

# MINUTES

**CHEARSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**  
**held in Chearsley Village Hall**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.45pm**

**PRESENT: Councillors:** Nic Brown, Chairman (**NB**), John Lewis, Vice Chairman (**JL**) Michael Edmonds (**ME**), Michael Heybrook (**MH**), Claire Lazaruk (**CL**), Sandra Towell (**ST**).  
**Acting Clerk:** Venetia Davies.

**Parishioners:** There were 24 Parishioners present.

## **NB: Action points highlighted**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

### **2. Public Session**

Concerns were expressed over the Village Plan (specifically concerning planning), as well as publicity regarding the forthcoming Election of a Parish Councillor (specifically the publication of names requesting an Election). Cllr John Lewis, Chairman of the Village Plan Committee, assured Parishioners that the draft Village Plan had been prepared in 'good faith' and reminded all present of the consultation process adopted since its introduction. He went on to say that the comments received reflected the majority and that the Committee couldn't be responsible for 'emotion'. Cllr Nic Brown explained that the letter accompanying the Draft was written with the best intention to encourage residents to come together at a Forum so that views and concerns could be publicly aired. In response to a Parishioner highlighting some confusion over the Vale of Aylesbury Plan (10 houses between 2011 and 2031) and a Village Plan (22 houses) – *a Plan not necessarily considered to deal with growth or planning but when it does, may have some 'weight'* - Cllr JL reassured those present that, since its launch, it was made public that the Village Plan had no mandatory force. Planning was simply considered to reflect what 'we' wanted for 'our' Village and said he would make "no apologies for what was a carefully researched document." Another resident felt the village wasn't made aware of the "ineffectiveness" of the Village plan and it was suggested that if this had been made clearer, much of the unhappiness would not have resulted. Chairman NB reminded Parishioners of the complete transparency since the process began. A request from Cllr ME for Cllr JL to explain the procedure of the Village Plan going forward, followed. Cllr JL notified Parishioners that a full analysis of the findings from the Village Steering Group will now be compiled and a further *draft* circulated to Villagers for final comments. Regarding planning, Cllr JL specifically noted that 10 houses (as opposed to 22) would be reflected in this document. He reminded the audience that the Vale of Aylesbury Plan supported the view that Chearsley should be in the group of 10 houses or less. In response to a final question from the floor, Cllr JL emphasised that it has always been clear that it is a Village Plan that is being produced not a Neighbourhood Plan and that a Village Plan has no mandatory force or formal part in the Planning process. It had been stated by AVDC in 2011 however, that a Village Plan can influence the Planning process informally and this had been confirmed at a meeting with AVDC in September this year where it was stated that whilst the process must adhere to Local and National Planning policies, many planning issues are ultimately decided by the elected members and that they are free to refer also to a Village Plan in making their decision. Cllr ME confirmed that the Planning process as outlined by Cllr JL was 99% correct. As a final document, the approved Village Plan will reflect the wishes of Parishioners of Chearsley. The Parish Council were deeply regretful and apologetic over the recent publication of material concerning the forthcoming Election. This was accepted by Parishioners and Cllr ME praised the "spirit in which the Chairman had led all present through the [Public] Session"

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### 3. Approval of Minutes – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Draft Minutes were accepted as a true record (agreed Cllr ME, seconded Cllr CL) and signed by Chairman NB.

### 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5. Notice of Vacancy

A poll for the election of a Parish Councillor for Chearsley will be held on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 between the hours of 7.00am and 10.00pm at Chearsley Village Hall**. There are 3 Candidates – John Howard, Perry Smith and Julia Witcher. To reduce costs, Polling Cards will not be issued. All entitled Parishioners were encouraged to vote.

### 6. Highways and Open Areas

- **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)**. A site visit has been arranged between Cllr CL and Local Area Technician, Matt Whincup to ascertain four locations for the moveable VAS (2 in total). These are being funded through grants, and possibly, the Local Area Forum. **ACTION: Cllr CL to meet with Matt Whincup and discuss funding opportunities with LAF.**
- **Road marking**. NB informed Councillors that instructions have been given for new white marker lines.
- **Pot Holes** Concerns were expressed over potholes, particularly those on Chiltern Road. **ACTION: Cllr CL to notify Matt Whincup.**
- **Grit Bins**. **ACTION: Clerk to request further top up's. New grit bin to be installed on Winchendon Road. Clerk to request quote from previous supplier, Bucks Landscapes, and list on December's Agenda under Orders for Payment.**
- **Shupps Lane/Dark Lane**. Correspondence received concerning damage to bank by lorries serving building works at Cedar Cottage, Dark Lane. Cllr JL has meet with owners and suggested the use of smaller vehicles as well as a barrier (such as a temporary brick wall) to prevent the loss of the bank. Reinstatement works to be carried out upon completion of building works.
- **Kerbing**. Cllr JL requested the help of a Project Manager to lead a working party for kerbing projects in village. Please contact the Clerk if interested.

