

CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2020

Present: Cllr D Hughes, Cllr J Parr, Cllr Hopton & Cllr S Foxen.

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling
4 members of the public

1) Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Dawson & Cllr Taylor.

2) Public Participation

Residents of Tibbs Meadow had met with some opposition from other residents when they directly approached them about the problems with verges and green areas which had been damaged by vehicles. Cllr Hughes said he has tried to speak to residents but has not been successful. The PC will now write to the occupants of the house in question. They were able to confirm the refuse truck did not drive over verges this week and Cllr Hughes said he hoped Wiltshire Council had spoken to the contractor regarding this. Finally, they asked who should be approached to organise repair of the damage. It was not clear who was responsible for the area although Wiltshire Council did maintain the grass in the growing period. Wiltshire Cllr Blair-Pilling will ask a highways officer to visit and review.

3) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4) Co-Option of new councillor

One villager has expressed an interest in the Parish Council vacancy directly to Cllr Hughes. Another resident has spoken to Cllr Hopton. They will both be asked to submit an expression of interest so that co-option can take place at the next meeting.

5) Minutes

Resolved: Cllr Parr proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 9^h January were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Foxen.

Matters Arising

1) Parking on verges

The owners of a commercial vehicle which regularly parks on verges near the Church have been informed of the nuisance caused and are going to deal with the issue. They are very embarrassed by damage and problems caused and take the matter seriously.

2) Cllr E-Mail addresses

The Clerk asked all councillors who had not done so to log in to their new e-mail addresses.

6) Specific Reports

Highways- Cllr Hughes had nothing to report

Footpaths- Cllr Foxen raised issue on restricted byways and bridleways which are separately recorded.

King George playing Fields – Cllr Dawson was not present.

Village Hall- Cllr Hopton confirmed there had been a successful lunch, & coffee mornings are well attended. There are several bookings in the months ahead. The hall has received a donation from villagers which will be used to meet some of the costs of a problem with damp.

Allotments- Cllr Parr confirmed the new agreement is ready to be sent to allotment holders for the year commencing 1st April. Cllr Hughes asked that a fuller discussion on allotments be held at the March meeting.

Village Design Statement- Cllr Hopton reported work has begun on street surveys with volunteers each reviewing a specific area. This will form a very good reference document and it is hoped this will be complete by the end of February. Cllr Hopton is compiling a questionnaire which will eventually be distributed to all households in the village. She will circulate the draft to all councillors to review. One area to be considered during this exercise is increasing the conservation areas to include some areas not yet part of the conservation area even though they include listed

buildings. Cllr Hopton said she is meeting with residents from another village who have recently completed a VDS to find out the pitfalls and what costs they incurred.

7) Defibrillator relocation.

The PCC have agreed the machine can be installed at the church but still need to decide on the location. Cllr Parr will pay the costs of installation and the Parish Council will meet costs for ongoing maintenance. Installation will happen as soon as the PCC decide where the machine will be located

8) Allotment hedges

Cllr Parr and Cllr Taylor visited the allotments and looked at very tall hedges which will need cutting back, the plan is to deal with this in the Autumn.

9) Request for funding St Nicholas Church

Representatives of the Parochial Church Council in attendance explained the need for additional funds for the upkeep of the grounds and hedges around the church. The budget required for the next year was a minimum of £3000. 40 of the 450 residents of Chute made donations to the church to help with these costs and an average of three burials per year produced income of approximately £1000.

Chute Parish Council have traditionally donated £200 per year and this had been included in the budget plan for 2020/21. The possibility of increasing the amount was discussed. The Clerk explained the projected finances and it was agreed only a small increase would be possible. Eventually after much discussion it was agreed that a further £200 should be given to the church funded from the Chute in Need fund. Increasing the donation in future would be a matter discussed when the next budget is set.

10) Bridleway Obstructions

Cllr Foxen and the Clerk had visited two bridleways as parishioners had raised concerns regarding these. The first was a gate that had been installed on bridleway Chute2. The concern was raised that a new gate had been installed on a bridleway, but a horse rider would find it very difficult to open and close the gate without dismounting. The Clerk will now report this to Wiltshire Council rights of way.

The second was on a restricted byway at Cowdown. A fence has been installed and part of the track has a large concrete slab overlying it. Neither of these are allowed on restricted byways. Cllr Hughes will approach the landowner to discuss before considering enforcement action.

11) Finance

The bank balance as 03/02/20 was as follows:
Lloyds £6485.88

The financial statement to 02/02/20 was reviewed and agreed.

Payments

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

H Bourner salary	£225.33 by standing order
HMRC	£56.33 by standing order

12) County Councillors Report.

Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling reported the Wiltshire Council budget for next year is being considered. Financial savings must be made but this does not mean any cutting of services, however, to accommodate this a request for additional funding has been made within the limits allowed without incurring a referendum.

He also said the Wiltshire housing site plan was now being reviewed by inspectors, this includes additional housing in Ludgershall and in some of Wiltshire's larger villages but is unlikely to impact on Chute.

Finally, he confirmed results of a new survey into the homeless which shows only 4 people sleeping rough in Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) which is a significant decrease.

Police Report

The Clerk confirmed the police had been invited to attend but had only received the usual town report which had been circulated.

13) Planning

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted:

19/09015/FUL- Erection of cart lodge & riding arena- Fox Cottage- refused

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

19/11948/FUL- Erection of 3 bay oak frame garage-Longview, Malthouse Lane, Upper Chute – no objections.

Cllr Hughes confirmed the appeal against the refusal for planning permission at Thicket Cottage will not be heard for up to 22 weeks. Concerns have been raised that the building is being demolished before the appeal can be heard. The Clerk was asked to submit an enforcement complaint.

14) Correspondence

None

15) Items for next meeting

Whole Council debate regarding allotments.

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Thursday 5th March 2020

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