

# CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT  
7.30PM

## PRESENT

Councillors: Nic Brown (NB), Keith Turnbull (KT), Paul Bown (PAB), Angela Gray (AG), John Lewis (JL), Ian Houseman (IH)

Responsible Finance Officer: Robert Parkes (RP)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams, John Howard, Tim Bradley (joined at 8.06pm)

Parishioners: There were no Parishioners

## PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

An update was requested on the roadworks planned for Dark Lane. The works were postponed from September as a number of residents were worried about access in and out of their properties. The works will happen this financial year. **ACTION: NB to enquire with Bucks Council and circulate response.**

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Julia Witcher (JW)

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no interests declared.

### **3. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2021 MINUTES**

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

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- **Bucks Best Kept Village competition. ACTION: NB to enquire whether this will go ahead in 2022.**
- **VALP. ACTION: Councillors to read the VALP.** We are currently awaiting the delivery of 3 copies of the VALP from Bucks Council.

### **5. PLANNING**

- **21/04090/APP - 3 Bernards Close, Chearsley HP18 0BX**

A site visit took place. The property is immediately adjacent to the Conservation area, but in the opinion of the PC the proposals will not have any material effect on any of the adjoining properties within the Conservation area. Visually, the proposed pitched roof above the porch provides a better balance to the front elevations than the existing flat roof. The loss of the garage may lead to a potential parking issue so

the PC defer to the Highways department to confirm that the parking provisions meet Policy T5 parking standards. NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council.

- **21/04175/APP - 3 Stoney Furlong, Chearsley HP18 OPF**

Householder application to convert half double garage into office space. Comments are due 6<sup>th</sup> December. This application is yet to be reviewed.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 7. FINANCE

- The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

**Payments in the month.** There were three payments made in the month, not previously approved by the Parish Council:

HMRC            £647.31

VALP            £66.48 (purchase of literature)

DCK            £160.00 (payroll administrators)

With immediate effect, payroll transactions, including HMRC, will be handled on the Parish Council's behalf, by a third party.

**Budget preparation.** In order for the Precept to be submitted in January, an approved budget is required. Work has already started on scoping out the projects likely to form part of the 2022/23 plan, in order to allow a budget to be submitted to the December meeting.

- £8,400 has been paid for the Stockwell Project.
- A meeting was held this afternoon to start the budget process. There are a number of projects in the existing budget that will continue into next year and a number of new projects. **JL** and **RP** will work on the budget for the December meeting so that the PC can set the precept. It was noted that Bucks Council are passing more and more responsibility onto Parish Councils.
- We are still awaiting the opening of an account for the Village Trust. The bank has made several errors, a complaint has been made and £350 compensation offered.
- **ACTION: NB to update the PC on the situation with 'Save our Surgery'.**
- It was agreed by councillors to purchase a SID for Winchendon Road at a cost of approximately £2,500. **ACTION: KT to apply to the Community Board for a grant.**

## 8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING MEETINGS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- **JL** gave an update on the freight group who are engaging with business parks in the area. **JL**, Graham Hillary and the chairman of Westcott PC had a positive meeting with Westcott Business Park who have agreed to arrange a meeting with their freight operators. Further work is being done to gather evidence for HGV exclusion zones. Graham Hillary from Bucks Council has commissioned traffic surveys on the 13 entry points into Zone 1 which covers Chearsley. HGVs entering and exiting the zone will be monitored using ANPR cameras and the times looked at to see if the HGVs stopped or travelled straight through.

- There was a Community Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Items discussed were ‘The Queen’s Green Canopy’ tree planting initiative and ‘let’s get active’ which supports physical and mental health activities. Litter picking groups in the area spoke about combatting litter. It was suggested that the Footpaths Officer may co-ordinate litter picking in Chearsley. A Community Board funding update was given – this year looks to be ok but next year will be more difficult. Other topics were library boxes and youth engagement.

#### **9. SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS FOR RATIFICATION**

- HCI junction. Whilst the survey work is carried out, limbs of the road may need to be closed. Authority will need to be sought for this.
- Stockwell Project. Two quotes have been received for returfing for £2730 and £2830. It was suggested that the returfing should be done after the kerbing work in case of damage. Councillors agreed to go ahead with the kerbing work ourselves rather than waiting for the Community Board and TfB. It was agreed to turf the bank at the back of the Stockwell but to turf the verge after the kerbing is done. The PC would like to thank the Stockwell restoration team for the brilliant job they are doing and appreciate their hard work. **ACTION: NB to write a thank you note to Putnams for their work.** The budget for the Stockwell project is £16,000 with the estimated cost being £18,700. Hopefully a £7,000 grant will be received so the actual cost will be £11,700. The estimated cost for the kerbing is £8,000. An information sign will be added to the Stockwell.

#### **10. OFFICERS’ REPORTS**

Anthony Adams reported that the 3 kissing gates on footpath 10 behind Chearsley Hill House have been enlarged.

Following discussions between JL and Rose Dale, the footpath above the Church has been widened, and much improved access provided to the footpath down to the church yard. This is a good outcome for the village as acknowledged by parishioners. JL will discuss with Rose Dale the possibility of doing something similar with the path the other side of the railway with funding from the PC.

John Howard reported another HGV incident at the HCI junction which was filmed by a parishioner. A response has been received from the haulier.

#### **11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS**

Pheromone traps for more horse chestnut trees were discussed in today’s budget planning meeting. They are not costly but someone will be needed to install them and leaf debris will need to be cleared. Four or five volunteers are needed to clear this autumn’s debris.

Farmyard Path will be closed this Thursday for tree works.

#### **12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

The AGM will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November in the village hall. The village hall accounts are to be circulated to councillors.

#### **13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE**

2 village meetings are planned for evenings in January with Bucks Community Energy. An information event on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January which will give a summary of where we are currently and there will be expert speakers covering 2 or 3 key topics. A meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January is about house surveys, for a small cost individuals can get thermal images of their house to see how leaky it is. A survey will also be sent out to the village.

**14. OX-CAM ARC PLAN FOR 1 MILLION NEW HOMES**

Councillor's agreed the following resolution on the government's vision for the Ox-Cam ARC stating the PC's opposition to the government's plans:

The Parish Council of Chearsley, supported by the residents, is totally against the government's plans for the Ox-Cam ARC. The Government's paper on 'a Vision for the Ox-Cam ARC' was totally misleading and did not make clear an earlier Government target of building over 1 million houses across the ARC was an integral part of the plan. In particular, a Government target had been a development of 65,000 houses 'east of Oakley'. In addition, the consultation period for comments on the 'Vision' was far too short and did not allow sufficient time for a properly considered response to the paper.

Chearsley Parish Council supports the stance of Buckinghamshire Council and other Buckinghamshire organisations in being totally opposed to the Government's plans for the ARC.

IH reported that there is a STARC meeting this Wednesday in Milton Keynes at the same time and at the same venue as a meeting of developers, planners and organisations who support the ARC.

**15. PARISHIONER'S SUGGESTION OF AN EV CAR SERVICE**

KT has done the costing of leasing an EV car. The issue is around who would run the service as it would be a full time job. The is not something the PC can run, it would need to be a community project which the PC can support.

**16. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME**

No questions.

**17. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

The Christams tree lights will be switched on on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. A poster will be published shortly.

Dates for the 2022 AVM and AGM need to be agreed. **ACTION: Clerk to send out guidance and suggest dates.** The AVM is normally in March and the AGM in May. It was suggested that we may want to have an AVM in addition to the usual monthly PC meeting.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January was suggested for the PC Christmas dinner at The Bell.

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

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm – budget meeting