

## Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, 7.30pm

Present:

Nick White – CPC Councillor and Chairman  
Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor  
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor and Vice-Chairman

Jane Page – CPC Councillor  
Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor  
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

### 4284 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Carter and Wilts Cllr O'Neill.

### 4285 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration from Cllr Sadler-Smith in respect of planning application PL/2023/08207 being the applicant.

### 4286 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023

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

### 4287 Review of Actions

**Reinstatement of fallen signpost on footpath to Stert Pond (4185).** Cllr Grafton reported that everything was in hand for the working party to commence repairs but the poor weather had held things up.

**Photo/video dossier on the historic buildings at Yatesbury airfield (4210).** Cllr Sadler-Smith confirmed that he and Cllr Page were currently in discussions. The planning application made by the landowner had been withdrawn quite recently but there was still an issue over pollution and the condition of the surviving hangers. The owner had done some remedial work so the structures were not in imminent danger of collapse. Contact would be made with the owner to invite discussions. A letter would be drafted to him. **Action - Cllrs Page and Sadler-Smith**

**Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212).** Cllr Grafton confirmed work would be done as soon as weather conditions allowed it. **Action : Cllrs White and Grafton**

**Request for a bus stop on the A4 for Yatesbury residents (4219).** Cllr Purslow confirmed that he was consulting with resident Paul Ricketts regarding the precise location of the original bus stop, close to a layby on the A4. **Action – Cllr Purslow**

**Change to the 4pm Royal Mail collection at Cherhill (4254).** The Clerk confirmed he had written again to the Operations Manager at Royal Mail's Calne office about this and had visited that office twice to follow up. No reply had been received at all, even to his emailing chaser, so he would be accelerating the original request, as a complaint if necessary. **Action – Clerk**

**Fly tipping on Jugglers Lane (4254)** Cllrs White and Purslow had separately visited the location but no tipping was visible.

**Condition of the road surface at Back Lane, Yatesbury (4255)** Cllr Purslow would do a follow up. LHFIG could be approached but this constitutes a defect and probably outside their remit. He would also use the MyWilts app to request action. In the meantime a line marker spray would be used to highlight the hazard to road users. **Action - Cllrs Purslow and Grafton**

**Digging of pipes on the bridleway off Jugglers Lane (4255).** Cllr White confirmed the tenant farmer was still waiting for approval from the landowner before commencing the planned drainage works. The bridleway is still accessible.

**Quotes for hedge trimming at Millenium bus stop (4256).** Cllr Grafton has now carried out the required trimming. The hedges will need laying at a later date.

**Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260).** Cllr Grafton would shortly be returning to this, working through the Flood Plan to update contact details. **Action – Cllr Grafton**

**Condition of main road at Yatesbury (4271).** A request for remedial action would be entered onto the MyWilts app. **Action : Cllrs Grafton and Purslow.**

**Consultation on Public Transport (4271).** Cllr White had publicised this on the Facebook page and the website. The consultation period had now ended.

**The poor state of local roads (4271).** Before a letter is written to Wilts Cabinet member Caroline Thomas, site photographs of the worst areas would be taken. **Action: Cllrs Grafton and White**

**Promoting the local bus service (4271).** The timetable is already on the website but paper copies would be placed on the notice boards with the emphasis being 'Use it or lose it'. **Action: Cllrs White and Page/Purslow**

**Poplar trees bordering Jugglers Lane (4274).** These had been examined by Cllr Grafton and he confirmed they probably needed to be pruned. The trees had the same owner as the Yatesbury historic buildings and the owner would be asked to remedy. **Action: Cllrs Grafton and Page**

**Editorship of the Newsletter (4280).** Agreed that the present format be continued for the January edition and a basis template circulated with requests for filling out by Councillors and residents. Rather than delivery to each household paper copies could be made available at the village halls, churches and the Black Horse. **Action: All**

4288 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

4289 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- a) The footpath opposite Park Lane and leading up to Cherhill Down had become blocked by a small tree and this might be the responsibility of the National Trust. The Clerk had contacted the NT who would be sending a Ranger up to examine and report back. **Action: Clerk**
- b) Cllr Page suggested that some of the more restrictive stiles around Yatesbury be replaced with gates to improve access for people. AGREED that an allowance for gates be built into the new budget.

