

Cherhill and Yatesbury Parish Council

Newsletter

March 2024



Parish Budget & Precept Update

The parish council budget for the year 2024 to 2025 has been set at £23,568.30. Considering the funds carried over, the parish precept has been set at £20,000.00, representing a c.33% increase on last year. The precept last year was maintained at the same level as 2022-2023 (£15,000.00), whilst the budget for last year was £22,171.00. The reason for the large increase in precept, compared to the modest increase in budget, is due to the fact that over the last few years the parish council has been reducing its reserves, rather than raising funds via greater precept increases. This year, due to work that the parish council has funded or will be funding there is a need to once again increase the precept to meet the budget requirements. The main cost centres for the parish council are listed below.

- Footpath and Bridleway Maintenance.
- Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field Maintenance.
- Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG).
- Clerk Salary (the parish clerk is the only salaried member of the parish council, all councillors are volunteers).

Footpath and Bridleway Maintenance

Maintenance undertaken during the last 12 months includes,

Clearing vegetation and fallen trees from Broth Lane in Cherhill (footpath between the A4 and The Street).

Clearing the permissive bridlepaths between the A4 (next to the Dandy Highwayman) and the gate onto the National Trust Land).

Clearing vegetation and fallen trees from the bridlepath behind The Lymers in Yatesbury.

Repair work to styles and footbridges and the replacement of styles with gates improving pedestrian access in Yatesbury. This work has been delayed due to the very wet ground conditions but will be undertaken ASAP.

Footpath and bridleway maintenance works planned for the coming year include,

Clearing fallen trees and overgrown vegetation from the bridleway opposite Park Lane in Cherhill.

Further clearing of the permissive bridlepaths between the A4 (next to the Dandy Highwayman) and the gate onto the National Trust Land).

Ongoing maintenance and clearing of the bridleway behind The Lymers in Yatesbury.

The parish council will be working closely with our neighbouring parishes to identify further opportunities to improve and maintain our rights of way, but if you are aware of any issues please contact the parish clerk, clerk@cherhill.org

Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field Maintenance.

The parish council works closely with the Tommy Croker Memorial Playing Field committee to ensure that the playground is well looked after and safely maintained. As well as routine mowing and tidying, this past year the parish council has funded the replacement of a number of timbers for the climbing structure and football goal. Each year the parish council budget includes a sum that is ringfenced for larger maintenance expenses such as re-painting, substantial repairs and topping up play surfaces such as pine nuggets and sand. This year the parish council and the Tommy Croker Committee are grateful to Calne Without Parish Council who, in recognising that the playground is used by many families outside of the parish have donated funds to buy replacement play sand.

Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG).

Cherhill parish council is a member of Calne LHFIG that funds improvement to highways and footpaths. The parish council identifies opportunities for improvement and raises these to Wiltshire Council for approval. If accepted, Wiltshire Council undertake the work and the parish council is liable for 30% of the cost.

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Projects that have been approved in 2023 and will be funded from the 2023-2024 budget are,

Dropped kerbs at all road crossings along the A4 in Cherhill (Park Lane, Maiden Lane, Middle Lane and Olivers Hill). This will improve pavement access for people using wheelchairs, prams and pushchairs.

Bollards to close the layby outside the Old Police House, Main Rd Cherhill. Cars parked in this layby cause a visual obstruction and create a risk to drivers wishing to pull out of Middle Lane.

Please contact the parish council at clerk@cherhill.org if you have any further suggestions for improvement works.

Yatesbury Airfield and Hangers

The planning application concerning the housing development on the airfield has been withdrawn. The Parish Council has been in contact with Wiltshire Council concerning the remaining WW1 Hangar at the old Yatesbury Airfield. The WC Conservation Team Leader has been in contact with Historic England and all three parties are due to meet with the owner to remind him of his responsibilities regarding prevention of any further degradation.

Lansdowne Monument

Further to the National Trust's letter to the Parish Council in August, a further question was raised at the AGM by a NT member on the Parish Council in October. The response was to restate that an architectural survey had indeed been completed and informed options were now available to make a considered decision on the best approach to take for restoration.

Further regular communication with the National Trust has not resulted in any further details regarding timescales or whether fund raising efforts can be started.

Andrew Sadler-Smith has recently updated the Calne Area Board with efforts to date and was put in touch with the campaigner who in 2018 received over 6,000

signatures to move forward restoration. Further steps are in progress to revive this initiative.

White Horse

Despite being cleaned by the Cherhill Scout Group in May last year, the damp summer meant that by the autumn the White Horse was looking very grey. Members of the parish council and local volunteers undertook a second cleaning in November 2023. The White Horse will be re-chalked on either the weekend of 11th or 18th May 2024. Final date to be confirmed.

Defibrillators

There are currently 3 defibrillators in the parish that are owned and maintained by the parish council (1 in Yatesbury and 2 in Cherhill). The parish council has recently approved the costs for installing a fourth unit at Quemerford Gate.

Dog Fouling

This issue has been raised to the parish council by many residents and one area that is particularly badly affected is the pavement and verge along the A4 in Cherhill. It is a criminal offence not to pick up after your dog and the penalty for not doing so can be up to £1,000 if taken to court, but there is also provision for a fixed penalty scheme with a fine of £80 in England. The Wiltshire Council dog warden will be carrying out patrols, so please clean up after you dog.

Dates for your Diary

- 6th April – Dance and Music Show, Benson Hall, Compton Bassett. Phone Terri 07834 685 611 for tickets and more info.
- 4th May – Tommy Croker Film Night.
- 6th May – Tommy Croker Fun Run.
- 11th or 18th May (tbc) – White Horse Chalking.
- 25th May – Gardening Club Plant Sale.
- 30th June Winterbourne Monkton Open Gardens, Contact Rose Pearce on 01672 539470.
- 6th-7th July Cherhill Village Theatre Production.
- 13th-14th July Cherhill Village Theatre Production.