

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at  
Cherhill Village Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 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  
Ashley O’Neill – Wilts Council Councillor

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor  
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

Plus 3 members of the public

**4473 Apologies**

Cllr Carter, Cllr Page and Cllr Sadler-Smith

**4474 Declarations of Interest**

None presented.

**4475 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 5th December 2024**

Cllr Grafton proposed approval of the 5<sup>th</sup> December Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Purslow. Cllr White signed off the Minutes.

**4476 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 contact details in the completed plan 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 will chase this up with Jason Salter, Head of Passenger Transport at Wiltshire Council, copying in Phil Groocock, Bus Network Manager, and Wilts Cllr O’Neill. **Action:** Clerk.

**To request through LHFIG the painting of a white T-bar on Middle Lane to alleviate parking problems (4403).** Cllr Purslow had submitted the application through LHFIG and would be attending it’s 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 meeting.

**To Contact bus company re unhelpful onboard announcements recommending use of chalk footpath (CHER2) to access the Downs (4417).** The Clerk was continuing to liaise with Paul Ricketts before getting back to the Swindon Bus Company.

**To liaise with relevant parties re trimming of overgrown laurel at Yatesbury pond (4432).** Cllr Grafton would be progressing this with Paul Ricketts and with Cllr Purslow when the weather improves.

**To meet at Yatesbury Pond to assess the clearance of the pond after flooding (4446).** Cllrs Grafton and Purslow would be meeting with Paul Ricketts who had done a lot of this work previously.

**Promotion of expansion of Cherhill Parish via Facebook, notice boards, website, newsletter (4467).** This was still work in progress.

#### **4477** Public Participation

**Chris Caswill** raised 3 matters:

- a) It was widely accepted that more needs to be made of public transport in the area, the bus service in particular. The 42 bus service is particularly unused. It doesn't help that the bus stop sign outside the Black Horse pub is in a decrepit state. The sign itself is attached to a telegraph pole. Also the thatched bus shelter opposite, across the A4, has no physical bus sign at all and it's not at all evident that it is meant to be a bus stop/shelter. Could the parish council make a request to LHFIFG for funds to erect new bus stop poles and signs? **AGREED** that this should be done. **Action** : Cllrs Purslow and White.
- b) There were issues re the 33 bus service, it's schedule not working effectively with the 42 service. There was a clear problem with co-ordination. It was **AGREED** that the local bus service should be made an agenda item in the near future, with an invitation to the Passenger Transport Unit and Swindon Bus Company to take part. It was suggested that Cllr Celia Stevens of Calne Town Council, with a particular interest in local public transport, also could be invited. **Action:** Clerk
- c) The 2025-26 Budget and Precept was being agreed at this evening's meeting but the public had not been given a chance to participate in the process. It was pointed out to Mr Caswill that parish councils of this size generally discuss budgets without public involvement. However the minutes of the previous meeting carried an outline in some detail of the size of the budget, it's aims and the amount of Precept to be agreed. In future, however, the Agendum for this item will specify the figures for the Budget and Precept before being adopted. In the meantime the new Budget would be put on the website.

#### **4478** Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- a) Actions carried from 4476 relating to this item :

**To form working party to repair handrails and footbridges near Stert Pond (4212).** The materials had now been delivered and Cllr Grafton would be arranging for them to be transported to the site.

**To approach Richard Gantlett re putting in drainage to mitigate a water-filled pit on byway at Little London, Yatesbury, formerly part of National Cycle Route 403 (4353)** Cllr White had contacted Steven Leonard at Wiltshire Council to send him photographs of the recent flooding. He was now discussing matters with that landowner.

**The anomaly of Bridleway 14, which starts as a bridleway but leads to a footpath that goes no further (4387).** In the absence of Cllr Page there was no further information.

**To contact Wiltshire Council re the poor standard of repairs to road surface along Back Lane, Yatesbury (4416)** Cllr White is liaising with Wiltshire Council.

**Quote to be obtained re overgrown vegetation along CHER2 chalk footpath up to the Downs starting from opposite Park Lane (4417).**

Vegetation had been cut back by Cllr Grafton last autumn and is no longer overgrown. No current action.

**To source materials for repair of stiles on footpath up to the Downs starting opposite the Yatesbury turn. Also to contact the Ramblers Association requesting advice on recruiting volunteers for the work (4417)** Cllr White in ongoing discussions with the Ramblers Association.

**To obtain quote for signage on CHER27 advising it is a permissive bridleway (4433)** This is the path from Red Barn, that is no longer required as a permissive bridleway. Action is with National Trust to lock the gate if they wish. No further action for the Parish Council.

- b) Cllr White reported that he was meeting Becky Chivers of Wiltshire Highways the following week in Mill Lane, Cherhill, to discuss the very poor state of the road surface. This was a particular problem for residents on the lane and members of the public attempting to access Tommy Croker park.

#### **4479** Vacancy on Cherhill Parish Council

Cllr White confirmed that the opportunity would be promoted to the wider community within the parish. It is now less than 6 months to the local elections so co-option is the only option.

