

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 25th July 2024, 7.30pm

Present:

Nick White – CPC Councillor and Chairman
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor
Andrew Sadler-Smith CPC Councillor
Peter Johnson – CPC Parish Clerk/RFO

Plus 4 members of the public

4397 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Carter and Page.

4398 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4399 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2024

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

4400 Review of Actions

Repair of handrails and foot bridges near Stert Pond (4212). Cllr Page was not present to report but had obtained quotes and was understood to be seeking permission from the landowner before the work commencing. **Action : Cllrs Page and Grafton**

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

Contact with farmer re digging of pipes on the bridleway off Jugglers Lane (4255). This related to White Horse Way and was still being dealt with by the PROW Working Group. The site was however within Compton Bassett PC and they would be contacted. **Action : Cllr Page and White**

Researching options for the training of volunteers for the defibrillators (4258). Cllr Carter was not present to update but Cllr White had also obtained a quote from a local company to provide first aid training to residents. This would only be implemented after the location for a new unit was finalised.

Changes to update the Flood and Emergency Plans (4260). Cllr Grafton was still finalising the Yatesbury contacts with Cllr Purslow's assistance. **Action – Cllr Grafton and Purslow**

To lodge complaint with Wiltshire Highways re the state of Back Lane at Yatesbury (4271). Cllr White reported that this was now being dealt with by Becky Chivers of Wiltshire Highways. Signs had been erected warning of the uneven road surface.

To contact Caroline Thomas, Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Highways re state of local roads (4271). Cllr White confirmed that this also was now being dealt with by Wiltshire Highways.

To approach Richard Gantlett re putting in drainage to mitigate a water-filled pit on byway at Little London, Yatesbury (4353). Cllr White had not heard back but would chase if needed.

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 an application for funding was now being put to LHFIG. **Action :** Cllr Purslow

To contact Michelle Haley at Combined Parishes PROW Group for update on training (4372). The Clerk had been advised that the HIAMS software still had teething troubles. He would contact Michelle Haley again for another update. **Action:** Clerk.

The anomaly of Bridleway 14 which starts as a bridleway but leads to a footpath and goes no further (4387). This should probably be designated as a footpath for its full length but it was understood that the waiting time for assessments and redesignations can be up to 10-15 years. It will though be raised with Wiltshire Council. **Action: Cllr Page/Clerk**

Contact with Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport re the need for 42 bus to stop at Yatesbury during the day, travelling from Marlborough and Calne (4387). The Clerk had contacted Jason Salter, Head of Passenger Transport at Wiltshire Council, who had confirmed that this would be reassessed.

4401 Public Participation

Mr Colin Webb complained about the state of the public right of way footpath CHER27 running from Red Barn up to National Trust land. In 2015 Cherhill PC had allowed this to be used as a permissive bridleway. In June 2018 it suffered serious damage and the PC had allowed it to revert to a PROW footpath only but by July 2018 it again was being allowed to serve as a permissive bridleway. He and a number of other parish residents consider it to be unsuitable for use as a bridleway. He showed 2 recently taken photographs showing the narrow width of the track which was currently very overgrown. He acknowledged that the PC does arrange periodic cutting but this is the only PROW footpath leading up to the Downs and his view is that it's not wide enough to be shared with horses. Could an alternative route be found for horses? Cllr White confirmed that contractors had cut back the overgrowth in April but it had grown back. When it has been cut there is sufficient width for a horse to pass. Agreed there was no practical alternative for a horse access route and any change in designation of this route would take time but the overgrowth would be cut back as regularly as possible. Similarly the chalk track up from Park Lane will need its overgrowth to be cut back. The PROW Working Group will be asked to look closely at the issue and report back to the Parish Council.

4402 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

Cllr Page was not present to update but several issues were being addressed by the Working Group.

4403 Highways Improvement (LHFIG) Request

Una Cavanagh had contacted the PC about parking issues affecting Middle Lane. Where the road narrows outside her drive, there are historic problems caused by inconsiderate parking, particularly at school run time. It has worsened recently as people are more frequently parking opposite her drive at no. 19 and sometimes, she cannot access her own drive. She had suggested that a white T-bar line be marked on the road surface which might deter such parking. Agreed that this issue be put to LHFIG at the earliest opportunity. It might not be within LHFIG's remit but this was worth exploring. Cllr Purslow would enquire through LHFIG. Cllr White would also ask PCSO Mark Cooke to watch out for parking issues at Middle Lane. **Action: Cllrs Purslow and White**

4404 Funding of projects by CIL Monies

The PC had received a total of £1,197.57 in CIL Monies during 2023-24. There was a 5-year maximum period in which such funds could be used and Cll White invited suggestions for projects to be funded. There were no specific projects being put forward at present but this would be kept under review, with an emphasis on PROW projects.