#### 4290 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2023/09052	5 Mill Lane Lane, Cherhill SN11 8XS	No objection to proposed alterations to garage roof and installation of solar panels
PL/2023/08207	4 The Street, Cherhill SN11 8XP	No objection to proposed crown reduction to a sycamore

#### 4291 Additional Defibrillators

There had been a good deal of dialogue with Calne Without PC regarding the installation of additional defibrillators at Lower Compton and Calstone, wards that would be transferred to Cherhill PC from May 2025 as a result of the recent Community Governance Review. The Strategic Committee of Calne Without PC had agreed a strategy document on the purchase and maintenance of 3 units to go forward to it's full council meeting in December and the matter would be discussed further by Cherhill PC after that time.

#### 4292 Accounts

**Clerk's Home/Office expenses for October 2023 at £95.99.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr. Purslow. **APPROVED**

**Cllr Grafton's expenses relating to the memorial garden project and other work around the parish at £447.59.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith. **APPROVED**

#### 4293 Q2 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had met with Cllr Carter to examine the accounting and bank balances for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2023-24. The reconciliation signed by Cllr Carter had been circulated. **APPROVED** then signed off by Cllr White.

#### 4294 Budget Discussion for Precept for 2024-25

The draft budget had been drawn up by the Clerk/RFO and Cllr White and circulated for discussion at the meeting. Printed copies were also examined at the meeting. The spreadsheet format now included a column to calculate the likely impact of inflation as well as a more simplified precept calculator. Individual items were scrutinised and discussed and several amended. In particular it was agreed that greater emphasis on parish infrastructure was warranted, particularly the maintenance of rights of way, bus shelters and LHFIF projects across the parish.

There was discussion regarding the current Precept level, and it was agreed, as a consequence of the revised budget, that the current level would be increased from £15k to approximately £20k for next financial year. This would be formally agreed after revised budget figures are presented at the next meeting. The deadline for lodging the Precept request with Wiltshire Council was 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Action: Cllr White and the Clerk/RFO to revise the budget figures, for circulation in advance of the December meeting.**

#### 4295 Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

Following the publication of the Notice of Vacancy the Wiltshire Council had confirmed that it would not be necessary to hold an election and co-option to fill the vacancy could now be progressed.

**Action: Cllr White**

4296 Newsletter (Standing Item)

Dealt with above as Action 4280.

4297 Councillor Responsibilities

**Area Board** – Cllr Grafton reported that there had been no meetings recently.

**Budgeting and Finance** – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £17,698.26, with several items now to be paid out. The Precept request had to be made by January 2024.

**Clerk Admin matters** – The Clerk had nothing in particular to report other than inks for the HP Envy printer were not lasting long and a new, cheaper, source would be identified.

**Facebook Page** – Cllr Purslow had recently updated the page re the 'Meet and Greet' with the Police at Cherhill Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

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

**Hills Waste Solutions Group** – Cllr Grafton had nothing further to report.

**LHFIG** – Cllr Purslow would be attending the next meeting and it was agreed that Cllr Sadler-Smith would be deputising in this Councillor Responsibility role for the foreseeable future.

**Parish Steward link** – Cllr Purslow reported that the Steward remained in telephone contact and continued to carry out work where required around the parish.

**White Horse Restoration Group** – Cllr Grafton expects to finalise the new source of virgin chalk in January 2024. The horse will be rechalked in May 2024.

**Lansdowne Monument** – Cllr Sadler-Smith had not been able to attend the recent National Trust AGM but had received a response to his written question. Emails had been received from the NT Governance Officer and from Jan Tomlin, Manager of the NT's Wiltshire Landscape Portfolio. He would be seeking a meeting with the latter to progress matters.

**Defibrillators** – All units across the parish were in operation.

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)**. – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that WALC was now the local body to approach for levelling-up funding.

4298 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4299 Date of next meeting

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.