

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 7th September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Councillor Trinder

Present: Councillors Beioley, Mayo, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Pearson, Samaroo, Roberts, Wood

In attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Watson and County Councillor Turner

01.09.23 APOLOGIES – Councillors D Taylor, L Taylor, Lee

02.09.23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

03.09.23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

04.09.23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Oakley proposed “**acceptance of the 6th July 2023 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Pearson. There were two abstentions.

05.09.23 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

A419 Roadworks: Cllr Turner advised that incorrect times had been stated on Highways signage in relation to this closure; this will undoubtedly cause confusion. Cllr Turner has raised this with Highways as a matter of urgency. Cllr Turner is supporting individuals who are affected by the closure to ensure that a satisfactory solution is found where possible.

It recently came to Cllr Turners attention that the Chalford cycle route project was not on GCC's 10-year pipeline of active travel projects. Cllr Turner raised this with GCC, and it is now included. It is hoped that some momentum will now start to build around this project. Cllr Turner will be attending a meeting along with Cllr Morris-Wyatt and the Clerk with SDC and GCC to discuss the future of a cycle route along the Chalford Valley. This meeting is scheduled for 11th September.

Cllr Trinder thanked Cllr Turner for using her funding to allow extensive patching work to be carried out within the parish.

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Polling station district review: Cllr Watson informed Cllrs that she has responded to the consultation for the interim polling district review. This is an opportunity to comment on the proposed polling station arrangements. In Chalford's case (for Hill Ward) Chalford Sports and Social Club is proposed as an alternative to the former Methodist Hall. Cllr Watson has responded to say that CCSC is a good venue from an accessibility perspective and with the added benefit of a carpark, however it is on the uphill edge of the village and a more central location may be more beneficial to residents. She has queried whether France Lynch Church Rooms been considered and whether the new owners of the Methodist Hall have been contacted to see if this is still an option. It was agreed that the PC would like to echo this response. The deadline for response is Sunday 17th September.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllrs are aware that SDC submitted their local plan to The Planning Inspectorate for examination in 2021, having spent four years in consultation with residents, developers and businesses. Inspectors have three significant concerns with SDC's Local Plan. The Inspector's letter suggests that they do not have major concerns with most of the plans policies and the proposed new housing and development allocations. The Inspector's main concern is the capacity of the M5 motorway at junctions 12 and 14 to support new development. SDC have asked for a short pause in the examination to give time for them to address their concerns rather than withdrawing the plan. Cllrs Watson and Turner will keep the Parish Council updated.

Cllr Watson gave an update about the Old Neighbourhood Pub. The community group have been working hard behind the scenes and things look to be moving in a positive direction. Further updates will follow.

06.09.23 CLERK'S REPORT –

The Clerk reported that several matters have arisen since her report was circulated:

Unfortunately, Chalford has once again been subject to the theft of copper cables meaning that the Parish Centre along with many residents been affected and are currently without a landline. Openreach engineers are in the area carrying out repairs although no date has been provided for when this work will be complete. This happened twice last year, and the Parish Council were without a landline for around three months. The Clerk reported that the calls were diverted from the landline to a mobile phone last time. Cllr Wood suggested that the Council should purchase a basic mobile phone for the office as this will provide a temporary solution now and going forwards for emergency use. The Clerk will investigate a low-cost mobile phone. **ACTION: Clerk**

The clock in Chalford Hill which is located on the former Congregational Church, has stopped working. The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of this clock. Arrangements have been made for an assessment to be made and a quote will be provided. **ACTION: Clerk**

A resident has advised of their intention to name an unnamed road in Chalford Hill in memory of a resident. Stroud District Council are responsible for street naming applications and initially they will make an assessment and if appropriate, they will give agreement in principle. Should the application be feasible, it will require the Parish Council's support. Further communication is awaited once the application has been submitted to Stroud District Council.

Speed Watch Group: Eight residents have offered to help reduce speeds within the Parish. The Group Co-ordinator is in the process of arranging an initial meeting with everyone who has expressed an interest to discuss what is required.

07.09.23 SILVER STREET CAR PARK

Cllr Trinder wrote a report which set out the proposals for the organisation of the consultation event, and this was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. It is proposed that Cllrs Lee, Morris-Wyatt and Trinder will co-ordinate and manage the event. The Clerk investigated availability of local venues and it was agreed to hold the event at France Lynch Church Rooms on Thursday 19th October, time tbc. Cllr Oakley proposed **“we proceed with the consultation event as detailed in Cllr Trinder's report”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Cllrs, Lee, Morris-Wyatt, Trinder, Clerk.**

08.09.23 TO APPROVE STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cllr Morris-Wyatt proposed **“we adopt the standing orders and financial regulations as recommended by Finance and Management Committee”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed.

09.09.23 TO RATIFY POLICIES AS AGREED BY THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Wood suggested that unless an individual had a concern with any of the policies, a vote could be taken on all policies in a block rather than voting on each policy individually; all were in agreement. Cllr Oakley had a question regarding the 'sickness absence policy' and queried who the Clerk should call if she isn't well. Cllrs Morris-Wyatt and Trinder confirmed that the Clerk should advise either one of them in this eventuality. Cllr Wood proposed **“we adopt the policies as recommended by the Finance and Management Committee”** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed.

10.09.23 TO RECEIVE ANY REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES – None

11.09.23 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND EXTERNAL MEETING ATTENDEES.

PAC: Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised that the planning application for the necessary tree work has been submitted and a decision is expected imminently.

Finance and Management: Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised that the Finance and Management Committee are due to meet on the 12th September to discuss initial precept considerations.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt and the Clerk attended a meeting with GCC concerning the inappropriate use of Old Neighbourhood by HGVs. Cllr Morris-Wyatt prepared a note of the discussion, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Works: Cllr Samaroo noted her frustration at the delay to the installation of the noticeboard on the A419 triangle and expressed her dissatisfaction that no one had raised this matter earlier before the location had been agreed. This matter is due to be discussed at the next Works Committee meeting on 20th September.

12.09.23 CORRESPONDENCE

Boots Response: At the last Full Council meeting it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the CEO of Boots regarding the announcement of closure to 300 Boots stores. It was not only pleasing to receive a response to the letter, but reassuring to hear that there are no current plans to close the Tanglewood Way store. It was agreed to share this letter with the staff at Boots and to our Facebook page, website and mailing list. **ACTION: Clerk**

A Notice of publication from Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Development Plan has been received. This will be referred to the Plans Assessment Committee. **ACTION: Clerk**

Two residents have expressed their interest to join the Council. Both applicants are expected to attend and be considered at the October Full Council meeting.

13.07.23 TO NOTE ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR REFERRAL ONLY.

Cllr Roberts advised that the New Red Lion Pub is still not open although he understands that it is the intention of the new owner to re-open.

Cllr Roberts also told of his frustration with Highways (and their contractors Ringway) regarding recent proposed tree works on The High Street, which had caused a great deal of confusion and inconvenience for local residents.

Cllr Roberts advised that the planned work to the railway had been delayed as door mice had been found. There isn't an update as to when this work may be carried out.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.59pm.