

Minutes of the meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Thursday 26 January 2023

Present:

Nick White – CPC Chairman

Martin Purslow – CPC Vice-Chairman

David Grafton – CPC Councillor

Jane Page – CPC Councillor

Jackie Day – CPC Councillor

Richard Carter - CPC Councillor

Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk

4128 Apologies

Apologies were received from Wilts Cllr O'Neill

4129 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest from Cllr White as he is the applicant for the planning application involving 28 Middle Lane, Cherhill, PL/2023/00363.

4130 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 22 December 2022

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

Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

4131 Review of Actions

Website (Action 4057) – Cllrs Purslow, White and Carter have yet to meet up to start improving the website but are planning to agree a date in February. **Action: Cllrs Purslow, White and Carter**

Lansdowne Monument (Action 4064) – Wiltshire Cllr O'Neill was not in attendance but last information was that he had yet to write to the National Trust. **Action: Cllr O'Neil**

Blocked footpath from Lymers Lane (Action 4089) Cllr White had previously made contact with the owner, and currently the foot path is not blocked.. Councillors Grafton and White to arrange a site meeting with the land owner prior to the spring. **Action: Cllrs White and Grafton**

Projects for funding (Action 4123) – Cllr White had provided details of 2 projects in Cherhill to Wiltshire Council as requested and the Council was happy with these. These were refurbishment of the Tommy Croker playground equipment and additional work on the Memorial Garden. The next step is for the Council to secure the funding and then Cherhill PC will be asked to make a formal application.

4132 Public Participation

Mr Paul Ricketts of Yatesbury was in attendance and raised two matters:

- a) The 2 sheds owned by the Village Hall are in need of repair or dismantling. This has been discussed by the Village Hall Committee and they will be funding and overseeing this work.
- b) There are good operational bus stops in the village but the bus shelter for the bus stop on the A4 adjacent to the Yatesbury turn, blew down many years ago, this has reduced the prominence of the bus stop, and buses do not always stop. The stop needs additional signage and/or a shelter so that it is more prominent to bus drivers.
The responsibility for the bus stop needs to be ascertained so the correct organisation can be approached, either the bus company or Wiltshire Council. **Action: Clerk**
- c) Two issues were raised by a member of the public concerning the footbridge over the stream at Quemerford gate. The first concerned the damaged hand-rail on the upstream side, and the lack of handrail on the down streamside. The second concerned some partially filled gabions in the water.

A discussion took place concerning the handrails and it was agreed to approach the landowner regarding these, whilst at the same time obtaining a quote for their repair and installation.

There was concern that the partially filled gabions could present a risk to children, dogs and wildlife, but that the parish council did not have the knowledge or expertise to comment further and would contact the Environment Agency for advice. **Action; Cllr White**

Post Meeting Note- The width and hand-rails of the bridge have previously (Mar 2021) been raised to Wiltshire Council and they had confirmed that these are suitable. Cllr White will check with WC again.

- d) A resident had reported that a van had been parking on the soft verge adjacent to the bus stop on the A4 opposite the entrance to Park Lane in Cherhill. This has caused damage to the verge. The situation will be monitored.

4133 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

There was nothing to report but Cllrs will continue to monitor the condition of all the parish byways.

4134 Road Surface of Mill Lane, Cherhill

Cllr White reported that the road surface in Mill Lane had broken down so much that this was now restricting, and in some cases prohibiting access to the Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Fields by people using pushchairs, wheel chairs and mobility scooters. This lane is the only access to the playground and needs to be maintained in a condition that does not exclude anyone from accessing it. It was agreed residents affected by this should be encouraged to report it via MyWilts and that the PC will raise the matter through LHFIFG that this was the strongest argument for something to be done about the surfacing and the lady. **Action: Cllr White**

4135 Flooding in The Street, Cherhill

Cllr White reported on two recent episodes of flooding:

- a) **The part of The Street at the bottom of the footpath leading past Cherhill Manor to the church.** This had flooded several times so far this winter. He had spoken to Rebecca Chivers at Wiltshire Council Highways who advised that the gullies had been swept out. The ditch is still blocked however and needs digging out between the Old School House and the Manor. Wiltshire Council state this is on private land and is therefore the responsibility of the landowner. Cllr Grafton said that the Manor's gardener used to do it but he would go along there and take look at what was happening. **Action: Cllr Grafton**
- b) **Bottom end of The Street, opposite the track to Mill Farm.** Cllr White had been made aware of a dispute between a property owner and Wiltshire Council regarding the repair of a surface water drain running across private property. It was agreed that the parish council had no authority in this matter.

4136 The War Memorial, Cherhill

Cllr Grafton reported that the memorial bench had been delivered earlier that week. The Cherhill Village Hall Committee would undertake the installation work and this might start around the middle of March. Cllr Grafton had previously circulated a revised sketch plan and outline of the scheme which all councillors approved of. Councillors were pleased to note the progress.

