

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Thursday 29th August 2024, 7.30pm

Present:

Nick White – CPC Councillor and Chairman
Richard Carter– CPC Councillor

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

Plus 2 members of the public

4412 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Purslow, Page and Catt. Cllr White also reported that Cllr Catt had tendered his resignation as a Parish Councillor due to work and other commitments. Councillors were sorry to note this. The Clerk would prepare and file the appropriate notices regarding the vacancy.

4413 Declarations of Interest

Cllr White declared that he was a friend of the applicants of the planning application **07060** to be considered below. This was noted.

4414 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 25th July 2024

Cllr White reported on the comments received by Colin Webb regarding the minutes as posted on the website. Specifically relating to PROW footpath CHER27 running east from Red Barn to National Trust land and the Monument. After discussion it was suggested that the minutes of the present meeting should feature the following points:

- a) Cllr White had not personally stated there was no practical alternative for a horse access route. Instead, the minutes had summarised the general mood of councillors on this point.
- b) Mr Webb had stated that CHER27 was the only PROW footpath leading up to Cherhill and Calstone Downs and was used regularly by many groups of young people, from the local primary school to those embarking on the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- c) Mr Webb had suggested an alternative route for horses up to these downs. From the crossroads with CHER27, heading south along the edge of 2 fields until reaching a track heading east.

Proposed Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Sader-Smith and **APPROVED**.

Having taken such changes into account Cllr Grafton proposed approval of the 25th July Minutes as an otherwise correct record, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith. Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

4415 Review of Actions

Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212). Cllr Page was not present to report but had obtained quotes and was understood to be waiting for the landowner to complete a s147 application (Highways Act 1980) before the work commences. Cllr Grafton had seen Mr Gantlett recently and he was dealing with this. **Action : Cllrs Page and Grafton**

Yatesbury overgrown footpaths (4255) Cllr Page had identified a new contractor to request a quote to deal with the issue relating to Lymers Lane. In the meantime Cllr Grafton had done some cutting and would return to have another look at the site. **Action : Cllrs Grafton and Page**

Contact with farmer re digging of pipes on the bridleway off Jugglers Lane (4255). This related to White Horse Way and was still being dealt with by the PROW Working Group. Cllr White reported that the farmer Rob Pickford had done some infilling there but would be contacted again. The site was however within Compton Bassett PC's area and they would be contacted about this. **Action : Cllr Page and White**

Researching options for the training of volunteers for the defibrillators (4258). Cllr White confirmed he had obtained a quote from a local company to provide defibrillator and CPR training to residents.

Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260). Cllr Grafton is finalising the Yatesbury contacts with Cllr Purslow's assistance. He reported that Richard Williams, Floods and Drainage Officer for Wiltshire Council, had provided a map so that Hayle Farm would be included in the flood plan as that is the main site in the parish that could flood, other than the culvert in Marsh Lane. He would email the Clerk with details. **Action – Cllr Grafton and Purslow**

To establish terms of reference published by LHFIG re repairs needed at Barrow Way, part of National Cycle Route 403 (4353). The Clerk had done this and an application for funding was now being put to LHFIG. Cllr Purslow was not present to report further. **Action : Cllr Purslow**

To contact Michelle Haley at Combined Parishes PROW Group for update on training (4372). The Clerk would contact Michelle Haley again for another update. **Action: Clerk.**

The anomaly of Bridleway 14 which starts as a bridleway but leads to a footpath and goes no further (4387). Cllr Page was not present to report. **Action: Cllr Page/Clerk**

Summary of PROW Working Group recommendations to be published on website (4387). Cllr White had been unable to finalise this yet with Cllr Page but would be doing so.

Contact with Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport re the need for 42 bus to stop at Yatesbury during the day, travelling from Marlborough and Calne (4387). The Clerk had contacted Jason Salter, Head of Passenger Transport at Wiltshire Council, who had sent another email confirmed that this would be reassessed.

To request through LHFIG the painting of a white T-bar on Middle Lane to alleviate parking problems (4403). Cllr Purslow was not present to report and the Clerk had not heard anything yet on this.

4416 Public Participation

- a) **Paul Ricketts** thanked the Council for the bus stop that had finally been reinstated on the A4 at the Yatesbury turn.
- b) **Anne Henshaw** said she was a little confused as to how the PROW Working Group would be working with the Parish Council as a whole. There had been no further meeting since the inaugural meeting so how can matters get reported back and work pushed forward? Cllr White responded that it was unfortunate that Cllr Page had been unavailable for recent meetings but he was confident that in due course the two would be working well together. The decisions taken by the Parish Council would be informed and driven by the Working Group.
- c) **Anne Henshaw** was critical of the resurfacing work recently carried out by Wiltshire Council along Back Lane, Yatesbury. No consideration has been given to drainage. Tarmac has been laid but they haven't created a run-off for water. At the furthest end of the lane the tarmac has no edging and in winter the water will just collect there and form a pool. The edging of the tarmac is already broken. Nobody has cleared out the flanking ditch into which a pipe could have been inserted for drainage. An engineer should have thought this through. Cllr White responded that the current work was meant to deal solely with the road surface. He would though raise this matter with Wiltshire Council. **Action : Cllr White**
- d) Re Bridleway 13 leading from Nolands to Yatesbury village, **Anne Henshaw** noted that the PROW group was going to look at this. The hedges were really overgrown now along most of it's length as they had not been cut this year. The PROW Group needs to keep chasing.
- e) Re White Horse Way, **Anne Henshaw** reported that she had accelerated her grievance to the Head of Wiltshire Highways, through CPRE. This was not yet a formal complaint by her but could become such, under s56 Highways Act 1980.

