

**MINUTES** of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 3 February 2022 at 7 p.m.  
at the Methodist Church Hall in accordance with notice given.

<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor Lilly
<b>Present:</b>	Councillors Beioley, Lee, Mayo, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Pearson, Samaroo, D Taylor, L Taylor, Wood, Wright,
<b>In attendance:</b>	The Clerk, District Cllr Watson (part)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Roberts

**1.02.22 APOLOGIES** – Cllr Roberts apologised for his absence for personal reasons. County Cllr Turner has a business commitment.

**2.02.22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – none

**3.02.22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none

**3.02.22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr Samaroo proposed, “**acceptance of the 2 December 2021 minutes.**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley. There were 2 abstentions.

**4.02.22 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** – attached

**5.02.22 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** – attached.

Recycling – Cllr Watson will investigate the recurring collection delays.

SDC – the question was asked as to when Ebley Mill will be fully open and staffed. Cllr Watson will find out and let us know.

Energy Saving improvements for inefficient homes – further information is required as to eligible households. Cllr Watson will investigate. **ACTION: Cllr Watson**

**6.02.22 CLERK’S REPORT** – attached.

‘**The Bubble**’ – The police camera van has paid a second visit to this site and has fined 2 drivers for speeding and 3 for not wearing a seat belt.

**Silver Street Car Park** – our solicitors have reported to us that:

1. SDC is seeking the right to transfer the benefit of pre-emption to any successors of SDC. If we decide to sell the land or grant a lease of the land for more than 25 years SDC to be given the right of first refusal.
2. If SDC decide to buy the land back following right of first refusal, we will need to pay our own legal costs.
3. SDC is seeking to prohibit the Parish Council from disposing of part of the car park during the pre-emption period of 80 years. This is thought to be unreasonable and does not make sense.

The Council agrees with 1 and 2. Our solicitor will question 3 as it is felt to be unreasonable. It was agreed to instruct our solicitor to proceed.

Commercial vehicles will be prohibited from using the car park.

**Parish land** – due to a resident requiring clarification on public ownership of some land in the Parish, Cllr L Taylor had prepared a document providing background information on The Old Common, Alder Way, the Parish Centre and Frith Wood. A copy will be given to Cllrs Oakley and Samaroo. The question was asked as to whether we should consider talking to SDC about transferring ownership of The Old Common to the Parish Council. Prior to doing that, we need to consider labour costs. A cost to be prepared for next year’s budget. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **7.02.22 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

A short discussion took place as to arrangements for celebrating this event. Various events are planned; the Old Neighbourhood Inn will be holding a party on Sunday, 5 June with various activities. The Inn applied for a road closure that has been agreed. Valley residents will apply for a road closure for the High Street and it is understood Silver Street will be holding a party. GCC Highways may not make a charge for road closure applications. The Clerks have investigated activities for Bussage, including the purchase of a beacon for Bussage Pleasure Ground. A ready-made beacon is £490 but is small. A quote for a larger, custom made one is £1650. We are now investigating cheaper options should the Council want to proceed with this. This subject will be referred to Finance and Management to consider a possible budget and to agree whether a beacon is required. It was agreed to put something on facebook asking people to come forward if they want to be part of a Jubilee organisation group. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **8.02.22 CEMETERY LAND**

Cllr Lilly advised the meeting that he and Cllr L Taylor had held a meeting with Cllr Exley from Bisley with Lypiatt Parish Council to consider a joint effort in our search for new land. We will continue to investigate suitable land in Chalford. Land below Aberlink on Toadsmoor – Cllr L Taylor will speak to relatives connected with the ownership of this land. Cllr Lilly will talk to the owners of a possible site in Chalford Hill. Cllr Exley is investigating suitable land in Eastcombe. **ACTION: Cllrs Lilly/L Taylor**

Frith Wood cemetery – there is a large mound of land behind the Cemetery workshop. Cllr L Taylor had suggested levelling the area and using it for graves. Cllr D Taylor has spoken to a grave digger who has said it is filled with spoil/cement and may not be suitable. Cllr L Taylor is positive this could be removed.

Cllr Lilly suggested that the land on the other side of 'Chalk Wood', near to Abbenesse, could be a possibility. The land is privately owned.

We have not heard the outcome of the Defra recommendation/consultation yet, that being that the minimum size of a grave is to be 5 sq metres. If that is agreed our current 14/15 remaining graves could be reduced to 7. Other land to be investigated is open ground off The Ridge leading down to Toadsmoor. Cllr Morris-Wyatt knows relatives connected with this land and will speak with them. **ACTION: Cllr Morris-Wyatt**

### **9.02.22 REFERRALS – none.**

### **10.02.22 COMMITTEE/EXTERNAL MEETING REPORTS**

Fair Homes – Cllr Lilly reported on a zoom meeting held on 17 January that was attended by district councillors, Bisley with Lypiatt parish councillors, Cllr Samaroo and members of Fair Homes. It had been said at the meeting that SDC would need an updated Housing Needs Survey carried out. Cllr Lilly advised the meeting that Chalford Parish Council would not be undertaking another HNS.

### **11.02.22 EXPENDITURE**

A list of expenditure since December was shown to all present. Councillors signed bank transfers. Cllr Lilly has now been signed up to authorise payments at Lloyds online. Cllr Samaroo proposed, "**acceptance of the expenditure.**" This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed.

### **12.02.22 ANY OTHER INFORMATION**

**Footpath Working Group** – Cllr Oakley advised the council that the group is coming to the end of their work and are looking for things to do. A volunteer who has been rebuilding walls in the parish has agreed to train FWG volunteers in wall building. To be referred to Works. **ACTION: Works**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

