

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15th JULY 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Nic Brown (**NB**), John Lewis (**JL**), Martin Hearmon (**MH**), Keith Turnbull (**KT**), John Howard (**JH**), Julia Witcher (**JW**)

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (**RP**)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Parishioners: There were 9 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME.

- A parishioner enquired what the plan was for the bank along Church Lane. The immediate objective of the clearance work was to tidy up the area. It will now be left for 12 months to settle and then be reviewed. A discussion took place around the Church Lane scrub clearance work which had been carried out. The parishioner was invited to give her input into the plans for the Church Lane bank going forward.
- A parishioner brought to the attention of the PC the Chearsley Village Plan of 2014 which can be viewed at chearsleypc.org.uk. Village Objective 10 in the document states 'We should actively consider creating more wild flower areas around the village'. The parishioner would like the PC to consider this. **ACTION: JH to distribute the document to the PC.**
- A parishioner asked whether the PC are going to plant a hedge on the corner of Shupps Lane where there is currently fencing. **ACTION: PC to investigate.**

1. APOLOGIES

Paul Bown (**PAB**)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

KT declared that he is on the Village Hall Committee.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2019 MINUTES

Minutes were amended to record **PAB**'s objections to the Longhouse planning application and were then agreed as a true record and signed by **NB**.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **New Chearsley signs obscuring view.** **NB** has written to Cllr Clive Harriss at BCC to explain the issue and refer it to Highways. The new signs are in the same location as the previous ones but are slightly elevated. The residents are also urged to express their concerns to Highways.
- **Approved contractor list.** **ACTION: PAB to produce proposal for consideration.**
- **Driveway 'gravel spillage' in Shupps Lane.** This remains an issue, a new granite threshold is required. **ACTION: NB to continue to speak with resident.**

- **Larkspur, Shupps Lane.** Roof extension. Further comments were submitted to AVDC expressing concern over the roof height.
- **Stockwell.** **ACTION: PAB and JH to resurrect the Stockwell project** and follow up second pump with Fenella Tillier.
- **Anti-social behaviour in Church car park.** A meeting took place on 3rd July with the neighbourhood police, Church, PC and local residents. The meeting generated several ideas to discourage such behaviour that need to be discussed with the PCC and local landowners. Parking at the bottom of the village was also discussed with the possibility of increased signage. **ACTION: PAB will be asked to lead this initiative.** In recent weeks, following visits by the neighbourhood police, the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour has declined.

5. PLANNING

Recently, there have been two planning applications that weren't analysed in enough detail before responses were submitted to AVDC.

It was suggested that with his experience, **PAB** could head up planning for the PC. **ACTION: PAB to produce a set of planning guidelines and arrange a separate planning meeting to discuss.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AVDC AND BCC COUNCILLORS

There were none present.

8. FINANCE

- The monthly finance report had been circulated to Councillors.

Year-end accounts

The auditors have identified an error in the Annual Return. Fixed Assets brought forward were stated as £46,298. This should have been £55,899, and therefore Fixed Assets are understated by £9,601. This error was caused by a late decision last year to include kerbing as an asset.

VAT

The VAT refund has now been received, £826.

Payments in the month

The following payments have been made in June:

12.00	CVH – rental
265.00	H Spurgeon
472.50	Support to the Historic Chearsley meeting
11.99	Purchase of a computer mouse
17.00	Purchase of literature from BALC

There are two invoices 'pending', BWB, £5,000 and Bucks CC for signage etc. As yet, neither of these has met the criteria for payment.

At the end of the period, there was £58,300 in the bank account.

- **Insurance renewal**

Came and Co have contacted the Clerk, with regard to continuing the insurance provided to the PC. As fixed assets have increased by £10,000 to include the kerbing, there will be an increase in the annual premium of £50 to cover this. Councillors agreed to renew with the current provider.

- **Annual Contributions to the Village Hall and Church**

A discussion took place around whether to continue the £300 grant to both the Village Hall and the Church. It was agreed to stop the grant and instead to make project specific contributions as and when required.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

JH attended the LAF meeting at Oakley on Wed 3rd July. A report has been circulated to Councillors. The Bucks freight strategy is likely to be published in the autumn. The Brill Expressway meeting was attended by KT. Brill residents strongly oppose the expressway.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

Councillors agreed to ratify any decisions made between meetings at the monthly PC meeting.

Longhouse planning application – further comments were submitted to AVDC. The PC oppose the application.

11. COUNCIL PROTOCOLS – MEETINGS AND VOTING

The Council discussed a protocol for recording the output of discussions and decisions made.

It was agreed that when at any time a matter is put to a vote, the result will be recorded as follows:

- a. The normal procedure will be simply to record the result of the vote in the minutes, e.g. unanimous in favour, unanimous against, 4 in favour and 3 against, 1 in favour 6 against, etc. The views of absent members, if made known, can be taken into account in the discussion but cannot be counted in the voting record.
- b. If a Councillor, exceptionally, feels particularly strongly in a non-unanimous vote, they can request that they are named in the minutes as taking a position for or against.
- c. If a decision is to be forwarded to an external third party, e.g. most commonly in planning matters, the result will be forwarded to the third party simply as a Council decision, with no indication of votes for and against and no indication of the views of individual Councillors. This in addition to the result being recording in the minutes as at a. and b. Councillors agreed unanimously in favour of adopting this protocol.

12. CAR HELP/SERVICE FOR PARISHIONERS

A note needs to go out to the village via the noticeboard and website to see who can help with this initiative. A co-ordinator and volunteer drivers are needed.

13. DISCUSSION ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE COMMERCIAL SCALE BURNING OF WASTE IN THE VILLAGE

This seems to be happening on a regular basis with acrid smoke blowing over the village. Photographs and video have been taken and it has been reported to AVDC and the Environment Agency. A response is awaited.

14. CONSULTATION ON THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY

PC members have attended a series of 'open meetings' in recent months – both the Expressway Action Group (who support the principle of an OCE but are lobbying for a route to the north of Oxford past Bicester) and the No Expressway Group/No Expressway Alliance (who oppose any development of an OCE to run alongside the proposed rail route). We've begun communicating issues to our community via an EAG presentation at the Annual Village Meeting (18th March) and a report on Cheersley BlogSpot (18th June). We've set up a Working Group to address some of the technical issues relating to the proposed development.

Suggested next steps:

Continue to provide updates for our community via Cheersley BlogSpot and the PC website. Develop clearer Terms of Reference for our Working Group - the second meeting will take place on Monday 22nd July.

Ahead of developing any formal public position on the OCE consultation, we should hold a public meeting in the village in early/mid-September, representing a cross-section of views on the OCE.

15. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- A parishioner spoke about the Village Trust. A bank account still exists for the Trust but there is no trace of it at the moment. **ACTION: NB to investigate. JL to write terms of reference for a new Trust.**
- A parishioner asked the PC not to make planning decisions too hastily in order to give residents chance to make their comments to the PC.

16. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A parishioner had contacted the PC to express concern about the state of the kerbsides in the village. Once the horsechestnut island study is complete, work on the kerbsides will need to be incorporated into the plan.

A note had been received from Mike Heybrook asking the PC to declare a 'climate emergency'. This is something that Haddenham PC have already done. Input will be needed from the village before the PC can adopt a formal position on the matter. **ACTION: JH to respond to Mike Heybrook.**

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING in Cheersley Village Hall

- Monday 16th September 2019 at 7.30pm