

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Karen Vear (**KV**), Angela Gray (**AG**), Keith Turnbull (**KT**), John Lewis (**JL**), Nic Brown (**NB**), Paul Bown (**PAB**)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

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

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

It was commented that the jubilee bench next to the flagpole is looking sad. Councillors agreed to the repainting of the bench. **NB** reported that the new flagpole has been ordered and will be situated clear of the tree. **ACTION: IH to look at the small tree under the large tree by the war memorial.**

1. APOLOGIES

Ian Houseman (**IH**), Robert Parkes (**RP**)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL AND MAY 2023 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Planning pre-application advice.** **ACTION: PAB to draft a guidance note for publication.**
- **Square wooden posts to protect verges.** **NB** has photographed 2 or 3 locations in the village where these could be trialled. The cost is £150 per post. **ACTION: NB to circulate more details.**
- **Kings Cross junction safety study.** A request has been received from Haddenham and Cuddington PCs for a contribution of £1500 towards a study to improve the safety of the Kings Cross junction on the A418. Councillors support the request in principle but the PC needs to check how the money can be donated. **ACTION: NB to find out how the PC can donate the money.**
- **Coronation bench.** **ACTION: KT to investigate purchase of bench.**
- **Glass front for village hall noticeboard.** **ACTION: JH to chase quote.**
- **CCTV in village.** The quote has come in at £16,000. **ACTION: KT to look at what work is involved in the project.**

5. PLANNING

- **23/01157/APP – Tree Tops, Watts Green, Chearsley HP18 ODD**
A site visit took place and comments were submitted that have been taken into consideration.
- **23/01363/APP – 2 Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 ODH**
A site visit will take place on Friday at 10.30am.
- **23/01492/APP - Land Adj Chearsley Hill House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 ODN**
ACTION: Councillors to look at the planning application online to see if a site visit is necessary.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received asking about the possibility of a pavement extension down Aylesbury Road to join up with the footpaths through the fields. The suggestion was discussed but it is unrealistic as there is no funding available from Bucks Council.

An email was received from a member of the public regarding a vehicle collision with a boulder. The matter was raised at the meeting and is being dealt with by the insurers.

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Year-end

Other than an acknowledgement of receipt, there has been no response from PKF, the Council's auditors.

Income

See 'Mugs' below. There has been no other income in the month.

Payments

There has been a number of unscheduled payments in the month:

- N Brown, £332, refurbishment of village furniture
- Four Seasons, £660,
- T Audley, £205.

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £102,407.

Mugs

The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of mugs as gifts to village children to mark the King's recent coronation.

An initial 80 mugs were purchased, plus an additional 3 to cover 'latecomers'. The total cost of these was £824. Surplus mugs were sold off at the Village celebrations, and raised £260, (with an additional £10 to come), and there is one mug remaining.

This gives a net cost to the village of £554.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

JL reported on the HGV project. The report has been finalised and is ready to go out to public consultation.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- Enough people have now signed up to restart Speedwatch. Longer life batteries are needed for the SIDs. A budget of £400 was agreed for this. **ACTION: KT to investigate the purchase of the batteries.**
- An action point from the AVM was to investigate the lowering of the speed limit in the lanes. **ACTION: Clerk to add to agenda for July meeting. DI to provide information for discussion.**
- **JH** reported that the Historical Society met last week. The next meeting is in October. Good progress is being made.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Strimming of footpath across Lowergreen Farm – this will be discussed in a face to face meeting with the landowner.

A trees and verges report has been circulated to councillors:

Verges

As yet, the verges of Chearsley have not been cut back but Bucks Council will be asked to start trimming later in July. Some trimming has already taken place on School Lane (BC) and the area around the Stockwell has been trimmed twice (Tom Audley).

Trees

The hedges on the bottom end of Dark Lane have been cut back by Four Seasons Tree Care. The Walnut tree at the junction of School Lane and Dark Lane is scheduled for a major trim of the branches overhanging the junction (an area much used for car parking). This will also take place in July (on the advice of Four Seasons the work will be delayed until the Walnut sap has finished rising).

An Elderberry tree on School Lane (by the Old School House) will be removed as soon as possible. The tree is festooned by ivy to the point that it is being rapidly overcome and is presenting a risk to traffic and passers-by. There have been reports of delivery vehicle drivers refusing to drive past the tree.

There is overgrowth that is overhanging the highway on Lower Green Lane and Dark Lane. **ACTION: KV and AG to contact IH to see if Tom Audley can trim it back.**

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

KT is organising signage for the new play area. Bird spikes will be installed to try and prevent bird droppings on the new play equipment.

A quote has been received for audio-visual equipment in the village hall. Grants will need to be explored to fund this.

It was agreed that the village hall hedges need trimming on the outside by the footpath.

The defibrillator is being sent away for an update, organised by **KT**. It was requested for Kevin Dennington (First Responder) to run some more defibrillator/CPR training sessions.

13. TO REVIEW ALL PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

Councillors are to review the following policies by the next meeting:

Code of Conduct – **PAB**

Equalities – **AG**

Finance – **RP**

Purchasing – **RP**

Complaints – **DI**

Health & Safety – **KV**

Privacy – **JH**

Standing Orders – **JL**

ACTION: Clerk to add to agenda for July meeting to finalise policies.

14. HCI JUNCTION UPDATE

No update.

15. TOWN AND PARISH SURVEY

NB and **JL** agreed to meet to draft a response to the survey on behalf of the PC. Deadline for responses is 31st July.

16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

Kevin Dennington, Derek Allen and **PAB** will meet to discuss Stockwell planting and the ongoing management of the pond.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There is a box of books and other items in the bus shelter. **ACTION: NB to request they are removed.**

Councillors agreed to expenditure of £8.10 per annum to join the BMKALC Employee Assistance Programme.

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

- Monday 17th July at 7.30pm