4137 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2023/00363	3 Middle Lane, Cherhill, SN11 8XX 1 st floor extension comprising two bedrooms to be built over existing adjoining garage.	No objection and no comments

4138 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for December 2022 at £30.49. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Day. **APPROVED**

Idverde Ltd, for litter bin emptying Jan to Dec 2022 at £264.00. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED.**

4139 Community Governance Review

Cllr White reported on the meeting on 23rd January arranged by Calne Without PC. This had been attended by himself, Cllrs Grafton and Page and by the Clerk. The meeting was attended by representatives of the parish councils for Cherhill, Compton Bassett, Bremhill and Heddington. Calne Town Council had also been represented.

General Reserves, currently £28,781 and has been raised via the precept., To be divided up between 'successor councils' according to the number of households in each.

Sun Edison Fund. This had originally totalled around £40,000 and derives from the Solar farm project at High Penn. This has mostly been spent and is now around £10,300. Whatever is left by the time of the PC boundary reorganisation in May 2025 would pass to Compton Bassett PC as the successor council for that area.

CIL funds totalling £125,000 at present, from a number of projects would pass to the successor council in which the development will be located.

Low Lane, £121,499 at present, to pass to Calne Town Council.

Calstone, £3,439 at present, to pass to Cherhill PC.

K4 Kitchens (A4), £1,324 at present, to pass to Derry Hill and Studley PC.

Fixed assets – previously listed but including litter bins, notice boards, signage etc, to remain physically where they are, but to be inherited by the relevant successor councils.

Portable assets – previously listed and circulated but including IT equipment, 2 speed cameras, 2 thermal imaging cameras, post driver, post-hole digger, litter picking equipment etc. To stay in the ownership of the new Derry Hill and Studley PC but to be available for loan to the other parish councils.

Further consideration is being given by Calne Without PC regarding a suggestion raised in the meeting that the CIL funds could be divided in such way that takes into consideration the requirements of all current wards of Calne without rather than just the area in which the development from which they arose is located.

It was agreed that a close examination be made of Calne Without's Strategic Plan, published on their website for Cherhill PC to try to understand it's possible exposure to costs and increased risks arising from this reorganisation. **Action: All**

Further it was agreed that dialogue be commenced with the areas currently in Calne Without that will be coming to Cherhill PC, ie Lower Compton, Calstone and Blacklands. It was widely recognised that these areas had not received enough investment from Calne Without in the past and Cherhill PC would like to see some levelling up from CIL monies held by Calne Without in the period before handover. An example is that there are no defibrillators at all in these areas. **Action : All**

Cherhill PC would need to reach out to the residents of Lower Compton. There are at least 2 residents groups in that area and they need to be identified and approached. Cllr Grafton would look into this at Lower Compton and Cllr Page would do similarly at Calstone. **Action : Cllrs Grafton and Page**

A follow up meeting hosted by Calne Without Parish Council will be held on the 5th April 2023.

4140 Public Open Space/Play Improvement Projects in Cherhill Parish

This had been dealt with under 4131 Review of Actions (above)

4141 Newsletter (Standing Item)

Cllr Day reported that she had gathered together a fair amount of material for a March edition, including reports on the pantomime, the arrangements to celebrate the King's Coronation, Yatesbury planning updates, upcoming events, the community governance review etc. A printed version was agreed to be very worthwhile still as a number of residents are not IT familiar.

4142 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllr Grafton had nothing further to report but there was a meeting scheduled for the following week.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that he would be making a further VAT reclaim shortly for Q3 2022-23. Also he would be liaising with Cllr Carter to meet again to reconcile the quarterly expenditure payments for Q3. Cllr Carter agreed that this should be possible during February.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk had attended the Zoom meeting on 18 January arranged by WALC who had asked for every Wiltshire Parish to be represented. 52 individuals had attended online but the voting to increase subscriptions had run into difficulties and had not been approved due to perceived lack of information. It remains unclear as to when that particular item would be tabled again. He asked if Councillors would be willing to attend these and Cllr page confirmed that she had offered to be involved previously and would do so again.

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow reported that he was continuing to update the Facebook page with new items.

Countryside Access – Cllr Grafton had nothing further to report as there were no meetings planned at present.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton reported that there were still no meetings scheduled at present.

LHFIG – Cllr Purslow reported that the next meeting was at Calne Library on the 3rd February 2023. Cllrs Day and/or Purslow will try to attend to represent the PC.

Parish Steward link – Cllr Purslow reported that the Steward was heavily involved with filling potholes at present and other jobs had been put back.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that there had been no further developments other than a lady who had previously been a donor to the group had again made a generous donation. He did not have the figure at present.

Defibrillators – Cllr White reported that all those at Cherhill were in good order but the battery at the school site is about to expire in February. A discussion took place regarding the lack of defibrillator at Quemerford Gate. Cllr Day to canvass the residents opinions on this matter.

Action: Cllr Day

4143 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4144 Date of next meetings

Monday 13th March, 7.00 pm – Cherhill Village Hall

Thursday 20th April, 7.00 pm – Yatesbury Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.