

**MINUTES** of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

**In the Chair:** Councillor Trinder

**Present:** Councillors Lee, Mayo, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Pearson  
Roberts, Samaroo, L Taylor, Wood

**In attendance:** Deputy Clerk/RFO, Christine Prince, County Cllr Turner and District Cllr Watson

**1.06.23 APOLOGIES – Cllr Beioley**

**2.06.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – one member of the public attended to raise the issue of litter collection on Bussage Pleasure ground area. Cllr Turner and Trinder volunteered to carry out some collecting. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder/Cllr Turner**

**3.06.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None**

**4.06.23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr Trinder proposed “**acceptance of the 4 May 2023 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed.

**5.06.23 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Turner gave a verbal report reporting that the A419 is going to be resurfaced during Sept and Oct. Cllr Trinder agreed to pick up detailed points raised by Councillors in next month’s questions for GCC. Cllr Turner confirmed that there are no plans to resurface Dark Lane and that priority is being given to individual potholes. There is a public meeting on 8 June at 4.30pm regarding Wimberley Mill and transport issues may be a concern. Questions can be put to the developer at the meeting. Cllr Morris-Wyatt to attend. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder/Cllr Morris-Wyatt**

**b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Watson gave a verbal report regarding the lorries still using Old Neighbourhood. Local residents are keeping a log of vehicles not using the preferred route. Brimscombe P.C. have asked for a temporary 30 mph speed restriction along part of the A419 but this has been turned down. Road signs warning of “bumpy conditions” may be provided.

Questions were asked of both Cllr Watson and Cllr Turner regarding the High Street and the potholes that have still not been filled. Councillors raised concerns about the method used to fill the potholes - it was noted that during bad weather they are often still full of rain water when they are filled.

Cllr Trinder reported that she had attended the public meeting to discuss the future of the Old Neighbourhood Inn and had been approached through Cllr Turner to see if the P.C. could provide funding for membership of The Plunkett Foundation, the cost of which is £200. Councillors asked whether the entity seeking membership could be widened to enable support for other community projects.

Cllr Trinder proposed that “**The Parish Council agrees to fund membership of the Plunkett Foundation in the sum of £200, with monies to be taken from General Reserves**”. Cllr. Morris-Wyatt seconded. A vote realised nine Councillors in support and one abstention. **ACTION: RFO**

Cllr Watson stated that a request of £950 had been received to fund a graffiti workshop at Chalfest. Cllr Trinder provided a breakdown of the costs to include workshops, staffing, materials and a mural. There was a discussion about whether monies could come from the SDC Youth Forum funding.

Steve Miles would need to confirm whether this funding could be utilised. Cllr Turner advised she would be able to access some funding and would be happy to cover half the costs, but it will take a month to access the monies. Councillors questioned whether the P.C. should be promoting graffiti and whether a one day event was good uses of resources. Further information is needed before a decision can be made. Cllr Watson agreed to obtain more details and refer back to the P.C. It was agreed that the information be referred to Finance and Management for a decision. **Action: Cllr Watson/F&M**

**6.06.23 CLERK'S REPORT** – no questions asked

**7.06.23 2022-23 Accounts**

Finance and Management Committee had considered the accounts and recommended acceptance by Full Council.

- a. Acceptance of the 2022-23 accounts  
Councillors were furnished with a full copy of the accounts prior to the meeting. Cllr Morris Wyatt proposed, “**acceptance of the 2022-23 Accounts.**” This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed.
- b. Approval of the Annual Governance Statement – Section 1  
The Chair read out all the statements and Councillors responded ‘yes’ to all. Cllr Samaroo proposed “**acceptance of Annual Governance Statement Section 1**”. This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. The Chair and Clerk signed Section 1.
- c. Approval of the Accounting Statements – Section 2  
Councillors had been furnished with a copy of the Statement prior to the meeting. Cllr Morris-Wyatt proposed, “**acceptance of the Accounting Statements Section 2**”. This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. The Chair and RFO signed Section 2.

