

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

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

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

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

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

Parishioners: There were 2 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- A parishioner enquired about the possibility of installing a chicane at the top of Winchendon Road to slow down traffic. **NB** acknowledged the suggestion. The PC could get a quote but the one in Cuddington cost £40,000. It would also require street lighting.
- It was reported that the A418 will be shut for 4 Sundays due to HS2 works. A concern was flagged that this would result in more traffic through Chearsley. **ACTION: NB to speak to Steve Broadbent at Bucks Council.**
- It was reported that the hedge on the Reynold's land is being removed as you approach Long Crendon. Apparently, it will be replanted with native species.
- An enquiry was raised about the large shed that was erected opposite Crawley Fram on Simon Vickers' land, adjacent to the footpaths. It had planning approval as an agricultural building so should be used for this purpose within a certain timeframe or should be removed.
- A parishioner asked for an update on EV charging points in the village. The cost to install one at the village hall was around £11,000. An email was received from Steve Bowles at Bucks Council at the end of last week looking for opportunities to broaden the public charging network and asking for suitable sites. **ACTION: KT to put forward Chearsley.**

1. APOLOGIES

Paul Bown (**PAB**).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2022 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Kerbing.** A discussion took place around kerbing. The areas at risk need to be identified and the risk defined. Is erosion of the banks the main risk? The location

and cost need to be investigated. **ACTION: KT, RP, AG and KV to meet this week to look at priority areas for kerbing.**

- **Pebbles at the bottom of Dark Lane.** **ACTION: NB to discuss with Colin Woolford with reference to Needlemakers and The Boot. NB to also mention blocked drain at the bottom of Dark Lane, outside the Socrates house, and blocked drain on the left-hand side of Lower Green Lane.**
- **Hedge on footpath 9 to Notley between the farm track and the railway in need of trimming.** Mike Heybrook will take a look.
- **Raising the bridge across Chearsley Brook on the path from railway to Notley.** **ACTION: AA to contact Bill Piers from North Bucks rRIPPLE to see if he can help.**
- **Four Seasons work.** The bottom of Dark Lane and the brambles on School Lane need cutting back. The tree on the School Lane/Dark Lane junction needs an overhanging branch removing. **ACTION: IH to contact Four Seasons for quotes.**
- **Village shop.** IH has spoken to Peter Redfern who is willing to help. JH has contacted The Plunkett Foundation and help is available if needed. JL had a brief conversation with Rose Dale regarding a farm shop, further discussion is needed. **ACTION: NB to contact Jey in the Cuddington shop to see if he wants to promote a delivery service to Chearsley.** Following the shop survey, a conclusion note will need to go out to the village giving the PC stand point.
- **Flagpole.** It was agreed that the flagpole needs to be moved forward as it is obscured by the tree. It was suggested that the flagpole may need replacing. A supplier and cost will need to be found.

5. PLANNING

- **22/03940/APP – Manor Cottage, Crendon Road, Chearsley HP18 0DL**
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council.
- **Local Plan for Bucks Evidence Base - Settlement Review**
The data for Part One was reviewed and amended. **ACTION: NB and JL to meet and complete Part Two and send responses to the clerk.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- An email was received asking what the plan was for CCTV at the top of the village. It was agreed that the first step would be to organise a survey in order to ascertain the views of residents on CCTV. **KT** agreed to organise this. The idea of a village meeting was also discussed.
- Procedure for dealing with correspondence – it was agreed that the **clerk** would acknowledge all correspondence and delegate the enquiry to the most appropriate councillor to deal with it.

7. FINANCE

- The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Introduction

This report covers activity in November and December 2022.

Income

In November, the sum of £1,360 was received from Bucks Council, as a contribution to the latest purchase of a SID device.

Expenditure

The following non-scheduled payments were made in the period:

Gallagher- insurance	£121.49
J Lewis – stationery	£114.00
BMALK – books	£20.00
The Cartridge People – ink	£126.80
The Bell – Remembrance Day	£100.00
A Yorke – timer	£49.38
R B Howson – pathway	£318.00
N Brown -placing of stones on Village Green	£17.50
J Lewis- Stockwell	£44.30
Gommes Forge -Stockwell	£290.00
K Turnbull -awards	£106.98

The cash in hand at the end of the month is £91,254.

Budget and Precept 2023/24

A discussion took place mid-December on the needs of the village and its plans for 2023/24, as a result of which a financial plan was developed, leading to a proposed precept of £38,000. This is the same as the present year. This proposal needs to be ratified by the Council.

Audit 2023 Year-end

The Parish Council was asked in October whether it wished to choose its own external auditor, or allow SAA to do this on the Council's behalf. It chose to delegate the appointment of an auditor, and as a result, we have been informed the PKF have been reappointed to serve for a further three years.

- **Approval of budget for 2022/23**

The Parish Council agrees and adopts the budget for 2023/24 which is attached to these minutes. The Council notes that this budget includes a Precept for the year of

£38,000. The Council has decided to keep the Precept the same as last year due to the cost of living crisis.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

None.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

None.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Dealt with under matters arising.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Playground project – Anne Adams is liaising with the supplier. There is no firm date for the work, but it is hoped it will be around Easter. The PC would like to thank Anne Adams, **JL**, **NB** and **KT** for all the time and effort they have put into this project.

13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE

It was reported that some residents are hoping to install solar panels.

14. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner asked if planning had been approved for 5 houses on Winchendon Road. The PC confirmed that it has been rejected.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- **KT** has the presentation awards for the shop. Jey and Jeff will be invited to the next meeting where the awards can be presented at the start.
- **KT** has the new SID to install on Chilton Road.
- David Impey was appointed as an officer of the PC with responsibility for speed awareness and traffic management.
- There is a meeting of Chearsley Village Historical Society on 9th February at 7.30pm.
- The minutes of the December meeting have been delayed as the notes were only sent to the **clerk** today.
- The PC annual Xmas dinner will be held in late February, date to be agreed.

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

- Monday 20th February at 7.30pm

Draft Budget 2023/24					
Main Budget Headings	Budget Sub-Head	Item, Explanation, Decision on inclusion, Priority (A,B or C)		Income	Expenditure Sub-headings
Opening Balance				62349	
		HQ Fund		37000	
		Stockwell Kerbing		0	
		Other Kerbing		13000	
		General Fund		10349	
Income					
		Precept		38000	
		Other			
		VAT			
		Other			
Expenditure					
		Administration			9500
			Salaries, insurance, audit, training, hall hire, subscriptions, professional fees, IT, etc		9500
		Road Maintenance			0
			Considered to be a Bucks Council responsibility		
		Grounds Maintenance			5800
			Grass Cutting		1200
			Village Trees		3000
			Verges & Banks		800
			Dog & Salt Bins		800
		Footpaths & Gates			1500
			Footpaths & Gates		500
			Other Minor Maintenance		1000
		Village Events			500
			Christmas & Remembrance		500
		Grants			2000
			Charitable s. 137 - Max of £8.41 per elector for 22/23. 440 electors in 2020 = £3700		2000
		Project & One-Off Items			33000
			Signs in village centre		1500
			Kerbing		30000
			Other		1500
TOTAL				38000	52300
CLOSING BALANCE				48049	
		HQ Fund (Increased by £3000)		37000	
		Stockwell Kerbing (Assumed spent)		0	
		Other Kerbing (assumed spent)		0	
		General Fund		11049	

NOTE: Expenditure Sub-Headings are indicative only