

**CHUTE AND CHUTE FOREST**  
**PARISH COUNCILS**

**MINUTES OF JOINT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**Chute Village Hall**

**Present**

**Chute Parish Council**  
**Cllr Wall**  
**Cllr Harker**  
**Cllr Alderson**  
**Cllr Rudland**

**Chute Forest Parish Council**  
**Cllr Pike**  
**Cllr Stock**  
**Cllr Geraghty**

**PC Sharon Duggan Wiltshire Police**

**1. Apologies**

Cllr C Williams

Cllr J Parr, Cllr M Taylor, Cllr MA Hopton, Cllr M Geraghty, Cllr R Robertson and Cllr M Farrell S Harries (Church)

7 members of the public attended the meeting.

**The meeting was chaired by Cllr Wall – Chute Parish Council**

**2. Annual Presentation – Chute Forest**

**Cllr Pike provided the following report:**

First of all, I'd to thank our councillors Sue Stock, Mark Geraghty, Ros Robertson for their contribution in representing the Chute Forest parishioners and their sound judgement in addressing to issues that come up. I look forward to continuing to work with them.

I would particularly like to thank Councillor, Teresa Orange, who resigned last year, for her advice and input during her time on the council. She has been replaced by Mike Farrell, who was initially co-opted on to the council but is now a fully elected member.

I'd also like to thank Carolyn Wall, our clerk, who has worked tirelessly in dealing with all the administration in the council as well as keeping track of the accounts in her additional role as the responsible financial officer.

The final thank you goes to John Dawson who continues to mow to the playing field and Barry Unwin who cuts the village green.

Since the last Annual meeting Wiltshire Council reorganised in the groupings of Parish councils. Along with Chute PC we now come under Ludgershall North and Rural. Previously we were linked to a geographic spread of parishes, that reached as far as Netheravon, who we had very little contact with. We welcome this as a very positive change. It also means our Wiltshire councillor has changed and we are very pleased to now work with Councillor Chris Williams, who lives in Ludgershall and attends all of our meetings for which we are very grateful.

We continue to support the playing fields and pavilion along with Chute Parish Council. Generally, my thanks go to the KGF committee and volunteers who continue look after all the building and grounds.

During the year the main items we have to consider are planning applications. Over the period 2019/20 we received three applications. We supported all three. In 2020/21 we received four applications. We supported three and objected to one adjacent to Red House Farm, which was refused.

We also generally act as the eyes and ears for Wiltshire council and bring any relevant issues to their attention. One issue that exercises the village is the pothole at the pinch point by the cottages just before Red House Farm on the way to Clanville. Wiltshire now accept that it is in the county (it is just 50yds from the Hampshire border) and have told us they plan to patch the road rather just continuing to put in temporary filling. Unfortunately, we have not yet been given a date for when the work is scheduled to be done.

### **3. Presentation of accounts- Chute Forest Carolyn Wall Clerk and RFO**

Our accounts for the last year were once again in line with our budget which we normally agree in November of the previous year. Our total expenditure was £5484 against an income of £5414. The increase was due to an increase in our grant to the church to help with grounds maintenance.

Our Precept which affects the council tax is £5174 which was a slight increase of £274 over the previous 3 years. This was to mainly account for tree work which may need doing particularly with Ash die back.

We still however have managed to retain reasonable reserves.

### **4. Chairman's Annual Presentation – Chute Parish Council**

Firstly, I would sadly like to report the death of Jim Haines who died last night after a short illness.

Jim served the council well for over 8 years and only retired 2 years ago to care for his wife Jenny.

Jim was born in the village at Well Cottage 77 years ago and after a long career in which he was instrumental in the design and production of the Hubble Telescope he returned to spend his retirement at Homestead in Chute Cadley and will be missed by many in the community.

It is now two years since our last Annual Joint Parish meeting as due to Covid last years was cancelled but despite Covid and Lockdown the Parish Council continued to meet via on-line internet meetings.

It has been another very busy year two years for the Council, with some very significant changes.

This year the council went to election the result of which saw four new councillors being elected which were Carolyn Wall, Tim Harker, Ann Rudland and Mike Alderson. We now have a fully elected council. Our thanks go to departing members Dominic Hughes, Roly Williams, Sarah Foxen and John Dawson who served the council well during their tenure.