The RFO will submit the 2022/23 accounts to our External Auditor. **ACTION: RFO**

**8.06.23 Councillor Vacancies**

- a) **TO CONSIDER THE HILL WARD COUNCILLOR APPLICATION.**  
One application has been received. Councillors discussed the merits of accepting in the applicant's absence but it was decided that it might create a precedent and the candidate should have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of Councillors and Councillors would prefer to be able ask them questions. It was therefore agreed that the candidate be invited to the next FC meeting on 6 July. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder/Clerk**
- b) **TO CONSIDER HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE BUSSAGE WARD.**  
An email was received from another potential candidate. More information has been requested to support the application. Councillors will also try and recruit at Chalfest.

**09.06.23 STAFFING UPDATE**

Cllr Trinder reported that three applicants had been interviewed for the Assistant Clerk post. All were good candidates but one stood out and has been offered and accepted the post. The proposed start date is 12 June 2023.

The next item was discussed without public or press present. Details of the discussion are included in a confidential note.

Cllr Samaroo reported on the need to again consider employing an assistant for the groundsman. Through Works Committee she will report back after the summer so there is plenty of time for the issue to be considered by Finance and Management before next year's budget is agreed. **ACTION: Cllr Samaroo/Works Committee.**

Cllr Samaroo then gave a small speech about Christine Prince's time as a Clerk. On behalf of all the Councillors she thanked Christine for all her dedication and hard work at the Parish Council and wished her a happy retirement.

#### **10.06.23      20MPH Speed Limit**

Councillors discussed the 20 is plenty motion, which had been circulated in advance. Cllr Oakley proposed **"acceptance of the 20 is plenty motion"**. This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt. There were nine votes in support and one objection. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr L Taylor raised the issue of the pedestrian footpath which should have been provided alongside Gussage Mill. Cllr Trinder confirmed she has started to look at the planning history and agreed to provide information to Cllr Watson to pick up with SDC if appropriate. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder/Cllr Watson**

#### **11.06.23      ROAD CONDITIONS**

The next GCC questions are to be discussed at a meeting on 28 June 2023, and the deadline for submitting questions is 19 June. Cllr Trinder offered to draft the questions ready for the Clerk to submit, and Cllrs Pearson, Morris-Wyatt and Lee agreed to assist. Cllr. Turner explained that there is a relatively new Cabinet Member (Cllr Dominic Morris) who seems to be taking a hands on approach and looking at issues afresh. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder/Clerk**

#### **12.06.23      TO RECEIVE ANY REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES - None**

#### **13.06.23      TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND EXTERNAL MEETING ATTENDEES.**

Cllr Morris-Wyatt reported that PAC had submitted a strong objection to the revised 5G mast proposals.

#### **14.06.23      TO AUTHORISE EXPENDITURE**

Councillors received a copy of expenditure prior to the meeting. Cllr Trinder proposed to **"accept this month's expenditure"**. Cllr Morris-Wyatt seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

#### **15.06.23      CORRESPONDENCE – None**

#### **16.06.23      TO NOTE ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR REFERRAL ONLY.**

Cllr Mayo explained that the proposed focus for Chalfest this year is volunteering, based on the theme for the Annual Meeting of the Parish. She confirmed that it would be helpful if other Cllrs could turn up on the day to release people for a break.

There was a discussion about potential land for additional cemetery provision. It was agreed that a alternative options should be considered at a later meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Roberts stated that the Barnwood Trust has awarded a grant of £26,000 to assist with the mental health of young people to the Frith Youth Club for one year. If they can show how successful they have been then the Trust may continue with the funding.

Cllr L Taylor stated that the flagpole in the Bussage Pleasure Ground is still flying the Ukrainian flag, even during the coronation. Councillors feel the Union flag should take precedent as it is the parish flagpole. The Union flag will be flown on the King's birthday. **ACTION: Clerk**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm.