

## Minutes of the meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Tuesday 15 November 2022

Present:

Nick White - Chairman  
Martin Purslow - Vice-Chairman  
David Grafton – Councillor  
Ashley O’Neil- Wiltshire Councillor

Richard Carter – Councillor  
Jane Page – Councillor  
Peter Johnson – Parish Clerk  
4 members of the public

### 4099 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gwyer and Day.

### 4100 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest from from Cllr Carter as he is the applicant for the planning application involving 6 Mill Lane, Cherhill, PL/2022/08031.

### 4101 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13 October 2022

Cllr Purslow proposed approval of the Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Page.

Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

### 4102 Review of Actions

**Website (Action 4057)** – Cllrs Purslow, White and Carter have yet to meet up to start improving the website but that remains the aim.

**Action: Cllrs Purslow, White and Carter**

**Lansdowne Monument (Action 4064)** – Wiltshire Cllr. O’Neill will be writing to the NT shortly, as planned, as he now has a new PA starting the following week.

**Action: Cllr O’Neil**

**Blocked footpath from Lymers Lane (Action 4089)** Cllr White had made contact with the owner, Richard Gantlett, but a date for a meeting has not yet been finalised. This would also be attended by Cllr. Page. Although the footpath is no longer blocked Cllrs. would like to prevent this happening again as this has been an ongoing complaint for several years.

**Action: Cllr White.**

**Divine Café (Dandy Highwayman) application (Action 4089)** Cllrs White and Purslow had met onsite with the owner Mark Wilkins.

**Quarterly Financial Reconciliations (Action 4096)** The Clerk had met with Cllr. Carter (Cllr Gwyer not being available at present) to go through the reconciliations for Q1 and Q2.

### 4103 Review of LHFIG meeting 3 November 2022, (Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group

Cllr. Purslow had attended and reported as follows-

- a) **Parking near Cherhill School.** There was now parking for 12 additional vehicles. A watching brief is being kept but the general view is that it is still chaotic at drop-off and collection times. The situation remains under review. This matter is now removed from the LHFIG agenda.

- b) **The Avenue, Yatesbury.** Cllr. Purslow had circulated a Briefing Note for Calne CATG about the reports of excessive speeding causing concern for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. This concerns a 0.5 mile stretch between the Avenue's junctions with Nolands Road and The Street. At present however there is no data to support these complaints. Chicanes had been considered previously to create a priority system with single flow traffic. However this was impractical on an unlit country road and the cost would be high. An upgrade of signage had also been suggested but the view is that nobody really takes notice of signs and that signs and road markings would have a negative impact on the natural beauty of the area. It was agreed not to take further action at present but to continue to monitor and to remove the item from the LHFIG agenda.
- c) **Marsh Lane, Cherhill.** This also had a problem with speeding vehicles, according to a number of complaints. The cost of a passing place would be very high, estimated at £25,000-£30,000. It was agreed instead that a 20 mph speed limit should be recommended for the lane, to match and extend the length of the speed limit in the rest of the village. Cllr. Purslow to ask at the next LHFIG meeting
- Action: Cllr. Purslow**

#### 4104 Public Participation

Mr Clifford Taylor and Mr Gerald Hynes were present, both having properties facing the Dandy Highwayman. Further, Mr Mark Wilkins, owner of the Dandy Highwayman was also present, with his partner.

Firstly, Mr Wilkins spoke re his planning application for the Dandy Highwayman. He outlined the scope of his proposals for the site, to include an original American Diner unit, of 1940s vintage, one of only 4 American diners of that period in the the UK. The style of the diner should not be confused with the archetypal style of a 1950s American diner which is altogether more brash and more heavily illuminated than a 1940s model such as his which had smaller windows that do not open, and a brushed aluminium finish. They plan a new more practical kitchen, indoor toilets for the first time and, initially at least, the diner, would not be licensed. At present their café on site is only open one evening, Thursdays, until 9pm.

Re the planning application for the Dandy Highwayman, Mr Taylor had concerns about this but welcomed the initiative as Cherhill needed something nice there. He was concerned mainly about the through-put generated by the estimated 70 covers. Also he had concerns about the opening hours, the outside lighting and the number of car parking spaces.

