

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Thursday 27th June 2024, 7.30pm

Present:

Jane Page – CPC Councillor and Vice-Chair
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor
Ashley O’Neill – Wilts Councillor

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

Plus 6 members of the public

4383 Apologies

From Cllrs White, Carter, Sadler-Smith and Catt. In the absence of Cllr White the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair, Cllr. Page.

4384 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4385 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd May 2024

Cllr Purslow proposed approval of the Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Grafton.
Cllr Page signed off the Minutes.

4386 Review of Actions

Reinstatement of fallen signpost on footpath to Stert Pond (4185). Cllr Grafton reported that he had carried out the work that morning. Action : **Cllrs White and Grafton**

Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212). Cllr Page had obtained quotes which would be circulated shortly before being agreed. Action : **Cllrs White and Grafton**

Yatesbury overgrown footpaths (4255) Cllr Page confirmed that the paths related to Lymers Lane. She had identified a new contractor to request a quote to deal with the issue. Action : **Cllr Page**

Contact with farmer re digging of pipes on the bridleway off Jugglers Lane (4255). This related to White Horse Way. Cllr Page confirmed this was being dealt with by the PROW Working Group.

Researching options for the training of volunteers for the defibrillators (4258). Cllr Carter was not present to update but it was understood that the training had been drawn up and the location for a new unit was still being assessed.

Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260). Cllr Grafton was much closer now to finalising the Yatesbury contacts with Cllr Purslow’s assistance. In the meantime Wiltshire Council’s flood prevention team was assessing the problems at Marsh Lane. Action – **Cllr Grafton and Purslow**

To lodge complaint with Wiltshire Highways re the state of Back Lane at Yatesbury (4271). Cllr Page reported that this had been done and Wiltshire Highways had been out to investigate the previous week and an update was expected from them. See **4387(c) 6** below.

To contact **Caroline Thomas, Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Highways re state of local roads (4271)**. Cllr White was not present to update.

To approach **Richard Gantlett re putting in drainage to mitigate a water-filled pit on byway at Little London, Yatesbury (4353)**. Cllr White was not present to update.

To establish terms of reference published by **LHFIG re repairs needed at Barrow Way, part of National Cycle Route 403 (4353)**. The Clerk had done this and the TOR might support an application for funding. Cllr would put this to LHFIG. **Action** : Cllr Purslow

To contact **Michelle Haley at Combined Parishes PROW Group for update on training (4372)**. The Clerk had done so but had been advised that the HIAMS software still had teething troubles so training would be delayed until this was resolved. He would update further. **Action**: Clerk.

Cllr Page confirmed that, in the meantime, she had set up the Cherhill PC spreadsheet so the PROW Working Group would not be held up by the software delay.

4387 Public Participation

- a) Mr Les Pocock complained about the **verges around Yatesbury not having been cut**. He had almost collided with another vehicle recently when pulling out from The Lymers due to the poor visibility. Gulleys also need cutting in the banks. Cllr Grafton reported that Wiltshire Council is only carrying out one late cut of the verges. This was not a classified road so WC does not carry out a visibility test. Cllr Purslow confirmed that the Parish Steward would not do this work either, under his remit.
- b) Mr Richard Simpson reported on his plans for thinning out of the **woods at Oldbury Park Farm** in a phased programme. They were into year 4 of the 'first thin', as good practice, and this should be completed in about a year. It would be another 10-15 years before a second thin was needed. The planting density was approximately 1000 trees per acre and he had 120-130 acres of woodland. Around 20% was thinned each year in consultation with the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission. He was very open to any enquiries from residents, either at meetings or directly to him. Cllr Page thanked Mr Simpson for attending and for his offer.
- c) Anne Henshaw had raised a number of questions in writing concerning damage and other issues affecting footpaths and bridleways. Cllr Page summarised her responses as follows:
 - 1) **Remedial work to White Horse Way** is a matter for the landowner and Wiltshire Council. In any event the affected stretch of White Horse Way falls into Compton Bassett PC. Cllr Page, however, has discussed the matter with Stephen Leonard at Wiltshire Council who suggests the landowner repair with discing, using a disc harrow or a Shaka Raker. She has contacted the landowner to discuss.
 - 2) Is there a time-table for the work? See (1) above.
 - 3) **Remedial work to Bridleway 13**, Nolands to Yatesbury: Stephen Leonard of Wiltshire Council has confirmed he will meet with the landowner to discuss repairs.
 - 4) Work on the **2 stiles on bridleway 14/footpath 4a**, in the vicinity of Stert Pond, will be undertaken this summer. Cllr Page has quotes for the work which will be discussed before going forward. The landowner, Richard Gantlett, will be applying to WC to replace the stile with a gate.
 - 5) The **anomaly of bridleway 14**, which starts as a bridleway but leads to a footpath and goes no further. This will be raised with Wiltshire Council, asking if this will be corrected by a change in designation. **Action** : Cllr Page/Clerk
 - 6) The damaged section of **Back Lane, Yatesbury**. This was the responsibility of Wiltshire Council but it is understood that an inspection was carried out earlier this week. Cllr Page will be contacting Rebecca Chivers of Wiltshire Highways to ascertain a repair plan. **Action**: Cllr Page
- d) Mr Paul Ricketts asked whether decisions taken by the new **PROW Working Group** will be published in parish council minutes. A summary of recommendations at each meeting would be posted on the website. **Action** : Cllrs Page/White
- e) Mr Ricketts asked about the **messy footpath along a stretch of the A4**. Could the PC press for action to clear it? It had been done last winter as far as the Yatesbury turn but not as far as Beckhampton. Wilts Cllr O'Neill had previously lobbied for this stretch and was optimistic that it would be cleared in due course.

