

CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04th MARCH 2021

Present: Cllr Hughes Chairman, Cllr Parr Vice Chairman, Cllr Williams, Cllr Hopton, Cllr Dawson, Cllr Foxen & Cllr Taylor.

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling
Wiltshire County Councillor candidate- Christopher Williams
6 Members of public

1) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hopton declared an interest in a planning application for tree works at her property. Cllr Parr declared an interest in relation to the tree felling as this was happening on his land and also with reference to his part of the local agricultural community.

3) Public Participation

Matters raised by the public

Planting of trees and ash die back- see items 9 and 10.

Planning application at Thicket Cottage – The householder and agent were present to discuss proposed further development of the erection of a garage and garden store with the creation of two parking spaces. Cllr Hughes said that the plans for the application were not available until after the March meeting agendas were published. This meant that neither Councillors or members of the public had been able to review the documents. In the circumstances a request for an extension to the deadline for making comments had been requested and agreed. The application will therefore be considered at the April meeting.

Chute Cadley Well Head- approx. three years ago a quote to repair the well head had been obtained and a resident agreed to carry out the work which meant the Parish Council would only incur costs for materials. The volunteer had asked the Parish Council for a letter giving him permission to carry out the work but had never received this. Cllr Hughes agreed to speak to the previous chairman to establish facts.

A reminder that a decision to spend money from the Chute in Need fund held by Chute Parish Council should be agreed by both Chute & Chute Forest PC

4) Minutes

Resolved: Resolved: Cllr Parr proposed the minutes of the meetings held on 4th February were confirmed as a correct record this was seconded by Cllr Foxen. These minutes will be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

1) Confirmation of Chute Parish Council representative on KGPF Committee

Cllr Hughes confirmed the KGPF constitution suggested the Parish Council should have two representatives on its committee. Cllr Dawson was currently the only representative. As this was working well another representative was not put forward at present.

5) Specific Reports

Highways- Cllr Hughes reported several grips are blocked. Cllr Hughes will take some photographs and send them to The Clerk to report these to Wiltshire Council.

Footpaths- Cllr Foxen had concerns that loose dogs were straying off footpaths while out walking with their owners. The Parish Council agreed this is unacceptable behaviour particularly as it is now lambing season and any issues highlighted to them will be reported to the Wiltshire Council dog officer or the police.

King George playing Fields – Cllr Dawson reported the new mower should be arriving soon. The committee are also trying to obtain quotes to replace the fence around the play area.

Village Hall- Cllr Hopton reported the hall hopes to be able to open in May in a COVID secure manner. A pre application has been submitted for a replacement window.

Allotments- Cllr Taylor said she had obtained a verbal quote for cutting back hedges and trees at the allotments. The contractor was supposed to send a written quote which has not been received. Cllr Taylor will follow up.

The Clerk confirmed invoices to tenants for the coming year's rent had been issued

Village Design Statement- Cllr Hopton has met with Lisa Jackson again and spent a considerable amount of time discussing the necessary policies for the Village Design Statement. Some very useful information regarding plot ratios has been found in a recently adopted statement from another parish.

6) Dragons Teeth

Following further discussions and taking into account the views of residents the proposal was to fit dragons' teeth on two points of the triangle at Chute Cadley Green. The Clerk had obtained a quote from the original contractor for the changed work and this amounted to £394.30 including materials and the removal of old logs and concrete. An offer had been made by residents to carry out the work for the cost of materials which amounted to £184.30. A possible concern had been raised regarding BT cables present and enquires were being made by a resident as to the location of these. A member of public present suggested the kerb stones present had been installed by Wiltshire Council and the random logs had been placed there by a group of villagers.

After some discussion it was agreed the contractor should be asked to carry out the work. The Clerk will liaise with him. Thanks were expressed to Tim Harker for the considerable amount of work carried out on this project.

7) Parking Concerns around the village

Following the highlighted issue of where villagers could park if the Village Greens were not available Cllr Williams had been reviewing available land in the village. Land near the bus stop at Upper Chute was owned by Wiltshire Council and they had confirmed they would not install car parking spaces here because site lines would be blocked and the verges are used by pedestrians. Finding a space for car parking would strengthen the case to ask cars not to park on the Village Greens. Cllr Hughes suggested the Parish Council ask Wiltshire Cllr Blair-Piling to arrange a site meeting with the highways engineer when possible sites can be discussed. Cllr Williams agreed to lead on this initiative. It was agreed the Clerk will draw up a letter which Councillors will print off and leave under car windscreen wipers of any vehicles in the village parking inappropriately

8) Damage to verges around village.

