

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: John Lewis (JL), Karen Vear (KV), David Impey (DI), Anne Adams (AA), Nic Brown (NB), Paul Bown (PAB)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams, John Howard (JH)

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

Kevin Dennington reported that the Stockwell is not leaking.

1. APOLOGIES

Robert Parkes (RP), Angela Gray (AG).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

JL and NB declared an interest in item 15 Church Grant.

3. APPROVAL OF JULY 2024 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Policies on website.** It is now possible to view the policies on the website. **ACTION: KV to send notes on policies for JL to update.**
- **Village clear up.** NB is meeting with Ian Alamghir on Saturday.
- **Defibrillator training.** **ACTION: AG to talk to Kevin Dennington to arrange date and time for training and to publicise.**
- **Broken gate into the field at the bottom of Lower Green Lane.** The PC has written to the landowner and considers the repair to be unsatisfactory. It is difficult for walkers both young and old to use.
- **Village Hall website.** KV was unable to open the list of trustees on the website. **ACTION: JL to investigate.**
- **Play area maintenance.** The roundabout is not working. The Village Hall will resolve this.
- **Play area gates.** It was suggested that a notice be put on the padlock so villagers know they can use the facility at any time. **ACTION: JL to discuss with Village Hall Committee.**
- **Church donation.** The regular donation to the church was stopped a couple of years ago in order to fund specific items.

- **Convex mirror.** The PC are disappointed by the unsupportive response from Bucks Council and the insurers. The mirror will not be installed, and the current post is to be removed. It is hoped that no accidents will occur.
- **Elmbrook Close hedge.** This has been cut back.
- **Church Lane lime trees.** **ACTION: Clerk to send 2019/2020 emails from Rose Dale to NB.** This requires further investigation.

5. PLANNING

Acorn Bioenergy proposed anaerobic digester to the north of Long Crendon. A meeting took place with Acorn Bioenergy, Greg Smith MP and local stakeholders on 26th September. It was a contentious meeting where Acorn appeared ill prepared. The proposal would mean 180 lorry movements per day, which could be reduced to 120 but larger lorries. The lorries would have a big impact on the local area. There would also be many tractor movements.

Freight strategy. Bucks Council are looking at the efficacy of the Ivinghoe scheme first. This should be done in November. This will be followed by monitoring of HGV vehicles on A and B roads.

Rumble strips. A number of these have appeared on local roads. Their purpose is being questioned.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Salt bins School Lane.** The salt bins are in need of replacing. **ACTION: DI to investigate repair/replacement.**
- **Active travel route between Long Crendon and Thame and also from Thame to Haddenham Station.** Correspondence was received from Mike Heybrook which the PC have noted.
- **Letter of thanks from Church for £350 grant towards churchyard mowing.** This letter was acknowledged by the PC.
- **Condition of the public footpath behind the houses from Crendon Road to Chilton Road.** **ACTION: NB to draft letter for Clerk to send to landowner** requesting they make good the footpath and that the PC are happy to help.
- **Grass verge damage by The Old Orchard, Church Lane.** Unfortunately, the PC can't really do anything to resolve the situation but do sympathise. It seems to be happening all over the village.

7. FINANCE

It was agreed to end the Zoom subscription. **ACTION: JL to cancel.**

Monthly finance report

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Year end

The final report from the auditors was received, mid-September, after the accounts were lodged with them in April. The auditors gave a clear report, and a notice to that effect was posted on the village noticeboard, as required.

Income

The second half precept, £19,000 was received in the month.

Payments in the month

There are some payments to report:

PKF, audit fee, £252.00

HMRC, income tax, £423.40

J Lazaruk, work on Church Lane, £40.00

Four Seasons, tree work, £1,200, of which £500 will be recovered from CVH

Gallagher, insurance, £800.39.

All other payments were pre-authorised.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £105,894.

Year to date

A summary of expenditure to date is attached.

April	May	June	July	August	September	Total to date	BUDGET
297.46	297.46	297.46	297.46	297.46	720.86	2208.16	
412.48	77.61	112.14	203.21	109.44	1165.60	2080.48	9000.00
						0.00	3600.00
480.00	760.22	860.61	598.76	1646.21	1380.00	5725.80	11500.00
				76.98		76.98	
				350.00		350.00	1200.00
						0.00	2000.00
						0.00	
62.06	3901.80		1304.56			5268.42	
						0.00	
						0.00	
						0.00	33000.00
						0.00	
1252.00	5037.09	1270.21	2403.99	2480.09	3266.46	15709.84	60300.00

Highlights of the first six months:

Income, £45.5 k vs £44.2 budget, primarily because of additional VAT refunds

Total expenditure £15.7k.

Administration, £4.3k, on budget;

Traffic calming £5.3k

Grounds maintenance, (excluding tree work), £2.6k.

Treework, £1.2k

Looking forward

The budget needs to be drafted before the end of the year. It is proposed we have a preliminary discussion in November, prior to a submission before the end of the year.

ACTION: Councillors to email JL with ideas for the budget. JL to then draft budget.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

None.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Replacement of three footpath signs in the village. The designs and increased level of expenditure were agreed by the PC.

JH reported that there is a Historical Society meeting on 7th November with a speaker from Bletchley Park.

The final plans are being put together for Remembrance Sunday. There will be a meeting in the Village Hall afterwards where **DI** will show his film.

Anthony Adams reported that the bridge in **PAB's** field is rotten. This has been reported on Fix My Street and an order has been raised for it to be fixed by Bucks Council.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Four Seasons have done a good job trimming the Village Hall hedge. Four councillors met with Buck Tree Surgeons, but no quote has yet been received. **KV** proposes that we use Four Seasons for the required work in the village. It was agreed to leave the Church Lane lime trees and get the other work done before spring. A total cost of £4000 was authorised. It has been reported on Fix My Street that there are sharp hedges and brambles in Shupps Lane on the left-hand side going down the hill. **ACTION: PAB to organise contractor to cut back.**

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

JL attended the Village Hall meeting. Finances are healthy and forward bookings are looking good. Storage is critical and various options are being looked at. Kevin Dennington needs somewhere to store the PC gardening equipment so the PC have an interest and could contribute towards an outdoor storage building. A more detailed plan is needed.

13. HCI JUNCTION PROJECT – DETAILED DESIGNS COST ESTIMATE

JL circulated an email to the PC summarising his meeting with John Pateman at Bucks Council regarding next steps for the HCI junction. John Pateman suggested we go ahead based on estimates. Our £30k reserves will help us get funding. We are in a strong position to get funding if it becomes available. We could also apply for grants. **JL** asked if the PC are still committed to doing the work and also to option 3. A discussion took place around this. It was noted that the bollards on Winchendon Road have succeeded in slowing traffic down. It was thought that the project will not be given priority by Bucks Council. It was also commented that we don't want to make the junction easier for lorries to drive through. It was decided to have further discussions at a later meeting.

14. KERBING REPAIRS AROUND HCI JUNCTION

JL circulated to councillors via email an estimate, based on numbers provided by Putnams, of the cost for some repairs to the kerbing around the HCI junction. Councillors fully support the scheme.

15. CHURCH GRANT

DI met with Rev Richard and has a full set of accounts for last year and has identified items the PC may want to support. More information on income vs expenditure is needed. A maximum donation of £500 per year was agreed and the PC would consider funding specific projects.

16. ADOPTION OF GOV.UK EMAILS AND WEBSITE

Hugo Fox has offered a gov.uk website as part of our package. It was agreed for **JL** to go ahead with this.

17. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None.

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

Monday 18th November at 7.30pm.