

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2024**

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 – for item 7)

Two members of the public attended on this occasion.

24/35 Election of Chair and Vice Chair (for coming year)

Mrs Castle proposed Mr D Roberts for Chair. This was seconded by Mrs Adamson and agreed.
Mr Roberts proposed Mr D Nellist for Vice Chair. This was seconded by Mrs Adamson and agreed.

24/36 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

All Councillors were present. No declarations of interest were made.

24/37 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2024

The draft minutes (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24/38 Matters Arising from the previous Minutes

24/31: Kings Portrait. Mrs Castle explained that CHAFT had considered this further and that trustees would decide where in the Village Hall the portrait could be displayed at its next meeting.

24/32: Ock Green and Jubilee Orchard. There had been no response from Charney Manor.

24/33: Charney Manor Charity Scheme. The Parish Council's response to the Charity Commission had been copied to the Secretary of the Society of Friends.

24/39: Dates for Future Meetings

Mrs Campbell has conflicts due to work commitments and will see if these can be re-arranged. A meeting date can be reviewed if there is a possibility of a meeting not being quorate. Dates as circulated were agreed.

24/40: Responsibilities and Appointments

The amended table (previously circulated) was agreed with the following additional changes:

- Mrs S Dobson to no longer be a representative on CLET;
- Mrs A Graham to replace Mr J Wright as Village Website Editor.

It was also noted that changes had yet to be made to other positions on the Communications Group.

24/41 Aims and Objectives for 2024-25

The Aims and Objectives (as already circulated) were agreed.

24/42 Clerk's Financial Report

Mr Adamson ran through the transactions to 31st March. Those from 1st April would be reported to the July meeting. The end of year balance stood at £12,174 but significant expenditure will be incurred in the next quarter, particularly on setting up the new allotment site.

Our insurance will renew on 1st June. The premium has increased as our precept puts us in a higher bracket. An alternative quote had been found to be no more competitive than the revised figure. The Chairman ran through the report's recommendations, including that we accept the revised insurance premium offered by Zurich (£363 compared to £327 previously). Mrs Adamson proposed that all recommendations be accepted. This was seconded by Mrs Castle and agreed nem-con.

24/43 Planning Matters

Mrs Adamson reported as follows:

- P23/V0798/FUL (Commercial Buildings/parking etc, Lyford Business Park): decision awaited.
- P23/V2673/FUL (Solar Farm, Manor Farm, Denchworth): decision awaited.
- P17/V2341/FUL (Blenheim Fields, Denchworth Road): Vale decision yet to be made.
- P21/V0148/FUL (Long Meadow Barn, Denchworth): Vale decision yet to be made.

24/44 Village Allotments

The contractor (Peter Noll) had cleared the site and erected new gates and fencing as planned. The Clerk ran through the various costs (tables as circulated). Challenors had revised their legal fees due to the apparent complexity of the work. The Clerk had challenged this and a lower increase had been negotiated (£1,150 + VAT and disbursements). The contractor's costs were lower than expected, despite the inclusion of a separate pedestrian gate: this was due to fewer strainer posts being used and fewer disposal trips. Overall costs were likely to be slightly lower than first estimated (the final legal bill had yet to be received). Councillors agreed the revised Phase 1 set-up costs as presented.

24/45 Charney Mill

The electrical work had been undertaken satisfactorily and the contractor had offered several suggestions on how to make better use of the building. Peter Hawkins and Steve Champion had spent further time on the porch roof but other work had been identified and a meeting of the Mill Project Group was being arranged to discuss this. There is an existing budget that can be used. If costs are likely to exceed that a report will be brought to the next Parish Council meeting.

24/46 Flood Project Grants

The County Council had invited expressions of interest for financial assistance with a flood 'project'. There are still actions outstanding along Denchworth Road and Councillors also felt the issue of the silt in the Charney Wick Ditch culvert under Main Street had never been satisfactorily addressed. It was agreed that both matters should be put forward for consideration.

24/47 CHAFT matters

The draft minutes of the CHAFT meeting on 10th April were noted, including that the Chairman will be looking to arrange a meeting of the Joint Liaison Group.
There was no further information on the progress of the Land Registry application.

24/48 Clerk's Correspondence

None.

24/34 The next meeting is on Wednesday 10th July 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 09.50 pm.

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