

# CHUTE & CHUTE FOREST PARISH COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE JOINT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD at CHUTE VILLAGE HALL on 18 MAY 2023 at 7.30pm

## 1. Apologies

There were apologies from Cllr Harker, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Hopton & Cllr Parr

## 2. Chairmen Identify Electors from each Parish Council

Chute Electors: Helen & Gary King, Richard Gregory and Heather Walkling

Chute Forest Electors: None

## 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous joint annual parish meeting held on 24 May 2022 were signed by both chairmen.

## 4. Chute Parish Council – Chairmans Report

Cllr Wall provided the following report:

It has been another very busy year for Chute Parish Council.

Our new Chute Design Guide has been formally accepted by Wiltshire Council and will replace the outdated 20-year-old village design statement. The next stage is a graphic design and on-line brochure to which we are waiting for quotes. Our thanks go to Marianne Hopton for seeing this through and to Lisa Jackson for her support during the process before her move to Dartmouth.

One of the primary roles of the council is to discuss planning applications which can be one of the most difficult issues. There have been 12 applications during the last year which is one down on our normal number. We still get quite a lot of tree applications due to parts of the village being in the conservation area.

The Cross Keys application for demolition and rebuild is still ongoing and will hopefully be reviewed and resolved by Wiltshire Council Planning team by the end of the year.

The Council is very keen to work with local landowners and we are currently in dialogue with the new management team at Conholt House who plan to restore the house and grounds to its former glory. The team will be holding an open evening and presentation with wine and nibbles for Chute residents at Chute Village Hall on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.


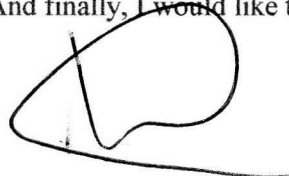
With regards to footpaths, we have a very active footpath representative with support from Huw Lovesey who regularly walks the paths and reports issues.

Our thanks must go to the many volunteers in the village who litter pick, help with fallen trees and look out for fly tippers on the paths and roadsides.

Thank you also to John Pead, Standen Farms and Simon Withers for the regular cutting of the village greens and also to the many villagers who quietly work away behind the scenes helping to maintain our amenities. 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 standard, more of that from the King George Field Committee.

I would particularly like to thank Cllr Chris Williams, our Wiltshire Councillor, who has been very supportive and helpful to the Parish. And finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for



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their support and dedication to the parish during the last year and to Julia Rennie who joined us last September as Parish Clerk.

## **5. Chute Parish Council – Financial Report**

Chute Parish Clerk, Julia Rennie, provided the following report:

The audited bank balance at the end of the financial year to 31/3/2022 was £6,503.41

### **Income totalled £11,285.42 for the year.**

This has mainly come from the precept at £9,000 plus grants totalling £1,315.

Other income has come from the allotment rent, insurance premium contributions, a CIL payment and refunded VAT.

### **Expenditure totalled £10,927.69 for the year.**

A total of £3,400 were paid out in grants to the PCC, VHC & KGPF. Insurance was £731.58. The clerks gross salary was £3,754.22. Fencing cost £600 and a new laptop was purchased for £370.79. The remainder of expenditure went on village hall rent, subscriptions, jubilee costs, subscriptions, the Royal British Legion, treework and the VDG photography.

The audited bank balance to the end of the financial year to 31/3/2023 was £6,861.14.

The value of parish assets is currently £104,221.37.

## **6. Questions from Chute PC Electors**

Richard Gregory asked if there were any vacant allotment plots. He was told that there are two but they are under the trees and so nothing grows on them and therefore nobody wants them. He also questioned whether the bus service in Lower Chute had changed as a but recently went straight past him when he was waiting at the bus stop. Cllr Wall advised him that he has to wait on the corner by the War Memorial.

Heather Walkling asked if the two parish councils were planning to merge. Cllr Pike (CFPC) said that the matter had been shelved until after the May elections next year. There would first need to be a period of public consultation. Cllr Williams (WCC) said that the matter of merging smaller parish councils was under review and only at first consultation stage. In the first instance both parishes would need to apply to the Electoral Review Committee and the process is lengthy.

Heather Walkling asked when the multitude of potholes were going to be filled. She was advised that the Parish Steward will carry out temporary fixes in June. Cllr Williams (WCC) said that there currently aren't the resources to fill all the potholes in the County.

