

## Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 29th February 2024, 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  
Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor  
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

Ashley O'Neill – Wilts Councillor

Plus five members of the public

### 4333 Apologies

None received.

### 4334 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4335 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

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

### 4336 Review of Actions

**Reinstatement of fallen signpost on footpath to Stert Pond (4185).** Cllr White reported that the ground was still far too wet at Yatesbury for the work to be done. Cllr Grafton was hopeful conditions would improve by April to allow the work. **Action : Cllrs White and Grafton**

**Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212).** Cllr White confirmed that work had been delayed because of the adverse ground conditions as outlined in (4185) above. **Action : Cllrs White and Grafton**

**Request for a bus stop on the A4 for Yatesbury residents (4219).** Cllr Purslow had received confirmation from Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport that either Highways or LHFIFG needed to be approached for the erection of a new post. He was conferring with Wilts Cllr O'Neil on this. **Action : Cllr Purslow**

**Contacting the landowner at Yatesbury to cut back overgrown footpaths (4255)** Cllr White confirmed that the footpaths were not in very good condition at present because of the weather so attempts to contact had been put back but he was in the process of obtaining a quote from contractors. **Action : Cllr White**

**Contact with farmer re digging of pipes on the bridleway off Jugglers Lane (4255).** Cllr White confirmed that this also had been delayed by the poor ground conditions.

**Researching options for the training of volunteer runners for the defibrillators (4258).** Cllr Carter had made some progress regarding the training of residents, rather than volunteer runners (see 4324 below).

**Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260).** Cllr Grafton had updated the Cherhill contacts and the Yatesbury contacts would be brought up to date shortly before the revised plan is circulated for approval. **Action – Cllr Grafton**

**The poor state of local roads (4271).** A letter is still to be 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).** A letter was yet to be sent to the landowner to express the PC's concerns. Cllr Grafton advised that this be deferred until ground conditions had improved and details recorded of the trees requiring attention. **Action: Cllrs Grafton and Page**

4337 Public Participation

- a) Roger Tiley asked whether landowners, when cutting hedging, receive funding for doing so from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Grafton responded that this was never the case.
- b) Mike Connor raised the fouling of grass verges along the A4 in Cherhill by dogs. This had become very serious recently and it appears to be mainly one dog doing this. Contact would be made with Wiltshire Council's Dog Warden for advice. **Action : Cllr White**
- c) Mr Connor also raised the matter of loose shredded waste, possibly medical or industrial in origin, littering the roadside along the A4 from the Lower Compton Road and up to Cherhill. This included countless tiny pieces of what might have been blue latex gloves. Anne Henshaw suggested this was probably the fault of Hills Waste whose operatives may not have been tying down covers properly on their vehicles transporting this material, whatever it's origin. Contact would be made with Hills Waste. **Action : Cllr Grafton**

4338 Damage to Public Rights of Way, Hedgerows and Trees

Cllr White suggested, and it was **AGREED**, that Public Participation be extended to this item.

Cllr White outlined the seriousness of the damage caused recently by hedge cutting and heavy vehicle damage to the bridleways and Woodland Trust trees along Yatesbury Avenue. Photographs of the damage had been circulated and Councillors had examined the location. A meeting had taken place with the tenant farmer and Cllrs Page and Purslow reported that he had admitted that his contractors had done far more flailing than he had instructed, damaging the soil structure, and leaving loose branches over the road. The work was intended to assist the ecological rotation of the hedges, under his DEFRA Environmental Stewardship. One problem was that the hedges going along the corner of Barrow Way and along The Avenue had been overgrown for a long time and so brambles and other growth had encroached his field margins. It had been pointed out to him that it had been a bad time of year to do this. He had promised to carry out remedial work including hardcore infill and levelling when the ground dries out. He would also reduce the amount of heavy vehicle traffic at the location.

Cllr Page reported that as a result of the meeting with the farmer he was wanting to work closely with the Woodland Trust, and with Cherhill PC, which was a step forwards.

Anne Henshaw stressed that the drainage issue was fundamental and needed to be addressed properly. Contact should be made with Steven Leonard, Rights of Way Officer at Wiltshire Council, to discuss. Agreed that such contact be made. **Action: Cllr White**

4339 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

This item had been dealt with under **4338** and no other items were raised.

