

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Thursday 4th April 2024, 7.30pm

Present:

Nick White – CPC Councillor and Chairman
Richard Carter – CPC Councillor
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor and Vice-Chairman
Ashley O'Neill – Wilts Councillor

Jane Page – CPC Councillor
Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor
Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO
Richard Catt – Prospective CPC Councillor

Plus 3 members of the public

4349 Apologies

None received.

4350 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4351 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 29th February 2024

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

4352 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. There was hope that conditions would improve over the coming months to allow the work. **Action : Cllrs White and Grafton**

Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212). Cllr White confirmed the delay caused by weather as outlined in (4185) above. **Action : Cllrs White and Grafton**
Cllr Page offered to contact a local contractor for a quote for this work, so that in the event that parish council volunteers were not available, an alternative solution was in place. **Action Cllr Page.**

Request for a bus stop on the A4 for Yatesbury residents (4219). Cllr Purslow had filed an application to LHFIFG for funding and this would hopefully be dealt with at the LHFIFG meeting, in April after which he would report further. **Action : Cllr Purslow**

Yatesbury overgrown footpaths (4255) Cllr Page was now in the process of obtaining a quote from contractors to deal with this issue. **Action : Cllr Page**

Contact with farmer re digging of pipes on the bridleway off Jugglers Lane (4255). Cllr White confirmed that this also was still on hold because of the poor ground conditions.

Researching options for the training of volunteer runners for the defibrillators (4258). Cllr Carter had drawn up a framework for training in the use of defibrillators and was now seeking to refine the location for a new unit.

Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260). Cllr Grafton was close to finalising the Yatesbury contacts but at present his efforts were being concentrated on actual flood prevention at Marsh Lane. **Action – Cllr Grafton**

To lodge complaint with Wiltshire Highways re the state of main road at Yatesbury (4271). Cllr White had reported the issue re Back Lane on My Wilts but had not received an update. Wilts Cllr O'Neill reported that the MyWilts app was being reviewed by Wiltshire Council and he would advise on this further.

Poplar trees bordering Jugglers Lane (4274). Cllr Grafton was waiting for the trees to be in leaf before recording the specific trees requiring attention. **Action: Cllrs Grafton and Page**

4353 Public Participation

- a) David Sabin requested an update on the trackway along White Horse Way that had been damaged by heavy vehicles and machinery. Cllr White reported that the landowner was waiting for the ground to dry out and would then be filling the holes and levelling after having a consultation with Stephen Leonard, Countryside Access Officer for Wiltshire Council. Cllr White had notified local Police about offroad vehicles causing further damage and the number of patrols would be increased.
- b) Roger Tiley of Nolands Road reported on the amount of water collecting in the large pit straddling the byway at Little London, Yatesbury. Nobody can now access this byway which passes through land owned by Richard Gantlett. It was no longer a cycle route as this had been diverted. Paul Ricketts suggested the owner be asked to put in some drainage before infilling. An approach would be made to Mr Gantlett. **Action: Cllr White**
- c) Mr Tiley reported on a stretch of Back Lane at Yatesbury that he likes to walk. This was formerly a permissive path owned by Richard Simpson and the permission had now been withdrawn. For safety reasons he prefers to walk along the edge of the field rather than the lane itself. He was advised to ask the landowner Mr Simpson who might be prepared to give permission to him on a personal basis.
- d) Paul Ricketts reported that Barrow Way, the byway running between Yatesbury and Avebury and which is now part of the National Cycle Route 403, has a very large hole filled with water, in effect creating a pond across it. The problem has got worse as cyclists are now being encouraged to use this on the newly rerouted cycle route. LHFIFG might be approached for funds but the precise terms of reference needed to be established by consulting Wiltshire Council's website **Action: Clerk**
- e) Mr Ricketts reported on Stert Pond at Yatesbury which had been overflowing because of the heavy rains. Great crested newts and other amphibians were now spawning so they should not be disturbed. He had therefore been using his own rods to clear the drainage channel which passes from the pond, under the trackway, and out to a drainage ditch and this has alleviated the problem. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Mr Ricketts.

