

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Tuesday 19th December 2023, 7.30pm

Present:

Nick White – CPC Councillor and Chairman
Richard Carter – CPC Councillor
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor and Vice-Chairman

Jane Page – CPC Councillor
Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor
Wilts Councillor Ashley O'Neill
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

Plus one member of the public

4300 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sadler-Smith.

4301 Declarations of Interest

There was a declaration of interest from Cllr Grafton in respect of the planning application PL/2023/10251, Honeycroft House, Maiden Lane, Cherhill.

4302 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2023

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

4303 Review of Actions

Reinstatement of fallen signpost on footpath to Stert Pond (4185). Cllr Grafton reported that the poor weather was still holding things up. There had also been some flooding in the area but the work would be carried out when things improve.

Photo/video dossier on the historic buildings at Yatesbury airfield (4210). Cllr Page reported that the dossier was still a work in progress but she had attended an informal meeting arranged recently by local resident Anne Henshaw with the landowner. The owner outlined some possible scenarios for the site. It was important though to ascertain exactly which parts of the site are under his ownership or under other ownership, before deciding on the next steps. Cllr Page would be liaising further with the owner and local residents. **Action - Cllrs Page and Sadler-Smith**

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

Request for a bus stop on the A4 for Yatesbury residents (4219). Cllr Purslow had now ascertained the location of the original bus stop but the metal bus stop pole was no longer there. An approach would be made through LHFIFG for funding for a new pole. **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 the total lack of response to his original letter from October. He had given him a final 7 days to provide a response otherwise he would be accelerating the original request, as a complaint through the Royal Mail. **Action – Clerk**

Condition of the road surface at Back Lane, Yatesbury (4255) Cllr White confirmed that the poor condition of the surface had been reported to Becky Chivers at Wiltshire Highways. In the meantime warning signs had been erected by Cllr Grafton. **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.

Researching options for the training of volunteer runners for the defibrillators (4258). Cllr Carter would be progressing this shortly.

Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260). Cllr Grafton would be returning to this over the holiday period, working through the Flood Plan to update contact details. Wiltshire Councillor O'Neill reported that DEFRA had a scheme for providing grants for mitigating flood damage. He would send details to the Clerk. **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.**

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**

Poplar trees bordering Jugglers Lane (4274). Cllr Grafton confirmed these were probably now at the end of their natural life and needed to be cut down and/or replaced. A letter would be sent to the landowner to express the PC's concerns and to ask what action he intended to take. **Action: Cllrs Grafton and Page**

Editorship of the Newsletter (4280). The present format would be continued for a January/February edition. Cllr White would be seeking contributions in the New Year and this would be finalised at the next PC meeting. **Action: All**

4304 Public Participation

No items were raised.

4305 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- 1) The fallen branch in Jugglers Lane had been reported by the Clerk to Wiltshire Council via the MyWilts app and the following day it was confirmed as having been cleared.
- 2) A drainage issue in Mill Lane had been reported by a local resident. Cllr White had already arranged for Wiltshire Highways to visit Cherhill in January with a gully sucker and he would personally meet with the operator to deal also with Mill Lane issues. **Action: Cllr.White**

4306 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2023/10024	Crossways, Park Lane, Cherhill SN11 8XN	No objection to proposed remodelling of bungalow plus the erection of a single garage to the frontage (a resubmission of PL/2023/02064)
PL/2023/10047	Willowfield, 23 The Street, Cherhill SN11 8XP	No objection to proposed erection of dwelling on garden land of Willowfield.
PL/2023/09951	The Close, 8 The Street, Cherhill SN11 8XP	No objection to proposed works to trees including eucalyptus, yew, beech,

		maple, bird cherry and cherry plum.
PL/2023/09952	The Manor House, 7 The Street, Cherhill SN11 8XP	No objection to proposed reduction of ash tree and reduction of lower crown of cypress.
PL/2023/10251	Honeycroft House, Maiden Lane, Cherhill SN11 8UZ	No objection to proposed felling of cypress and reduction of yews.
PL/2023/10309	Whyteways, 4a, The Street, Cherhill SN11 8XP	No objection to proposed felling of silver birch tree.
PL/2023/09598	6 Oldbury Fields, Maiden Lane, Cherhill SN11 8HP	No objection to proposed photovoltaic panels to roof of bungalow.

