

CHUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 07th JANUARY 2020

Present: Cllr Parr Vice Chairman, Cllr Williams, Cllr Hopton, Cllr Dawson, Cllr Foxen & Cllr Taylor.

In attendance: Mrs H Bourner – Clerk
Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling
1 Member of public

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes. It was agreed Cllr Parr would chair the meeting in his absence.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parr declared an interest in a planning application at his property and he did not take part in the discussion or decision in respect of it.

3) Public Participation

A point was raised that locally people had not had an opportunity to discuss a particular planning application. This application had arisen after the November meeting but required a decision before the January meeting. (See matters arising for explanation)

A question was raised regarding a footpath at the Cross Keys and whether the proposed building would affect this. Cllr Parr confirmed this had been discussed in depth at a previous meeting and he confirmed the footpath would not be affected by the new building.

4) Minutes

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

Matters Arising

1) Making decisions out of meetings.

The Clerk said a concern had been raised regarding decision making by the Parish Council between meetings. She confirmed it was acceptable, and indeed normal practice, for Parish Councillors to discuss issues arising by email when no meetings were due. If particular concerns were raised by councillors or members of the public an extraordinary meeting could be called. If not, decisions could be reached by email agreement and then ratified at the next meeting held.

Cllr Hopton said If the concerns were in regard to planning applications members of the public should contact Wiltshire Council direct to gather further information and make comments as necessary. She suggested the Parish Council could hold more meetings if necessary. The Clerk confirmed the legal obligation was a minimum of four meetings per year. In the circumstances all Councillors agreed Chute Parish Council would continue to make decisions in this way and monitor the need for more or fewer meetings throughout the coming year.

5) Specific Reports

Highways- Cllr Hughes was not present

Footpaths- Cllr Foxen had nothing to report

King George playing Fields – Cllr Dawson reported details from the minutes of the recent Chute Forest Parish Council meeting which seems to indicate discussions regarding the constitution and their decision that no leasing should be allowed. The minutes indicate a letter will be sent to Chute Parish Council however the Clerk confirmed she had not received this. She was asked to contact the Chute Forest Parish Council Clerk to obtain this.

Village Hall- Cllr Hopton reported work to the Village Hall continued in that broadband was now being installed. Current COVID restrictions meant that the hall was not open for hire.

Allotments- Cllr Taylor said Simon Withers is unable to cut the hedges at the allotments. Cllr Parr provided details of another contractor who may be able to help. The Clerk will contact him. Cllr Williams will make some enquires of a contact he has regarding this and other possible work.

Village Design Statement- Cllr Hopton confirmed she had met with Lisa Jackson in mid-December to continue to work on the revisions to the VDS. She confirmed draft policies had been drawn up but more work needs to be done to

these which will form the most important part of the necessary consultation. One extremely important subject was metrics, this being the size of buildings kept in scale with the size of the plot in which it sits. They are exploring the possibility of asking Wiltshire Council to ask applicants to complete a specific check list to help with this issue. The plan is for the consultation document to include photographs and feedback will be as simple as likes and dislike to encourage completion. Work will continue, Cllr Hopton reiterated the VDS needs to be a legal, policy planning specific document for it to be adopted by Wiltshire Council and be an effective tool.

7) Dragons Teeth & Parking Signs

Further to discussions at the November meeting, the Clerk reported on quotes for the fitting of dragons teeth and parking signs on village green areas. As this will be a significant investment the Clerk will obtain some further quotes for comparison.

The issue of where villagers could park if the Village Greens were not available was discussed. Cllr Williams said if green areas were no longer available villagers would simply find somewhere else to park which could be equally unsuitable. He suggested the Parish Council should be looking at finding sites where these vehicles could park, for example he believed approx. five cars could park on land near the bus stop. Cllr Parr agreed this was a sensible approach. All agreed to look around the parish so that alternative parking could be suggested which would help to justify the requests not to park on the Village Green. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

8) Parking Concerns

The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the housing association for Tibbs Meadow and been reassured that their enforcement officer would visit the properties where problems were arising and speak to the occupants concerned. The officer contacted the Clerk to reassure the Parish Council they would always work with local councils to find solutions and gave her a direct (confidential) telephone contact for future use. All Cllrs were asked to continue to report problems to the Clerk.

