

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Councillors: Nic Brown (NB), Angela Gray (AG), John Lewis (JL), Ian Houseman (IH), Julia Witcher (JW)

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams, John Howard

Parishioners: There were no Parishioners

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A Parishioner commented that the double-decker bus that is parked in the village is causing difficulty for drivers pulling out of School Lane. **ACTION: NB to speak with resident.**

1. APOLOGIES

Keith Turnbull (KT), Paul Bown (PAB)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2021 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Planned roadworks for Dark Lane.** These are due to happen this financial year. **NB** has emailed Bucks Council for an update.
- **Bucks Best Kept Village competition.** This is unlikely to go ahead this year.
- **VALP.** 3 copies of the VALP have now been delivered. Councillors are requested to send any feedback directly to Bucks Council.
- **'Save Our Surgery'.** **NB** has spoken with MP Greg Smith and the Long Crendon Parish Clerk. Work has now started and we are hoping for a positive outcome.
- **Purchase of SID for Winchendon Road.** **ACTION: KT to apply to the Community Board for a grant.**
- **Stockwell Project.** **ACTION: NB to write a thank you note to Putnams for their work.**
- **AVM and AGM.** The AGM will form part of the May PC meeting as usual. Monday 30th May was suggested as a provisional date for the AVM.

5. PLANNING

- **21/04850/APP - The Forge, Aylesbury Road, Chearsley HP18 0BS**

This application has yet to be reviewed. **ACTION: NB to contact the case officer for a week's extension to the comment date.**

- A new planning application for Grove Farm was received after the publication of the agenda. Comments are due 11th February.
- **21/04537/APP - The Old Granary, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**
NO OBJECTONS were submitted to Bucks Council.
- **21/04175/APP - 3 Stoney Furlong, Chearsley HP18 0PF**
NO OBJECTONS were submitted to Bucks Council.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

An email from a parishioner regarding the gabion that has been put in at the Stockwell was read out. A response to the email was sent by John Howard on behalf of the PC.

7. FINANCE

- The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

Income

A sum of £8,000 was received in December, being Bucks Council contribution to the Stockwell project.

Payments in the month

The following payments, not already specifically authorised by the Council, were made in November:

Christmas Tree	£195.00
Bucks Council	£561.90, (dog bins)
SLCC	£130.00
HMRC	£51.00

Salary payments have now been regularised. DCK will calculate the monthly payments due to employees and HMRC. A standing order, £30/month, has been set up to cover their fees.

At the end of the month, the bank account stood at £83,660, (incl funds held on behalf of the Village Trust).

Progress against budget in the first nine months

Income:

Income for the period was £45,025. This includes the precept of £35,000, contributions from Bucks Council, £8,000, and a VAT refund.

Expenditure:

In total, expenditure has reached £27,350. The major items have been the Stockwell Project, £10,620, the purchase of two speed cameras/SIDs, £5,880, Salaries and Admin, £6,250, and Grounds maintenance £4,464, (inc. gates).

- The Village Trust bank account has been re-established. The original funds held by the PC, on behalf of the Trust, and the £6,000 grant from VAHT will be paid to the Village Trust.
- **Approval of budget for 2022/23**
The Parish Council agrees and adopts the budget for 2022/23 that was produced at an informal meeting held on 13 December 2021 and that is attached to these minutes. The Council notes that this budget includes a Precept for the year of £38,000.

NB thanked RP and JL for all their work on the budget.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- IH has been attending 'Stop the Arc' meetings and reported that Greg Smith has produced a video saying he is against the sentiments of the Arc. Bucks Council also oppose the Arc.
- NB reported that he has been spending time in Ickford and Haddenham. A lot of work is going on in planning. Councillors are being tough on plans and trying to increase the percentage of social housing in new developments. There are problems with housing and drainage in Ickford with plans to improve the drainage.

9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- With regards to the footpath's across Rose Dale's land, JL is waiting for the contact details of the fencing company.
- John Howard reported that he is working on plans to launch the Stockwell and the heritage of the village to the public.
- A village information point/community library, possibly in a red phone box, was discussed.
- The noticeboard is in need of repair. John Howard will get quotes to repair.
- John Howard has circulated an email about updating the Chearsley Business Directory and if we wish to do anything further with it. One suggestion is for residents to offer voluntary advice in specific areas, this could perhaps be done through the Chearsley Good Neighbour Scheme. John Howard will ask the businesses in the directory if they have had many new enquiries as a result of the directory.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

The 3 hornbeams have now been trimmed.

