

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 26th September 2024, 7.30pm

Present:

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

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

Plus 1 member of the public

4428 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Carter.

4429 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Grafton had submitted a quote for the PROW work re **Action (4212)** below.

4430 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 28th August 2024

Cllr Grafton proposed approval of the Minutes as a correct record, seconded Cllr Sadler-Smith and **APPROVED**. Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

4431 Review of Actions

Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212). Cllr Grafton showed a copy of the s147 agreement signed off by Richard Gantlett to allow the work to proceed. This matter was dealt with later in the meeting at **4433(2)** below. **Action : Cllrs Page and Grafton**

Yatesbury, overgrown footpaths at Lymers Lane (4255) Since Cllr Grafton had done some cutting Cllr Page had observed that further cutting had been carried out all the way down the lane. This is thought to have been carried out by Wiltshire Council. No further action.

Digging of drainage pipes on the White Horse Way bridleway: Cllr Grafton had spoken with landowner Rob Pickford whose drainage team had started to dig the pond and also the ground for the laying of drainage pipes. Materials were being assembled. No further action.

The training of residents/volunteers for the defibrillators (4258). Cllr White reported that Wiltshire First Aid had agreed to provide Basic Life Support training to residents. The date would be publicised as 3rd November at Cherhill Village Hall.

Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260). Cllr Grafton was still finalising the Yatesbury contacts with Cllr Purslow's assistance. The flood action plan was almost completed. **Action : Cllr Grafton and Purslow**

Putting in drainage to mitigate water-filled pit on byway at Little London, Yatesbury (4353) Cllr Grafton had met with Mr Gantlett who was keen to keep the dip in the byway as this discourages vehicle use. He is though happy to put in a walkway along this section which is permissive. Cllr Grafton will continue to liaise with Mr Gantlett over this. **Action: Grafton/White**

Repairs needed at Barrow Way, part of National Cycle Route 403 (4353). Cllr Purslow had made the application through LHFIG for the work to be done.

Contacting Michelle Haley at Combined Parishes PROW Group for update on training (4372). The Clerk had not yet contacted Michelle Haley for another update but would be doing so. **Action:** Clerk.

The anomaly of Bridleway 14 in Yatesbury which starts as a bridleway but leads to a footpath and goes no further (4387). Cllr Page reported that this had been discussed at the PROW Working Group's meeting on 20th September. The owner wishes it to remain as a bridleway, as shown on the map. Discussions are continuing. **Action: Cllr Page/Clerk**

Summary of PROW Working Group recommendations to be published on website (4387). Cllr Page would send Cllr White the Yatesbury recommendations before publication of recommendations for both wards. **Action: Cllrs White/Page**

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 was waiting for Jason Salter, Head of Passenger Transport at Wiltshire Council, to report back on this and he would chase if necessary. In the meantime the bus stop pole had been reinstated at the Yatesbury turn on the A4. **Action: Clerk**

The painting of a white T-bar on Middle Lane to alleviate parking problems (4403). Cllr White would be making the request through LHFIG. **Action : Cllr White**

The poor standard of repairs to road surface along Back Lane, Yatesbury (4416). Cllr White would be following this up with Wiltshire Council. **Action : Cllr White**

Overgrown vegetation along chalk bridleway CHER2 to the Downs starting from opposite Park Lane (4417). Cllr Grafton has inspected the route and was confident the work could be done by the PC if necessary but the possibility remains of involving the Ramblers Association.

To contact bus companies re onboard announcements recommending use of bridleway CHER2 from opposite Park Lane to access the Downs (4417). The Clerk had emailed the Swindon Bus Company about this, without response, so he would be telephoning to chase. **Action: Clerk**

The repair of stile on bridleway CHER4 up to the Downs starting opposite the Yatesbury turn (4417). Also contacting the Ramblers Association requesting advice on recruiting volunteers for the work. Cllr White had contacted the Ramblers Association who had requested further information on what projects were being considered. The stiles issue was discussed further, later in the meeting (see 4433 below). **Action: Cllrs Grafton/White**

4432 Public Participation

Anne Henshaw raised 2 matters

- a) **The Parish noticeboards at Yatesbury.** The board at Nolands was quite small and was kept locked so the Minutes could not be fully accessed. She suggested that reference be made on the front page for people to be directed to the full Minutes published on the website. **Action: Clerk**
- b) **The state of Yatesbury village pond.** The laurel hedge adjacent to the pond had become overgrown and is encroaching on the pond. **Action: Cllr Grafton** to liaise with the relevant parties to agree and arrange for trimming as required.