Cllr Hughes highlighted the email which had been sent to all Councillors which included photographs of several areas in the village where verges had been damaged by vehicles either parking or driving over verges. A suggestion was made that the damage related to large agricultural vehicles, however this was not accepted and all agreed any vehicle mounting the verge was likely to create damage while the ground was so wet. After considerable debate it was agreed if anyone had any specific evidence identifying a vehicle causing damage then the Parish Council would take whatever action they could to alleviate concerns.

9) Damage to Trees at Chute Collis

It was reported at the last meeting that trees had been planted close to a hedgerow but concerns were raised as to whether these were planted on highways land. Sadly, before any discussions between the adjoining householders and the Parish Council could take place the trees were destroyed by vandals. The owner of the adjoining property had established the trees had been on the curtilage of his land and the incident recorded as criminal damage. Following this the landowner had carried out lots of research into trees being felled in the area, in particular Ash Trees and is keen to try and get trees replanted. He also wanted to know if the Parish Council knew why so many trees were being felled. (See item 10 below) and raised concerns regarding trees near to his property about which he was seeking advice. He recommended a booklet he had obtained and agreed to provide details to any member of the public who was interested.

10) Tree felling & tree planting

Cllr Parr said following concerns raised regarding the volume of trees being felled in the area he had established that the majority of these trees were ash which were suffering from ash die back and therefore had to be felled. All the necessary licences and permissions had been obtained. He said the situation was a disaster for landowners and the concerns are that all ash trees will die out within the next twenty years. There are farms in the area that have tree replanting schemes in place although replanting may not necessarily be where trees are felled.

He further said that these and several other trees in the parish had been planted many years ago and were now in need of replacement. He proposed the Parish Council consider a tree planting scheme in the village and agreed to lead on this project to be discussed later in the year.

11) Motorbike nuisance Honey Bottom

Cllr Hughes reported a concern that had been raised with him concerning the continual disturbances caused by motor

bikes using the byway at Honey Bottom. The residents of the cottage next to the byway had put stones there to slow down the bikes and to give time to gather registration numbers so they can be reported. They apologised if these had caused concerns to horse riders which had never been the intention.

The problem appeared to lay with the classification of the byway and a temporary traffic restriction order. The combination meant that google maps did not show the byway as restricting motorised vehicles and it was these maps the motorcyclists used. The residents at Honey Bottom were very concerned that a motor cyclist would injure a pedestrian or horse rider on the track. Cllr Hughes agreed to speak to the landowner and liaise Wiltshire Council to establish what could be done to alleviate the problem.

12) Finance

The bank balance as 28/02/21 was as follows:

Lloyds £7587.39

The financial statement to 28/02/2021 was reviewed and agreed.

Payments

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

H Bourner expenses £18.24

H Bourner back pay £81.76

HMRC additional Income tax £20.44

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

13) County Councillors Report.

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

Police Report

No report has been received.

12) Planning

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted:

20/10093/FUL demolish existing building and erection of replacement-Standen Farm- no objection

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

21/01033/FUL rear extension, front porch & boundary wall- Glebe House, Malthouse Lane – no objections

21/01852/TCA- tree works Chute Manor, Upper Chute – no objections

21/01419/FUL- erection of garage and new entrance gates 7 fence- Thicket Cottage- An extension to the deadline has been requested so this application can be considered at the April meeting.

Enforcement

Thicket Cottage appeal – documents are available to review online and these fully explain the appeal. No decision has been reached as yet.

Cllr I Blair-Pilling reported that the outcome of the appeal against the refusal to vary the original application is awaited as is any decision against the variations sought at Stables Cottages

The Parish Council has received notification than an application to install a swimming pool at New Barn will be submitted to Wiltshire Council shortly.

13) Correspondence

The Clerk noted an entry in the Chute Chronicle which suggested reports from Chute Parish Council were not being received. The Clerk confirmed she sent a summary report of the minutes each month however in January had been informed two days after the deadline this had not been received. She further noted that all the other parishes she dealt with did not expect a separate report and simply produced whichever parts of the minutes they chose to publish. Cllr Parr said he felt there should just be a notice in the magazine telling villagers where they could view the published minutes and details of how to contact the Clerk when needed. If there were anything significant to report the Clerk could send a separate email.

