

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 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

- A parishioner reported that the entrance of Hicks Path, near the top end of Dark Lane is worn away and on a slope and asked if it can be levelled and tarmacked. Anthony Adams has put in a request via Fix My Street.
- An email was received from a parishioner regarding right of way gates, asking if the PC could remove the wire at the stile between the church field and **PAB**'s field and also clear and mend the stile alongside the hedge on the left, halfway down the field leading from the bottom of Lower School Lane. Anthony Adams has cut back the vegetation and reports that the stile will either need to be repaired or replaced with a gate. The wire is to stop dogs getting through and could be removed as there is no livestock in the field. **PAB** will speak to Rose regarding repairing the stile.
NB reported that he had been in touch with Rosemary regarding the path from the churchyard exit up to the new gate that links to the muddy path across the railway bridge. Some form of gate would be acceptable with signs to keep dogs on leads or fencing may be installed to protect the livestock.
NB also gave an update on the tree planted area that Rose put in that links to **PAB**'s field. A gate could be put in the first area, **PAB** would prefer a wooden gate.
ACTION: NB to talk to Terry Gadsby regarding levelling off of the path by the donkey fields and perhaps putting down wood chippings as it is muddy, wet and slippery.
- An email was received from a parishioner regarding an incident with a dog. The email had been circulated to councillors who agreed that it was not a PC matter. **ACTION: NB to follow up with the parishioner who raised the query.**
- An email had been received today regarding the possibility of VAHT creating a parking space at 6 Church Lane by cutting into the bank of Shupps Lane. **NB** has contacted Jon Hobbs at VAHT to seek further information and investigate. The PC is keen to protect the sunken lanes.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2020 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **Muddy footpath** from Church Lane to the railway and onto Notley. **NB** reported that Rosemary is considering putting down wood chippings on the path.
- **Cycle routes.** **ACTION: NB** to circulate the report from Haddenham PC regarding a potential cycleway from Haddenham to Thame.
- **Footpath signs.** **ACTION: Anthony Adams** to check if any footpath signs need replacing.
- **Village Signposts.** **ACTION: NB** to complete the appropriate form to request new pedestrian signs.
- **Smaller bin lorries in the lanes.** Trees in Dark Lane are being damaged by the large bin lorries, a parishioner enquired whether it was possible for the council to use smaller lorries. **ACTION: Anthony Adams** to photograph the smaller bin lorry which he has seen in the lanes. **ACTION: NB** to contact refuse at Bucks Council.
- **Drains.** **JH** reported that he had a good meeting with Colin Woolford. The problems in Lower Green Lane and Church Lane have been reported on Fix My Street but we are still waiting for them to be fixed.
- **SID.** The outstanding pole on Crendon Road has now been installed.

5. PLANNING

- **20/04036/APP The Old Farmhouse, The Green, Chearsley HP18 0DJ**
No objections were submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. Full details are available on the BC website.
- **20/03747/APP Callanish, 2 Willow Gate, Chearsley HP18 0BL**
No objections were submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. Full details are available on the BC website.
- **19/01949/APP Longhouse, Church Lane, Chearsley HP18 0DH**
This planning application was received after the publication of the agenda. Comments are due 11th February.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from a parishioner requesting that the blue lottery sign belonging to the shop is removed from the green. The email explained that there is already a lottery sign in front of the shop and that the green is in a conservation area. By a majority vote it was agreed for the sign to remain on the green. It was discussed that the small lottery sign in front of the shop cannot be seen by passing traffic and that the sign on the green does help bring business to the shop.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BC COUNCILLORS

There is still some uncertainty as to whether elections will go ahead this May or be postponed. It was agreed to remove 'contributions from BC councillors' as a regular agenda item.

8. FINANCE

The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

- **Income**

The sum of £6,000 has been received from VAHT, on account of the development on Winchendon Road. For the time being, this is being held in the general account. Once the Village Trust bank account is open, this money plus the money from the old Village Trust bank account will be transferred to the new account for the Village Trust to decide how to disperse it. This action was agreed by a councillor vote.

- **Payments**

In the last two months, the following payments have been made:

G King	£1,325.00
S Timberlake	£394.55
Traffic Technology	£739.20
T Audley	£460.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	£100.00
SLCC	£126.00
AVDC	£436.22
J Witcher (Christmas tree)	£190.00
N Brown	£59.50
British Gas	£34.97

At the end of December, there was £69,500 in the bank account.