## **7. Chute Forest Council – Chairmans Report**


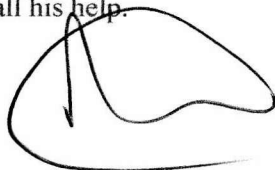
Cllr Pike provided the following report:

First of all I need to make a few thank you's.

I'd like to thank our parish councillors Mike Farrell, Mark Geraghty, Ros Robertson and Nicky Haigh who was co-opted on to council this year. I rely on their measured 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.

Wiltshire Councillor Chris Williams, who lives in Ludgershall, attends all our meetings for which we are very grateful. He provides an invaluable insight to the wider workings of Wiltshire Council and the Tidworth Area Board and is very supportive of the needs of the Chutes.

At this meeting last year, we had a new clerk who was with the council until last September. However, there were a several issues to resolve when the Clerk left. Philip Gill started in November as the Clerk and responsible financial officer. He has been instrumental helping get the council organised and fully back up to date. My thanks go to him for all his help.



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Our thanks also go to John Dawson, who continues to mow to the playing field. 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.

We only had one item in planning. An appeal to allow the siting of a mobile home and use of land NE of Redhouse Farm, Clanville. The appeal was approved in favour of the applicant.

The Village Design Guide was finally adopted this year by Wiltshire Council. It will help inform our view of planning applications and give extra weight to the parish council's views. It is the result of a considerable amount of work, particularly by Marianne Hopton and Lisa Jackson, and I am happy to thank them again for their work.

#### **8. Chute Forest Parish Council – Financial**

Chute Forest Parish Clerk, Philip Gill, provided the following report:

The Balance as of 31st March 2023 was £5,458. The only income was the Precept at £5,250 with expenditure of £4,624. Section 137 Spend – Wreath £40.00. Grants were awarded to King George Playing Field – £1,206, Village Hall - £150.00 and Church - £150.00

#### **9. Questions from Chute Forest PC Electors**

There were no questions from CFPC electors.

#### **10. Report from Wiltshire County Council**

Cllr Chris Williams provided the following report:

Some of the highlights from Wiltshire Council are as follows.

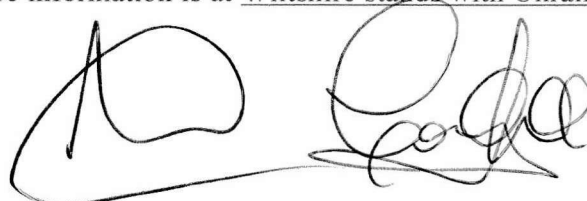
Wiltshire Council's budget for 2023/24, which is underpinned by the council's 10-year Business Plan, is £466m – this includes an additional £69m to cover inflation and increased demand for services and is broken down as follows:

- Whole life pathway (mental health, autism spectrum conditions and learning disabilities support services) - £96m, an increase of £11m
- Living and aging well (adult care) - £83m, an increase of £15m
- Families and children - £63m, an increase of £2m
- Environment (which includes waste and recycling services)- £48m, an increase of £4m
- Highways and transport - £41m, an increase of £3m
- Education and skills - £29m, an increase of £6m

Last November, Wiltshire Council invited the Local Government Association to carry out a Corporate Peer Challenge – the review found that the council's Business Plan provides a clear set of objectives and that focus on improving outcomes for some of the most vulnerable in the community is none more evident than in children's services. It was also noted that the council is excelling in work to address climate change.

In addition to funding of £22.9m from the Government's Highways Maintenance Fund, £3.6m was received from the Department for Transport's Pothole Fund which will be used to target pothole hotspots around the county. Anyone who spots a highways issue must report it using the MyWilts app or via the website.

Wiltshire has welcomed 1,374 guests so far and is one of the top authorities in England for taking in Ukraine nationals - 165 families have now moved into private rented accommodation and every Ukrainian household has a named Case Worker assigned to support the guests to help them integrate into the community. More information is at [Wiltshire stands with Ukraine - Wiltshire Council](#).



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It has been a pleasure to support both Town and Parish Councils, community groups and residents with a whole host of local issues over the last year including, waste collection, housing, road safety, footpaths, and planning matters. If there is a local issue that you are concerned about, please do get in touch and I will do my very best to help.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Town and Parish Councils that make up our community area – they and the many other local organisations help ensure our town and villages are such fabulous communities and brilliant places to live.