The Clerk Heather Bourner also left the council in June, and we have been fortunate to employ Carly Lovell who again is a very experienced clerk and who is also Town Clerk for Tidworth Town Council which brings synergy between the two councils.

I would also like to introduce our Wiltshire Councillor Chris Williams who has replaced Ian Blair-Pilling and has already proved to be an asset to the community and will be talking to you later.

One of the primary roles of the council is to discuss planning applications which can be the most of difficult issues. There have been 38 applications during the last two years 18 of which were during lockdown so no slowdown.

Of these, two have proved to be contentious, which are Thicket Cottage and the demolition of The Cross Keys both of which are still on-going.

The fencing off of local footpaths also became contentious with residents and to which this has now been amicably resolved with the landowner and permissive footpaths re-opened.

Footpaths always need monitoring, and our local landowners are, thankfully, generally very good at discharging their responsibilities with minimal reminders. We always welcome reports of blockages and, indeed, help to sort out any problems that occur.

Parking on our village greens is also a difficult issue to resolve with the increase in cars per household and the lack of suitable parking within the parish.

Working with residents in Chute Cadley saw posts being erected on the corners to prevent erosion by parking and a questionnaire is being directed to Upper Chute residents for their views.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers in the village who litter pick, help with fallen trees and look out for fly tippers which has bought one successful prosecution this year. Thanks also particularly go to The Withers Family, John Pead and Lee Merritt for the regular cutting of the village greens and also to the many villagers who quietly work away helping to maintain our amenities, clear fallen trees and litter pick. Their help is much appreciated.

The playing fields and pavilion, which we support along with Chute Forest Parish Council, are now maintained to a very high, more of that from the King George Field Committee.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and clerk for their support and dedication to the parish.

## **5. Presentation of Annual accounts- Chute Parish Council Carly Lovell Clerk and RFO**

Balance as at 31st March 2021 £7198.79

Expenditure £8192.30

Income £9234.88

## **6. Report from Chris Williams (Wiltshire Council)**

**In his absence the following report was provided:**

### **Grants**

In 2019/20, Tidworth Area Board awarded @£67k of local grants to support around 34 local community projects levering in an additional £120k

In 2020/21 Tidworth Area Board has awarded @£61k to support around 15 local community projects levering in an additional £100k

### **Health and wellbeing**

The health and wellbeing group is a sub-group of the Area Board and focusses primarily on older and vulnerable people. In 2019, Tidworth Dementia Action Alliance was reviewed, and the meetings became part of the health and wellbeing group.

During the current pandemic and associated restrictions, the health and wellbeing group has taken on a wider role. It has attracted new partners including the Chamber of Commerce, local councils and Spurgeons and operated as a forum for discussing and addressing other local issues including young people, economy and resilient communities. It has met bi-monthly and compliments the Area Board meetings offering an informal forum to share information, discuss issues and propose solutions. Attendance has been good, and the meeting well received. However, the future structure of this group and the health and wellbeing group will be reviewed again once restrictions are lifted.

Some of the projects that the area board organised or supported include:

- A successful over 75's event held in Ludgershall Memorial Hall
- A very well attended educational day for the Nepalese community in Tidworth Garrison Theatre
- Area Awards event in the Memorial Hall to celebrate and thank some of our volunteers

A separate working group was set up to explore how we can support and promote social prescribing. Plans including help with cooking, community allotments, and arts for those living with dementia were beginning to be put in place when the pandemic hit. However, funding has been put aside to support the surgery and other partners in delivering this during 2021.

### **COVID**

Since the first restrictions were put in place in March 2019, the Area Board and community engagement team was immediately called in to lead on the community side of the pandemic and to assist Wiltshire Council in carrying out all of its support activities. This has taken much of our time including setting up the support systems and the network of community groups. We have been gathering information and intelligence regarding any issues within the area and where support is required. This has been used to inform both local action and that provided by Wiltshire Council and our partners

The area board has also been active in sharing information with the public and local partners as well as helping ensure people understand and stick to the restrictions that are in place.