- **Budget and Precept 2021/22**

Following agreement on the Budget 2021/22, the resulting precept request has been submitted.

- **Procedures**

Updated financial procedures and draft procurement procedures have been circulated to councillors. It was agreed that for large potential contracts over £3000 a minimum of 2 quotes need to be obtained.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

KT attended the Community Board environment and green spaces group. This focusses on environment, wildlife and green spaces. The minutes will be circulated once they are available.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION

None.

11. OFFICERS' REPORTS

None.

12. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

Verges continued to be damaged by lorries going over banks and cutting corners. Everyone is asked to be vigilant and take photographs if they see any damage being incurred.

The outstanding tree work was completed by Four Seasons in December.

Two pieces of correspondence have been received regarding the work that was carried out in Hicks Path. One from a parishioner expressing satisfaction and another asking for clarification about the work that was carried out. The matter was initially raised by a resident because the trees were rubbing on her roof. Several meetings were held, including one with the contractor. The work is in the conservation area so notices were posted and it was discussed at PC meetings. Cutting the tops of the trees would not resolve the problem. When the trees were taken down, the undergrowth came with them leading to the area looking messy and unappealing. The hedge will start to reform but councillors agreed to carry out some further planting of small saplings.

13. HCI JUNCTION UPDATE

Bucks Councillors are in favour of the project. It is now with TfB for them to evaluate the cost and feasibility of the proposal. We now need to communicate to the Community Board our preference for option 3.

14. HS2 UPDATE

This is something which the PC will keep an eye on with regards to impacts on Chearsley. HGV traffic will deliver materials to the 3 local compounds. These vehicles are restricted to the A418 and should not come through Chearsley but this needs to be monitored. **JH** will register the PC with the official HS2 website. **JH** and **JL** will join the Community Board HS2 group.

15. CHEARSLEY BUSINESSES DIRECTORY

The idea of establishing a Chearsley Business Directory to support local businesses was discussed. Anyone who is a resident of Chearsley and runs their own business in the village will be invited to join. Research will be needed to find those businesses who are happy to appear on the list. Councillors agreed to go ahead with the initiative. **ACTION: JH to draft note for circulation to the village.**

16. CHEARSLEY REPRESENTATION ON H&W COMMUNITY BOARD 'CYCLING AND WALKING' SUB-GROUP

A 'Chearsley Cycling Action Group' (CCAG) has been set up by Mike Heybrook and Andy White. It will keep a keen interest in local issues around cycling. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Michael Heybrook at mheybrook@gmail.com. The PC have asked Michael to represent Chearsley on the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board 'Cycling & Walking' Sub-Group.

17. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL WORKING GROUP

Councillors agreed to give their support to and look at the output from the Chearsley Carbon Neutral Working Group. Members of the group are **KT**, **JL**, Derek Allen and Ian Houseman. Updates will be given on a monthly basis at the PC meeting. The Terms of Reference document has been circulated.

18. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

- A parishioner expressed their support for the shop. Councillors agreed.

- The Gristis requested an update on the pruning of the walnut tree opposite their property at the top of Shupps Lane. Some work was carried out in December to prevent the tree from rubbing on the telephone wires but the Gristis would like further work carrying out to reduce the tree in size. If the tree is to be cut back to where it was 5 or 6 years ago, it will need to be confirmed that this will not damage the tree. **ACTION: Ian Houseman to discuss with 4 Seasons.**

19. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- The 'road liable to flooding' sign on Chilton Road needs to be lowered so that it can easily be used. **ACTION: JW to report on 'Fix My Street'.**
- Derek and Jackie Allen have volunteered to lead the project to restore the historic Stockwell site. The first step will be exploratory works, the Stockwell will need to be pumped out to look at the brickwork. A plan can then be formulated. The PC would like to thank Mr and Mrs Allen. It may be possible to apply for heritage grants. Village volunteers may also be called upon.
- The SID will be moved to Winchendon Road this week. It was reported that traffic slowed down more with the display on. Positive feedback has been received on the SID progress.
- Expenditure was approved for the purchase of 2 wooden gates at up to £400 per gate.

20. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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