#### **11. Report from Wiltshire Police**

Inspector Ricky Lee said that Wiltshire Police are currently in special measures. Their budget has been cut and they have considerable staff shortages. Inspector Ricky Lee is now based in the Amesbury Police Station but there are plans for a new police station in Tidworth. Changes are being made and Constable Howard Oakley and PCSO Rupinder Kaur are both keen to engage with the parishes, so please report any issues to them direct. The Rural Crime Team is based in Devizes.

#### **12. Report from the Village Hall Committee Chairman**

Cllr Wall provided the following report:

The Village Hall is a registered charity currently managed by six trustee/committee members who are responsible for the running and maintenance of the hall.

We currently have a vacancy for a committee member after Lorraine Moody moved to Worcestershire this year.

We are a stand-alone charity and rely on our own fund-raising activities and grants to support us and are always looking for ideas for fund raising.

Although many village halls have had to close due to rising costs we have managed to stay open and thanks to the remainder of the donated designer clothes sold this year have broken even.

The monthly coffee mornings and lunches have proved to be very popular and enjoyable and enabled villagers to meet new people in an informal atmosphere. Our cooking skills get better each month!

The hall has proved to be popular for children's parties and small wedding receptions with two weddings booked this year.

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

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to record my thanks to Nigel Griffiths and Rick Wall for their help in ground maintenance and to all who have contributed in any way to the success of the hall as a village amenity.

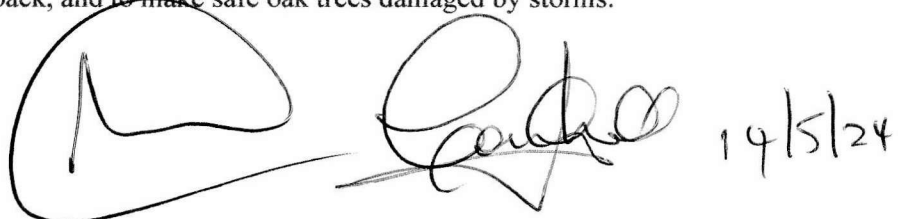
Finally, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to my fellow committee members for their support over the past year.

#### **13. Report from the King George Playing Field Committee Chairman**

Cllr Harker provided the following report:

The King George Field is owned jointly by both Parish Councils and is managed independently by a committee with members from both Parish Councils and Cricket Club.

In recent years we have invested in repairs to the structure of the pavilion, and carried out tree works to remove ash trees suffering from die back, and to make safe oak trees damaged by storms.



Two handwritten signatures are present. The first is a large, stylized signature that appears to be 'R. Wall'. The second is a smaller signature that appears to be 'C. Harker'. To the right of the signatures, the date '14/5/24' is written in a simple, handwritten style.

Following the ROSPA report and recommendations this year, additional bark was purchased and placed around the play equipment for fall protection in addition to further safety signage and minor repairs.

Regular grounds maintenance in ongoing with control of moles and an imminent visit from Southern Groundcare to aerate and treat the outfield.

The cricket club is very active during the summer months which generates income for the field. This is supplemented by private hire.

A pair of mobile goal posts and nets were purchased this year which have proved to be very popular and the KGF have supported the cricket club with practice nets after the old ones were vandalised.

Our thanks go to John Dawson who regularly mows the field and to the volunteers ready to come out when needed.

Thanks also to Bill and Ann Catt for picking up dog poo on a daily basis left by inconsiderate dog owners.

Finally, thanks to Carolyn who adds KGF responsibility to her many other duties.

#### **14. Report from Collingbourne & Chute Link Scheme**

No representative at the meeting from the link scheme. Cllr Wall explained that the Chairman, Jeremy Hooper, had recently died.

#### **15. Report from the Chute Chronicle Editor**

Editor Heather Walkling provided the following report:

The increase in price to £7, with the suggestion that people could pay £10 if they were happy to do so has worked well and 70% of subscribers paid the additional amount. Around 20% of parishioners do not subscribe to the magazine despite every effort having been made to encourage them to do so. The distribution team is aging and without their help the magazine would not get delivered. New volunteers are needed.

Heather Walkling asked if the parish councils would be prepared to provide a grant towards the cost of printing the magazine as the parish council minutes are published in it FOC. Cllr Wall asked if The Chronicle had a separate bank account but was told that the income was too small to warrant this and subscriptions continue to be paid into the PCC bank account, although separate financial records are maintained for The Chronical by way of a cashbook.

#### **16. Report from Chute Club**

There was no representative at the meeting from Chute Club

#### **17. Report from St Nicholas Church PCC**

There was no representative at the meeting from St Nicholas Church PCC

The meeting closed at 8.39pm



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