The Area Board has put together a status report which is a snapshot of what the main issues are in the community area. It is based upon both data acquired by a Joint Strategic Needs Analysis carried out every three years by Public Health and also what local groups and organisations are telling us. The next step will be to agree priorities for the area board soon after the May elections

### **Young people**

The Area Board has worked with several groups and organisations, providing funding so that they can expand their offer of positive activities to young people. These include funding for Collingbourne Youth cricket club, Tidworth Gymnastics club, Netheravon Football Club and Wellington Academy

Advice and support have been offered to those areas looking to develop or extend a youth offering. Enford and Avon Youth group were supported to stay at Oxenwood, and we worked with residents and groups from Ludgershall to see if a new offer could be established with the

previous youth groups having stopped. Funding has been provided by the area board to Ludgershall boys and youth centre and we want to continue to work with the trustees to help it be a place to provide activities for local young people.

In partnership with Salisbury Museum, we established a film and photographic project that has been working with young people identified by the Youth Offending Team to help give them skills and confidence.

Working closely with the Army Welfare Service, a successful family learning festival was run during Autumn 2019 as well as a follow up history day.

A good relationship between Tedworth Equestrian and the Area Board was developed, and funding provided to allow young people who are at risk or who do not have access to this form of positive activity to experience it.

The healthy schools project is supported and partly funded by the area board. 7 primary and secondary schools are currently taking part which is the highest number in Wiltshire.

Funding has now been agreed with the Army Welfare Service for them to run a series of pop-up events throughout the community area for young people and families. This will start during summer 2021

The Area Board is one of 6 Southern area boards who are working collaboratively to address the challenge of providing positive activities to young people in rural areas.

### **Community Area Transport Group (CATG)**

This is a sub-group of the area board and focusses upon more minor highways issues. The following projects were completed during the past two years:

#### **2019/20**

- I. Netheravon Village Gates & Signs
  - II. Collingbourne Ducis Gateways Phase
  - III. Collingbourne Kingston Gateways
  - IV. Everleigh Speed Limit Assessment
  - V. Collingbourne Kingston Deer Warning Sign
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- I. Collingbourne Kingston Mini Roundabout Kerbing Alterations Preliminary Design
  - II. Ludgershall A342 Castle bend / Butt Street Sign Review
  - III. Collingbourne Ducis Marlborough Road Village Gates Phase 2
  - IV. Everleigh Speed Limit implementation
  - V. Enford 20mph Speed Limit Assessment – Funding has been agreed by the area board to implement the assessment
  - VI.

### **Area Boards**

The Area Board stopped meetings for a short time when restrictions first occurred in March 2020. However, since September 2020 the area board has continued to meet using Microsoft teams.

In May 2019, the Area Board ran a workshop called “Paths for All” to focus upon encouraging walking and improving our network of rights of way. This was well attended, and many people wished to get involved. As a result, a Paths for All steering group was established, and funding put aside to support any group wishing to partake. 3 walks have been produced that are available as leaflets or online at [Walking in the Vale of Pewsey - Visit Pewsey Vale](#) A template exists for others to also publish their own walks. The group has also agreed funding for a number of footpath improvements including bridleway and pedestrian gates at Collingbourne Kingston as well as upgrading the surface of a path in Everleigh Work continued with the MOD on the military rebasing and the Military Civilian Integration including partaking in the visit from representatives from Estonia.

The Area Board is an active member of other local partnerships including the Multi Agency Forum and the Community Safety Partnership

The Area Board is a conduit for communications, messages, information and local issues and continues to communicate through its weekly “[our community matters](#)” newsletter.

The community area boundaries are changing from May 2021 with the Avon Valley area joining Amesbury community area board. Elections will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Tidworth area will continue to have 3 wards namely:

- Ludgershall North and rural
- Tidworth East and Ludgershall South
- Tidworth North and West

## **7. Report from Wiltshire Police PC Sharon Duggan**

PC Duggan reported that within the last 60 days there had been no reports. She would like to have a presence in the community and welcomes invites to events.

The matter Off Roaders was raised Honeybottom and New Zealand farm being a particular problem. She advised that people do not approach the Off Roaders and urged for them to be reported with as much information as possible.