The quote for the cleaning up of Farmyard Path is for £1950. IH suggests seeding it with a grassy mix and then getting a contractor to maintain it. Councillors agreed the quote.

ACTION: Anthony Adams to put in a request with Bucks Council for steps in the entrance to Farmyard Path from Dark Lane.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

No update.

13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE

The January event is being postponed to March. The thermal imaging exercise is going ahead this week as planned.

14. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

It was discussed that the PC could support and perhaps make a contribution towards an event in the village. It is likely that the Church and The Bell will hold events. Councillors will enquire about any plans in the village and report back at the next meeting.

15. UPDATE ON CHURCH LANE KERBING (part of the Stockwell project)

JL has chased the contact at Bucks Council regarding the kerbing but has not had a response. The next step is a feasibility study.

16. HCI JUNCTION PROJECT UPDATE

The next step is an underground survey which is scheduled for next Monday.

17. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The first meeting of the Village Trust will take place soon.

The PC annual dinner at The Bell will be rescheduled for 28th February or a date in March.

The PC is looking for a volunteer to be a Grants Officer, responsible for researching grants that are available to fund projects.

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

- Monday 21st February at 7.30pm

Chearsley Parish Council Budget 2022/23

Item	Income £	Expenditure £	£	Notes																
Opening Balance			72,250	Estimated Balance at end March 2022 comprises: <table border="0"> <tr><td>HCI Fund</td><td>£</td><td>32,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Stockwell Kerbing</td><td>£</td><td>11,300</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Kerbing</td><td>£</td><td>6,300</td></tr> <tr><td>Available Cash</td><td>£</td><td>22,250</td></tr> </table>	HCI Fund	£	32,000	Stockwell Kerbing	£	11,300	Other Kerbing	£	6,300	Available Cash	£	22,250				
HCI Fund	£	32,000																		
Stockwell Kerbing	£	11,300																		
Other Kerbing	£	6,300																		
Available Cash	£	22,250																		
Income																				
Precept	38,000			Increased to meet planned spend and give acceptable end year free cash																
Other	3,000			VAT refund																
Expenditure																				
Regular items																				
1 Administration		8,800		Salaries, insurance, audit, training, hall hire, subscriptions, professional fees, etc																
2 Grounds maintenance		8,000		Contractor payments, dog & salt bins, trees and grass cutting																
3 Upkeep of footpaths & gates		2,500		Gates, upgrade signage																
4 Minor maintenance		1,500		Notice Board, Drains if required																
5 Events		2,500		Remembrance day, Christmas, Jubilee, Chearsley Carbon Neutral																
6 Grants		1,500		Includes LC surgery. (s.137 provision - max £8.32/elector)																
Projects & One-Off items																				
7 Signage in village centre		1,000		Pedestrian direction signs village centre																
8 Playground equipment		2,000		Sharing with VH needs agreeing. May fall into 2021/22																
9 HCI Junction improvements		-		Assumed unlikely to be achieved until next year. Funds in reserve if required.																
10 Kerbing		18,000		Church Lane from Shupps Lane to Bottom Orchard, Dek Lane?																
11 Other kerbing				Dark Lane?																
12 Parking		9,000		Church Lane space by Manor Farm cottages																
13 Current SID upgrades		5,400		SID #4 and addition of Solar panels to SIDs #1 & #2.																
14 Other		1,000		Enabling funds for CCTV and Historical Society																
Total Income	41,000																			
Total Expenditure		61,200																		
Closing Balance			52,050	Closing Balance comprises: <table border="0"> <tr><td>HCI Fund</td><td>£</td><td>37,000</td><td>Increased by £3000</td></tr> <tr><td>Stockwell Kerbing</td><td></td><td></td><td>Assumed spent</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Kerbing</td><td></td><td></td><td>Assumed spent</td></tr> <tr><td>Available Cash</td><td>£</td><td>15,050</td><td></td></tr> </table>	HCI Fund	£	37,000	Increased by £3000	Stockwell Kerbing			Assumed spent	Other Kerbing			Assumed spent	Available Cash	£	15,050	
HCI Fund	£	37,000	Increased by £3000																	
Stockwell Kerbing			Assumed spent																	
Other Kerbing			Assumed spent																	
Available Cash	£	15,050																		