

CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11th MAY 2020

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

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

1) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2) Public Participation

Friso Westheim introduced himself as the son of the owner of Conholt Park and said he manages this on a day to day basis.

He said the park is experiencing problems with members of the public straying from public footpaths onto private areas. In particular dogs are being allowed to roam too far away from their owners. There have also been incidents where groups riding mountain bikes have accessed the land and even have a map of routes across the land which are not public. Despite efforts he has been unable to trace the source of this map. Cllr Parr said this was a health and safety issue not only was this a shooting estate if any repairs were being undertaken signs would only be placed in areas public were expected. Cllr Hughes said the Parish Council minutes would highlight these issues but suggested an article in the Chute Chronicle would help to bring this matter to the attention of the public. David Brown a member of the public present said he walks all the paths in and around the parishes and would be very happy to work with Friso on an article for the magazine.

Robert Sheppard raised the subject of the Cross Keys planning application for change of use. He said the November 2018 Parish Council minutes stated there had been no concrete offers to purchase the public house as a going concern but he has seen evidence that says offers were made. He asked as there is now evidence that the pub could have been viable and asked can the Parish Council do anything? Cllr Hughes said that the Parish Council were disappointed that the Cross Keys had to close. However, the decision for change of use has now been made by Wiltshire Council and there is nothing the Parish Council can do by revisiting this subject.

3) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hopton declared interest in a planning application in respect of property she owns.

4) Minutes

Resolved: Cllr Hopton proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Foxen.

Matters Arising

1) Grant for VDS

The Clerk confirmed she had applied for an area board grant but was notified these grants were for capital items only. Consequently, she had contacted to Wiltshire planning department to establish if there was any financial help the Parish Council could apply for. A reply was awaited.

2) Problems with youths at KGPF.

The Clerk confirmed she had reported the issues raised at the March meeting to the police who had agreed to carry out patrols. This was before the current lockdown situation.

5) Specific Reports

Highways- Cllr Hughes – nothing to report

Footpaths- Cllr Foxen -nothing to report

King George playing Fields – Cllr Dawson - nothing to report

Village Hall- Cllr Hopton said income for the hall is reduced by approx. £400 per month at present, however electricity and oil costs are reduced and the costs of waste collection has also been suspended. Unfortunately, villagers are still using the bins and are respectfully asked to refrain from doing so. The large mower belonging to the hall has broken down and is too old to be repaired. A replacement is being sought. The use of the hall as a pop-up shop has been very successful. Cllr Taylor was thanked for her donation of a new fridge freezer for this enterprise.

Allotments- Cllr Taylor confirmed the allotments are being well used at the current time. The hedges need to be cut and the Japanese knotweed has returned. The Clerk will report this.

Village Design Statement- Cllr Hopton said she was pleased to report street surveys had been finalised and a dedicated website has been created for the VDS. Cllr Williams had also created a dedicated e-mail address for the group. She said she will be putting and advert into the Chute Chronicle and posters up in the village asking parishioners for their help.

Lisa Jackson confirmed the new website is a holding website and all the details will show exactly why the updated VDS so necessary. The VDS needs to be in line with national planning strategy which did not exist when the previous plan was made. It should be prepared by villages to shape future development but it will not stop it. The next step is to ask the public to submit photographs showing what is characteristic and important to them around the parishes. The street surveys provide detailed surveys of exactly what is there so planners can use the information to ensure any new development matches what is currently there. The VDS has been useful in other planning objections in the past and a survey as to how many times it has been used in the past will be carried out. Finally, thanks were expressed to the landlord of The Hatchet who has taken photographs with his drone for use in the VDS.

6) Defibrillator relocation.

The Clerk confirmed she had received an e-mail from the church warden asking for full details of the electrical system which will be needed for the machine so she can ask the Diocese for planning permission. Cllr Dawson will arrange to visit the Church to review.

7) Open spaces consultation

The Clerk confirmed she had received information from two Parish Councillors and had responded to the survey with these details.

8) Hugo Fox Website

The Clerk said she had carried out some research about creating a separate Chute Parish Council website on the Hugo Fox platform. This was a simple task and she could set this up and go live very easily. She said she would easily be able to post all Parish Council documents including any VDS documents if required.

Cllr Williams said he had been reviewing the current community websites and wondered if there was scope to create a new website and at the same time open a stream for creating revenue for the Parish Council. Member of public Fiona Libby said she had also been considering this but was very aware that the Chute Chronicle relied on advertising to survive and that in a recent survey approx. 50% of villagers said they did not want to look at village news online. Cllr Parr suggested the Clerk proceed with a Hugo Fox website so the Parish Council could have something effective in place now and an updated community website could be considered in the future. It was agreed, as Cllr Williamson is an expert in this field, that he will do some further research and liaise with the Clerk.

9) Finance

The bank balance as 05/05/20 was as follows:
Lloyds £14663.87

The financial statement to 29/02/20 was reviewed and agreed.

Payments

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

H Bourner salary	£225.33 by standing order
H Bourner exps	£16.50 by standing order
HMRC	£56.33 by standing order
H Bourner expenses	£78.21 (these will be paid by cheque in due course)

The accounts for the end of the financial year 2019/20 and audit return had been circulated. After some discussion Cllr Foxen proposed the accounts be agreed and this was seconded by Cllr Parr. The Chairman will sign the Agar form and the Clerk will now consider how these can be audited given the current restrictions.

The Clerk confirmed £532.47 CIL funding had been received which related to the building at Stables Cottage

10) County Councillors Report.

Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling congratulated to Cllr Hopton and Lisa Jackson for the work they have carried out so far on the VDS and added that he is not aware of funding at Wiltshire Council that will help.

He also expressed thanks to all parishioners for looking after their own communities in particular the pop-up shop which has been a great success.

He wanted to highlight continuing thanks to frontline workers and extend this to all key workers including refuse collectors, who have been able to continue collections across the county.

Cllr Blair-Pilling said most council officers are working from home and many are taking on roles that differ to their normal jobs and that work is underway to reopen household waste sites but there still needs to be a mechanism in place confirming who can go to the site, when and what type of waste can be taken.

Finally, he said that Wilts Council are re assessing their finances as they have no continuing income at present and are spending much more on items not originally planned for. He confirmed Parish Councils will get the precepts they have requested even if the funds into county diminish.

Police Report

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

11) Planning

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted:

20/00629/FUL

Fox Cottage Hatchett Hill Lower Chute SP11 9DU, - Erection of cart lodge with associated hard standing -approved

20/01143/FUL

Thickett Cottage Malthouse Lane Upper Chute SP11 9EG- approved

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

20/01797/TCA-tree works Stables Cottage, Lower Chute - noted

20/02296/PIP- permission in principle for 4 dwellings -land south of Malthouse Lane objection (see notes of extraordinary meeting)

20/03123/TCA- fell 1 unknown species-Wild Winds, Upper Chute - no objections

20/03145/VAR- variation of condition- retention of biomass boiler flues- Chute Manor – no objection

12) Correspondence

13) Items for next meeting

Website -ideas from Cllr Williamson

14) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.00 pm on Monday 8th June