## **8. Report from Collingbourne and Chute Link Scheme**

### **Gerry Hooper provided the following report:**

The past two years have, for obvious reasons, been most difficult for our Link Scheme, since we rely largely on volunteers who were designated as among the most vulnerable age group during the coronavirus pandemic. This caused us to pause our services for the largest part of the past eighteen-month period, and we seriously regret the effect this has had on the many clients who have been unable to access our services.

As the restrictions have been relaxed we have now restarted to help wherever we can.

However, we are still performing at a very low level compared with previous years.

I would here like to record my sincere thanks to all our Volunteers from The Chutes who have stayed with us over the last two difficult years to are helping to restore the service to our clients. Our finances have taken a hit because of our continuing fixed overheads with much reduced income from client donations, but our financial position is still secure due to the reserves we had been able to build up. Our concern at the moment is that we have still not been able to find a replacement for our Honorary Secretary, and our Honorary Treasurer Eliza Hudson is moving away at the end of the year. We have been advertising for someone to take over this post, as well as for a new Secretary, but so far nobody has come forward. This is a serious situation because, although we can struggle on a little longer without a Secretary, I do not believe we can continue without a Treasurer. The regulations of the Charity Commission (and of our bank) insist upon there being a Treasurer separate from the other officers of the charity. Therefore, we must redouble our efforts to find a willing volunteer in the next few weeks, if we are to continue as a Link Scheme.

Thank you once again to our Chute Link Scheme Volunteers

## **9. Report from Village Hall Committee**

### **Carolyn Wall provided the following report:**

The Village Hall is currently managed by only five trustee/committee members who are responsible for the running and maintenance of the hall, and further members are still urgently needed.

The hall has proved to be very popular this year with general hiring's and parties which generated an income of £5505 which was an increase of £239 over the previous year plus small grants of £1200 generating a total income of £6705.

This was helped by the introduction of Pilates and evening Yoga and the flower show which the village hall committee organised when the garden club dropped out.

Our expenditure of £6325 included reglazing the windows, repainting and replacing the kitchen floor. This left us with a small profit of £380

The average cost of running the hall is £305 a month.

We currently have some roof repairs to complete and reappraise the very costly heating system. We also may have to purchase another mower as repairs to the current one may not be viable.

The monthly coffee mornings and lunches have proved to be very popular and enabled villagers to meet new people in an informal atmosphere.

The Trustees wish to express their appreciation to both Chute and Chute Forest Parish Council and The Fete Committee for their generous donations, which are received with grateful thanks.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to record my appreciation of all who have contributed in any way to the success of the hall as a village amenity during the past year. Finally, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members for their support over the past year.

## **10. King George Field Report**

### **Report Provided by Tim Harker**

The King George Field is owned by both Parish Councils and is managed independently by a committee with members from both Parish Councils and Cricket Club. During lock-down the field was a great asset to residents for exercise and dog walking as all sport was cancelled.

Unfortunately, Andover New Street Youth Football teams no longer use the field due to the resignation of one of their founder members who carried out the marking out and bookings. This leaves us with a shortfall of over £2000 per annum.

We are currently looking for a replacement.

We were however successful in securing a grant which paid for a replacement commercial mower after the demise of the Triking.

We have also been successful in private hires of the field for cricket matches and parties.

The fencing has been replaced around two thirds of the play area to make it more secure and to deter dogs and the field aerated at the beginning of the year to help drainage.

On-going maintenance includes major work to replace the veranda pillars and the soffits to the pavilion and to re-decorate.

We also plan to repaint the storage container dark green to look less obtrusive and are looking for a smaller container to site alongside to store fete equipment.

Unfortunately, we are still blighted by inconsiderate dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs.

Our thanks go to John Dawson for his weekly mowing, Rick Tweed and Tim Harker for Strimming and to Ann and Bill Catt for picking up dog poo and emptying the bin.

## **11. Report from Chute Chronicle**

### **Report provided by Heather Walding**

I am one of the volunteer editors for the Chute Chronicle

The parish magazine for the Chutes and surrounding areas. We produce 11 editions a year and distribute to around 200 households who pay £5 for a year's subscription.

The magazine is drafted and edited by team of 3, we have 5 deliverers, and one person manages the advertisers. We are all volunteers.