#### **4480** Accounts

**Clerk's Home/Office expenses for December 2024 @ £32.49.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**

**Yatesbury Village Hall Committee – outdoor tables for Yatesbury Village Hall @ £200.00.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**

**Ordnance Survey – Annual Subscription to Parish Online digital mapping service @ £57.60.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**

#### **4481** Q2 and Q3 Bank Reconciliations

Unfortunately the Clerk had not yet been able to meet with Cllr Carter to go through this expenditure but they had agreed a date, 24<sup>th</sup> January, to do this. The Reconciliations would be available for approval at the February meeting.

#### **4482** Clerk's Salary

The Clerk had circulated the recent NALC/NJC recommended hourly rates for local council clerks, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Currently his position was Scale 9, for which the hourly rate of £13.02 should now be £13.69. The increase should be made and backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Proposed Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**.

The Clerk's position on the pay scale had not changed since he took up the role but would be reviewed after the CGR changes in May 2025 and the expansion of the Cherhill Parish.

#### **4483** Community Governance Review Update

There had been much concern recently that the government's plans for devolution in England, and the proposal for a new regional mayoralty for the Wessex region, ie Wiltshire, Somerset and Dorset, would mean pushing back the May 2025 local elections and the changes to local parish boundaries. Cllr O'Neill reported that such fears had largely receded but there was still an issue caused by the relationship between Swindon Borough Council and the rest of Wiltshire and whether they would merge. Given all the circumstances however it was still reasonable to work on the basis that the elections and CGR changes would be taking place in May 2025.

Cherhill PC would be promoting the changes and, in particular, liaison would be taking place with residents of Lower Compton. **Action:** Cllr Grafton

#### **4484** Budget and Precept request for 2025-26

The draft budget previously prepared and circulated by the Clerk/RFO had been approved in outline at the previous meeting and had been summarised in the minutes of that meeting.

The proposed new budget at £38,537.00 is higher than previously, with it's greater emphasis on community projects and infrastructure improvements. Taking into account the expected monies to come from the dismantling of Calne Without PC, the Precept figure comes to £27,898.49. According to the taxbase estimates by Wiltshire Council for the expanded Cherhill Parish, the cost for a typical Band D household would be £49.21, somewhat less than it is for the current financial year.

Proposed Cllr Purslow, seconded Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**.

The Chairman and the Clerk duly signed off the 2025-26 Budget. They also signed off the Precept Request form for 2025-26 for £27,898.49, to be lodged with Wiltshire Council before the deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **4485** Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Doug Price of Calne Without PC had been invited to attend in order to brief as to the implementation of the newly revised Plan. This is a result of collaboration between Calne Town Council and Calne Without PC. It had been subjected to an external examination and Wiltshire Council had recently vetted it, with only minor amendment. The new Plan is now subject to a referendum on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with the result announced the following day. If approved then successor councils, such as Cherhill, will be responsible for implementing the plan for the areas coming to them in May 2025. Councillors were grateful to Cllr Price and took note. A meeting for the successor parish councils, including Calne Town Council, would be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January at Derry Hill.

#### **4486** Newsletter (Standing Item)

The next edition for Spring of 2025 would now be put back until after the result is known of the Referendum on the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2. It would include the aims regarding the budget for 2025-26, CGR changes (parish expansion) and the proposed new grants for local groups

#### **4487** Councillor Responsibilities

**Calne Area Board** – Cllr Grafton would be attending the next meeting

**Budgeting and Finance** – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £24,841.25 and the general position remained satisfactory. He had previously recommended that the Budget/Finance group continues to meet, and such meetings would be arranged quarterly, to monitor income and steer expenditure in line with the budget.

**Clerk Admin matters** – The Clerk had the previous day commenced the online ILCA-CILCA course, comprising a series of online webinars and submissions. This would 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. He would be adding items on recruitment for new councillors and the Calne Neighbourhood Plan 2

**Hills Waste Solutions Group** – Cllr Grafton had not been able to attend the online meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December but Cllr Doug Price (Calne Without), who was present, confirmed that he had participated in it and there were no particular matters to report.

**LHFIG (Local Highways and Footways Improvement Groups)** – Cllr Purslow would be attending the meeting, on 29<sup>th</sup> January. He would beforehand, by 15<sup>th</sup> January, be making a request for funding for 2 bus stop poles next to, and opposite to, the Black Horse pub.

**Website** – Cllr White confirmed that the building of a new website would take place after May 2025 when the parish council expands. Funds for this had been budgeted.

**White Horse Restoration Group** – Cllr Grafton reported that work would take place in the Spring on the head and neck of the horse, using some of the chalk still available. Otherwise, he had managed to obtain from members of the Group a box file of papers relating to the Parish Council's ownership of the horse, including the deeds going back to 1910. These he passed to the Clerk for safekeeping.

**Lansdowne Monument** – Cllr Sadler-Smith was not present but had confirmed to the Clerk that he had requested an update from the National Trust on the more substantial work of restoration.

**Defibrillators** – Cllrs Purslow reported that he had ordered new pads for the Yatesbury unit. Cllr White had recently fitted new pads to the unit at Cherhill School.

**Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)**. – Cllr Sadler-Smith had reported to the Clerk that NALC was increasing its subscriptions by 3% and WALC by 5%.

#### **4488** Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

#### **4489** Date of next meetings

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

Subsequent meetings would be held on the fourth Thursday of each month, at Cherhill Village Hall, unless agreed otherwise.

The meeting closed at 8.57 pm.