

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Thursday 21st September 2023

Present:

Nick White – CPC Chairman
Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor
Jackie Day – CPC Councillor

Jane Page – CPC Councillor
Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor
Richard Carter – CPC Councillor
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk

Plus 2 members of the public

4250 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Purslow.

4251 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4252 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th August 2023

Cllr Sadler-Smith proposed approval of the Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Grafton. Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

4253 Review of Actions

The need for additional defibrillators in Cherhill (4142) - Cllr Day had made further progress and this was to be dealt with under (4258) below.

Action: Cllr Day

Reinstatement of fallen signpost on footpath to Stert Pond (4185). This work is to be scheduled as soon as the ground is dry and volunteers are available.

Dialogue with the residents of Lower Compton, Calstone and Blacklands (4208) – Cllr Grafton had contacted former Calne Without Cllr Charles Oram and had obtained useful information on how the residents of Lower Compton had organised themselves. There are 5 management committees, dealing with various aspects. There would be further contact with residents there in due course.

Photo/video dossier on the historic buildings at Yatesbury airfield (4210). Cllr Page and Cllr Sadler-Smith were continuing to liaise on this. See (4259) below.

Action - Cllrs Page and Sadler-Smith

Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212). See (4185) above.

Action : Cllrs White and Grafton

Request for a bus stop on the A4 for Yatesbury residents (4219). Cllr Purslow was not present but it is understood he would be making the request through LHFIG.

Action - Cllr Purslow

Potholes in Nolands Road, Yatesbury (4240) Cllr Page had updated the MyWilts app about this matter.

Dangerous driving near Jugglers Lane (4240) Cllr White reported that no further reports had been made and the car in question had not been identified. It was possible however that the vehicle involved may have been driven at the time on private land.

Overgrowth on Broth Lane (4241) Cllr White confirmed that this had now been cut back by Valley View Fencing.

Overgrowth along Lymers Lane, Yatesbury (4241) Cllr Grafton confirmed that he had cut back the overgrowth.

Damage to road surface and verge of Back Lane, Yatesbury (4246) Cllr Page had updated the ticket with Wiltshire Council

4254 Public Participation

Cherhill resident Mr Chris Caswell was present and raised a number of issues, in particular:

- a) The Post Box at Cherhill The 4pm collection would be replaced with a 9am collection from 16th October. A letter would be written to the Royal Mail to request the 4pm collection be reinstated. **Action - Cllr White**
- b) The local Bus Service Residents were lucky to have this service but the 42 service was underused. The Cherhill PC needs to be more ambitious in its aims for Yatesbury. Mr Caswell cited the bus entering Berwick Bassett, further along the route, driving down small lanes before turning around, rather than doing so in Yatesbury. A bus visiting Yatesbury would be much more useful to its residents.
- c) The footpath along the A4 The path westwards from Park Lane to Oliver's Hill was now almost impassable in places. The surface at Oliver's Hill is also crumbly. This all needs attention. People should be enabled, and encouraged, to walk along the path. Cllr White confirmed that this issue has previously been raised with Wiltshire Council and the required works are scheduled.
- d) The Lansdowne Monument. Pressure should continue to be put on the National Trust .

Yatesbury resident Mr Paul Ricketts was also present and raised the following issues:

- e) The disused post box opposite Bell House had been painted black but now the paint was wearing off. The box should either be repainted black or sealed off to deter people trying to put post or anything else in it.
- f) The footpath along the A4 was also impassable in the other direction (eastwards) due to overgrowth.
- g) There had been some fly-tipping on Jugglers Lane. Cllr White agreed to take a look at it. **Action – Cllr White.**

4255 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

Yatesbury resident Julie Walsh had reported that the **footpaths in Yatesbury** were badly overgrown. If heading down Lymers Lane, crossing 2 stiles until the footpath joins Yatesbury Lane, the route is overtaken with brambles. Contact has already been made with the landowner and they will arrange for the overgrowth to be cleared.

