

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Councillor Lilly

Present: Councillors Beioley, Lee, Mayo, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Samaroo, D Taylor, Trinder, Wood

1.03.23 APOLOGIES – Parish Councillors Pearson, Roberts, L Taylor for personal reasons, District Cllrs Jockel, Fenton and Watson.

2.03.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none

3.03.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none.

4.03.23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendment: Page 2, 11.02.23 Cotswold Canals Trust. Second paragraph, delete 'advised' and replace with "spoke in favour". Cllr Oakley proposed, **"acceptance of the 2 February 2023 minutes with the above amendment."** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed.

5.03.23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

A report was sent to all councillors present prior to the meeting.

A letter was sent to the parents of Thomas Keble students today advising of a reduction in the Stagecoach 67 service. Cllr Turner had not seen the letter and will investigate. Meeting with Stagecoach – it was agreed at this meeting that we need to collect data; to include where people catch the bus from and what buses are used the most or least in Chalford. It transpired at the meeting that GCC had been advised of the Stagecoach bus cuts in December 2022 but had not consulted with the parishes. If the cuts leave our community isolated GCC would need to consider providing a service.

6.03.23 CLERK'S REPORT

A copy of the report was given to all councillors prior to the meeting.

King Charles III coronation – the Clerk asked the meeting to consider ideas for celebrating this occasion. Monday, 8 May 2023 is 'The Big Help Out' when the emphasis will be on bringing communities together through volunteering work.

Chalfest – councillors to consider if we want to have a stand and if so, what theme.

The above two items will be on the agenda in April together with the purchase of a further defibrillator. **ACTION: FC Agenda**

6.03.23 SDC PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CHARTER

Cllr Samaroo provided the meeting with information from the meetings she had attended regarding the above. Page 7 - Code of Conduct training – the Clerk will find out if attendance by a Councillor at the training is a 'one off' or if they must attend more sessions. The Clerk will also find out what happens if a Councillor does not attend training. Cllr Samaroo proposed, **"we adopt the Stroud District Council Parish and Town Council Charter, following clarification of the above."** This was seconded by Cllr Lilly and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.03.23 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Pledge – clarification is required as to whether the Council has to have a training programme in place prior to signing the pledge or can be put in place following signing. The Clerk will investigate. It was agreed to adopt a Dignity at Work Policy.

Cllr Beioley proposed, **“we agree in principle to sign the Pledge, subject to the above clarification on training and adoption of a Dignity at Work Policy.”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

8.03.23 GRANTS

Applications from Schools – concern was expressed at PTA applications as it is felt that funding should be via fund raising events/parents. It was agreed to award the two PTA applications this year as there are not as many grant applications and the total cost is under budget. If we are faced with a lot of grants in future years, local organisation applications will take precedence. The grant rules to be amended to include this. To be referred to Finance and Management Committee. Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we accept Finance and Management’s recommendations for the 2023 grant awards.”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

9.03.23 PARISH CENTRE STAFFING

This discussion took place without public nor press present. The discussion details are contained in a Confidential Note.

10.03.23 CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors were furnished with a copy of the Stroud District Council Code of Conduct prior to the meeting. The code was adopted by SDC on 16 February 2023. Cllr Oakley advised that there are issues in the document that need to be addressed prior to adoption relating to a Standards Panel and Complaints Procedure. Cllr Oakley will email the Clerk with details of the issues. Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we adopt the Code of Members’ Conduct subject to investigating and finalising the issues raised above.”** This was seconded by Cllr Beioley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Cllr Oakley/Clerk**

11.03.23 COUNCILLOR FUNNELL’S RESIGNATION

Cllr Funnell thanks everyone who has helped him during his short time on the Council. The Clerk will pass on our thanks and advise him that he is welcome to come back to us in the future. Cllr Lilly proposed, **“we accept Cllr Funnell’s resignation and agree to advertise the Bussage Ward vacancy with immediate effect.”** This was seconded by Cllr Beioley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

12.03.23 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN

A resident has asked if the VAS can be installed in Randalls Green, up from Chalford Hill School, down to the junction of Coppice Hill. There is a 20mph zone in the area but this is only an advisory speed. There is a blanket 30mph speed limit throughout the Parish. The VAS cannot be installed in the area as there is no suitable/safe place as dictated by Highways. Neither can a speed gun be used in the area as it does not comply with police regulations as a safe place. As Cllr Lilly is leaving, there is a requirement for a councillor to take charge of the VAS and the issue of speeding in the Parish. Councillors to let Cllr Lilly know if they are interested. **ACTION: All**

13.03.23 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

There has been two suggestions for a theme for the APM; Friends of Frithwood and ‘Community Spirit’/‘Kindness in the Community’. Both suggestions need volunteers to carry out these functions.

It was agreed to have 'Volunteering in the Parish' as our theme. Let the Clerk know of any ideas for this subject. The meeting will take place in May. **ACTION: All/Clerk**

14.03.23 REFERRALS – none

15.03.23 COMMITTEE/EXTERNAL MEETING REPORTS

WORKS – no additions to the report. Cllr L Taylor has emailed expressing concern at the planting of holly trees in Frith Wood by Friends of Frith Wood, stating that it is totally inappropriate in established woodland. Cllr Oakley advised that there is a lot of holly already in the wood.

PAC – the question was asked as to what work is being carried out to the old Sawyers Electrical shop? There is no planning application for the property. The Assistant Clerk has been in contact with SDC about this matter but has not heard anything back to-date. This will need to be chased. A letter will be sent to the property enquiring as to the work. **ACTION: Clerk**

F&M – In the February minutes there is reference to the cost of installing a white line at the bottom of the footpath from Abbenesse to Burcombe Road. Cllr Lilly advised that a previous white line here has faded. When the white lining is done at Silver Street car park, he will arrange for the above white line to be refreshed. **ACTION: Cllr Lilly**

16.03.23 EXPENDITURE

Councillors were sent a copy of the expenditure prior to the meeting. Cllr Trinder proposed, **"acceptance of the expenses."** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed.

17.03.23 CORRESPONDENCE – none

18.03.23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.07 p.m.