4307 Additional Defibrillators

It had previously been agreed that a unit be installed at Quemerford Gate. Local residents had expressed a willingness to contribute to the funding of this. Cllr Carter offered to co-ordinate. **Action: Cllr Carter.**

Calne Without PC had now confirmed to Cherhill PC they would be funding the purchase and installation of a unit at Calstone and 2 units at Lower Compton, wards that are to be transferred to Cherhill PC from May 2025. Calne Without PC had also agreed to ring-fence funding for the maintenance of these new units for 5 years but not the insurance costs. They would be making arrangements for purchase and maintenance through the Community Heartbeat Trust. Councillors were pleased to note this development.

4308 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for November 2023 at £26.00. This was less than the published figure as he had obtained a refund for ink cartridges that had refused to work with the HP printer. Proposed to be approved by Cllr. Grafton, seconded by Cllr. Carter. **APPROVED**

4309 Clerk's Salary and Hours

The Clerk's contracted hours were currently 27.5 monthly. It had previously been agreed that further review take place in December 2023. The Clerk had in the meantime been updating the Chairman as to his continuing recording of hours, which remained high as a monthly total. Agreed that the Clerk's contracted hours be increased to 30 hours monthly as from January 2024. Proposed by Cllr. White, seconded by Cllr. Grafton. **APPROVED.**

Further, the hourly pay rise recently recommended by NALC for Local Council Clerks, on the current scale, was to be from £12.06 to £13.06. This should be backdated to the beginning of the current financial year. Proposed Cllr. Carter, seconded by Cllr. Page. **APPROVED**

4310 Budget Discussion and Precept for 2024-25

The draft budget had been discussed at the previous meeting. This had been further refined by the Clerk/RFO and the Chairman and a new version circulated prior to the present meeting. Agreed that the draft budget would be slightly in excess of £20,000. Further refinements to the budget would be made before final adoption at the end of the current financial year.

There was discussion regarding the Precept level, and it was agreed, as a consequence of the revised budget, that the current level needed be increased to £20k for the next financial year, 2024-25. Proposed by Cllr. Carter, seconded by Cllr. Grafton. **APPROVED.** The Chairman and the Clerk signed off the Precept Requirement Form and this would be lodged with Wiltshire Council before the 18th January deadline. **Action: Clerk**

4311 Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

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. There was no specific development on this yet but the Chairman would be inviting interest from parish residents. **Action: Cllr White**

4312 Newsletter (Standing Item)

Dealt with above as Action 4280.

4313 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllr Grafton had attended the most recent meeting but there was nothing in particular to report as relating to the parish.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £16,611.63.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk had nothing to report other than that HP-branded inks were now to be obtained for the HP Envy printer through CartridgeSave.

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow had recently updated the page.

Countryside Access – Cllr Grafton had nothing further to report and it was agreed that this should no longer be a regular agenda item.

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

LHFIG – Cllr Purslow would be attending the next meeting and would be monitoring the proposed timings of the 2 agreed LHFIG projects in Cherhill.

Parish Steward link – Cllr Purslow reported on the Steward's schedule of visits for the coming year which had just been published by Wiltshire Council. Agreed that this was a helpful development.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton still expected the horse to be rechalked in the Spring of 2024.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith was not present to report further but it was acknowledged that he had been very active on this in recent months.

Defibrillators – All units across the parish were in operation. Cllr White explained how the maintenance of units and replacement of batteries was currently organised through spreadsheets managed by the Community Heartbeat Trust.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC). – Cllr Sadler-Smith was not present to report but he had previously circulated WALC's approved rise in subscription levels for the next financial year, limited to 2.3%, less than had been expected.

4314 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4315 Date of next meeting

Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.