

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Mr D Roberts (Chair)
Mr D Nellist (Vice-Chairman)
Mrs K Adamson
Mrs M Castle
Mrs E Campbell
Mr T Brown (Clerk)
Mr N Adamson (Finance Officer)

No members of the public attended on this occasion.

23/58 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

None.

23/59 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 12th July 2023

The draft minutes (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to minute 23/44 being re-numbered 23/57.

23/60 Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

Matters arising from the previous minutes (and not appearing on this meeting agenda):

23/47: Communications Group. The Chair and Clerk were meeting the Group on 18th September.

Defibrillator Training. A £50 donation can be offered to South Central Ambulance Service. A date needs to be set, invitations issued to those interested and publicised in Charney Chatter.
Councillors Declarations. Head and shoulder photographs were now on the website via a link to Councillor's name. We might later explore whether these could appear on the main page.
OCC Tree Planting initiative. The deadline had been extended but CHAFT now feels that take up would be premature. It was agreed nothing further could be done.

23/57: Charney Manor. An updated group timetable has been provided and the outdoor noise activity moved indoors. Councillors had received no further concerns from residents. The Clerk would write to thank the Manor for the action taken.

Charney Mill. An item had been included in Charney Chatter but no volunteers had come forward. It was agreed a further attempt should be made in November. The Chair and Clerk were discussing the terms of the lease with OCC on 18th September.

23/61: Information Exchange

Mrs Castle noted branch drop from trees on the Village Green. Mrs Adamson proposed that quotes be obtained for any work required. This was seconded by Mrs Castle and agreed. Quotes should also cover the cherry on Ock Green.

Mrs Adamson reported on proposals to remove parking from Upper Market Place, Wantage and the likely impact on local businesses (including Dolphin Art). It was agreed that this could inconvenience residents and a concern should be lodged to the current consultation.

Mrs Adamson reported on various sightings of hedgehogs in the village and would investigate how warning signage might be put in place, as recently installed in Southmoor.

23/62 County Councillor

Juliette Ash had sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and advised she would be happy to discuss any key points that arose.

23/63 District Councillor

Jill Rayner had attended a recent meeting on drainage (see also minute 23/68) but was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

23/64 Clerk's Financial Report

The current balance is £10,356. Mr Adamson ran through the report that had been circulated, explaining recent transactions. A 'final demand' invoice for £38.40 had been received for a mapping tool by Parish Online, but had eventually been withdrawn as we had never asked for (or used) the service. Councillors noted the content of the report.

The Clerk had asked the Salvation Army to remove the Clothing Bank from the Chequers PH car park. Mrs Castle would take on responsibility for ordering a Xmas Tree for the Village Green and the Chair would communicate with interested parties.

23/65 Planning Matters

Mrs Adamson reported as follows:

- P23/V0798/FUL (Commercial Buildings/parking etc, Lyford Business Park): the date of the Planning Committee meeting had yet to be announced.
- P23/V0829/FUL (Conversion + new build – 5 houses, Old School, New Rd): the Parish Council comments on the amended plan as submitted has been circulated. The plan is much improved, the only disappointment being the omission of an extended footpath on the New Road frontage.
- P23/V1342/FUL (Garage and workshop at Autumn Garth): planning permission granted.
- P23/V1395/FUL (Erection of barn, land west of Denchworth Road – also known as Blenheim Field): the Vale Drainage Engineer has supported the Parish Council's concern on flooding.
- P23/V1620/FUL (Agricultural building, land north of Buckland Road); the Parish Council has raised no objection.
- P23/V1699/LB (Goosey Wick Farmhouse, alterations); the Parish Council has raised no objection.
- P23/V1816/FUL (Minmere Barn, triple garage); the Parish Council has raised no objection. *NB this item added to the agenda by agreement.*
- P17/V2341/FUL (Blenheim Field, Denchworth Road) – non-agricultural use and increase in size of approved building: information has been submitted to the Vale Council.
- P21/V0148/FUL (Long Meadow Barn, Denchworth): the Chair has been in contact with Denchworth Parish Meeting. The Vale Council has yet to report an outcome to its investigation.
- A number of heavy goods vehicle and trailer lorry movements have been witnessed that appear linked with these two sites. The Clerk would raise this with the County Councillor and enquire as to the current position on the County's recent survey on area weight restrictions.

23/66 Road Safety

Additional MVAS mounting brackets have been fitted. The traffic speed and volume data circulated was noted. Official OCC consultation on the proposed 20mph limit is now awaited.

23/67 Village Allotments

Potential allotment holders had been advised of the current position. There are eight requests for a plot. Questions on how the site will operate are to be discussed when the lease has been received. The Chair, Clerk and Finance Officer are meeting the OCC Estate Officer on 18th September. CHAFT has raised (minute 23/69) possible damage from stray footballs. This might be resolved by a notice asking footballers to use the south goal posts for long-range shooting practice.

23/68 Denchworth Road: land drainage

The dredging work at Ock Bridge has been undertaken by the landowners under an EA exemption permit. Clearance work is on-going but work to some watercourses has yet to commence. The Vale Drainage Engineer has been notified of progress and should visit by the end of the month.

23/69 CHAFT

- a) The Trustees' Meeting of 2nd August. The proposed allotments had been discussed - issues relating to access, possible parking and provision of water. The Clerk would seek clarification.
- b) Joint Liaison Group 25th July. CHAFT has asked that the Council appoints a liaison officer for its Charney Wick Ditch Maintenance Plan. Councillors felt there to be no need for a formal appointment: this is a CHAFT initiative and the role is a little unclear.
- c) Amendment of Hall and Field Land Registry documents. The Clerk had been advised (18th August) that there would be a further lengthy delay. A subsequent email provided further information but was marked confidential. Discussion took place with public excluded (separately minuted).
- d) CHAFT draft Joint Statement: the Council's main comments had been communicated and an updated document provided. A response to the former had been received. It was agreed that further discussion would not be productive while the Land Registry issue was outstanding.

23/70 Grant Application Form

The Clerk had provided CHAFT with copies of the form and policy and had been advised there was no objection in principle. The comment had been made that consideration be given to creating a grant build-up fund. It was agreed this is something best discussed during the budget process. Mrs Campbell proposed the grant form and policy be adopted. This was seconded by Mrs Adamson and agreed subject to the addition of "Further information may be requested if felt necessary" after the first sentence of the penultimate paragraph of the policy document.

23/71 Clerk's Correspondence

Vale and Downland Museum had sent an invite to an event on 27th September aimed at bringing together representatives of local organisations, Parish representatives and individuals with an interest in local history to discuss ways in which they could work together to promote interest in history in our area. It was agreed that the History Group be invited to represent the Council: if this was not possible Mrs Adamson would attend if she could. The deadline for applications to OCC for a Transport Grant had been extended to 13th October. It was agreed that there was no potential for an application in Charney. The County Council was inviting expressions of interest for installing public EV charging points. It was agreed there were no potential locations in Charney. The County Council had asked if we needed to top up/replace our winter salt stock. Mrs Campbell would check and the Chair would arrange for removal of any spoiled stock. Zurich Insurers had advised of the need to increase asset values by up to 10% to account for recent inflation. Our current policy renews in June 2024 so this can be considered in the 2024-25 budget.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

The next full meeting is on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Signed.....Date.....
Chairman