4354 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

Cllr Page had suggested that a sub-committee or working group be set up by Cherhill PC to give more time and focus to this very important aspect. Proposed Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Page and **AGREED** that a Working Group on Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance be established. Initially the members would be Cllrs Page, Purslow and Grafton who would consider how best to promote liaison with residents and stakeholders.

The Clerk had circulated to Councillors details of the current initiative by the Combined Parishes PROW Group (set up by Wiltshire CPRE) for each parish to carry out a survey of its bridleways, footpaths and byways. This project would now fall to the Working Group.

4355 Planning applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2024/02317	Downsdale Cottage, 3 Maiden Lane, Cherhill SN11 8UZ	No objection to proposed crown thinning to tulip tree.

PL/2024/02086	12a Middle Lane, Cherhill, SN11 8XX	No objection to proposed reduction of beech tree and removal of 2 sycamores.
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4356 Cherhill Parish Council and Transparency

The Clerk and Chairman had received comments from a resident who had been concerned about the level of transparency of Cherhill PC's dealings. This was discussed at some length and it was felt that the Parish Council had always striven to satisfy its obligations under the **Transparency Code for Small Authorities** (2014). However there was discussion on the merits of publishing documents other than those required under the Code, for example an approved annual Budget.

Proposed Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded Cllr Carter and **AGREED** that the approved Annual Budget be published each year on the website and the PC's Publications Scheme be amended accordingly. The financial documents already on the website would be grouped together for easier access.

In addition it was agreed that the Minutes would include, where appropriate, a summary of reasons for the Parish Council's decisions on planning applications.

4357 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for February 2024 @ £33.50. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr White. **APPROVED**

NALC advertisement on its website for a Clerk @ £120.00. This had only recently been received from NALC, almost 2 years after having been incurred. Proposed to be approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith. **APPROVED**

SLCC- Clerk's annual subscription at £112.00. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded by Cllr Carter. **APPROVED**

Clerk's time (25 hours) spent on ILCA online course @ £326.50 inc tax. Proposed Cllr Carter, seconded Cllr Page, **APPROVED**

4358 Formal Adoption of Budget for 2024-25

The Budget had been agreed at the 19th December meeting at £23,568.50 and was now subject to formal adoption. Proposed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**. The Budget was therefore adopted and signed off by Cllr White and the Clerk/RFO.

4359 Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

Cllr White welcomed Mr Richard Catt as a prospective new Councillor for co-option. Proposed Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Carter and **AGREED** unanimously that Mr Catt be co-opted to the Parish Council.

4360 Newsletter (Standing Item)

The March edition had now been published and a summer edition would be planned in due course.

4361 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllrs Grafton reported that another meeting was coming up shortly.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd’s totalled £15,715.86. Total expenditure for 2023-24 had ended within the year’s budget. He would shortly be meeting with Cllr Carter to examine the bank reconciliation for the final quarter.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk was looking at options re the ILCA-to-SILCA, an intermediate course, to be commenced during the new financial year.

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow had been updating the page and would add details of the forthcoming consultation event at Cherhill Village Hall re the Valencia Solar project..

Combined Parishes Forum – Cllr Grafton reported that the title of this group was still to be updated. There was nothing else to report at present.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton had nothing further to report as no further meeting was scheduled at present.

LHFIG – Cllr Purslow confirmed that the next meeting was later in April and he would be attending.

Parish Steward link – Cllr Purslow confirmed that the Steward was continuing to work satisfactorily.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton confirmed that the rechalking was scheduled for 11th May 2024. The new chalk had been ordered. Local scouts would be assisting with preparatory work.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith had that day received an updating email from Jan Tomlin of the National Trust which he would be circulating. Examination of the corner masonry using ropes and ladders would be carried out in the coming week starting 22nd April and the National Trust would like to attend a meeting of Cherhill PC to report on current plans. This was welcomed.

Defibrillators – All units across the parish continued to be in operation.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC). – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that the new County Officer Ian Nockolds, replacing Deborah Bourne, had taken up his new position.

4362 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4363 Date of next meetings

Thursday 23rd May at 7.00pm – Parish Annual Meeting – Cherhill Village Hall

Thursday 23rd May at 7.30pm – Parish Council Annual Meeting – Cherhill Village Hall

Thursday 27th June at 7.30pm – Yatesbury Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.