The aim of the Chronicle is to inform and entertain our community. It is a vehicle to promote village events, with most local clubs contributing to the magazine on a regular basis. It is community magazine for the community. We are aware that we don't currently include any sporting fixtures, we are aiming to rectify that and are

open any other suggestions. We have widened our articles in the last 18 months to include farming events, such as lambing, and historical events like the Conholt air crash and the Chute Hoard. We are very grateful to our regular contributors, the Church, the garden club, village hall to name a few. They form the backbone of our magazine.

We aim to be self-funded through the income generated from our advertisers but do have the safety net of the PCC who make up any shortfall. For many years we have not only covered our cost but made a profit for the PCC. In the last F/Y we generated an income of £1940 with an expenditure of £1506 leaving a balance of £434 for the PCC. These figures are based on the PCC audited accounts. Our biggest outgoing is printing, which is c£220 per month.

Currently we aren't fully funded through our advertising revenue for this year and this is mostly due to a fall in advertisers and one off local 'for sale' advertisers whose income bolstered our funds, they now use social media platforms instead.

Going forward we must increase our number of editors. It isn't an onerous task but does take a chunk of time when you are that month's editor. We don't want to go the way of other local parish magazines that have folded due to lack of volunteers to produce it. Hence our desire to spread the load.

We would like to increase our advertising revenue, but this is proving a challenge post Covid.

This of course relies on our volunteers giving up their time to generate this. We don't want to increase the cost of the magazine, it is competitive, but we mustn't lose sight of our aim to provide a magazine for all in the community.

And finally, and this my personal view, we should consider the impact of The Chronicle on the environment, we should look at our carbon footprint. Does this mean we should consider producing an e copy? How would this affect our income stream from subscribers? How would this affect those in our community who aren't 'online'. We certainly don't want to lose any of our readers. Is it greener to produce a digital copy, this is more complicated than just talking about the number of trees needed to produce a hard copy, you must consider the environmental impact of producing the device you read it on. Perhaps a small step in the right

direction would be to look at producing the Chronicle on recycled paper..... Yet again not an easy fix, how much energy is used in the production of recycled paper, will it feel and look as good as it does now. In short, the environmental impact of producing the Chronicle is a sum of many parts.

And to close without our team of volunteers we can't produce and deliver the Chronicle. Any views, ideas, thoughts and maybe even volunteers to join us are welcome.

## **12. Report from Chute Club**

### **Report provided by Peter Green:**

Mr Green reported that the Club had been fortunate to receive a grant during COVID lockdown. Re-opening began in April with outside only but inside activities are now fully back up and running, including Bingo, whist drive, quiz night and skittles. He informed everyone that parking was permitted in the club car park when using the field.

## **13. Report from the Church:**

In the absence of Susie Harries the following report was read:

like everyone it has been a difficult year for St Nicolas Church. COVID has had a huge impact on our collections. Thankfully we have a group of wonderful, regular donors, using this and some of our reserves we have managed to keep afloat. We have spent very little on the fabric of the Church but there are jobs that need doing urgently in order to protect our Church for the future and make it fit for purpose. We have floor subsidence in the Church which we are currently investigating. We need new doors on the outside of the entrance and we would love to have a toilet installed amongst other things. As you can imagine this will cost a lot of money over and above normal maintenance.

Through COVID we have supported various members of the Community through organising the making of surgical scrubs, arranging support for the vulnerable in our community and organising the Chute Relief Fund. We would like to thank those members of the Community who offered financial support. We cannot give details of the support we have as it has been given offering complete privacy. We will now be winding the fund down. We would like to thank the Parish Councils who have increased their funding for the upkeep of the graveyard. The Church has agreed to the Defibrillator from the Cross Keys to be rehomed in the Church and we will cover the cost of the electricity. The maintenance and upkeep is the responsibility of the Parish Council who will be able to give you an update on how things are going. Thank you to everyone who supports our wonderful Church. All the money to run the Church comes from you, the Community and whilst you may not attend every week it is the only community building in Upper Chute and a wonderful place to celebrate weddings and Christenings and a place to come together at funerals.

**No further business was raised and the meeting closed at 9.00pm**

**Carly Lovell Clerk and RFO to Chute Parish Council.**