9) Finance

The bank balance as 31/12/20 was as follows:

Lloyds £8159.01

The financial statement to 31/12/2020 was reviewed and agreed.

Payments

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

H Bourner £15.00 additional cost of wreath

H Bourner expenses £30.30

H Bourner salary	£225.33 by standing order
H Bourner office exps	£16.50 by standing order
HMRC	£56.33 by standing order

Cllrs agreed the Clerk could obtain signatures for cheques and revised standing order documents from Cllr Foxen.

11) County Councillors Report.

Wiltshire Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling reported that so much has happened in relation to the current covid lockdown that Wilts Council have moved from recovery mode back to response mode. Reinstating all the previous initiatives of reopening help hubs and reinstating grants which has been recognised nationally as a model to follow. Staff from sports centres, libraries etc will be re deployed to other areas such as helping the vulnerable. Wiltshire Council are also making sites available to accommodate the vaccination program. He wanted to make all aware of scams relating to the program, any message which asks for any response is likely to be a scam. If the NHS make legitimate contact it simply gives an appointment time. Finally, he reported Wilts council are finding funds to provide schools with additional IT equipment for those families who do not have the equipment for home schooling.

Police Report

The most recent report notified of an incident in Upper Chute of criminal damage to a wooden post with the suspect having been identified.

12) Planning

The following decisions by Wiltshire Council were noted:

20/06739/FUL- Install dormer window Build outdoor store The Shepherds Cottage- permission

2009670/TCA tree works the Shepherds Cottage- no objections

20/0687/FUL- revised application Cross Keys, Upper Chute – no objections

20/10345/TCA tree works Lantern Cottage, no objections

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

20/10093/FUL- demolish existing dwelling and outbuilding and replace- Standen Farm – no objections

20/11218/TCA- tree works Highcroft, Forest Lane -no objections

20/11441/TCA- tree works 3 Tolley Cottages, Chute Cadley – no objections

Enforcement

Thicket Cottage

The variation to the original application had been refused and the applicant appeal was to be heard by the planning inspectorate on 6th January 2021. Cllrs Hopton & Parr had put together a document raising further comments and concerns to the variation application and after agreement by all other Councillors the Clerk had submitted the document to the planning inspectorate. Cllr I Blair-Pilling has also sent a document to the planning inspectorate supporting the Parish Council concerns. The outcome is awaited.

Stables Cottage.

The Clerk confirmed she had been made aware that one completed building had been marketed and sold subject to contract for a four bedroomed house. Planning permission granted was to build a three bedroomed house. After email discussions it was agreed by all councillors that the Parish Council should raise an enforcement objection which the Clerk had submitted to Wiltshire Council on 24th November. The second property has also been marketed as four bedroomed. Cllr Blair-Pilling agreed to obtain a progress report on behalf of the Parish Council.

13) Correspondence

The Clerk noted a letter from a local green maintenance company, a telephone call from a resident regarding the poor state of the green space at the entrance to Tibbs Meadow and a telephone conversation requesting help with parishioners contact information.

14)Any Other Business

A question was raised as to whether Christmas trees erected on green spaces in the village would be removed. The installation had been by the fete committee. The situation will be monitored and the Clerk will contact the fete committee if these remain in situ for too much longer.

Cllr Foxen raised concerns again at the lack of gritting on Conholt Hill. Cllr Williams confirmed the grit bin in that location was full.

Cllr Taylor noted a large area of erosion on the village green. Cllr Parr suggested this could be dealt with once the parking issues were resolved.

Following a discussion regarding keys for the notice board it was agreed the Clerk would attempt to obtain a spare key to be held by Cllr Parr if documents urgently needed to be posted. Cllr Foxen was thanked by all present for her time and diligence posting notices over several months in the past.

15) Items for next meeting

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Thursday 6th February 2021.