

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall  
on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7.30pm**

**FULL TEXT OF MINUTES AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE – [WWW.CHERHILL.ORG](http://WWW.CHERHILL.ORG)**

**Present:**

Nick White – CPC Councillor and Chairman  
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor  
Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor  
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

Plus 3 members of the public

**4458** Apologies

Cllr Carter and Cllr Page.

**4459** Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grafton declared an interest as he had submitted a quote for labour and ancillary materials for the repair work on CHER11B and CHER8, to be considered below **(4463)**.

**4460** Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 29th October 2024

Cllr Sadler-Smith proposed approval of the 29<sup>th</sup> October Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Purslow. Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

**4461** Review of Actions

Actions relating to footpaths and bridleways were dealt with under **4463** below.

**Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260)**. The plan had been completed and the updated contacts list would shortly be published on the website. **Action – Cllr White**

**Contact with Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport re the need for 42 bus to stop at Yatesbury during the day, travelling from Marlborough to Calne (4387)**. The Clerk would chase this up with Jason Salter, Head of Passenger Transport, who had now had more than 4 months to come back substantively. In the meantime he was liaising with Paul Ricketts who confirmed that too often the bus travelling between Calne and Berwick Bassett were 'Not in Service'. The Clerk would ask Wilts Cllr O'Neill as to which other councillors should be copied in when he chases. **Action:** Clerk

**To request through LHFIFG the painting of a white T-bar on Middle Lane to alleviate parking problems (4403)**. Cllr Purslow would be submitting an application through LHFIFG at it's January 2025 meeting.

**To Contact bus company re unhelpful onboard announcements recommending use of chalk footpath (CHER2) to access the Downs (4417)**. The Clerk had been informed by Swindon Bus Company that they would be modifying the announcements but he was seeking confirmation.

**To liaise with relevant parties re trimming of overgrown laurel at Yatesbury pond (4432)**. The poor weather had prevented this but Cllr Grafton would be progressing matters, probably over the Christmas period.

#### 4462 Public Participation

Paul Ricketts raised a matter dealt with under **4463** below:

#### 4463 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- a) Paul Ricketts reported that resident Anne Henshaw had raised with Wiltshire Council the byway at Little London, Yatesbury, with the large water-filled hole. She had managed to establish with the Council, using a colour-coded map, 3 stretches of uncategorised road:
1. The first section of Barrow Lane (CHER19) from the junction with The Avenue, Yatesbury.
  2. The first section of the Yatesbury Track (CHER17) from the junction with Back Lane to the junction with bridle path CHER14 (Stert Pond).
  3. The first section of CHER 16 and CHER15 from Yatesbury House Farm, through Little London to the junction where they split (at the sharp left turn).
- Even if lacking a tarmac surface an uncategorised road was still recognised formally as a road, a higher category than a byway. Therefore Wiltshire Council has now confirmed it is their responsibility, rather than that of a private landowner. The Chairman would write to thank Anne Henshaw and would write to Stephen Leonard at Wiltshire Council to press for remedial work on stretch (3) above.
- b) **Action 4212** – The repair of gates and culverts on CHER11B was still weather dependent. The major items had been purchased and the Clerk would ascertain from the supplier whether they had now been delivered to the specified address. **Action:** Clerk
- c) **Action 4387** – The anomaly of Bridleway CHER14 in Yatesbury, which starts as a bridleway but changes to a footpath. Cllr Page was not present to report but was understood to be liaising with Wiltshire Council re the provision of appropriate signage to mark the change of designation on the ground.
- d) **Action 4417**- Overgrown vegetation along CHER2 chalk footpath opposite Park Lane up to the Downs. Cllr White had received a positive response from the Ramblers Association about it's members providing volunteer assistance and he would progress this through the PROW Working Group when Cllr Page was available.
- e) **Action 4417** – The repair of stiles on the byway CHER4 up to the Downs starting at the Yatesbury turn. This was on privately owned land near the reservoir. Cllr White would ask whether he would be content for Ramblers Association members to be involved in this also. Paul Ricketts added that a number of residents of Yatesbury would like to take part in such work. Cllr White would seek to arrange some dates with the Ramblers Association and these would be published so that volunteers across the parish might take part. The PC's insurance would cover volunteers working.
- f) **Action 4433** – Signage on CHER27 indicating it to be a permissive bridleway. Cllr White confirmed that all relevant landowners were now content for this to revert to foot access only. Cllr Page was understood to be liaising with the National Trust who may decide that the gate at the top of the route should be locked.