### 7. Planning Applications:

Declarations of Interest. There were no interests declared.

- **13/02574/ATC Needlemakers, Watts Green, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0DD**  
Crown reduce by 20 - 25% and remove approx 1 metre from radial spread, remove approx 1.5 metres from height and crown lift to 2.5 metres one Holly tree (T1).  
**Approved by AVDC – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013**
- **13/02661/ATC Bramley House, Shupps Lane, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0DE**  
Fell one Magnolia tree as close to ground level as possible and treat the stump.  
**Approved by AVDC – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013**
- **13/02136/ALB The Old Farmhouse, The Green, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0DJ**  
Replacement 5 no. windows  
**Permitted by AVDC – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013**

#### **NOTE: Awaiting Plans:**

- **13/03167/ATC Wychert Cottage, Church Lane, Chearsley, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0DH**  
Fell to ground level one Prunus tree over road; Reduce one Hazel tree by 15-20% approximately height and width reduction and reduce overhang from road to boundary line;

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Clip Laurel to contain in current globus form; Clip Viburnum to contain in current form; Fell one Cypress tree to ground level and replant; Formative prune of one Cotoneaster to contain.

**ACTION: Comments requested by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

### 8. Village Plan

Item 9 was discussed during Item 2. Public Session.

### 9. Finance

#### a. Orders for Payment: **£1,346.05**

- Clerk's Salary **£231.05**
- The Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) **£25.00**
- Mr Graham King (9 grass cuts March-October 2013, Removal of fallen tree, and footpath mowing (May and September 2013). **£1,090.00**

**BALANCE reported as £11,741.35 but actual costs indicate balance of £11,524.69. ACTION: Clerk to inform and agenda for next meeting.**

#### b. External Audit

External Audit completed and approved. Copies circulated to Councillors.

**ACTION: Chair NB to check security of poppy wreath. Also, to enquire whether donation cheques for Village Hall Grant (£300) and PCC Church Grant (£300) have been presented.**

### 10. Correspondence

- **Letter AVDC – Changes to the scheme of officer delegated powers.** A review of scheme of officer delegated powers to planning application at Development Control Committees. Questionnaire to be completed. Cheersley was noted as having 0 applications reported to Development Control Committee between 1 May and 25 October and had attended 0 meetings to speak on 0 applications. This was queried by Chair NB. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm and query with AVDC if appropriate.**
- **Letter BCC – Feedback Questionnaire on Local Area Technicians (LAT).** **ACTION: Cllr CL to complete and submit.**
- News from AVDC – Reminder to complete forms for Electoral Register. Passed to Margaret Morbey for Village Newsletter and Website.

### 11. Any Other Business

- **Cllr JL. Notice Boards.** It was noted that the Parish Council is responsible for the publishing of material on the Village Notice Board and that it should be monitored closely. **Budget.** Cllr JL reminded Councillors that the Budget and Precept will need to be set at next month's meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to list as an Agenda item.**
- **Chair NB. Best Kept Village 2014.** Chair NB presented two framed Best Kept Village certificates for 2012 and 2013 (Runner Up in the Morris Cup category) and encouraged all to participate in the competition next year.
- **Cllr MH. Footpath.** Footpath No 9 (Haddenham Circular Walk) is being upgraded with the removal of stiles to gravity swinging gates and removal of dog posts.
- **Cllr CL. Election.** Cllr CL encouraged Parishioners to vote on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. **ACTION: Cllr CL to notify AVDC that Cllr JL will attend at 10pm for official count.**
- **Cllr ST. Planning - The Martins, Turnip Close.** Cllr ST noted that the window at first floor level in the southern gable of the dwelling has not been glazed with obscured glass. **ACTION: Cllr ST to write to Paul Hems, Planning Officer.**

### 12. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.30pm in Cheersley Village Hall**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30pm in Cheersley Village Hall**