Mr Wilkins was sympathetic to these concerns but they were trying to plan for an attractive amenity that would be an asset to the village and surrounding area. Screening and planting of the site would assist, and the diner should not be visible from Cherhill Down. The diner was not brightly lit, the windows don't open and coach parties are not going to feature. They would not be open before 8am and, though open most evenings, they would not plan to be open after 9pm.

Mr Hynes recalled that there had been a great deal opposition when the former car wash business was being planned for that site. The present application he thought could become a very successful business and, whilst he had concerns, he felt the the applicant was genuine and well meaning.

#### 4105 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2022/08031	6 Mill Lane, Cherhill.	No objection
PL/2022/07611	Dandy Highwayman, formerly Divine Café, Cherhill	No objection but to be subject to a condition/comments (see below)
PL/2022/06790	Fairholme Farm, Compton Bassett	No objection

- PL/2022/07611 – Parish Councillors had no formal objections, though concerns were expressed about the impact of an obviously American-looking structure on the English countryside, particularly in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Further, there were concerns about the levels of any increased lighting at the site and the length of opening hours. The applicant has stated that he would intend to open at 8.30am for breakfast trade and close at 9pm, with some flexibility as the business develops. Comments were being drafted to go onto the planning portal to summarise these concerns.

#### 4106 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for October 2022 at £90.48. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Page. **APPROVED**

The Community Heartbeat Trust invoice for defibrillator pads at £122.40 inc VAT. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**

#### 4107 Q1 and Q2 Reconciliations

The Parish Clerk/RFO and Cllr Carter had agreed, and Cllr Carter had signed off, the reconciliation expenditure statements for both quarters. These had previously been circulated. **APPROVED**  
In the temporary absence of Cllr. Gwyer, Cllr. Carter had offered to take on this role as nominated councillor for the time being. **APPROVED.**

#### 4108 Budget Discussion for Precept for 2023-24

The Parish Clerk/RFO had previously circulated a draft budget for discussion at the meeting.

Cllr. White was keen to build up a legitimate financial reserve and felt that the budget spreadsheet should be adapted to accommodate a 'reserve column'.

It was agreed that there should not be a high carry forward figure, if anything the budget should be structured to show as low a figure as reasonably practicable.

Individual items were scrutinised and discussed and some amended. In particular it was agreed that a greater outlay on Community Support Maintenance was warranted, particularly for improving the condition of rights of way.

Further, the budgeting previously agreed for the Memorial Bench and its area needed an additional contingency figure in the new budget because of concerns over the increasing cost of materials.

**Action: Parish Clerk/RFO to revise the the budget figures, following input from the meeting and anything further from Cllr. White, for circulation in advance of the December meeting.**

#### 4109 Newsletter (Standing Item)

There was little to report other than the plan was still for another edition to be produced after the New Year.

#### 4110 Councillor Responsibilities

**Area Board** – Cllr. Grafton had nothing further to report. It was quiet across the various forums.

**Budgeting and Finance** – The Parish Clerk reported that he would very shortly be making a VAT reclaim application for Q2 2022-23.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

**Facebook Page** – Cllr. Purslow reported that there had been good feedback to the recent overhaul.

**Countryside Access** – Cllr. Grafton had nothing further to report.

**Hills Waste Solutions Group** – Cllr Grafton reported that he had attended a Zoom meeting a few evenings ago. Hills are still striving to extend their activities at Sands Farm as the amount of waste coming in requires a two-shift system for them to be able to cope effectively. They do though seem to have matters under control.

**Parish Steward link** – Cllr. Purslow confirmed that Wiltshire Council was funding new equipment for stewards that would enable them to do heavier and, apparently, more technical work. It was not yet clear what more this would enable the Steward to carry out. Cllr.Purslow had already circulated the dates of the Parish Steward's visits during November and December.

**White Horse Restoration Group** – Cllr. Grafton reported that there had been a lot of grass growth on and around the horse recently and the local Scouts would probably be sent up there in the Spring to scarify the surface of the horse but otherwise everything appeared stable. He had not yet established what had been collected in the moneyboxes.

**Defibrillators** – Cllr. White reported that he would check the pads at Cherhill Village Hall. Otherwise all 3 sites were in good order.

It was agreed that **Byways Maintenance** should be added to future agenda as a standing item and that **Online Newsletter** should be removed.

4111 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4112 Date of next meeting

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 7.00 pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.