

CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 08th OCTOBER 2020

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

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling
Ann Rudland- footpaths warden
2 Members of public

1) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2) Public Participation

Christopher Williams introduced himself as the candidate standing to be elected as Wiltshire Councillor for the new ward which will include The Chutes and will become live early in 2021.
Susie Harries church warden had joined the zoom call to explain the details she had sent in an email requesting funding from the Parish Council for the upkeep of the churchyard. She explained that the church was struggling financially as there had been very little income from collections and no fund-raising activities since the COVID crisis began. The church pays a significant amount for the upkeep of the churchyard and asked that the Parish Council consider meeting a large part of these costs. Cllr Hughes explained that as a civil body the Parish Council has no responsibility to maintain the churchyard but have always made a contribution. Last year they had given £200. Cllr Hopton confirmed that the church building had featured as the top most liked building in the recent VDS survey and both Cllr Parr and Cllr Taylor said they felt it was such an integral part of the village they believed support should be given. After some further discussion it was agreed that the grant for this year will be raised to £450.00.

3) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4) Minutes

Resolved: Resolved: Cllr Williams proposed the minutes of the meetings held on 9th September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hopton.
Cllr Parr proposed the minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 24th September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hopton.

Matters Arising

1) Re siting defibrillator

Cllr Parr confirmed he and Cllr Dawson had met the church warden and have now provided all the necessary electrical information required so that the church can make the necessary application to install the defibrillator in the church porch.

2) Use of Parish Steward

The Clerk said that the Parish Steward visited the parish once a month when he carried out any repairs to roads and cleared ditches etc. Any items that required repair were reported to Wiltshire Council and these formed his work list. Each time he visited he contacted the Clerk to establish if there were any tasks that had not been reported. Two weeks ago, she had let him know about the 30mph on the green at Upper Chute sign which had fallen down but not been reported and he was able to re-erect this. She confirmed anyone can report issues online but she is happy to do this if details are passed on to her. Finally, she agreed to discuss what sort of task he was able to carry out next time he contacts her. Cllr Blair-Pilling confirmed that his remit was roads and ditches and he would not be able to carry out any work on rights of way footpaths. Any problems with these should be reported to the Rights of Way Officer. He also said there was a small financial budget held by the Paths for All group which may be available.

5) Specific Reports

Highways- Cllr Hughes confirmed he had seen that many of the drainage ditches in the village had been cleared.

Footpaths- Cllr Foxen shared a report drawn up by Ann Rudland regarding various concerns regarding rights of way footpaths in the village. Ann was thanked for the work carried out to produce a comprehensive report. While some of the areas of concern were on footpaths that Wiltshire Council were responsible for others were private landowners. It was agreed Cllr Foxen will work with the Clerk to write to all landowners involved asking them to carry out the necessary maintenance and repairs and report those relevant to Wiltshire Council.

King George playing Fields – Cllr Dawson said the committee continue to seek a new mower, this had been subject to discussion at the extraordinary meeting on 24th September.

Village Hall- Cllr Hopton reported the work to the Village Hall floor was almost complete

Allotments- Cllr Taylor and The Clerk had visited the allotments to review the hedges that required cutting back and also to look at any plots that were not being used. Only one plot was a cause for concern and The Clerk confirmed she had written to the tenant asking him to confirm he still wished to rent this and if so to pay the outstanding rent and tidy the plot. Cllr Taylor asked that a similar letter be written to the tenant of plot 10 as this was now also in a very untidy state.

The hedges around the pit and along the lane were the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and The Clerk was asked to report the problem with these to the council.

Trees, hedging and the fence at the back of the allotments were the responsibility of the owners of Longview and The Clerk was asked to write to them asking for the hedges to be cut back and the fence repaired.

The hedge between plots 1a and 1b and Wildwinds is the responsibility of the Parish Council as are two blocks of conifers planted to create windbreaks. All need trimming and the conifers need to be reduced in height. The Clerk was asked to approach Simon Withers to obtain a quote to carry out the work.

Village Design Statement- Cllr Hopton said lots of progress had been made with many photographs of liked and disliked buildings in the village being submitted. This data along with the data from all planning applications made in the parishes of Chute and Chute Forest since the production of the current VDS were being analysed. She said it is clear any new VDS must include more specific measures. This continues to be a work in progress project and she expressed thanks to Lisa Jackson who continues to help with this.

6) Grant Policy

The Clerk had circulated a draft grant awarding policy and application form to all councillors. Cllr Hughes was unhappy to adopt this particular model policy and asked the Clerk to draw up something that just included the legal requirements. The Clerk will present a revised policy to be discussed at the November meeting.

7) Return of CIL payment

The Clerk reported that she had received agreement from Wiltshire Council that the CIL payment made to the Parish Council bank account in respect of Stables Cottage had correctly been made to Chute Parish as the buildings are clearly within the Chute Parish boundary. It transpired that the occupants of The Stables were listed on the Chute Forest electoral register. The Clerk confirmed she had made electoral services aware of the issue which they will address as soon as they are able.

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 would calculate back pay and present figures with the budget at the next meeting.

9) Meeting dates 2021

A schedule of proposed meeting dates had been circulated to all councillors. Meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the month with the exception of December and August when no meetings take place. These dates were agreed.

10) Finance

The bank balance as 30/09/20 was as follows:

Lloyds £13095.98

The financial statement to 30/09/2020 was reviewed and agreed.

Payments

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

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 said Wiltshire Council were working very hard to reopen leisure centres and libraries. Cllr Williams asked how long the booking system at household recycling centres was to be in place? He said he had seen an increase in fly tipping and wondered if there was a connection. Cllr Blair-Pilling said the system was

constantly under review however was likely to stay in place at present. He said evidence gathered from those who were found to have offended in this way indicated these individuals who would never have considered using a recycling site anyway. Finally, he said if fly tipping was discovered it should be reported to Wiltshire Council.

Police Report

The most recent police report had been circulated. There were no incidents reported in the parish.

12) Planning

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted: **None**

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

20/08095/TCA- application for tree works, Well Cottage, Forest Lane- No objection with a request to plant other native trees to replace those felled.

Confirmation had been received that the application for a variation at the Thickett Cottage site was to be heard by Eastern Area Planning on the 15th October. Cllr Hughes will prepare a statement to be read at the meeting in relation to the objection submitted by the Parish Council.

13) Correspondence

The Clerk said she been informed that the battery in the defibrillator at The Hatchet is now out of warranty and the recommendation is that this is replaced. The cost of a new battery is £160.00. All councillors agreed a new battery should be purchased; the Clerk will action.

The Clerk had received a card from HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton, thanking all those in the parish who have volunteered their time and services throughout the covid crisis.

Finally, The Clerk reported she had received a telephone call from Michael Sykes regarding the proposed new building at the Cross Keys.

13) Items for next meeting

Draft budget 2021/22

14) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Thursday 5th November.