

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2021 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AT 7.30PM WITH LIVE STREAM ON YOUTUBE

PRESENT

Councillors: Nic Brown (**NB**), Julia Witcher (**JW**), Martin Hearmon (**MH**), Keith Turnbull (**KT**), John Howard (**JH**), Paul Bown (**PAB**), John Lewis (**JL**)

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

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Ian Houseman, Anthony Adams

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2020 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Path by donkey field.** **NB** has been corresponding with Terry Gadsby regarding the state of this footpath but he is still waiting for a response.
- **Dog Incident.** **NB** has followed this up with the parishioner who raised the query.
- **Speeding.** The incident with the VW Golf speeding has been resolved.
- **Cycle routes.** **ACTION: JH** to circulate to the PC and Mike Heybrook the report from Haddenham PC regarding a potential cycleway from Haddenham to Thame.
- **Footpath signs.** A few need replacing. **ACTION: Anthony Adams** to circulate list to councillors.
- **Chearsley Business Directory.** So far a dozen people have signed up.
- **Walnut tree at the top of Shupps Lane.** 4 Seasons have confirmed that it is not necessary to prune this tree at present, this has been communicated to the Grists via email.
- **'Road liable to flooding' sign on Chilton Road.** **JW** has requested via 'Fix My Street' that the sign be lowered. **ACTION: NB** to write to Mr and Mrs Mole to thank them for the work they have done regarding the flooding here.

5. PLANNING

19/01949/APP Longhouse, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH

The PC OPPOSES the application. This has been submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. Full details are available on the BC website.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- An email was received from a parishioner regarding parking at the top of Lower School Lane. **It is requested that people do not park on the pavements at the top of Lower School Lane.** It is dangerous for pedestrians to walk in the road, especially after dark. **ACTION: NB to produce a leaflet to remind residents to park with care.**
- An email was received from a parishioner regarding signs on the green. This was dealt with at the last meeting. It was suggested that the resident may wish to speak to Buckinghamshire Council. The majority of councillors are in favour of what was agreed at the last meeting.

7. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

- **Income**

The sum of £874.09 has been paid into the Council's bank account. This is the balance of the old Village Trust account, which has been handed to the Council, pending the opening of a new Trust Account. In due course, this together with the £6,000 received last month will be transferred back to the Trust.

- **Payments**

In the last month, the following payments have been made:

2844.00	Four Seasons
33.64	R Parkes
12.00	CVH
28.78	Zoom
118.08	Genus - hedging

There is one further payment pending, awaiting the Council's approval, £125.94, (road signs).

At the end of January, there was £67,000 in the bank account, of which £6,874.04 is held on behalf of the Village Trust.

Updated financial procedures and procurement procedures were approved.

Approval was given for the purchase of 2 x signs for flooding at the bridge on Chilton Road.

Draft year end accounts will be produced for the next meeting.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- The Community Board freight group meeting takes place tomorrow.
- **JH** and Ian Houseman have attended the last 2 meetings of the No Expressway Group. The main cause for concern is the additional housing in the government's Spatial Plan. This is something we will need to keep up to date with.
- **JH** attended the TfB Transport Focus Group which is reviewing the 'Fix My Street' website. We are actively engaging with this and doing our best to highlight the state

of the Aylesbury Road which is work in progress. **NB** thanked **JH** for all his work in this area.

- Ian Houseman reported on the Community Board environment and green spaces group who are trying to establish a network of libraries for borrowing unused items. Ian also attended a meeting of the local nature recovery strategy for Bucks, a note will be circulated with more detail.
- **KT** reported that the village hall has received a grant of £1800 towards the playground refurbishment. He thanked the PC for their support with this. More work needs to be done on the playground.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

- **Dog bins.** It was unanimously agreed that no further dog bins were needed at present.
- **Flooding under the bridge Chilton Road.** It was agreed to purchase signs and a depth gauge. Anthony Adams was given approval to purchase the gauge. The signs will need to be marked as property of the PC. **ACTION: JW to source PC ownership stickers. ACTION: NB to chase delivery of hi-vis sand bags ordered on Amazon.**
- **Footpaths and gates.** There has been some concern in the village over footpaths, particularly the one which goes from Church Lane steps to the railway. **NB** has spoken with Rose Dale about the issue. The paths have become difficult to use because of the weather and there is concern over the barbed wire on the fencing if someone were to fall. A note outlining our concerns, to be sent to Rose Dale and copied to Mike Heybrook, has been circulated to councillors. We accept they are the landowners but ask them to consider the views of residents. The fencing spoils the natural landscape and the walkway is very narrow. Rose is considering the use of woodchips on the path and wooden rails to cover the barbed wire. Councillors agreed that the final draft of the correspondence to Rose will include a request to increase the width of the paths.

Stiles and gates in the village had been discussed. Some are not keen on metal gates and problems had been reported with stiles being difficult to use for some and the wire to stop dogs from getting through stiles was also an issue. Perhaps wooden kissing gates or stiles as low as possible with no wire could be a solution.

The iron fence that is being erected by Network Rail by the railway line is a separate issue. This is being looked into by Ian Kelly, assistant to Greg Smith MP.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

None.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

The planting of a native hedge at Hicks Path will be done at 10am tomorrow morning.

12. FENCING AROUND LOCAL FIELDS

Covered under agenda item 9

13. PARKING IN SHUPPS LANE

This refers to the vehicle parked on the corner of Watts Green and Shupps Lane. VAHT want to dig up the bank to create a parking space. The PC have sent a letter stating our opposition and the reasons behind it. The resident has been informed. **NB** will also try to speak to the resident. The PC are mindful of the parking difficulties in the village and are happy to work with VAHT to find a resolution.

14. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

15. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Further damage has been done to the horse chestnut junction. Witnesses report that it was caused by an Arriva 280 bus but their evidence states that it was not carried out by their bus. If anyone sees any incidents such as this please do take photographs. Verge repairs will need to be carried out.
- CCTV for the village is currently a low priority. A control room visit needs to be arranged.
- There has not been much progress with the Chearsley Carbon Neutral Working Group as **KT** has been very busy.
- Derek Allen is drafting an 'initial ideas' document for the Stockwell restoration project.
- It may be feasible to hold the Annual Village Meeting via Zoom. Councillors supported this idea. It will need to be decided how to handle questions. **ACTION: JL to arrange a separate meeting to discuss the AVM.**
- Anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor is encouraged to put their name forward. The deadline for submitting nomination papers is 8th April.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 15th March at 7.30pm by Zoom videoconference with live YouTube feed.