

CHUTE AND CHUTE FOREST
PARISH COUNCILS

MINUTES OF JOINT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
24th May 2022
Chute Village Hall

Present

Chute Parish Council
Cllr Wall
Cllr Hopton
Cllr Rudland

Chute Forest Parish Council
Cllr Pike

Cllr C Williams – Wiltshire Councillor
Jenny Hughes – St Nicholas Church
H Walkling – Chute Chronicle

1. Apologies

Cllr J Parr, Cllr M Taylor, Cllr Alderson, Cllr Harker, Cllr Robertson

P Green – Chute Club

5 members of the public attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Wall – Chute Parish Council

2. Chairman's Report – Chute

Cllr Wall provided the following report:

It has been another very busy year for the Council in which the new permissive footpaths were finalised and are formally open and a new Chute Design Guide Introduced awaiting formal acceptance by Wiltshire Council.

The guide is to replace the outdated 20 year old village design statement and was initiated by Lisa Jackson and Marianne Hopton. This has been two years in the making with consultations to the villagers and a well-attended open day at the village hall.

Our thanks go to Marianne and Lisa for the hard work in achieving what is hoped our guide for the future.

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 13 applications during the last year which is down on our normal number and many of which were tree work that suffered greatly in the two storms.

Footpaths always need monitoring and our local landowners are, thankfully, generally very good at discharging their responsibilities with minimal reminders. We have a very active footpath representative with support from villagers who always welcome reports of blockages and, indeed, help to sort out any problems that occur.

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

Thanks also particularly go 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, more of that from the King George Field Committee.

I would particularly like to thank 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 and clerk for their support and dedication to the parish during the last year.

3. Presentation of Annual accounts- Chute Parish Council Carly Lovell Clerk and RFO

Balance as of 31st March 2022 - £6,503.41
Precept for 2022-23 - £9,000.00
Grants awarded
King George Field - £2,700.00
Village Hall - £150.00
Church - £450.00
Main expenditure allotments £1,090.00

4. Chairman's Report – Chute Forest C'lr Pike provided the following report:

My report this year consists mostly of thank yous as it has generally been quiet and straightforward.

So first of all, I'd like to thank our councillors Mike Farrell, Mark Geraghty, Ros Robertson for their 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.

We normally have five councillors including me. However, during the year Sue Stock had to step down as she felt she was unable to give the time she needed to the council. I thank her for straightforward approach and humour – she was an asset to the team.

As a result, we have been looking for a replacement and barring any unforeseen changes are expecting to co-opt a new councillor at our next meeting in July Wiltshire Councillor Chris Williams, who lives in Ludgershall, attends all of 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.

Carolyn Wall, now Chairman of Chute Parish Council, has also stepped down as clerk to the council after 10 years. She was diligent and hardworking. She kept a tight rein on the administration and finances of the council. I will particularly miss her support and energy.

Carly Lovell, next to us/me, has taken on that role and I look forward to working with her.

Two final thank yous go to John Dawson, who continues to mow to the playing field, and Barry Unwin who cuts the village green.

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.

It has been a particularly quiet year in terms of planning. We only had two applications. One for tree works at Hazel Cottage and the second for change of use of a building Red House Farm to allow storage for three years. We supported both applications.

The other major achievement has been to develop a Village Design Guide which is expected to be adopted by Wiltshire Council in the next couple of months. It is the result of a considerable amount of work by Marianne Hopton and Lisa Jackson and the Parish Council has been very happy to give it our wholehearted support.

5. Presentation of accounts- Chute Forest Carly Lovell Clerk and RFO

Balance as of 31st March 2022 - £4,832.06

Precept for 2022-23 £4,600.00
Grants awarded
King George Field – £1,206.00
Village Hall - £125.00
Church - £150.00

6. Report from Chris Williams (Wiltshire Council)

The following report was provided:

At the February Council meeting the Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2022 – 2032 was presented to full council. The plan represents Wiltshire Council's 10-year ambition for the County. It sets out the council's mission, how achievements will be measured and the key themes that will guide the way in which the Council works.

As a council, our mission is to ensure:

The people of Wiltshire are empowered to live full, healthy, and enriched lives.
Our communities continue to be beautiful and exciting places to live.
Our local economy thrives and is supported by a skilled workforce.

We lead the way in how councils and counties mitigate the climate challenges ahead. A copy of the Business Plan can be found on the Wiltshire Council website for those wishing to read it in more detail.