4405 Planning applications

Application No	Address	Conclusion
PL/2024/04895	Sands Farm Quarry, Low Lane, Calne	No objection to proposed variation of conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission 15/10219/WCM to incorporate minor material amendments to proposals and timescales for restoration of approved landfill.

Although not received in time to form part of the Agenda for the present meeting, Calne Without PC had circulated a draft Community Benefit Agreement put together by Valencia Energy Ltd, in relation to the **Valencia Solar Park** being planned at the landfill site to the east of Calne. At present the site forms part of the parish of Calne Without but is one of the areas to be transferred to Cherhill PC as a result of the CGR review taking effect from May 2025. (see **4407** below). Calne Without PC had requested comments on the draft agreement and a view on which PC, either or both, should take the lead in further negotiations with Valencia. Cherhill PC councillors will study the document and formulate a response to CWPC. In the meantime the draft agreement stipulated that a payment of £350 per megawatt generated would be paid to the relevant parish council for a period not exceeding 37 years. Cllr White had calculated that, based on a 5.9 megawatt capacity for the proposed park, this could generate over £2000 per annum for the Cherhill PC.

4406 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for June 2024 @ £35.15. Proposed to be approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**

4407 Community Governance Review – Leaflet and Public Engagement

Cllr White explained to members of the public present the history of the review and the consequent expansion of the area of Cherhill Parish Council with 2 wards being transferred from Calne Without PC to Cherhill PC from May 2025. These are Lower Compton Ward and East Ward, the latter comprising Blackland and Calstone. The number of Cherhill PC councillors would increase from 7 to 12. A leaflet had been designed in collaboration with Calne Without PC. They would be distributing their own version shortly, including to the wards coming to Cherhill PC. The Cherhill version of the leaflet would be finalised shortly and distributed by hand to all addresses currently in the parish. It might be possible to have leaflets also made available at events in the parish but the priority would be for hand delivery to homes. Kennet Print had provided a quote and the aim was for printing and distribution during August.

4408 Newsletter (Standing Item)

The next edition would be planned for September to October.

4409 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – The Clerk had circulated the Board's decision to restrict attendance at meetings, which would now be quarterly rather than monthly and by Zoom, to parish clerks rather than to parish councillors. Cllr Grafton reported that the Parish Forum had been resurrected to which councillors were still being invited and he would be attending the next one of those, on 7th August. In the meantime the

Clerk would establish whether he could attend the next Quarterly Meeting, in August, but this was scheduled on a Wednesday when he was not normally available.

Budgeting and Finance – The Clerk reported that at present the funds at Lloyd’s totalled £20,734.42. There were no particular matters to report.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk had filed the annual expenditure report on CIL monies, which was nil for 2023-24. The AGAR for 2023-24 had also been filed with the External Auditor.

Facebook Page – Cllr Purslow had been updating the page when and where appropriate.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton had attended the recent meeting by Zoom. A topic had been the consequences of the recent serious fire at the Lower Compton Recycling Centre.

LHFIG – Cllr Purslow confirmed that he would be attending the next meeting, the following day. The meetings are quarterly, thus the following meeting will be in October.

Parish Steward link – Cllr Purslow had circulated the latest version from Wiltshire Council of the Parish Steward’s terms of reference. Cllr White had looked at the issue raised recently by residents at Orchard Close regarding overhanging bushes belonging to a neighbouring probated property but this was not something in which Cherhill PC could be involved, due to the probate aspect. In any event, unfortunately, this is not a situation where the Parish Steward could assist.

Website – The Clerk suggested he should have access to the website in order to assist the process of posting notices and documents. Agreed that this would be useful. It was also agreed that the website will require major replanning for the CGR changes coming in May 2025 with the consequent expansion of the parish. A professional rebuild may be required.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that the spare chalk from the recent rechalking in May had been collected up and bagged by the local scouts with the support of Rob Pickford and could be used for further work when required.

Lansdowne Monument – Following confirmation at the previous meeting by the National Trust that restoration work would be commencing in 2025, Cllr Sadler-Smith would be closely monitoring progress.

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

Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC). – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that the new County Officer, Ian Nockolds, was continuing to make improvements in communications and procedures and WALC now appeared to be vibrant and in a good position to help it’s member councils. The WALC Conference is to be held on 5th November.

4410 Confidential Matters

Any confidential matters discussed are not reported in the Minutes.

4411 Date of next meetings

Thursday 29th August at 7.30pm – Yatesbury Village Hall
Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.