

## CHEARSLEY ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

### Minutes of Annual Village Meeting held in the Village Hall Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm

**Chairman:** Nic Brown, **Councillors:** John Lewis, John Howard, Martin Hearmon, **Responsible Finance Officer:** Robert Parkes, **Clerk:** Helen Spurgeon.

#### 1. Apologies

Paul Bown, Julia Witcher, Cllr Clive Harriss, Fenella Tillier.

#### 2. Welcome and presentation from Parish Council

- Nic Brown, Chairman of Chearsley Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the Annual Village Meeting. It is a meeting for the village where various village groups and the PC are able to update the village. It is distinctly different to the Parish Council AGM or a regular PC meeting.
- John Howard ran through the **PC achievements of 2018/19**. These included village maintenance of banks, trees, drains, potholes and kerb repairs. Traffic calming through new village gateways and signage. War memorial refurbishment and the provision of a new Jubilee bench and 'Silent Silhouette'. Liaison with external organisations including AVDC, BCC, Transport for Bucks, Local Area Forum, other local PCs and the Expressway Action Group.
- The **plans for 2019/20** were presented. These included compiling a list of approved contractors to carry out routine village maintenance. The continuation of traffic calming works with the review of road lining plans and Speed Sentinel checks. A study of the horse chestnut junction to look at potential measures to improve road safety. An upgrade to the Village Green with possible new kerbing. A review of repair and upkeep requirements to village footpaths. The installation of a new defibrillator in the Village Hall. The restoration of the Stockwell. To enter the Best Kept Village Bucks competition 2019.
- Robert Parkes presented the **financial report**. The main items of expenditure were drain clearance and keeping the village tidy, tree work, maintenance of village grounds, purchase of sound system and RBL 'Silent Silhouette', war memorial refurbishment and salaries, administration, insurance, village grants, etc. The year-end cash figure is healthy but funds have been allocated to the horse chestnut junction study and traffic calming works. The Chairman thanked Robert for his hard work and expertise.
- A number of **questions** were then taken from villagers regarding traffic calming. The road through the village is due to be resurfaced in the new financial year so any road lining works will have to be done after this. The horse chestnut junction study will commence shortly, the contractor has been appointed and the study will take around 3 months to complete. Following this, the recommended work would then be carried out by Transport for Bucks or a contractor. Concerns were raised over the large number of HGVs coming through the village. It was suggested that a flashing 30mph sign may help. **ACTION: This is to be discussed at the next PC meeting**. John Howard explained that Transport for Bucks are working on a new HGV strategy. The PC has had some successes with getting hauliers to avoid coming through Chearsley, those delivering to the Spitfire development in Long Crendon and Bibby Ultraframe lorries. We are approaching hauliers to be good citizens and avoid the unsuitable roads in our village. Another HGV survey will be organised.

### **3. Presentation from the Expressway Action Group**

Michael Tyce gave a presentation on the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and the impact this would have. It would lead to an increase in population within the development arc and an increase in house building with 300,000 more houses in Bucks by 2050. Three corridors were initially proposed for the expressway, with corridor B being chosen last September. There will be a public consultation this autumn on the possible routes within the chosen corridor. It is important for villages such as Chearsley to identify and document all their local 'impacts' covering key areas such as impact on the natural environment, presence of special architectural or archaeological sites, anything that will affect the choice of route of the road. Chearsley has joined the action group.

### **4. Presentations from Village Groups**

- **Neighbourhood Policing – Danny Fahy**

The team consists of 3 PCSOs and one police officer who cover 110 square miles. Chearsley have experienced some parking issues and speeding problems and there have been shed break-ins in surrounding villages. Villagers are advised not to keep any valuable items in sheds. The PCSOs have been visiting farms where more security is needed. People have been going door to door seeking and sometimes helping themselves to scrap metal – please report if seen. There is an Emergency Services Day planned for July in Quainton.

- **Village Hall – Antonia Stratford**

The bills for the build have now all been paid. The income of the Village Hall is set to triple. There are various expenses for upkeep that will need to be covered. The booking system is working well. A Village Hall signpost is needed. Keith Turnbull is taking over as treasurer. Antonia thanked the Village Hall team for all their help.

- **St Nicholas Church – Rev Richard Phillips**

Richard explained that the Church is here to serve everyone in the village. He is in Chearsley every Friday for coffee at The Bell. The Church offers a variety of services to cover all age groups. Richard thanked the team of volunteers who help at the Church.

- **Bellringers – Anne Pratt**

Anne explained that the bells belong to the village. The bellringers meet on Monday evenings and are looking for new, young recruits.

- **Allotments – Maureen Gillis**

There are 24 allotments with empty ones currently available.

- **The Bell pub – Sharon Woodford**

The Bell is under new Japanese ownership but customers won't really see any change. The pub offers a variety of events including bingo, quiz night, pie night, coffee and cake mornings, meat raffle and other special events. Sharon thanked the village for their support and also her team of staff.

- **Cricket Club – Ian Houseman**

Ian ran through a presentation on Chearsley Cricket Club with slides on the history of the club, the committee, where they play, the facilities, the role of the Cricket Club in the village, and the juniors being the future of the club. There is a quiz night on 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the Village Hall.

- **Classic and vintage fun day – Andy Yorke**

This year it will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The show has grown in size over the years. Parking will be available in Mike Heybrook's field which is a great help. Last year the event generated £6,500 for the Cricket Club.

- **Chearsley Show – Joy Payne**

This will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Volunteers are needed to help set up. If anyone is available, please contact Joy.

- **Historic Chearsley – Anne Adams**

This is a new group which met for the first time in January which is in need of more volunteers. They aim to work on a number of initiatives to reconnect the community of Chearsley with its heritage. The launch of 'Historic Chearsley' will take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June in the Village Hall. They hope to add to Ted Hooton's book and bring it up to date. The book 'Chearsley – Living through History' is now available online at [www.chearsley.com](http://www.chearsley.com) Current projects include Chearsley and The Great War, Chearsley 2020, St Nicholas Church Revisited, Chearsley Pub Revival and Chearsley School Reunion.

## 5. Open Discussion

- A villager reported that the dog poo bins are full and overflowing. **ACTION: Clerk to report to AVDC.**
- Best Kept Village Bucks competition. Mike Heybrook would like to see this changed to incorporate a top Bucks eco-village category and environmental factors. The PC fully support this and a meeting has been held with the BKVBucks committee. It is too late to make any changes to the 2019 competition but it is something that will be looked at going forward.
- A villager commented that the school bell needs to resurface. **ACTION: Chairman to look into this.**
- A villager asked about a fungal disease in horse chestnut trees. **ACTION: Ian Houseman to look at.**
- A villager asked if there will be a village fete this year. **ACTION: Chairman to meet with Angela Gray.**

## 6. Summary and closure

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and all the village groups and the Parish Council for everything that they do for the village. The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

## 7. Date of the next Annual Village Meeting

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020