

**MINUTES** of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm.  
at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

**In the Chair:** Cllr Trinder

**Present:** Cllrs Beioley, Funnell, Gardiner, Morris-Wyatt, Pearson, Roberts, Samaroo, D Taylor, L Taylor, District Councillor Watson

**In attendance:** The Clerk

**1.01.24 APOLOGIES** Cllrs Lee, Oakley, Wood, County Cllr Turner

Cllr Trinder welcomed members to the first meeting of 2024 and wished everyone a happy new year. She advised members that unfortunately Cllr Mayo had decided to resign as she felt she no longer had sufficient time to devote to her Council work. Cllr Pearson proposed a vote of thanks be sent to Cllr Mayo. This was seconded by Cllr Trinder and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

**2.01.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None**

**3.01.24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING -** Cllr Trinder advised that the Clerk had made a correction to the December minutes to record Cllr D Taylor as an apology. Cllr Samaroo proposed “**acceptance of the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 minutes.**” This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt. There was one abstention.

**4.01.24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** One member of public attended in relation to agenda item 10, Silver Street signage and markings. The Chair recommended that agenda item 10 therefore be brought forward and discussed at this stage of the meeting. Cllr Trinder invited the member of public to talk and reminded her that she had five minutes to address the Council.

**10.01.24 SILVER STREET a) Signage –** Following a lengthy discussion taking into consideration all suggestions, additions and amendments by Cllrs and members of public, the following wording was agreed.

**Welcome to Silver Street Car Park. The Car Park is owned and managed by Chalford Parish Council. It is intended for the use of immediate local residents and their visitors.**

**We ask that users of the car park respect the needs of residents and park considerately.**

**The following restrictions apply:**

- **Park within the marked bays**
- **Do not block spaces for long periods of time**
- **No vehicles over 3.5 tonnes**
- **No trailers or caravans**
- **No overnight camping**
- **No vehicle maintenance**
- **No untaxed or uninsured vehicles**

**The Parish Council reserves the right to arrange for the removal of vehicles that are not parked in accordance with these restrictions.**

**Vehicles and their contents are left at the risk of the owner and no liability is accepted for any loss or damage incurred.**

**The Parish Council can be contacted on (01453) 887204**

Cllr Trinder proposed **“we accept this wording and progress to order a sign for the car park”**

This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo. There was one abstention. **ACTION: Clerk**

**b) Car park markings – option 1) To remove numbering and ‘V’ signs. option 2) To remove ‘V’ signs and replace with numbers** Following a brief discussion Cllr Trinder proposed **“we proceed with option one”** This was seconded by Cllr Funnell, a vote realised five in favour. Cllr Beioley proposed **“we proceed with option two”** This was seconded by Cllr Pearson, a vote realised four in favour. There was one abstention for each vote. Cllr Trinder confirmed the Council proceed with option one. **ACTION: Clerk**

**5.01.24 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** - There was not a report available, however Cllr Turner advised prior to the meeting that there was not much to update on since December’s meeting.

**b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** – Cllr Samaroo asked Cllr Watson about the new homes programme, which mentions that Chalford has been assessed for the future programme. Cllr Watson will seek clarity as to the specific area the report refers to and will advise. **ACTION: Cllr Watson**

Cllr Morris-Wyatt provided an update on current actions being taken by Brimscombe & Thrupp residents to reduce the speed limit along the A419 from 40 mph to 30 mph. Details are provided in a memo.

**6.01.24 CLERK’S REPORT** – Cllr Trinder congratulated the Clerk and Deputy Clerk on achieving their ILCA qualification. Cllrs echoed this, and it was suggested that their certificates be displayed in the office. **ACTION: Clerk**

Elections training for the Clerks has been moved from the 14<sup>th</sup> February to 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Clerk will share further information about what is required in due course.

The defibrillator cabinet has now been removed from the Methodist Hall. We will be discussing this later on the agenda.

Winter gritting arrangements – the Clerk confirmed the Parish Snow Warden is instructed and paid by Highways; there is no cost to the Parish Council.

**7.01.24 ROLE AND GRADE EVALUATIONS** – Cllr Morris-Wyatt provided a memo which was circulated to members prior to the meeting. He explained that the Finance and Management Committee’s recommendation is to increase the Clerk’s grade from 28 to 31, the RFO’s grade from 26 to 27 and to promote the Groundsman to Senior Groundsman from grade 17 to 20. The Assistant Clerk is on the correct grade of 11 as detailed in the Clerk’s report. Cllr Morris-Wyatt gave a further explanation and invited any questions. There were none.

Cllr Trinder proposed **“we accept the Finance and Management Committee’s recommendation as detailed.** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed.

