

Minutes of the meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held remotely on-line on Thursday 28 May 2020 at 7.30 pm

Please refer to The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, Regulation 5 regarding remote meetings

Present:

John Cavanagh - CPC Chairman
Simon Tomlinson - CPC Councillor
Martin Purslow - CPC Councillor
Nick White - CPC Councillor
David Evans - CPC Councillor

David Grafton - CPC Councillor
J R Auvray - CPC Councillor
Paula Purslow – CPC Parish Clerk
Alan Hill - Wiltshire Councillor
0 members of the public

3720 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

3721 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

3722 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 April 2020

Cllr Tomlinson proposed approval of the Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Evans.

Action: The Chairman to sign off the minutes once social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

3723 Review of Actions

VAT Number - The Clerk had e-mailed HMRC and was awaiting a reply

Role of the Parish Council - Cllr White agreed to put together some analysis information from the feedback questionnaires. **Action: Cllr White**

3724 Public Participation

There was no public participation. The Parish Council acknowledged receipt of an e-mail from Mr Colin Webb received on 27 May, regarding rights of way, which would be discussed later in the meeting.

3725 Planning Applications

There were no current planning applications to discuss.

An appeal had just been received regarding the Divine Café application, 19/06846/FUL, with a response date of 2 July. Councillors requested the Parish Clerk ask Wiltshire Council for permission to extend submission of responses for 2 weeks beyond the decision deadline date, to allow discussions regarding possible changes to the original response from the Parish Council. **Action: Parish Clerk**

3726 Accounts

Clerk's Home/Office expenses for April and May - Home/Office expense, printer paper and stamps at £47.15. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**

BHIB invoice for Local Council insurance at £1,184.33. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Grafton. **APPROVED**

The Garden Route invoice for grass cutting at the Tommy Croker playing field at £235.00. Proposed to be approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Purslow. **APPROVED**

WALC invoice for WALC and NALC subscription at £311.44. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson. **APPROVED**

The Asset Register had been amended to reflect the recent purchase of Tommy Croker equipment. It was unanimously agreed to remove the lawn mower from the Asset Register as it is now beyond economic repair and will be written off. Subject to the mower being removed from the Asset Register, councillors **APPROVED** the updated register. **Action: Parish Clerk to amend and re-circulate.**

3727 Community Support

Cllrs Cavanagh and Purslow reported on the Covid-19 helpline, which was still working well, but requests had recently tailed off significantly.

3728 Rights of Way - Footpath Diversion, Upper Farm

There had been an approach made to Wiltshire Council regarding the possibility of moving footpath 'CHER8' from the Tommy Croker playing field to the 6-way cross-roads outside Upper Lodge. Parish Councillors had been invited by the landowner, Mr Rob Pickford, to participate in discussions. Cllrs Grafton and White agreed to contact and meet with Mr Pickford. **Action: Cllrs Grafton and White.**

3729 Tommy Croker Playing Field

Following their recent inspection report, RoSPA had recommended the purchase of more pine nuggets to repair/maintain the playing surfaces under the equipment. It was estimated that between 40m³ and 50m³ was needed to get back up to the 300mm depth required. Cllr White had obtained 3 quotes, at approximately £2,500. Cllr Grafton recommended that Cllr White approach Giddings, who may be able to provide a slightly cheaper quote.

After discussions it was agreed that Cllr White would ask the Tommy Croker Committee if they are prepared to pay for half the cost of the nuggets, and the Parish Clerk would check to see if the recently awarded CIL monies could be used for the other half. **Action: Cllr White and Parish Clerk**

Cllr White submitted a budget estimate of £1,200 for this year's maintenance comprising £900 for grass cutting, £100 for the RoSPA inspection and £200 for equipment maintenance. This will require a change to the budget which currently limits the Parish Council to spending £1,000.

3730 Grass Cutting

Grass cutting around the Parish had been suspended due to the Covid-19 outbreak and there had been concerns that areas around road junctions were becoming dangerous. However, Wiltshire Council had recently started work again and were catching up with the backlog. Wiltshire Councillor Hill reported that Wiltshire Council's priority would be sitelines first, and that other areas will be covered at a later date.

Cllr Tomlinson asked if the Parish Clerk could find out which contractor is responsible for each role of grass cutting, ie open and green spaces, and areas around the highways. **Action: Parish Clerk**

3731 Activity and Road Infrastructure Review

During the Covid-19 lockdown more people have been walking and cycling. However, as the Covid-19 lockdown is eased, increased levels of traffic will make it more difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to safely achieve the 2m social distancing requirement. In response to this, the Department for Transport (DfT) issued new statutory guidance stating that "*The government ... expects local authorities to make significant changes to their road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians*". Wiltshire Council Officers have approached Parish Councils to identify potential sites and measures, using local knowledge.

Parish Councillors discussed possible areas, including the A4 road and footpath and Middle Lane, Cherhill. It was agreed that Cllrs Tomlinson and Purslow would identify potential sites and measures

and forward to the Parish Clerk to respond. **Action: Cllrs Tomlinson and Purslow to send comments to Cllr Cavanagh who will formulate a draft response for the Parish Clerk to submit.**

3732 Dropbox

Cllr Cavanagh reported that the Parish Council Dropbox account was due to be renewed - this is a virtual 'room' to put documents into which all councillors would have access to.

3733 Councillor Responsibilities

Calne Area Board - The next meeting will be held in August.

Budgeting and Finance - The Parish Clerk had completed the AGAR return and was awaiting information from WALC regarding when it can be approved by the Parish Council and signed off before submission.

Countryside Access - Cllr Grafton had received an e-mail from Mr Colin Webb stating that the gate at CHER27 had been locked and the path needed cutting back. Cllr Grafton answered that he had been to the site and the area around the stile had now been cleared. He believed the gate was locked because cattle were currently grazing in the fields, but agreed to investigate with the landowner/National Trust. **Action: Cllr Grafton**

Parish Steward - Cllr Purslow reported that he had logged all current requests with the Parish Steward who was catching up with the backlog. However, Cllr Cavanagh asked the Parish Clerk to register the Parish Council's dissatisfaction with the service recently received, to Wiltshire Councillor Alan Hill. **Action: Parish Clerk**

Defibrillators - Cllr Evans asked the Parish Council to find a replacement Councillor to maintain the defibrillators after he leaves the Council.

Cllr Cavanagh led the thanks to Cllr Evans for all his very hard work on the Parish Council since 1991, following his letter of resignation.

Cllr Purslow agreed to write a note on the Facebook page publicising the new vacancy for a Cherhill Councillor. **Action: Cllr Purslow**

3734 Confidential Matters

The Parish Clerk left the meeting as there was a discussing regarding her salary review.

In the Clerk's absence the councillors unanimously agreed to award a salary increase of 2.75% as an interim measure until the National Joint Council on Local Government Services reaches an agreement on salary scales for 2020-21.

3735 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30 June, 7.30 pm, Yatesbury - to be re-evaluated depending on the Covid-19 outbreak.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.