- f) Mr Ricketts reported that the disused **post box in the wall at Bell House** had been painted black to deter it being used. The paint was now flaking off which might encourage people to use it. Councillors took note.
- g) Mr Ricketts updated on the **Pond** at Yatesbury where the great crested newts had now spawned. Only when they had matured, from August, would he be able to remove some of the reeds for maintenance. Councillors again expressed their gratitude to Mr Ricketts.
- h) Mr Ricketts raised the matter of the new **42 bus timetable**. The bus contract with Stagecoach is about to end and the Swindon Bus Company will take over the route with a new timetable. The bus from Marlborough used to come down into Yatesbury but now does not. It does when going from Calne to Marlborough. Passengers now have to use a 33 bus to get to Calne and then take the 42 bus from there. There should be at least one stop in Yatesbury during the day on the Marlborough-Calne journey. Wilts Cllr O'Neill suggested contact be made with Jason Salter, Head of Passenger Transport, Wiltshire Council. **Action:** Clerk.

4388 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

Discussions on various issues had already been dealt with under **Public Participation (4387)**, above.

Cllr Page confirmed that the new Working Group on Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance had now met and terms of reference drawn up. Initially the members would be Cllrs Page, Purslow and Grafton. The current initiative by the Combined Parishes PROW Group (set up by Wiltshire CPRE) for each parish to carry out a survey of it's bridleways, footpaths and byways, is now being dealt with by the Working Group. Cllr Page had developed a spreadsheet and the survey was well under way. A summary from each meeting would be available on the website.

4389 Planning applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2024/04396	Phoenix Glow, 1a Park Lane, Cherhill SN11 8XN	No objection to proposed detached garden room/shed

4390 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for May 2024 @ £77.65. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**

The Garden Route, grass cutting at Tommy Croker @£385.00. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Purslow. **APPROVED.**

4391 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023-24

The Internal Auditor had examined all accounts and documents provided by the Clerk and signed off his report. The Annual Governance Statement had previously been circulated to Council members. The Clerk/RFO took Council members through the figures. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Purslow. **APPROVED** and signed off by the Clerk and Cllr Page.

Action; The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer to return all the signed off AGAR forms to the external auditor by the due date and to ensure the publication of the dates re the 'Period for the Exercise of Public Rights', to run from Monday 1st July to Friday 11th August 2024.

Action : Cllrs Grafton and Page to post paper copies of the Notice on the Cherhill and Yatesbury noticeboards before Monday 1st July.

Action: Cllr White to post the AGAR annual return and Notice of Public Rights on the website before Monday 1st July.

The Clerk suggested that, as in the previous year, a payment of £60 be made to Mr Hubbard, for his auditing services, to be passed on to St James's Church as a donation to funds. Proposed Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED.**

4392 Community Governance Review – Leaflet and Public Engagement

The generic leaflet drafted by Calne Without Parish Council had been circulated to its successor councils each of which was tailoring a section to their own parish. The Cherhill PC version had now been drafted, circulated and agreed. The final selection of colour scheme would be determined by the Clerk and Cllr White. It was envisaged that at least 700 copies of the leaflet were required, for distribution to all households in the parish and to households in the 2 wards being transferred to Cherhill PC.

4393 Newsletter (Standing Item)

The next edition would be planned for later in the year.

4394 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllrs Grafton reported that Cllr Sadler-Smiith had attended the recent meeting and would be reporting in due course.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd's totalled £21,671.47. There were no particular matters to report.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk would very shortly be filing with Wiltshire Council the annual expenditure report on CIL monies, which was nil for 2023-24. This would be considered as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow had been updating the page and would add details of the PROW Working Group.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton had attended a meeting by Zoom the previous evening. A major topic was the recent serious fire at the Lower Compton Recycling Centre. Sand reserves at Freeth Farm Quarry near Compton Bassett were now at a low level and sand was now having to come from Oxfordshire.

LHFIG – Cllr Purslow confirmed that he would be attending the next meeting, the following day. He would raise the matter of the remedial work needed along the surface of Barrow Way.

Parish Steward link – Cllr Purslow confirmed that the Steward was continuing to attend satisfactorily but probably needed more work. It would help if it was known what work he was, or was not, able or allowed to carry out. **Action:** Clerk to ascertain the Parish Steward's terms of reference.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that following the successful re-chalking in May 2024 there had been some weed growth where the new chalk had been at its thinnest. This would be monitored.

Lansdowne Monument – Following confirmation at the previous meeting by the National Trust that restoration work would be commencing in 2025, there was no further news.

Defibrillators – All units across the parish continued to be in operation.

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC). – Cllr Sadler-Smith was not present to report.

4395 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4396 Date of next meeting

Thursday 25th July at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.