also be included.

## **12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Ken Trew has advised the PC that he does not think a full Neighbourhood Plan is needed for Chearsley. Chearsley is classed as a small village so we have the option of doing nothing, doing the minimum or producing an interim plan. Development opportunities are less here as we do not have the land. The VALP will stop speculative developers. **NB** suggests perhaps revisiting the village plan and updating some of it. Ken Trew is happy to help. **ACTION:**  
**Councillors to read the VALP and to send NB their views on his email of 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

## **13. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

- **Signs.** Colin Woolford has given advice on signs as they have to be approved by TfB. Antonia is ordering a sign for outside the village hall.
- **Village complaints about noise and CVH follow up committee actions.** 2 complaints have been received about noise during a party which went on until 12.45am. The agreement is no music after 11pm and the hall has to be vacated by midnight. Going forward the security deposit will be increased and there will be a village volunteer to remind hirers of the contract they have signed. The situation will be monitored.
- **Installing cameras on CVH after damage to gate pillars.** The cost of repairing the stone pillars is £600-700. Simple Amazon Blink cameras will be installed to look out for any vandalism.

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

A note has been circulated to the PC asking for their support which has now been agreed. A note will go out on the blog and Facebook. It is about taking small steps to support this initiative and sharing information. There is a Chearsley Carbon Neutral Facebook page which people can sign up to. The group will be working with Bucks Community Energy. Electric vehicle charging points at the village hall are being investigated. The group will try to ascertain Chearsley's carbon footprint, perhaps via a survey. An educational evening is also planned.

## **15. SID UPDATE**

The new SID has been received and installed. Kevin Dennington is managing the SID on the entrance from Long Crendon and **KT** the SID on the Aylesbury Road.

## **16. HCI JUNCTION PROGRESS**

**NB** and **JL** met with James Duncan of Bucks Council last week. The meeting was not intended to be about the HCI junction project but James has experience of this sort of project and offered to take a look at how the planned changes might work. His view was that they look expensive and he suggested instead some alternative ideas. The PC now need to look at those and take a view on them – they have been circulated to councillors. An informal PC meeting needs to be planned in the next 2-3 weeks with a view to taking a formal decision at the October meeting.

Separately, **JL** spoke to John Pateman at TfB – he is responsible for allocating approved projects. He said that the HCI Initial Design project has now been allocated to a Project Manager and the PC can expect to hear from him shortly. The PC will of course need to have decided exactly what they want doing before he is able to make a start. **ACTION: Clerk to put HCI junction on the agenda for the next meeting.**

#### **17. STOCKWELL PROJECT UPDATE**

There are 4 workstreams – the pond itself, local vegetation (rewilding), drain clearance and additional kerbing.

We are currently in discussion with Putnam who are the contractors appointed to carry out the main infrastructure works and bank clearance. We are hoping for a start to the work by end September although we don't yet have a firm date.

We have also obtained two quotations for re-turfing the bank and will shortly appoint someone to do that work.

Unfortunately, TfB has advised the kerbing feasibility study will not be carried out until f/y 22/23 because TfB are not taking any new work now for this year. We also still have no date for when the drain and gully clearance work will be carried out but are chasing regularly.

#### **18. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

No questions.

#### **19. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Following a query from a resident, the PC confirmed that the Lainswood House cycle shed has been built in accordance with the plans. The PC objected to the planning application but Bucks Council took the decision to pass the planning application.

**NB** has had a meeting with Colin Woolford and requested a sign either side of Grove Farm to slow traffic down. The sign on Chilton Road is to be repaired by Street Scene. The grit box is to be repaired by the PC. **NB** requests a mirror to aid turning right from The Green and will read through the policy regarding mirrors. The drains on Lower Green Lane are still to be cleared and this has now been documented by Bucks Council.

**NB** is getting involved with East West Rail. Quainton may be getting a station which would mean more housing. Two HS2 field marshals have been appointed who will have the power to force transport to use the correct routes. **NB** will circulate their names and email addresses so councillors can feedback if anything needs investigating.

There are currently 14 VAHT properties in Cheersley.

#### **20. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** in Cheersley Village Hall

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm