

*CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL*  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 04th FEBRUARY 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  
4 Members of public

**1) Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**2) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3) Public Participation**

**Lisa Jackson- reported on progress with updating the VDS.**

Two draft documents had been circulated to all councillors. The first reflected the headings the government would expect to see in a VDS and also reflected the relevant policies at Wiltshire Council. The policies will be linked to the evidence gathered. The second document listed the areas that need to be considered and is very much work in progress. Lisa asked that all councillors review the documents and make comments as necessary.

Cllr Hopton said a VDS was the right document for the Chutes as a small rural community, but it needs to be more robust than the present document. She had joined a Wiltshire Council webinar about shaping the future which was mostly about Neighbourhood Plans and confirmed a VDS will only ever be supplementary guidance. Finally, she reported 45600 new homes required in Wiltshire in the future will not affect Chute. Building in Chute is likely to be the removal of old smaller properties with replacements with larger properties.

Wilts Councillor Ian Blair -Pilling said the progress sounded really constructive, the timing of which could help shape the Wilts Council local plan for which there is an early consultation out. He urged Councillors to respond to this consultation.

**4) Minutes**

**Resolved: Resolved:** Cllr Hopton asked for an amendment to the minutes which said questionnaire when it should read checklist. Incorporating this amendment Cllr Parr proposed the minutes of the meetings held on 7th January were confirmed as a correct record this was seconded by Cllr Taylor. These minutes will be signed by the Vice Chairman.

**Matters Arising**

**1) Letter from Chute Forest regarding KGPF administration**

Cllr Parr had circulated details of a letter received from Chute Forest Parish Council regarding proposed changes to the KGPF constitution. The changes related to finance for capital items however as a solution to the purchase of a new mower has been found no changes will be necessary at this point.

**5) Specific Reports**

**Highways-** Cllr Hughes had nothing to report.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Foxen raised concerns about a bridleway path at Honey Bottom where flints and stones have been placed over the paths which cause a great danger to horses. Cllr Hopton has spoken to the landowner who has agreed to speak to the residents of the nearby property.

Ann Rudland noted that some of the obstructions on footpaths she had identified had been cleared by landowners and she wished to record thanks.

**King George playing Fields –** see comments at item 9

**Village Hall-** Cllr Hopton reported that a tendering process was underway for external decorating at the Village Hall. Efforts are still being made to get broadband installed at the hall which is proving difficult. Cllr Hughes will discuss with directly with the Village Hall committee.

**Allotments-** Cllr Taylor said the contractor had not spoken to her regarding hedge cutting at the allotments. The Clerk will contact him and issue invoices to tenants for the coming year's rent.

**Village Design Statement-** see report in public participation.

### 7) Dragons Teeth

Further to discussions at the January meeting, the Clerk reported on quotes for the fitting of dragons' teeth around Chute Cadley Green. A suggestion was made that posts be erected around the three points of the triangle shape rather than around the whole green. This would protect the edges from erosion but not cause obstructions to householders reversing from driveways. It would also reduce the costs. The Clerk was asked to circulate full details of the plan and the quotes she had obtained so a decision could be reached.

### Parking Concerns around the village

Cllr Williams highlighted the issue of where villagers could park if the Village Greens were not available and said he had been considering if there were any space where parking spaces could be created. He said an area of land by the bus stop at Upper Chute could potentially provide four or five spaces however it was not clear who owned the land. The Clerk was asked to establish who owned this land.

### 8) Improving Website

Cllr Williams said he had been reviewing the website and considering how this could be improved. He suggested direct links to the Wiltshire Council were put on the site and residents of the Village be informed via the WhatsApp group. All Councillors agreed this was worthwhile however Cllr Blair Pilling confirmed Wiltshire Council would soon be releasing a new planning web page. Cllr Williams will wait until this is released. He also said he was considering a page for recommended local tradesman and possibly a small ads page.

### 9) Payments from precept to village organisations.

Chute Parish Council make annual grants to local organisations and it had been agreed how these were calculated should be debated.

In particular, grants to the KGPF were based on a survey carried out in 2013. Full details of the survey had been circulated and it could be ascertained that an amount per household in the parish made up the grant of £2683. Some discussion followed as to whether this was the best method to calculate the grant, what other grants were available to KGPF and what the likely income would be in the financial year 2021. Cllr Parr suggested a comparison of the figures highlighted a possible shortfall in the amount of precept the Parish Council requested.

Cllr Dawson said the grants received from both Chute and Chute Forest Parish Councils made a huge difference to the way in which the playing field was cared for. He said before the grants were given the field was in a very poor state but the KGPF committee have worked very hard to make this the successful and well used facility it has become.

Given the size of the grant made by Chute Parish Council a question was asked as to whether the Parish Council should have more than one representative on the committee. Cllr Dawson is currently a representative and the previous parish council chairman had been a representative although it was not clear if he still represented the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to research this matter, in the meantime Cllr Parr said he would be happy to become a representative of the Parish Council on this committee if necessary.

Chris Williams confirmed that Wiltshire Area Board grants are now available if the sports committee are looking for specific funds.

### 10) Finance

The bank balance as 31/01/21 was as follows:

Lloyds £7815.55

The financial statement to 31/01/2021 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 expenses	£16.50 by standing order
HMRC	£56.33 by standing order

### 11) County Councillors Report.

Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling reported Wiltshire Council were still concentrating on responding to COVID restrictions and that elections are still expected on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

He confirmed that the Wilts Council budget is likely to be agreed soon and will balance. The proposal is that council tax will increase by 1.99% although there will be additional increases for adult care in this year only. This is a one-year budget only as there are so many changes likely in following years in particular income in future years is likely to decrease.

Finally, he recommended Councillors consider attending the many webinars organised by Wiltshire Council which can be very informative.

Christopher Williams reported that forms are now being posted which will allow residents to apply for postal votes in the upcoming elections.

#### **Police Report**

No report has been received.

#### **12) Planning**

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted:

20/10933/TCA tree works Meerkat Burrows- no objection

20/11218/TCA- tree works Highcroft, Forest Lane- no objections

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

20/11119/VAR- variation to conditions Stables Cottages- this appears to be to accommodate the additional windows required for this to become a four bedroomed house. However, it was agreed the variation would almost certainly not have been submitted had the Parish Council not raised an objection to enforcement. After much discussion it was agreed that an objection should be submitted while recognizing that the application is unlikely to be refused. The Clerk confirmed that Wiltshire Planning department had reported that no action could be taken regarding the building of a four bedroomed property when planning permission had been for a three-bed property

#### **Enforcement**

##### **Thicket Cottage**

Cllr I Blair-Pilling reported that the outcome of the appeal against the refusal to vary the original application is awaited.

#### **13) Correspondence**

The Clerk noted a telephone call from a member of public trying to trace old photographs from the Cross Keys that included family members. She confirmed she had been able to track these down and pass on information.

A request had been received from a Parish Council in Essex for help with closing Byways. Cllr Williams had obtained as much information as possible and passed this on.

#### **14) Any Other Business**

The Clerk confirmed she had received confirmation that the Christmas trees erected on green spaces in the village would be removed.

It was noted that Chute Club have confirmed they are happy for individual villagers to use the club car park, at their own risk, when using the playground and other KGF facilities. Any sports clubs wishing to use the club car park should make prior arrangements with the Chute Club.

Cllr Taylor had noted some hedging plants had been planted on the verge close to an original hedge but two are not in the hedge but on land which belongs to Wiltshire Council. As Wilts Council are likely to cut these down when cutting Cllr Hughes will speak to the homeowners and suggest that they replant elsewhere.

#### **15) Items for next meeting**

##### **16) Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Thursday 4th March