f) 4417 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

Cllr White reported on matters in Cherhill:

- a) The footpath up to Red Barn needed vegetation along both sides to be cleared Cllr Grafton would be visiting shortly to carry out the work and Cllr White would assist. **Action : Cllrs Grafton and White.**
- b) The permissive bridleway CHER27 heading east from Red Barn would continue to be monitored and the vegetation trimmed. **Action : Cllrs Grafton and White.**
- c) The Chalk path starting opposite Park Lane and leading up to the Monument, Cllr White was obtaining a quote regarding the overgrown vegetation. The drainage issues were also serious at times and Cllr Grafton would be looking at putting in some drainage channels, with the permission of the landowner Richard Gantlett. Paul Ricketts reported that buses travelling along the A4 gave out an automated announcement recommending use of the chalk path to access the monument. This path was the most difficult way of getting up there so the bus company should be asked to not give out such an announcement. **Action : Clerk, Cllrs White and Grafton**

Anne Henshaw mentioned that the first stile on the footpath up to the downs, starting opposite the turn to Yatesbury, was broken, it's board is lying on the ground.

Anne Henshaw suggested the Ramblers Association be asked to advise on obtaining volunteers for such work. Agreed that the Parish Council would source and fund materials and Tim Lewis of the Ramblers Association would be contacted re volunteer labour. **Action: Cllrs White and Grafton**

4418 Planning applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2024/07060	1a Marsh Lane	No objection to proposed extension of 1 st floor to incorporate family bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, single bedroom, master bedroom with dressing area and terrace.

4419 Proposed Changes to the National Planning Policy

Cllr Sadler-Smith outlined the key points featuring in the recent webinar hosted by Wiltshire Council. The new government proposes an 81% increase in the housing target for Wiltshire. The current Local Plan is about to be approved but work on a new plan will start very shortly. There is concern at the move from plan-led to developer-led housing, ie housing without sufficient infrastructure for secondary schools, medical centres, transport and so forth. Brownfield sites are more expensive to develop than greenfield so Wiltshire may be targeted for a higher uplift than the national average. Urban areas have a lower uplift. There is relatively little greenbelt in Wiltshire, mainly to the west, but there is much greenfield (farmland) that could be built in more easily. Greenbelt is not the same as greenfield land. Wiltshire Council is putting together a robust response to the proposals. The closing date for public consultation is 24th September. Councillors took note of the situation, which would be monitored.

4420 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for July 2024 @ £36.18. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith. **APPROVED**

4421 Q1 2024-25 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk/RFO had met with Cllr Carter to go through the balances for the 1st Quarter and the balance sheet had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith. **APPROVED**, then signed off by Cllr White.

4422 Request from Yatesbury Village Hall Committee for Funds

The Clerk reported on an email received from Cllr Page, in her absence, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. This was a request for funds for new circular tables and chairs to facilitate social events and fundraising activities at the Village Hall. Councillors agreed that a formal request would be welcomed and firm figures required before a decision be made.

4423 Community Governance Review – Leaflet and Public Engagement

Cllr White recommended that the new leaflet be printed and distributed with the next newsletter in September/October as this would be more economical. It was agreed that there was no need for bespoke events to be planned as the leaflet would deal with most of this, together with coverage in the Newsletter, the website and on the Facebook page. The Clerk would be attending the CGR meeting online on 3rd September to represent the Parish Council.

4424 Newsletter (Standing Item)

The next edition would be planned for September to October and Cllr White aimed to have a draft ready for the September meeting. **Action : Cllr White**

4425 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – The Clerk said he had been mistaken to have reported at the previous meeting that attendance at meetings would now be restricted to parish clerks rather than to parish councillors. Instead that was the series of updating meetings for parish clerks. The usual monthly meetings of the Board would still be open to parish councillors and Cllr Grafton confirmed that he would try to attend the next one, on 10th September.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd’s totalled £20,151.20. The financial year was now one-third through and anticipated major items of expenditure had yet to be requested and/or paid out but the general position was good.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk had no particular matters to report.

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow was not present to report but it was agreed that the page was being updated when and where appropriate.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton reported that there had been no further meetings.

Website – Cllr Carter had welcomed the reporting in the previous minutes that the Parish Council was contemplating the need for a professional rebuild of the website, to be tied with the expansion of the Council and its area in 2025. Otherwise Cllr White confirmed that he would be adding key documents to the website shortly.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that there had been a certain amount of growth on the chalk surface recently, which was being monitored.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that a trench had recently been dug for the lightning conductor. No significant archaeology had been encountered. He would continue to monitor progress.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that the WALC AGM will be on 25th September and the WALC Conference on 5th November. Previously WALC had not been synchronising too well with NALC activities but steps were now being taken to improve this.

4426 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4427 Date of next meetings

Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall
Thursday 31st October at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.56 pm.