

Cheriton Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 27th April 2021, 7pm

1. Those present: Cllrs Collett (Chair), Scallan (Vice Chair), Herdman, Warwick, Cheetham, Frampton and Pain. WCC Cllrs Ruffell and Lumby. Clerk: Mrs Cholerton. Members of the public: Mr M Cheetham, Mr S Scott, Mrs L Line and Mrs S Hemlock.
Apologies received: Cllr Humby
2. This meeting was recorded. This recording can be found on the Cheriton Parish Council website, <http://www.cheritonparishcouncil.org.uk/community/cheriton-parish-council-15038/home> along with the accompanying Power Point presentation.
3. The Chair thanked all Cllrs and Clerk for their efforts during the pandemic and particularly dealing with the online meetings with Microsoft Teams.

4. Chairman's address

Cllr Collett outlined the main responsibilities of the Parish Council. These are:

- Maintain and ensure local assets such as the War Memorial, the green, the recreation ground
- Planning matters
- Traffic issues
- Represent Cheriton's views to outside bodies such as Highways
- Apply or grants that can then be used for the benefit of the community

The Paris Council have been busy during 2020. Examples of this are:

- Picnic benches have been installed by the play area.
- A Speed Indicator Device is in operation by the Traffic Working Party and
- Walkie Talkies have been purchased for the Flood Action Group

The Parish Council expect to be participating in the following projects for 2021:

- Progress the transfer of land and access issues regarding Freemans Yard
- Support for the installation of a Defibrillator close to the New Cheriton Crossroads
- Supporting the Fibre to premises group and their Broadband application and grant requests.

Written participation was received from Mr P Raworth. He would like it noted that:

- He expresses his support for the Traffic working group and all they have done this year
- He would like the council to consider more signage in the village directing people to park in the recreation car park.

5. Parish Council Finances

Parish Council accounts are in a sound state with a few areas of underspend. The increase in the Parish Council element of Council Tax was limited to 2%, this equates to less than £2 for the year.

Monies received from the Developer of Freemans Yard for a play area (approx. £17k) have been used to pay off approx. half the loan taken out for the replacement play area equipment at the recreation ground. The remaining £3k went into general reserves and was used to help purchase the Speed indicator device.

The Parish accounts are now on a software system called Scribe. This allows better in year and year on year tracking of finances.

Accounts for Year 2020-21 will be published on line after the Internal Audit in May and the public will then be invited to comment on the accounts for a period of 30 working days. After this period the accounts will be externally audited.

6. Planning

Cllr P Warwick co ordinates the Planning Committee. Some months there can be up to 9 applications that all need proper consideration to convey the local perspective. CPC try to be supportive of all planning applications, to do this they ask that as much detail as possible is available to them. They try to do site visits and discuss applications with applicants where advantageous to do so.

All Planning Applications can be found on the CPC website under Planning Tracker.
<http://www.cheritonparishcouncil.org.uk/community/cheriton-parish-council-15038/planning-tracker/>

7. Traffic

Cllr Herdman thanked the Traffic Working Party for all their hard work in the last year especially Mr Simon Scott. Results from the original questionnaire (which formed part of the Parish Plan consultation) highlighted the amount of traffic going through the village and the speed of travel as issues. Phil Jones Associates were appointed in February 2020 to produce a report. Task groups were formed to propose solutions.

The Speed Indicator Device was received in March and has already been used. It has to be moved regularly for maximum effect.

There have been numerous accidents at the New Cheriton Crossroads and Hampshire Highways will be carrying out works there at the end of May to help improve the junction.

Cheriton have been accepted to pilot a South Downs Project to improve Traffic through the village. Any proposals will be put out for consultation with the community before being implemented.

8. Play Area

Cllr Scallan thanked those that helped put the Picnic benches together for the Play area. They have been a great success and are well used.

The loan for the Play equipment has had 50% paid back (as mentioned in the Finance section) and there is a Sinking Fund for when this Play equipment needs replacing. Thanks went to those involved with the securing of monies from the Developer, especially Mrs L Line.

The annual safety check had a couple of issues arise from it. The main item to be addressed is the need to take up parts of the matting and relevel the ground on safety grounds.

There are some unspent funds from the project. It is hoped that they will be used for improving the bank behind the play and picnic area along with possibly a Tennis Table.

9. Climate Change

This is a new area of responsibility for CPC that Cllr Cheetham has taken on, to find ways of promoting initiatives that combat climate change along with environmental conservation. Cllr Cheetham is in the process of setting up a Litter picking and dog fouling working group. With a 'Keep Cheriton Tidy' slogan.

Dog fouling was discussed and Cllr Lumby said he was happy to help if there was a need for more dog waste bins.

10. Conservation & Lengthsman

Lockdown has made conservation works difficult during 2020 with only emergency work being carried out.

Thanks go to The Butterfly Nursery for supplying the waterside wild flowers, paid for by the Watercress and Winterbournes Partnership Scheme.

There will be two projects going ahead next year, the wildlife pond and flood defenses which will be paid for by the Heritage Lottery. The Conservation Group are also working with the school to plant up wildflowers by the school and Admiral's Bridge.

Thanks go to all the local farmers and private river bank owners for allowing the Conservation Group access to the river from their land.

The Council get £1,000 per year for a Lengthsman to maintain Bridleways, footpaths and ditches in the Parish. It was asked if the Conservation Group were going to maintain the footpath going across Freemans Yard. Cllr Frampton said they would.

11. Matterley Estate

The photographs shown with the Power Point presentation are of Matterley Bowl in June and again just after the Boomtown Festival 2019. This view has just been identified by the National Park as an 'iconic view of Hampshire'.

There has been a planning application submitted asking for a permanent change of use for the site. Cheriton Parish Council have formally objected to this application.

12. Winchester City Councillors Report

Response to Pandemic - £34 million has been given to districts to support them, along with £6.5 million for shortfall in income for businesses such as Car Parks.

Council Tax – This will be going up by approx. 3% including all charges such as waste.

There will be 3.5 posts taken from the Planning Department. Disappointment was expressed that an already overstretched department was going to have resources taken away.

Winchester Sports and Leisure Park – is due to open on the 29th May 2021.

Speeding and noisy vehicles – There has been a planning application put in at Loomies, West Meon. There is concern it will exacerbate the motorbiking issues of speeding and noise.

The plan regarding motorbike nuisance is to try and slow them down rather than move them onto smaller country lanes. WCC are also looking at deploying acoustic cameras in such circumstances.

Cllr Lumby was asked whether Hampshire would continue their match funding for Fibre to Premises as the existing scheme expired in March. Unfortunately, it was not yet known what Hampshire were likely to do.

Concern was expressed regarding burglaries in the area and were HCC Constabulary increasing in numbers? Cllr Lumby said there would be an extra 600 Officers recruited along with the use of police drone technology for fly tipping and a review of the way crime is reported so that it can be more effectively tracked.

Cllr Lumby was asked if speed cameras would still work weekends. He confirmed that weekend operations were planned.

Cllrs Lumby and Ruffell were thanked for their very visible attendance with all matters relating to Cheriton Parish.

Cllr Collett thanked all Councillors for their work on this presentation and for all members of the public for attending.

Everyone was reminded that Council information including Councillor contact details, can be found on the Cheriton Parish Council website, the Facebook page, noticeboards and the village what's app group.