

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Keith Turnbull (KT), Ian Houseman (IH), John Lewis (JL), Paul Bown (PAB), Nic Brown (NB), Karen Vear (KV)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: John Howard

Parishioners: There were 7 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

Following another attempted break in at The Bell, a parishioner asked whether CCTV for the village was in the field of vision. It was decided to deal with this question during question time at the end of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Angela Gray (AG), Robert Parkes (RP), Anthony Adams

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Karen Vear was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

4. APPROVAL OF JULY 2022 MINUTES

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

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Gigaclear.** They wish to use the area behind the bus stop for their compound during the works. The driveway is owned by the council and Willow Corner owns up to the tree. The residents would like more information from Gigaclear. Nothing has yet been agreed. **ACTION: NB to email Rezia Khan at Gigaclear to request firm date for the meeting with residents in the Village Hall and to find out their proposals.**
- **Kerbing.** **ACTION: KT and IH to look at which areas are the priority for kerbing in the village.**

6. PLANNING

- **22/02500/APP – Merrifield, Dark Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DA**
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council. A few issues were raised. The PC are keen to protect the holloway and banks during the works. The Bucks Council

planners refer to the wychert garage which is no longer there. **NB** will refer this lack of thoroughness back to Bucks Council.

- **22/02739/APP - Barn Off Winchenden Road, Chearsley HP18 ODP**
Errors by Bucks Council Planning were admitted which allowed deemed consent by default. There is now an issue with access. The PC OBJECTED to this latest application for that reason.
- **22/02724/APP – Donnalea, Aylesbury Road, Chearsley HP18 OBS**
PC OPPOSES the application submitted to Bucks Council. The applicants went ahead with the work despite planning being refused. The compliance officer will need to investigate. **ACTION: PAB/JL to write to Bucks Council on behalf of the PC about retrospective planning following planning refusal.**
- **22/03161/APP - Chearsley Hill Barn, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 ODN**
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council. The applicant sought the views of the PC prior to submitting their application. The PC welcome the opportunity to discuss applications with applicants in advance of their submission to Bucks Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A formal complaint was received regarding the PC's comments on the Merrifield planning application. This has been responded to.

8. FINANCE

- The July/August finance report has been circulated to councillors:
2021/22 year-end
The Annual Report and Accounts and associated AGAR documents have all now been audited, with no changes required or recommendations for improvement. The documents have now been made available to the public as required.
Choosing of an external auditor
It is strongly recommended that the Parish Council make a decision not to opt out of the government scheme. This was agreed.
Asset register and insurance
Following on from the July meeting, an up-to-date asset register was circulated to the Parish Council members, together with a proposal of their 'carrying values'.
Expenditure
The following payments were made in July and August 2022:

M S Roberts	£594.00
W J Hirstle	£72.00
PKF	£240.00
Gommes Forge	£130.00
- The September finance report has been circulated to councillors:
Precept 2022/3
The second precept payment was received in early September - £19,000.
Expenditure
There were three payments not previously authorised by the council made in September:
R Parkes, paper and ink £28.65

Traffic Technology	£3,292.80
HMRC	£143.20

The payment to Traffic Technology will attract a contribution from Bucks Council, and although this has been discussed and agreed, no paperwork has yet been received to support this.

At the end of the month, the bank balance stood at £102,137.

Precept 2023/4

At the November meeting, a spend analysis will be presented to allow discussions to begin on the budget for next year and the associated precept.

ACTION: JL to present initial thoughts on the precept for discussion.

- Insurance – The insurance renewal due in September has been paid. It was agreed to pay the additional premium of £121.49 to increase the sum insured by £25,000 as per the updated asset register.
The playground equipment is currently insured by the Village Hall. This will need to be reviewed once the new play equipment is installed.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **PAB** attended an online planning forum. Discussions took place around the lack of personal contact in the planning department. There are too many locum planners with no local knowledge/history. The planning department can work from home 4/5 days a week. **PAB** feels this is unsatisfactory as discussion in the office between planners is needed. **NB** explained that the planning department are working very hard with a high number of staff vacancies. The number of vacancies is reducing with some good new planners being employed. A follow up meeting was planned but no date has been set. **PAB** will request feedback.
- **JL** attended the Bucks Council Highways Stakeholder Conference on 13th October. He gave a report which included details of the new highways contract awarded to Atkins and the new maintenance contractor Balfour Beatty.
- **JL** attended a Freight Strategy meeting with Graham Hillary and Paul Irwin on 26th September. The objective is to implement a 7.5 tonne exclusion zone within the A41, A418 and B4011 triangle. A traffic survey was conducted last January but further progress has been slow. The next steps are the traffic survey analysis, the preparation of an options paper hopefully before the end of the year, followed by an informal then statutory consultation next year.
- HCI junction project - **JL** had a meeting with designer Dan Pearson on 13th October. The design work has been delayed by Gigaclear. The design options have yet to be finalised but there is a small chance construction could start before the end of 2023 subject to finance.
- Stockwell kerbing - **JL** met with John Chegwin from Putnam on 30th July. He will requote for kerbing based on conservation kerbing. Granite setts could be double the price. He can give us a price per metre which will be valid for other locations subject only to inflation. A quote will also be needed from SLN. Councillors agreed £290 to repair the pump, this makes the overall project cost estimate £12.4k compared with £16k approved.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

11. OFFICERS' REPORTS

The two noticeboards have both been refurbished.

A meeting of the Chearsley Village Historical Society took place which was successful and well attended. A steering group will be put together for funding.

Footpath to the railway – JL chased this several times over the summer. The latest date is November before the wet weather sets in.

12. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

The pheromone traps were removed from the horse chestnut tree yesterday. This has resulted in many moths collected and the health of the tree much protected.

13. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The AGM is on 3rd November at 7.30pm. The finances are holding up.

14. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE

Nothing to report.

15. APPLICATIONS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

£35k is confirmed. We are awaiting a decision on £25k from the FCC Community Fund. The upgrade work will cost £65k and £75k has been applied for. The situation should be clear by mid-December.

16. FUTURE OF VILLAGE SHOP

KT had a meeting with Jeyan from the shop. The turnover of the shop has decreased to a third of what it was 3 years ago. The shop has been losing a lot of money each month with Jeyan taking no salary. The lease was up on the shop so the decision was made to close. There has been an increase in supermarket deliveries in the village since covid. A village survey has been drafted which will be both online and paper to ascertain the scale of support from the village for a shop. The idea of a community shop has been suggested. Jeyan will offer a delivery service to Chearsley from his Cuddington shop. The pub has also offered to stock staple items if needed.

17. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- CCTV – there are mixed views in the village. A survey will be required in order to get input from residents. People need to be made aware of the crime that is occurring in the village. Perhaps this could go on the noticeboard.
- The flagpole is currently obscured by the tree in front of it. **ACTION: IH to speak to Four Seasons about getting the branch chopped back.**
- Where the footpath has been widened by the railway, the original post holes need filling in. **ACTION: JL to speak with Rose Dale to arrange for the holes to be filled.**
- A Parishioner enquired whether the leaves from the hornbeams on the village green would be cleared. These are not affected by the leaf moths so will not be collected.

It is only the horse chestnut leaves that are affected by the leaf moths that are cleared and burned.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A budget setting meeting needs to be arranged. **ACTION: JL to organise.**

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

- Monday 21st November at 7.30pm