

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH APRIL 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Karen Vear (**KV**), Angela Gray (**AG**), Keith Turnbull (**KT**), John Lewis (**JL**), Nic Brown (**NB**)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: John Howard (**JH**), Anthony Adams (**AA**)

Parishioners: There were 2 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

1. APOLOGIES

Ian Houseman (**IH**), Robert Parkes (**RP**), David Impey (**DI**), Paul Bown (**PAB**)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2023 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Hedge on footpath 9 to Notley between the farm track and the railway in need of trimming.** Mike Heybrook has emailed the Clerk to confirm that he has cut back any encroaching branches.
- **Flagpole.** 3 quotes have been obtained for the supply and installation of a new flagpole. All the quotes are quite high at around £1250 to £1500 excluding VAT.
ACTION: NB to get best quote.
- **CCTV in village.** **KT** is booked on a CCTV training course at BALC this Friday. **KT** has spoken with UK Security Group in Aylesbury regarding a quote and will obtain another quote.
- **Planning pre-application advice.** **ACTION: PAB to draft a guidance note for publication.**
- **Local Plan for Bucks – Infrastructure Baseline.** **ACTION: NB and JL to work on and circulate to councillors.** Deadline has been extended.
- **Gate on the donkey path in need of repair.** This is waiting to be fixed by the electricity company but they say it is too wet to carry out the repair at the moment.
- **Email regarding the precept.** **NB** has responded confirming that the PC has not increased the precept this year.

- **Square wooden posts to protect verges.** NB has photographed 2 or 3 locations in the village where these could be trialled. The cost is £150 per post. **ACTION: NB to circulate more details.**

5. PLANNING

- **Longhouse, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH**
23/00983/APP - Conversion of garage. No objections. CPC pleased to see this new application which converts the garage on the existing footprint rather than the previous scheme which involved an extension adjacent to a listed building in the conservation area.
23/01078/APP - Erection of an outbuilding. No objections.
23/00421/ALB - Replacement of 9 windows. No objections.
- **23/01011/ALB - Old House, School Lane, Chearsley HP18 0BT**
Addition of 15 solar panels on the flat roof of the garage. No objections.
- Site visits were carried out on all the above applications.
- A new planning application has been received for Tree Tops, Watts Green. Comments are due 11th May. **ACTION: Clerk to email PAB to ask if he would like NB to organise the site visit.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

A request has been received from Haddenham and Cuddington PCs for a contribution of £1500 towards a study to improve the safety of the Kings Cross junction on the A418. Councillors support the request in principle but the PC needs to check how the money can be donated. **ACTION: NB to find out how the PC can donate the money.**

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Payments

There have been three unplanned payments in the month of March:

- Universal Cards (mugs) £791.28
- N Brown (gift vouchers) £150
- N Brown (refreshments for litter pickers) £55.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, and the end of the year, was £84,283.

The VAT reclaim and the first half of the precept have now been received.

Year-end preparation

The work for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been completed.

Distributed alongside the finance report were copies of the Chearsley Parish Council Annual Report and Accounts, 2023, and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, (AGAR), for the same period. These set out in detail the details of financial transactions in the year, and developments for the previous year, and also provide assurance on the way in which the Parish Council has conducted its financial affairs in the same period.

Annual Governance and accountability return 2022/23

The Council approved the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23. The Council approved the Accounting Statements 2022/23.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

NB reported that he has joined the Bucks Council homelessness strategy.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **JH** reported that the next Historical Society meeting will be in June.
- **NB** will call Rob Mole tomorrow to ask him to contact **AA** about stiles going down to Chearsley Furze. There are 2 very high stiles that need lowering.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

No report this month.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The new playground is looking great. The works are running slightly over. The benches will be sanded and painted. Greg Smith MP will be asked to officially open the playground.

13. CCTV UPDATE

Dealt with under 'matters arising'.

14. CORONATION

Plans for the King's Coronation weekend are well organised. Cake donations are requested for Sunday 7th. Tickets are still available for the Church concert on the Friday evening. Cards are to be printed to go with the Coronation mugs which are being gifted to children in the village. The exact number of children in the village aged 12 and under is unknown. Any surplus mugs will be distributed after the Coronation. A discussion took place about the purchase of a commemorative bench. The location and type of bench was discussed. The cost of a metal bench is expensive at around £2000. Councillors agreed that their preferred option would be an engraved wooden bench. **ACTION: KT to investigate purchase of bench.**

15. UPDATE ON THE HCI JUNCTION RE-ALIGNMENT PROJECT

The HCI Junction Preliminary Design Report has now been published. The report analyses the various options and suggests option 3 which is the one favoured by the PC. The next step is for the PC to go to Bucks Council/Community Board for funding. The PC will need to apply for more funding to get the detailed designs done. This project has been ongoing since 2016. Councillors agreed to take a closer look to see if they support option 3, then plans will be shared with the public following agreement at the next meeting.

16. DATE FOR CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Wednesday 31st May was agreed.

17. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- A parishioner enquired when the new playground would be open. The playground inspection will provisionally take place this Friday with the official opening on 8th May.
- A parishioner enquired about the fire damaged house by the pub. The PC believe that the house has been sold. The parishioner also enquired about the field that was for sale as you go out of Chearsley towards Cuddington. It has been sold by John Lloyd to Rob Mole.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- **KV** delivered to Geoff a gift as a token of appreciation for the work he has done in the shop over the years.
- A note will be published to inform the village about the emergency alert system test that is taking place on 23rd April.
- It was reported that there are some overhanging trees in Dark Lane and School Lane which need trimming back. Lorries are refusing to make deliveries in these areas. Four Seasons are due to carry out the work shortly.
- **JH** suggested that it might be a good idea to put a glass front on the village hall noticeboard. **ACTION: KT to investigate.**

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

Monday 15th May at 7.00pm – annual village meeting followed by AGM.