**8.01.24 2024/25 PRECEPT** - Councillors were furnished with Finance and Management’s recommendations for the 2024/25 precept requirement prior to meeting. Cllr Morris-Wyatt reported on F&M’s discussions leading up to the final precept figure and explained how these figures were reached. The role and grade evaluations have impacted on the salaries budget as has the decision to recruit an Assistant Grounds person, therefore the salaries budget is the biggest contributor to the increase. Cllr Morris-Wyatt invited questions. There were none.

Cllr Trinder proposed, **“we accept Finance and Management’s spending budget recommendation of £232,028.56”** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO**

Cllr Trinder proposed, **“we accept Finance and Management’s reserves recommendation of £218,664.06 as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024”** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO**

Cllr Trinder proposed, **“we recommend a precept requirement of “£215,328.56 to Stroud District Council for 2024/2025 an increase of 8.92% over the last year”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO**

Cllr Trinder thanked Cllr Morris-Wyatt for his succinct briefing note.

#### **9.01.24 OLD NEIGHBOURHOOD INN – COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

District Cllr Watson provided supporting information for the Community Group’s request that the Parish Council write to Stroud District Council and call upon the Council to use its Compulsory Purchase powers. Cllr Watson answered members’ questions and confirmed that the Parish Council would not be the landowner should the CPO be successful. She also confirmed that the Community Group will handle the administration so there would be little admin time required for the Parish office. Following a brief discussion Cllr Gardiner proposed **“the Parish Council agree to write to SDC requesting they use their CPO powers on behalf of the Community Group”** This was seconded by Cllr Funnell. There was one objection and one abstention. Cllr Trinder agreed to draft the wording; she will liaise with the Community Group as necessary. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder/Clerk**

#### **11.01.24 DEFIBRILLATORS: a) To consider gifting the PC cabinet to Chalford Hill**

**Primary School** – A brief discussion took place. The consensus was that the PC should gift the cabinet, however if in the future the school no longer require the cabinet for any reason then it should be returned to the PC. Cllr Trinder proposed **“we gift the cabinet to Chalford Hill Primary School subject to the condition of it being returned if it becomes surplus to the school’s requirements”** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

**b) To consider gifting the PC defibrillator to France Lynch Church Rooms** – A fairly lengthy discussion took place. There is some ambiguity over the management of the defibrillator if the PC were to gift it to the Church Rooms. The consensus was that the PC should maintain ownership and responsibility for the defib, although this would mean purchasing a new cabinet and paying for the electrical installation. It was agreed to investigate costings further, liaise with the Church Rooms and refer to the Finance and Management Committee for consideration. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO**

#### **12.01.24 COMMITTEE/EXTERNAL MEETING REPORTS**

Works Committee – Cllr Samaroo updated members on the situation with the taking of Cotswold stone belonging to the PC. Greensquare Accord have met with the resident responsible and have issued a second letter stating that the wall needs to be dismantled and the stone belonging to the PC should be returned prior to a site inspection, which will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February. This matter has taken up a huge amount of time, but for now we leave it in the hands of Greensquare.

PAC – Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised members that the Methodist Hall is being lived in despite a change of use application not having been submitted to Stroud District Council and therefore the relevant planning permissions not having been granted. Stroud District Council are aware and have been asked to investigate further.

**13.01.24 CORRESPONDENCE** - A letter was received from a resident regarding the deteriorating level of service from Royal Mail.

Cllrs agreed that we are very lucky with individual post people who go above and beyond to provide a great service, but the level of service from Royal Mail as an organisation has deteriorated. If post needs to be collected from Salmon Springs, the opening hours are so limited (8am – 10am) and this makes it impossible for many people to collect.

Co-incidentally the PC received an invitation to a meeting with Siobhan Ballie and Royal Mail at Salmon Springs on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Cllr Samaroo volunteered to attend. The Clerk will compile a list of concerns and pass this information to Cllr Samaroo in readiness for the meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

**12.01.24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS** The date of the next meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Cllr Beioley advised of the sad news that ex-Cllr Roger Entwistle had passed away. A card has been sent from the PC.

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

### **Memo from Councillor Morris-Wyatt**

Cllr Morris-Wyatt reported that as a result of a petition by Brimscombe & Thrupp residents to reduce the speed limit along the A419 from 40 mph to 30 mph, GCC commissioned a report. The report was undertaken by a consultant Traffic Orders Regulation Limited.

It concluded that 40 mph should be retained essentially because there is no evidence of serious collisions, that current 85th percentile speeds are too fast for 30 mph guidelines, there is not development on both sides of the road, road function being primarily the movement of motor vehicles and that 40 mph is appropriate for 'consistency'.

When Chalford PC has raised the issue in the past we received the same responses.

Brimscombe & Thrupp PC have responded pointing out numerous deficiencies and inaccuracies in the report and concluding that the report appears to have been prepared as a defence of 40 mph not the feasibility and desirability of a reduction to 30 mph and so did not meet the purpose of its commission especially in the context of encouraging modal shift.

We will be advised of any further developments.