Re the **damage to the road surface at Back Lane, Yatesbury**, a letter would be sent to Wiltshire Highways. **Action – Cllr White.**

Cherhill resident Anne Henshaw had reported that the **bridleway off Jugglers Lane** has big dips in it that she believes have been caused by recent farming activities. Cllr White had contacted the farmer who has explained that the area is regularly waterlogged. It is understood the farmer hopes to dig a drainage pond to remedy this and that he will make repairs. There may be a stock of scalplings available locally that could be used. Cllr White would continue to liaise. **Action – Cllr White.**

4256 Millenium Bus Stop, Cherhill

Cllrs White and Carter had examined the location that evening and had taken photographs. Cllr Grafton confirmed he had trimmed back the hedge in May but it now needed another trim and also needed laying. The crowns of 2 hornbeams also needed lifting. Although the hedge was owned privately quotes would be obtained for Cherhill PC to do the work. **Action – Cllr White.**

4257 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2023/07249	Ridgebury House, 14A, Yatesbury, SN11 8YG	No objection

4258 Additional Defibrillators in Cherhill

Cllr Day had received support from residents for a unit at Quemerford Gate. Residents were however questioning where the electric power might come from. It was suggested that the various units across the parish could be used more efficiently if supported by a network of runners, ideally with the appropriate first aid training. This would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Cllr Carter would research the options for the purchase of defibrillators and community training. **Action – Cllr Carter.**

4259 The Historic Buildings at Yatesbury Airfield

Cllrs Page and Sadler-Smith would be meeting to progress the issues and the dossier.

4260 Updating Cherhill Emergency and Flood Plans

This had been prompted by Wiltshire Council who were seeking updated plans from local councils. The Cherhill PC plan was last updated in 2018 and the contacts list in particular needed to be brought up to date. Cllr Grafton would take the hard copies of the plans to examine where the updates should be made. **Action – Cllr Grafton.**

4261 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for August 2023 at £75.44. Proposed to be approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr. Sadler-Smith. **APPROVED**

4262 Clerk's contract

Following completion of the Clerk's first 12 months in post, a review had taken place of the average amount time spent each month on Parish Council work. Agreed that the contracted hours should be increased from 25 to 27.5 hours monthly, with a further review in December for budgeting purposes. In addition, the Clerk would, subject to budgeting, commence a CILCA training course for clerks. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED.**

4263 Newsletter (Standing Item)

Following publication of the July/August edition Cllr Day was planning the next one, for publication around December. Items would include upcoming events such as the Barn Dance, MacMillan Coffee Morning and Charity Auction. There would also be news on defibrillators, the new Cherhill Village Hall and the Cherhill Parish Emergency Plan.

4264 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllr Grafton had attended the meeting on 5th September. It was agreed that the Board should be asked to assist financially with the purchase of new chalk for the White Horse. A quote would be obtained. **Action Cllr Grafton**

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £13,279.41, with the second tranche of the precept about to be received. At the beginning of October he would be formulating a VAT reclaim for the 2nd Quarter and would be preparing a bank reconciliation for that quarter for approval at the next meeting.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk confirmed, now that the ink replacement agreement with Hewlett Packard had been cancelled, that new HP ink cartridges had been obtained from Amazon which would work out cheaper over the year. It had been suggested that Council meetings should be recorded, to assist speed and accuracy when compiling the minutes, and the Clerk would look into the available options and best practice. **Action - Clerk**

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow was not present but it was agreed this was being kept up to date.

Countryside Access – Cllr Grafton had nothing further to report.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton had nothing to report as there had been no further meetings.

LHFIG – Cllr Day reported on the meeting held on Friday 25th August. The request for dropped kerbs at the Park Lane junction with the A4, together with further dropped kerbs at Middle Lane and Oliver's Hill, would create an accessible route for pedestrians along the A4 between Cherhill and Quemerford. The estimated cost is around £11,000. It had been agreed that Cherhill PC would contribute the required 30%, thus around £3,300.

The other main issue was the proposed closing of the layby near the A4 junction with Middle Lane. Of the 3 options presented, it was agreed that costings would be requested for: a) full height kerb and for b) bollards.

Parish Steward link – Cllr Day reported that the Steward had cut back the grass opposite Bell House but had not (as yet) scraped down the path.

Website - Cllr White confirmed that Cllr Carter and himself were still progressing this.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr White had sent a updating response to Hilmarton PC who had commented on the appearance of the White Horse, to outline current plans. He had also received a suggestion to contact REME at MOD Lyneham to see if they would consider offering some of their personnel to help with the work being planned. He had been advised that they are looking for community projects to support. Cllr Grafton was still planning for the local Scout group to assist with the scraping down of the surface.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith had sent a letter to Jan Tomlin, Manager of the NT's Wiltshire Landscape Portfolio, and would chase this up by email.

Defibrillators – All defibrillators were operating normally throughout the parish. Cllr White confirmed he had been waiting for drier weather before fitting the new wiring component to the cabinet at Cherhill School. The unit itself was working and unaffected by this.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC). – Cllr Sadler-Smith had not been able to attend the meeting on the 6th September but would be attending the AGM in October.

4265 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4266 Date of next meetings

Thursday 26th October 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall
Thursday 23rd November 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.