

CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05th NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Cllr Hughes, Cllr Williams, Cllr Hopton, Cllr Parr, Cllr Foxen & Cllr Taylor

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling
Christopher Williams -prospective Wiltshire Councillor
0 Members of public

1)Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Dawson

2) Public Participation

There were no members of public present

3) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parr declared an interest in an application for tree works at his property.

4) Minutes

Resolved: Resolved: Cllr Taylor proposed the minutes of the meetings held on 8th October were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hopton.

Matters Arising

1) Footpaths

The Clerk confirmed she had written to local landowners regarding problems highlighted on footpaths crossing their land. Ann Rudland footpaths warden confirmed she had shared her report regarding broken stiles and signs with the Wiltshire Footpaths team.

2) Allotments update

The Clerk said she had reported the overgrown hedges to Wiltshire Council, the broken fence to the land owner, the untidy allotments to tenants and finally, requested a quote for work to cut back hedging from Simon Withers. The landowners have confirmed they will repair the fence, Wiltshire Council have acknowledged the request to cut back hedges, one of the untidy allotments has been cleared, finally, the quote for hedge work is awaited.

Cllr Taylor reported that a large water tank installed at the allotments had been damaged. It appears that the tank has been jumped on, footprints were present and the top is caved in. A repair will be attempted.

5) Specific Reports

Highways- Cllr Hughes confirmed gritting lorries have visited the village this week. Concerns have been raised again about speeding traffic in the villages. Recently a child was involved in a near miss. Drivers are asked to keep to low speeds through the village.

Footpaths- see report above.

King George playing Fields – Cllr Dawson was absent

Village Hall- Cllr Hopton reported the work to the Village Hall floor was now complete. Other work is continuing. She said that the hall committee were now trying to raise funds. Cllr Hopton suggested that rents that would have been paid if the hall had been used for meetings were given to the hall as a donation. This was seconded by Cllr Williams. All in favour. The Clerk will arrange for payment to be made.

Allotments- (See report above) Cllr Taylor was asked to approach Simon Withers to request the quote to carry out the work on the hedges be sent as soon as possible.

Village Design Statement- Cllr Hopton had circulated a report of findings from the VDS. Details from street surveys will provide data to form surveys which are a work in progress. Once complete there will be a need for consultation with villagers.

6) Grant Policy

The Clerk had circulated a revised draft grant awarding policy and application form to all councillors. Cllr Parr had suggested some amendments. All agreed these and the policy was formally adopted. The PCC, The Village Hall and KGPF will all be paid the grants agreed by the Parish Council. All organisations will be asked to complete applications for the 2021/22 financial year.

7) Parking Concerns

The Clerk reported on research as to how to tackle continual problems with parking on Parish Council land. It was possible for a Parish Council to instigate bylaws however this was a lengthy and expensive procedure. Guidance suggested signs should be erected to advise anyone thinking of parking not to do so, in addition fitting small posts all the way around the green area could be considered. Concerns were raised that if vehicles were prevented from parking on green spaces, they would simply find somewhere else to park effectively moving the problem, also that the erection of posts might hamper grass cutting. After some discussion and to be fully informed the Clerk was asked to establish the cost of metal no parking signs and the cost to fit posts around the green at Chute Cadley and the small green at Upper Chute. This matter will then be reviewed.

Cllr Taylor reported parking problems on green spaces at Tibbs Meadow and suggested wooden posts be considered for this area. Cllr Hughes said as the land belonged to Wiltshire Council the Parish Council could not put posts in. As the problems arose from 1 property the Clerk was asked to contact the housing association. Christopher Williams said if Wiltshire council land was being damaged highways enforcement may be able to assist.

8) National Association of Local Councils- increase to Clerks Salary Scales

The Clerk confirmed that NALC had now completed consultations with unions and as a result the Clerks salary scale had been increased. An increase of 37p per hour applies from 01/04/2020 with a further 37p added from 01/04/2021. These increases should be applied automatically unless there are concerns regarding performance. The Clerk said she had calculated back pay for the entire year as £102.20 and proposed this was paid as a one lump sum in March 2021 the final month of the financial year. Revised standing order forms can also be completed for new pay rates from April 2021.

9) Draft Budget

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget and explained the purpose of this was to inform Councillors of the likely level of expenditure and therefore the precept required for the next financial year. After some discussions about possible increased expenditure to help local organisations Cllr Hughes proposed the precept be raised by £500 to £9000 for the financial year 2021/22. This was seconded by Cllr Williams. All agreed.

10) Finance

The bank balance as 30/10/20 was as follows:

Lloyds £1257.97

The financial statement to 30/10/2020 was reviewed and agreed.

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved and cheques signed:

Welmedical £182.40 -new defibrillator battery

Royal British Legion £25.00- poppy wreath

H Bourner £62.24 – renewal of email service

H Bourner salary	£225.33 by standing order
H Bourner office exps	£16.50 by standing order
HMRC	£56.33 by standing order

11) County Councillors Report.

Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling had sent a comprehensive report which is attached to these minutes.

Police Report

No police report had been received.

12) Planning

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted:

20/08095/TCA- application for tree works, Well Cottage, Forest Lane- No objection

Thicket Cottage- variation to planning application refused- applicant appeal will be submitted. Cllr Blair-Pilling said if Wiltshire Council take enforcement action now this would result in an appeal. An enforcement appeal would take 18months to resolve. The fastest route is to allow an appeal by the applicant and deal with that which is what Wiltshire Council will do. If the appeal fails enforcement action will take place. Cllr Hughes expressed dissatisfaction that no enforcement action appears to ever be taken. Cllr Hopton said building continues at Thickett Cottage. Cllr Blair-Pilling said the owners are running the risk of being made to take any building down that does not have planning permission however currently there is nothing illegal taking place.

Resolved: that the Parish Council decisions on the following applications were endorsed:

20/09474/TCA, tree works, land to rear Tolleys Cottages, upper Chute-no objection

20/09288/TCA- tree works, Fosgate House, Upper Chute – no objection

Cllr Hughes said he had been made aware there has been lots of public comments made to the proposed application to demolish the Cross Keys and rebuild. Chute Parish Council had considered the application but not raised any objections. The Wiltshire Council Planning Conservation Officer has raised concerns regarding the demolition of an historic building dating back to 1705. There are also comments on the chosen style of building. The final decision is awaited.

13) Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note

14)Any Other Business

The Parish Council had received a request from the fete committee to erect three Christmas trees in Chute and Chute Forest. The trees will be lit and local children encouraged to hang decorations. The cost of the project will be fully met by the fete committee. The Parish Council were very happy to allow this provided the fete committee have the necessary public liability insurance. Cllr Hughes will discuss with them.

15) Items for next meeting

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Thursday 7th January 2021.