I am very pleased that a number of local families are opening their homes to Ukrainian families, and across the county over 200 households have offered safe homes for people fleeing from the war-torn country. Wiltshire Council is putting in additional staff to provide checks and support for the growing number of Ukrainian refugees who are due to settle in Wiltshire under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Tidworth Area Board has met five times in the past twelve months with the next meeting on 30th May at Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall. Though meetings have been held online it is good that we can now meet in person.

Local priorities for our community area will be discussed and set for the oncoming year along with how the area board has supported the 2021/22 priorities with the various grants that have been made. Changes have been made to the grant criteria, the main one that affects Town and Parishes is that you can apply for grants for youth or older and vulnerable adults' projects which comes under revenue but not through the capital community grant scheme. Matched funding requirement has reduced from £1000 to £500.

On a more personal note, can I state how pleased I am at becoming your councillor and especially at being able to support the Chutes Design Guide. Wiltshire Council has commissioned the production of a Wiltshire-wide Design Guide which will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document to be given weight in making planning decisions. The Chutes Design Guide is likely to be adopted ahead of the Wiltshire Design Guide and has the potential to be an exemplar for other parish councils considering a similar approach, so well done to all those who have been involved in producing the document and to the Chutes community for giving it the support it deserves.

7. Report from Wiltshire Police

Unavailable

8. Report from Village Hall Committee

Carolyn Wall provided the following report:

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

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

We are slowly recovering from the effects of lock-down and Pilates and yoga have restarted and the cancelled weddings and parties have been rebooked.

The major repairs have now been completed to the exterior of the hall and emphasis now is to replace the heating with something more efficient and affordable.

We have installed Wi-Fi and a security camera after some strange activity at the hall and entry to the hall.

The monthly coffee mornings and lunches have proved to be very popular and enabled villagers to meet new people in an informal atmosphere.

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

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to record my thanks to Rick Tweed, 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.

9. King George Field Report

Carolyn Wall provided the following report:

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

Unfortunately, we lost Andover New Street Football Club last year which greatly affected our income we have though been successful in private hires of the field for cricket matches and parties.

Major maintenance included work to replace the veranda pillars and the soffits to the pavilion which are now complete

We also plan to repaint the storage container dark green to look less obtrusive and are looking for a smaller container to site alongside to store fete equipment.

Unfortunately, we have been blighted by vandalism this year with graffiti scaled on the pavilion, smashed bottles and recently the cricket net frame bent beyond use.

We still also have a problem with inconsiderate dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs.

Our thanks go to John Dawson for his mowing skills, Rick Tweed, Tim Harker and Nigel Griffiths for Strimming and to Ann and Bill Catt for picking up dog poo and emptying the bin.

On a sad note, Jim Foxen who was a very active member of the KGF and mowed the field every week with the old Fergie tractor towing a gang mower passed away a few weeks ago. Jim, who lived in Lower Chute nearly all his life worked well into his eighties and will be sadly missed.

10. Report from Collingbourne and Chute Link Scheme

Unavailable

11. Report from Chute Chronicle

Report provided by Heather Walkling

Heather introduced herself and Andy as the editors of the Chronicle. Like everyone else the publication was hit by Covid and some of its revenue was lost due to allow advertisers a break. Good news is that there are now new advertisers.

The Chronicle has had a re-vamp and has been freshened up.

It is a communication tool for the village and publishes both Councils minutes.

She thanked the Church for underwriting the Chronicle and for their support, she also gave her thanks to the people who distribute the publication.

Her greatest concern is the lack of editors as there is currently only herself and Andy which makes it time consuming, if more people were on board, it would be more manageable.

Cllr Rudland, having had experience working on the Chute Chronicle said that the editors should be proud of what is produced.

12. Report from Chute Club

Unavailable

13. Report from the Church:

Jenny Hughes provided the following report:

Jenny was pleased to announce that Rev Jo Reed had returned.

The Church have been fortunate enough to have been donated a mini grand piano, enabling them to hold musical events.

There was a choir formed for Christmas Carols and the handbells were used at the Easter Service.

The flower arranging continues to be superb.

Earlier in the year there was a pet's service.

The Phoenix band will be performing on 5th June 2022 as part of the Jubilee Celebrations followed by a big fry up.

There are three wedding currently booked.

Repairs are always needed and unfortunately the chemical toilet has had to be closed due to the maintenance cost.

Both Councils were thanked for their financial support.

The defibrillator is now in the porch and a basic first aid course is being arranged.

An ambition is to engage with the young people in the village.

No further business was raised, and the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Carly Lovell Clerk and RFO to Chute Parish Council.