

CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT
7.30PM

PRESENT

Councillors: Nic Brown (NB), Paul Bown (PAB), Ian Houseman (IH), Julia Witcher (JW), John Lewis (JL)

Parish Clerk: Helen Spurgeon

Officers: Anthony Adams

Parishioners: There was 1 Parishioner

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

A parishioner enquired about the flooding near the pub. NB has sent 5 emails and had 3 telephone conversations to try and resolve the problem. The repair should have been done last Thursday but more urgent work was being carried out in Ickford. It is a broken valve joint that is awaiting repair. The flooding on the road to Cuddington was also discussed. Colin Woolford is aware of the problem.
ACTION: NB to speak with Colin Woolford and Zoe Ford to get an update.

1. APOLOGIES

Angela Gray (AG), Keith Turnbull (KT), Robert Parkes (RP), John Howard

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2022 MINUTES

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **HS2 Road Safety Fund.** A discussion took place regarding which project to put forward for this fund. The purchase of another SID is inexpensive but the HCI project is very expensive.
- **Ploughed field next to Long Meadow.** Concerns were raised that the water filled ditch may contain contaminants. **ACTION: IH to contact the Environment Agency.**
- **Lower Green Lane trees.** Some trees look as though they are falling over. **ACTION: IH to obtain quotes.**
- **Village resurfacing work.** Any remedial snagging work in the lanes is to be completed in the next 10 days.
- **Community Speedwatch signs.** **ACTION: KT to order the signs.**

5. PLANNING

- **22/00852/APP – The Long House, Chilton Road, Chearsley HP18 0DN**
NO OBJECTIONS were submitted to Bucks Council.

- **22/00677/APP – Merrydowne, 2 Crendon Road, Chearsley HP18 0DL**
Revised plans have been submitted. Comments are due 17th May.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An email has been received from a Parishioner expressing concerns regarding the proposals for Gigaclear to install ultrafast broadband in Chearsley and the effect it may have on the newly resurfaced village roads.

7. **FINANCE**

- The monthly finance report has been circulated to councillors:

VAT Reclaim

A submission has been made to HMRC for the reclaim of £3,876

Payments in the month

Four unscheduled payments were made in the month:

HMRC	£153, (TAX and NHI)
Bucks Community Energy	£100 – presentation in Village Hall
K Turnbull	£433.91 – sound equipment, purchased mid-year
K Turnbull	£22.50 – refreshments for meeting above

At the end of the month, the bank account stood at £72,058.

- **Accounts 2021/22**

The current financial year ended on 31 March. The year-end accounts and associated AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) forms have been prepared and handed over to the Council's internal auditor for review, prior to being forwarded to the external auditor. The Internal Auditor has accepted these accounts, without any adverse comment.

A copy of the complete AGAR documentation and the annual report have been circulated to Councillors.

- **Annual Governance and accountability return 2021/22**

The Council approved the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22. The Council approved the Accounting Statements 2021/22.

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

- **NB** attends regular meetings as a county councillor but has nothing specific to report.
- Councillors have had a meeting with Gigaclear to discuss upcoming plans for ultrafast broadband in Chearsley. An online Gigaclear presentation for residents will take place next week. Gigaclear have asked for a storage location in the village for the duration of the works, the location of which is still to be confirmed. The PC wish to make it clear that this is not a PC initiative, the PC are merely representing the interests of the village. The PC do not want the roads to be dug up. Some people are happy with the internet they already have.

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

None.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

- A wooden gate has been put in between Long Meadow and James's field. **ACTION: NB and Anthony Adams to visit the owners of Long Meadow to discuss the field gate at the bottom of Lower Green Lane.**
- We are currently waiting for the work to be done to widen the footpath beyond the railway.
- It was agreed for Graham King to put in 3 steps to the dog waste bin by the pub.
- John Howard is in the process of obtaining quotes for the repair of the notice board.
- The village hall has been booked for 12th May for a meeting of the Chearsley Village Historical Society. The PC agreed a £30 budget for refreshments for the meeting, at least 25/30 attendees are expected. The group are looking for input from villagers to join the society.
- New flags for the flagpole have been sourced: replacement Chearsley flag, Bucks County flag, jubilee flag and bunting. Total cost £106.82.

11. TREE AND VERGE MATTERS

- Pheromone traps have been ordered for the horse chestnut tree. These will be installed on Sunday.
- Tom Audley is due to start work on the verges as agreed.

12. CHEARSLEY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

To be discussed at next meeting.

13. CHEARSLEY CARBON NEUTRAL GROUP UPDATE

To be discussed at next meeting.

14. JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – PC SUPPORT

A program of events has been published. Beacon lighting will take place on the Thursday at no cost. The beer festival and Saturday platinum party are commercial events. The big jubilee lunch on the Sunday is a WI event for which money is needed to buy the food. The WI have requested £5 per head for a savoury buffet lunch. The Village Trust have offered to help, the PC appreciate their offer but the PC have sufficient funds to cover the event. £1000 was approved to be given to the WI for this event as well as approx. £220 +VAT for a children's entertainer.

15. HIGHWAYS ACTIVITY UPDATE: HCI AND STOCKWELL KERBING PROJECTS

The underground utilities survey for the HCI work was successfully completed but there is now a Transport for Bucks delay.

The kerbing in Church Lane is now undergoing the many layers of approval at Bucks Council. This is proving costly and causing delays which are unsatisfactory to the PC.

Freight work to try and reduce traffic on country lanes is continuing. A survey was done in January on the zones. The raw data was sent a week ago and **JL** is meeting with Graham Hillary tomorrow to discuss.

16. ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

AG has sent out an invitation note to village groups. There will be a PC presentation of what we have done and what we are looking to do. **PAB** agreed to present this and **JL** will present the finances. There will be a drinks reception at 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm.

17. PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME

No questions.

18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- **NB** shared the sad news that John Wynburne, the previous vicar, has passed away.
- **JW** is resigning as a parish councillor due to time commitments. **NB** thanked **JW** for her contribution to the PC over the years. She will be sorely missed.
- **NB** will circulate dates for the postponed Christmas dinner.
- **ACTION: Clerk to start the casual vacancy process to recruit a new parish councillor.**

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

- Monday 16th May at 7.30pm (AGM)
- Monday 30th May – Annual Village Meeting