

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

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

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

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

Parishioners: There were 3 Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner enquired about the removal of the old flagpole holder. Councillors agreed for the work to be carried out by Kevin Dennington.

1. APOLOGIES

Paul Bown (PAB)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Small tree by war memorial.** This will remain in its current location.
- **SID batteries.** The experimental purchase of a longer life battery was agreed.
- **Gov.uk email account for PC.** ACTION: JL to check if .org email address is ok and then purchase one.
- **HCI Junction Project.** ACTION: JL to find out how much the detailed designs would cost.
- **War memorial area.** ACTION: JH to obtain quote for replacement Chearsley flag.

5. BIODIVERSITY

An email was received from BALC on 15th December informing Parish Councils of their duty to consider within their powers, what actions and policies are put in place to consider biodiversity. A model template biodiversity policy was attached to the email. This is something which needs to be brainstormed as a lot of action is already being taken in Chearsley to enhance biodiversity. A separate project group would need to be set up led by someone in the village. ACTION: JL to post an advert on the new website asking for volunteers within the village to be involved in a biodiversity group.

6. WOODEN ROADSIDE BOLLARDS

- **Convex mirror.** Councillors discussed the installation of a 3-foot convex mirror to aid people turning right out of the first right hand turning in Chearsley when coming from Long Crendon. It was suggested that the mirror be fixed to a pole. Councillors agreed to the purchase of a 3-foot mirror at a cost of £282.
- **Wooden Roadside Bollards.**
DI had circulated to the PC some quotes for the supply of bollards (approx. 200) to line the approaches to the village and protect some of the verges in the lanes, along with maps showing suggested locations. The lowest cost for the supply and installation of 200 bollards is £24,184. Councillors discussed the proposal. It was suggested that it would be better to start with a small area, perhaps Winchendon Road and ask the residents their views. **ACTION: DI to prepare a more specific brief with precise costings for Winchendon Road and to leaflet drop the affected residents to get their views.**

7. WADDESDON FREIGHT ZONE

Buckinghamshire Council has announced a major public consultation seeking local views on proposed measures to reduce the number of heavy vehicles using unsuitable country roads in our area. The routes through Chearsley would be amongst those to benefit if these measures are adopted. The consultation runs from 8 January to 17 February and full details are available from Bucks Council at: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/waddesdon-area-freight-zone-consultation/>

This information has gone out on Chearsley News and there is literature available to take away. The PC urges everyone to fill out the survey. **ACTION: JL to send out a reminder nearer the deadline.**

8. PLANNING

- **23/03526/APP Sycamore View, The Green, Chearsley HP18 0DJ**
Conversion of 1 ground floor room to residential and minor external changes. CPC had commissioned a survey which concluded that there was virtually no prospect of the village shop re-opening and offered no objections to the application.
- **23/03156/APP – Wheyside, The Green, Chearsley HP18 0DJ**
Replacement of dwelling (Wheyside) and erection of new dwelling in rear garden with associated landscaping and parking.
A further comment was submitted by CPC on this application.
- **23/03938/APP - Tower View Cottage, Bottom Orchard, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DF**
Householder application for single storey side extension (amendment to approval 23/02127/APP).
No objections were submitted to Bucks Council.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received regarding 3 questions from the November minutes:

1. The £23,000 spent on Church Lane was for kerbing, fully approved by the PC.

2. The £500 contribution to the Ramblers Association was for a footpath gate on footpath 4 towards Cuddington Mill to improve footpath access for all users.
3. A request was received for the PC to oppose the Wheyside planning application. The PC has submitted a further comment. The public can submit their own comments via the Bucks Council website.

Correspondence was received regarding the Wheyside planning application by a resident who felt it was overdevelopment of the conservation area and would like it putting before the full planning committee at Bucks Council. It was suggested that the resident emails Andy McDougall at Bucks Council planning with his concerns.

10. FINANCE

- **Monthly finance report**

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Income

There was no income in the month.

Payments

There have been a number of payments in the month:

SLCC £146.00, Annual subscriptions

The Bell £66.00, refreshments for the 'tree team'

Four Seasons £1,686.00, tree work

Waitrose £6.50, stationary

The balance at the bank, at the end of the month, was £84,527.

Correction: in the October report, a payment, £222.84, was described as being for repairs to the salt bins. This should have been refurbishment of the Village Noticeboard.

- **Approval of budget and precept request for 2024/25**

The Parish Council agrees and adopts the budget for 2024/25 which is attached to these minutes. The Council notes that this budget includes a Precept for the year of £38,000. The Council has not increased the Precept for 3 years running.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

None.

12. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

13. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- **JH** thanked the poppy sellers who collected £870. The Historical Society is having an open meeting on 22nd February where there will be a presentation on the Great Train Robbery. On 19th May there will be a Cheersley Pub Revival Day. 7th September is the Village Show and 8th September is the Car Show.
- **AA** reported that it is too wet to work on the footpaths at the moment. The path by the donkeys is very muddy. **ACTION: AA and NB to meet and discuss.**

The footpath sign by the Stockwell, pointing along farmyard path, needs replacing. **JH** offered to carry out an audit of signs in the village. It was suggested that a second finger pointing sign might be installed opposite The Forge. **ACTION: NB to look into.**

- **RP** suggested that the PC's achievements should be better publicised. This has been done at the AVM in the past. **ACTION: RP to bring proforma along to March meeting.**

14. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

The PC is waiting on the detail of the devolution scheme from Bucks Council. Tom Audley will continue to work for the PC in the coming year.

15. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The AGM will take place on 1st February and will be publicised. There are vacancies for 4 more trustees. Kevin Dennington is doing work on the upkeep of the Village Hall.

16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner asked whether hedging had been considered rather than wooden bollards. Hedging would require ongoing maintenance so is a less favourable option.

17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None.

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

- Monday 19th February at 7.30pm

| Budget 2024/25 Draft 4 (for formal approval) | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Main Headings | Income (£) | Expenditure (£) |
| Sub-headings | | |
| Opening Balance (predicted at Dec 23) | 81000 | |
| Comprising: | | |
| HCI Fund | 37000 | |
| Kerbing | 15000 | |
| General Fund | 29000 | |
| Income | | |
| Precept | 38000 | |
| Other Income | 6200 | |
| VAT | 5000 | |
| Devolved Services Funding | 1200 | |
| Other | 0 | |
| Expenditure | | |
| Administration | | 9000 |
| Includes salaries and other administration | | |
| Grounds Maintenance | | 11500 |
| Grass Cutting | | 1500 |
| Village Trees | | 3400 |
| Verges & Banks | | 3500 |
| Devolved verge cutting | | 2400 |
| Dog & Salt Bins | | 700 |
| Hard Maintenance | | 3600 |
| General Maintenance | | 3000 |
| Footpaths & Gates | | 600 |
| Village Events | | 1200 |
| Christmas & Remembrance | | 1200 |
| Other | | 0 |
| Grants | | 2000 |
| Charitable (s.137 - max amount per elector) | | 2000 |
| Project & One-Off Items | | 33000 |
| Signs in village centre | | 1500 |
| Verge edge protection (kerbing, posts, etc) | | 30000 |
| Other | | 1500 |
| Totals | 44200 | 60300 |
| Closing Balance | 64900 | |
| Comprising: | | |
| HCI Fund | 37000 | |
| Other | 0 | |
| General Fund | 27900 | |

NOTE: Sub-headings Income & Expenditure are indicative only