4433 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- 1) **Re CHER27 from Red Barn up to the Downs,** and its use by both walkers and horses, this had been discussed further at the 20th September PROW Working Group meeting. Cllr White expressed concern that if horse riders were denied use of this route it would result in many of them having to travel along the A4 before being able to climb up by the chalk path CHER2

opposite Park Lane onto the Downs, which was even narrower, difficult underfoot and much more hazardous. Alternatively, they would be forced to use the bridleway CHER3 up from Poacher's Croft, via the A4 with its national speed limit and therefore CHER27 remained the safest route for horses up to the Downs and needed to be suitably maintained to allow for this. It was agreed that use of CHER27 by horse riders would be monitored over coming months and the landowners would be consulted. It was also agreed that quotes be obtained for signage to advise that this route was a permissive bridleway and thus for use by horses and cycles. **Action: Cllr Page** .

- 2) Returning to the **two stiles near Stert Pond on footpath CHER11B**, (Action **4212** above), Cllr Grafton again referenced the s147 Highways Act 1980 application signed by the landowner Richard Gantlett. This had been lodged with Wiltshire Council and was for the replacement of the 2 existing stiles, both in poor condition, with 2 Marlow self-closing gates. This is the type approved by Wiltshire Council. A culvert pipe would also be fitted as this was cheaper than using sleepers as quoted by another firm and would result in a lower maintenance burden. Handrails would also be fitted. Cllr Grafton provided an informal quote for the items required and the Clerk would obtain a formal invoice from that supplier for approval. Cllr Grafton would also quote for the work to be carried out and ancillary materials. It was also suggested that a further 2 Marlow gates could be ordered for completion of a minor diversion to footpath CHER8 going north from Mill Lane, Cherhill, that work to be carried out by Mr Pickford. Thus a total of 4 gates to be purchased and delivered to Mr Pickford. Proposed Cllr Purslow, seconded Cllr Page and **APPROVED**. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Grafton**

4434 Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

Cllr White confirmed that the Notice of Vacancy had been published by the prescribed date of 13th September. The Clerk would be reporting on whether Wiltshire Council had received by the due date, 3rd October, sufficient requests from parish residents to trigger an election to fill the position. If not then a replacement could be co-opted.

4435 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for August 2024 @ £29.90. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith. **APPROVED**

4436 Request from Yatesbury Village Hall Committee for Funds

The Clerk had circulated a more detailed request from the Village Hall Committee, for 5 new circular tables and 20 chairs. Councillors agreed that this would be an appropriate use of PC funds but a formal invoice from a supplier was now needed for consideration. **Action: Cllr Page**

4437 Community Governance Review – Leaflet and Public Engagement

The leaflet produced by Calne Without PC had been distributed to its residents other than to those addresses to be transferred to Cherhill PC from May 2025. The Clerk would seek clarification from CWPC as to which parish council was going to distribute to East Ward. Otherwise the Cherhill PC version of the leaflet would be printed shortly for distribution throughout the parish as it currently stands. **Action : Clerk/Cllr White**

4438 Newsletter (Standing Item)

Compilation of the Autumn edition had almost been completed by Cllr White and would be distributed in the following couple of weeks to Cherhill parish residents with the CGR leaflet. **Action : Cllr White**

4439 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllr Grafton had been unable to attend the most recent meeting but Cllr Sadler-Smith had been able to update the Board on the progress towards the Lansdowne Monument's restoration by the National Trust.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £29,458.97 following receipt of the second tranche of the Precept, £10,000. The PC's contribution of 30% to the two LHFIG projects in Cherhill, estimated at £4,967, had not yet been requested and he would ask for an update as to the due date for payment. He was currently preparing the spreadsheet for the 2025-26 budget and the first draft would be developed with Cllr White for presentation to the October meeting.

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

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow was continuing to update when and where appropriate.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton reported that there had been no further meetings. There had however been reports of an unpleasant odour from the Lower Compton site on foggy mornings. Hills were dealing with this.

Website – Cllr White confirmed that he had added the 2024-25 budget to the documents published on the site. The website would need to be redeveloped after the expansion of Cherhill Parish next year.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that the horse's head had grown rather green of late due to wet weather. Spare quantities of chalk were still to hand and a request to the local scouts may need to be made, if they are willing, to assist with further work when conditions become dry enough.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith had produced a report for the Newsletter on the progress towards restoration. So far the National Trust had carried out the preliminary work exactly as promised. He would continue to monitor progress.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that at the WALC AGM on 25th September, which he had chaired, he had been re-elected as Vice-Chair. The WALC Conference would take place on 5th November. He was congratulated on his re-election.

4440 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4441 Date of next meetings

Tuesday 29th October at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.