The Clerk highlighted recent correspondence circulated which gave all the details of how to complete nominations for the upcoming Parish Council elections. She confirmed that candidates have from 11th of March to 4pm on the 8th of April to submit nomination forms which must be in person to Wiltshire Council. The May meeting is scheduled for 7th May which is polling day and can still be held via zoom. On the 10th May the old council stands down and the new takes office. An AGM must be held within 14 days.

14) Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

15) Items for next meeting

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Thursday 1st April

Parish Council Report March 2021 - Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling

Covid

General. Wiltshire's infection and hospitalisation rates continue to drop and vaccine rates climb fast. ***BIG well done and thanks to everyone for their high compliance and fantastic support for each other.*** This is now at a slower rate of decline and will be prone to localised 'bumps' as at lower rates even a minor outbreak can have a proportionally greater effect on the statistics. I strongly recommend viewing the latest Wiltshire Council Covid briefing Leader, Philip Whitehead, and Chief Executive, Terence Herbert, and our directors in which they cover public health, business support and our reopening strategy/roadmap.

See [COVID-19 WEBINAR, 02 MAR - YouTube](#)

Or read all the latest statistics and advice at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Wiltshire Council](#)

Leisure and Libraries. This is in my Cabinet bailliwick, and I assure you we are working hard to open up as much as we can as soon as we can. Notes of caution: some sites are being used for Covid activities e.g. vaccines at Tidworth Leisure Centre, many of our staff are still redeployed on a wide range of tasks from the Well-Being and Business Support Hubs to at vaccine centres and now the elections and finally the safety of both customers and staff remain forefront. We shall publish details of our own roadmap very soon.

Budget

With a year of very tight spending controls and the Government grants, we expect to end this year with a balanced budget and have put aside reserves to help with the expected substantial increases in need and anticipated loss of income next year. Last week the 21-22 budget was agreed. Highlights are:

- 1.99% increase in basic council tax
- 3% council tax levy for Adult Social Care for the £8.6m growth with increasing age demographic and needs.
- £6.6m investment in Children's Social Care and a further £1.5m for rising demand for special educational needs service
- Increase of investment in waste services by £2.6m to a total of £42.3m
- Six-fold increase in our discretionary hardship fund to £300k, to help families and residents who, after undertaking all avenues of support to reduce their council tax bill, need further support.
- Nearly £2m to help fund the planned £214m investment in its capital programme, which includes:
 - £22m in maintaining Wiltshire's road network.
 - £23m in schools, including the replacement of the lower block at Stonehenge School.
 - Continued investment of over £20m in the council's Health & Wellbeing centre sites, including Melksham Community Campus
 - Continued carbon reduction initiatives, with £3m for the final transition to LED streetlights and over £4m for our buildings and estate energy efficiencies.
 - Over £50m into housing, with around 1,000 new council houses over the next 10 years
- A £4m fund, made up of £1m a year for the next four years, to support market towns to bounce back.

The budget report and a replay of the meeting (at its conclusion) can be found at [Agenda for Council on Tuesday 23 February 2021, 10.30 am | Wiltshire Council](#) - About 8 hour meeting – you have been warned.

Elections.

We now know our elections will go ahead on 6 May. As I have briefed you, the division boundaries change at that time with the Everleigh, the Collingbournes and the Chutes joining the new Ludgershall North division, Tidcombe and Fosbury joining the Burbage and the Bedwyns division and Enford, Fittleton cum Haxton and Netheravon joining with Figheldean, Milston and Larkhill to form the new Avon Valley division.

Our Chief Executive and Recording Officer, Terence Herbert, assures us that polling stations will be in operation for those who wish to vote in person, as is their right, but asks that as many as possible register and vote by post to reduce the risk and help keep us all safe. All the details can be found at [May 2021 Elections - Wiltshire Council](#)

Farewell

At the May elections I shall be standing for the Avon Valley division, but will have to say farewell to you all pending the election result. It has been my pleasure and pride to have represented and worked with you for the past 4 years. I think we have done a lot of good together. Thank you for your welcome and collaborative support.