4340 Defibrillators and the Training of Volunteers

Cllr Carter reported that he had been considering where another defibrillator could be sited to benefit residents. He had identified a location at Quemerford Gate adjacent to a property whose owners are

sympathetic to such a siting. Negotiations with them could take place for a new unit to access electric power for the new unit. He would be reporting further on that aspect.

Cllr Carter further reported that he had access to a trainer in Health and Safety, who is prepared to give a training presentation to parish residents in one or more of the village halls for a modest fee. Such training would be in the use of defibrillators rather than for a scheme of volunteer 'runners' as had first been suggested. Such training could be filmed and the recording made accessible on the website. Discussions would be sought with Cllr Doug Price of Calne Without PC, who was organising training in Blacklands and Calstone, wards that would be transferred to Cherhill PC in 2025. **Action:** Cllr Carter

Proposed by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr White and **AGREED** that purchase of the new defibrillator be progressed.

#### 4341 Community Asset Status of the Black Horse Public House

Cllr White reported on the previous application, 5 years previously, for the Black Horse to be registered as a Community Asset. That had been successful, but the listing lasts for a maximum of 5 years. The current landlord was giving up his tenancy shortly and if the registration can be continued the pub's owner, Punch Taverns, must give the local community the first opportunity to purchase. Proposed by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith and **AGREED** that the application be finalised to Wiltshire Council.

#### 4342 Accounts

**Clerk's Home/Office expenses for January 2024 @ £33.29.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Purslow. **APPROVED**

**Mr Alan Moore – Land Registry expenses relating to application for renewal of Community Asset status for Black Horse public house @ £24.00.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**

#### 4343 Budget for 2024-25

The budget spreadsheet had been further refined by the Clerk/RFO as further planned expenditure had continued and CIL income, which would be ringfenced, had been received. The revised version had been circulated prior to the present meeting. The budget stood at £23,568.50 and is subject to formal adoption at the end of the current financial year.

#### 4344 Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

Cllr White reported that a prospective new councillor was present at the meeting to observe, and he would update Councillors in due course. **Action: Cllr White**

#### 4345 Newsletter (Standing Item)

Cllr White had circulated a draft of the March edition. Suggestions were made for refinement and the finalised version would be printed and distributed shortly.

#### 4346 Councillor Responsibilities

**Area Board** – Cllrs Grafton and Sadler-Smith had attended the meeting on 6th February and had reported, respectively, on the White Horse and on the Lansdowne Monument.

**Budgeting and Finance** – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £16,191.55. Total expenditure remained on track to be within the current year's budget, indeed funds

earmarked for Rights of Way (layby scheme) and the contribution to the LHFIG-funded bollard scheme might not be spent before the end of this financial year. If so these ring-fenced funds would be carried forward for those projects.

**Clerk Admin matters** – The Clerk had completed the ILCA course online which he had found worthwhile and the next phase of training would be the ILCA-to-SILCA course commencing in the next financial year.

**Facebook Page** – Cllr Purslow had been updating the page, and would be adding images of the new Cycle Route 503 signage paid for by the PC.

**Combined Parishes Forum** – There was nothing to report at present.

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

**LHFIG** – Cllr Purslow reported on:

- a) Cycle Route 503 – the new signage had been funded by LHFIG with a contribution from Cherhill PC
- b) A4 bus sign – he would be discussing with Wilts Cllr O’Neil whether the work could be done through LHFIG

**Parish Steward link** – Cllr Purslow confirmed that the Steward had continued with his published schedule of visits. Cllr White reported that he had been thanked by a resident for the work done recently in clearing brambles close to the café.

**White Horse Restoration Group** – Cllr Grafton reported that he was firming up the arrangements with the local Scouts to assist with the rechalking in May 2024. The new chalk had been provisionally ordered.

**Lansdowne Monument** – Cllr Sadler-Smith had nothing further to report, but he would keep up pressure on the National Trust.

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

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)**. – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that a new County Officer, replacing Deborah Bourne, was about to take up his new position.

4347 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4348 Date of next meetings

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm – Yatesbury Village Hall**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.00pm – Parish Annual Meeting – Cherhill Village Hall**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm – Parish Council Annual Meeting – Cherhill Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.