#### 4464 Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

Cllr White reported there was as yet no individual confirming a wish to be co-opted onto the Council, though he is still canvassing. This opportunity would be promoted across the parish.

#### 4465 Accounts

**Clerk's Home/Office expenses for October 2024 @ £85.99.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**

**Yatesbury Village Hall Committee – outdoor tables and chairs for village hall @ £299.97.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**

**Carna Solutions Ltd – Training course for residents re basic life support @ 63.22.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**

**J Page – NALC training course and attendance at WALC conference @ £63.22.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**

**DT Grafton – Labour and ancillary materials re replacing gates and footbridges on CHER11B @ £1,260.00.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**

#### **4466** Tommy Croker Playing Field Equipment Maintenance

Cllr White reported on two aspects:

- a) There remained a close relationship between Cherhill PC and the Tommy Croker Management Committee. This had been confirmed in a document that had been approved at a Cherhill PC meeting on 26th November 2020 and which he read out again at the present meeting in order to remind Councillors and attending members of the public of its provisions. Amongst other things this confirmed there was entitlement for a Cherhill PC Councillor to sit on the Tommy Croker Committee. At present there are in fact 2 Cherhill Councillors sitting on that committee. The land is owned by the Tommy Croker Playing Field charity, which retains the deeds. The land was granted in 1957 and the equipment is insured by Cherhill PC as a fixed asset. Proposed by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Purslow, that the agreement should continue and would remain adopted, **APPROVED**
- b) Further, there was now a need for a major repainting job on the playground equipment, which was first installed 12 years ago and had not been repainted during this time. Ideally it should be done every 8 years. He had a quote for £5,700 for repainting all the woodwork with a non-toxic paint. Fortunately there were Cherhill PC ringfenced funds to pay for such work. It was **AGREED** that the Tommy Croker Committee be asked to order the paint and arrange such work, to be carried out hopefully in the Spring of 2025.

#### **4467** Budget Discussion for Precept for 2025-26

The draft budget previously prepared and circulated by the Clerk/RFO had been discussed and developed further at 2 meetings of the Budget Group, on 6<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The resulting draft was circulated before the present meeting. The budget has been designed to take account of the expansion of Cherhill PC from May 2025, as a result of the Community Governance Review, and extensive consultation had taken place with Calne Without councillors regarding those areas to come under Cherhill PC, being Calstone, Blackland and Lower Compton. A significant aspect is to be the transfer from Calne Without PC of an estimated £8,000 in reserves plus an estimated £3,400 in CIL monies resulting from housing development (Community Infrastructure Development) in that parish. It is proposed that, of these monies, £8,000 should go into a new Cherhill PC reserve account, where it would accumulate interest. More importantly, it was considered good practice in local government to have such a fund to cover 3-12 months of normal operating costs in the event of financial crisis. Further, the £3,400 is to go into a new Fund for Grant Applications, for local groups and projects. A total of £2,000 would also be coming from Calne Without towards the costs of elections due in May 2025.

The proposed new budget at £38,537.00 is higher than previously, with its greater emphasis on community projects and infrastructure improvements. However, due to the one-off incoming funds from Calne Without PC, and the carrying forward of unspent Cherhill PC funds, the proposed Precept would be substantially lower than the budget figure, at £27,898.49. Further, due to the expansion of the number of households in the parish from May 2025, the unit cost to each household currently in the parish would be lower than at present, an estimated £49.21, but subject to the precise number of households yet to be confirmed by Wiltshire Council. Conversely, those households coming into Cherhill Parish next year would face an increase in the rate. This was largely because for a number of years the precept for Calne Without had been kept artificially low due to very large amounts of CIL monies from development.

Councillors noted these recommendations and, no further changes being suggested, it was **AGREED** to take this draft budget forward for formal adoption at the Parish Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **4468** Community Governance Review Update

The Clerk reported on the online CGR meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November and was attended by several parish councils involved in the changes and also by Calne Town Council. This dealt with the arrangements for the transfer of fixed assets and funds. A major topic remained public engagement with the changes. It was important in particular to attract people to stand for the parish council.

**AGREED** at the present meeting that the expansion of the parish would be promoted further, on the website, Facebook, notice boards and the Newsletter. **Action:** Cllrs White, Purslow.

Further, a public drop-in event might be considered for the Spring, before the start of the election timetable. The specific timetable dates would first be ascertained. **Action:** Clerk

Cllr Sadler-Smith reported on the role currently being taken by WALC, Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, highlighted at its recent conference. WALC is promoting the development of local Neighbourhood Plans and county-wide support such as this could dovetail into efforts by Cherhill PC towards public engagement. The next online CGR meeting would be 26<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **4469** Newsletter (Standing Item)

The next edition would be aimed for February/March of 2025 and would include the aims regarding the budget, CGR changes (parish expansion) and the proposed new grants for local groups

#### **4470** Councillor Responsibilities

**Calne Area Board** – Cllr Grafton had been unable to attend the last quarterly meeting but confirmed he would be attending the next.

**Budgeting and Finance** – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £25,865.81 and the general position remained satisfactory. He would be meeting in the New Year with Cllr Carter to go through the bank reconciliations for Q2 and Q3. His recommendation was for the Budget/Finance group to continue, meeting quarterly in order to monitor and steer expenditure.

**Clerk Admin matters** – The Clerk was about to commence the online ILCA-CILCA course, to be completed in April 2025. Following that he would be embarking on the CILCA course (Certificate in Local Council Administration) to be completed within a further 12 months.

**Facebook Page** – Cllr Purslow reported that the page was being updated when and where appropriate.

**Hills Waste Solutions Group** – Cllr Grafton would attend the online meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**LHFIG (Local Highways and Footways Improvement Groups)** – Cllr Purslow had attended the most recent meeting. An additional sum, estimated at £259, would be added for the bollards scheme in Middle Lane, Cherhill and the PC would be paying a proportion. The Clerk had chased again for the finalised invoice from LHFIG.

**Parish Steward** – Cllr Purslow confirmed the Steward had dealt with potholes on Mill Lane. A resident, however, had reported some unfinished potholes and Becky Chivers at Wiltshire Highways would be contacted about this. **Action:** Cllr White

**Website** – Cllr White confirmed that the proposed new budget allowed a sum of up to £2,000 to pay for the building of a new website,

**White Horse Restoration Group** – Cllr Grafton reported that some chalk was still available and further work might take place when the weather improves. The private landowner was keen for the National Trust to install fencing around the horse to allow in sheep to keep the grass down.

**Lansdowne Monument** – Cllr Sadler-Smith had continued to monitor progress of the National Trust's preliminary work on the restoration. Major work expected to start in Spring 2025. Much depends on the weather and on choices of stone. He will seek an update from the NT for the January meeting.

**Defibrillators** – Cllrs White and Purslow reported that all units were working well. The school's unit would shortly have new pads installed.

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC).** – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported on the WALC Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Topics were flooding, planning policy, the benefits of Neighbourhood Plans and the Community Land Trust for affordable housing schemes.

#### **4456** Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

#### **4471** Date of next meetings

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm - Yatesbury Village Hall**

Cllr White has now arranged with Cherhill Village Hall a standing booking for meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month commencing in March 2025, with an occasional switch to Yatesbury when appropriate.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.