

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 7th March 2024 at 7pm.
at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Cllr Trinder

Present: Cllrs Funnell, Gardiner, Lee, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Pearson, Roberts, Samaroo, D Taylor, L Taylor, Wood

In attendance: The Clerk

1.03.24 APOLOGIES Cllr Beioley, County Cllr Turner

2.03.24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

3.03.24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - Cllr Samaroo proposed “**acceptance of the 11th January 2024 minutes.**” This was seconded by Cllr Roberts. There were three abstentions.

4.03.24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

5.03.24 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – A copy of Cllr Turner’s report was circulated to members prior the meeting.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt highlighted that there are drainage concerns on the newly resurfaced A419 as well as new potholes forming. Cllr Trinder and the Clerk are due to meet with Cllr Turner on Tuesday 12th March so will ask about this then.

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Fenton issued a copy of the District Council report to members. There was a discussion about the missing mile of the canal which now has planning permission to go ahead.

Cllr Pearson asked about the help with food and milk incentive and asked how those who qualify will be advised of this scheme. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk are due to meet with various agencies on the 21st March so will make some enquiries. **ACTION: Clerk**

6.03.24 CLERK’S REPORT –

Following the January meeting a letter was issued to Stroud District Council (SDC) regarding the Old Neighbourhood Inn asking SDC to consider using their compulsory purchase powers. The response from the Head of Property Services at SDC was circulated to members prior to the meeting for their information. Cllr Trinder updated members following a meeting she had attended with District Cllr Watson and a member of the community group regarding the current situation and the community group’s next steps. The group are expanding their business case and have made a revised offer to the owner following several updated valuations of the property. If this is not successful, they will contact SDC asking them to use their compulsory purchase powers. It is not necessary for the Parish Council to be further involved at this stage.

Update – The Clerk advised members that she and the Deputy Clerk will be attending Civility and Respect training on the 25th March with the Society of Local Council Clerks and she advised that the National Association of Local Councils have issued a new protocol which we will be looking at in more detail following the elections in May. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.03.24 TO APPROVE F&M RECOMMENDATIONS

a) To approve the Health and Safety Policy Statement – Cllr Gardiner proposed “**we approve the Health and Safety Policy Statement as recommended by the Finance and**

Management Committee” This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed.

b) To approve the social media policy – Cllr Morris-Wyatt proposed **“we approve the social media policy as recommended by the Finance and Management Committee”** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed.

8.03.24 TO APPOINT THE ASSISTANT GROUNDSMAN – Cllr Morris-Wyatt, Samaroo and Trinder answered some questions from members. Following a short discussion, Cllr Samaroo proposed **“we appoint Kieran Attwood as Assistant Groundsman”** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

9.03.24 D DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY – D Day is on the 6th June 2024. A copy of the brochure was circulated to members and various ideas were discussed such as the flying of a flag, lighting of a beacon/bonfire beacon, inviting Chalford Band to play. It was noted that it is National Fish and Chip Day. Cllr Wood raised concern with the lighting of a bonfire beacon in France Lynch Pleasure Ground due to the time the ground would take to recover before Chalfest is held. Cllr Gardiner did not feel that this would pose a problem if managed appropriately. Cllr Trinder suggested the Clerk contacted the Clerk at Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council and other local organisations such as Chalford Sports and Social Club to see how they are planning to celebrate this event as it may be possible to collaborate; the Clerk will make investigations. It was agreed to form a working group to explore ideas further and to report back to Full Council at the April meeting. Cllrs Funnell, Gardiner and Pearson volunteered to form the working group. **Action: Cllrs Funnell, Gardiner, Pearson, Clerk.**

10.03.24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Cllr Trinder suggested that this year we involve local schools and invite the children to come and participate in some way. Cllr Samaroo suggested that we could ask those with a talent to play an instrument. The theme could be ‘our future parish’. Grant recipients will also be invited to attend and this year we will provide drinks and nibbles. Chalford Sports and Social Club have availability for us to use the club on the Monday and Friday week commencing 13th May, and France Lynch Church Rooms have availability on Thursday 16th May. It was agreed that the Thursday evening would be best, with the Annual Meeting of the Council commencing at 6pm and the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7pm. Cllr Gardiner suggested incorporating a talk about the large blue butterfly, however it was felt that this might be better placed at a future meeting as it didn’t really fit with the agreed theme. Cllr Samaroo proposed **“the theme for the annual parish meeting is ‘our future parish’ we will invite local school pupils to participate. The meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 16th May at France Lynch Church Rooms”** This was seconded by Cllr Wood and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

11.03.24 SYCAMORE GROVE – At the site meeting with two representatives from GreensquareAccord (GSA) residents and District Cllr Watson, which took place on 8th February, the Parish Council committed to working with residents and GSA to ensure that a properly built wall could remain along the front boundary of the development. Cllr Trinder explained that Cllr Watson had offered to follow up with GSA to check on progress following the agreement made at the meeting. It was agreed we should take up Cllr Watson’s offer and await GSA’s response before deciding next steps. Potentially the Parish Council can follow up on this and suggest a meeting between Cllr Watson, GSA, residents and members of the PC if this becomes necessary. Cllr Trinder proposed **“District Cllr Watson contacts GSA to follow up on the next steps following the agreement made at the site meeting on 8th February”** This was seconded by Cllr Pearson and unanimously agreed.

12.03.24 COPPICE HILL CAR PARK – Investigations undertaken by the former Clerk showed that this piece of land is not currently registered as belonging to anyone. In 2017 the Parish Council took the decision to look after this piece of land so that an adverse possession order could be applied for secure ownership after 10 to 12 years. The future management of the area could be complex and expensive so it was prudent to review the situation. The Clerk provided information about the lengthy process involved in seeking to remove abandoned vehicles and the steps currently

being taken to check whether there is a registered owner. It was agreed that despite the costs and difficulties involved, if the area is not highways land, the PC had a moral duty to ensure it did not become a wasteland or dumping area. Following a fairly lengthy discussion Cllr Trinder proposed **“we continue to manage this area of land and take steps to enable the Parish Council to apply for an adverse possession order as previously agreed in 2017”** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed. The timeline hasn't been updated since 2018, the Clerk will ensure that this is brought up to date and all future actions recorded accordingly. **ACTION: Clerk**

13.03.24 ELECTIONS 2024 – Nomination papers were issued to those who had not yet collected them from the office. There were no questions from members. The Clerk reminded members to complete their papers as early as possible and to make an appointment with Stroud District Council to hand papers in. Members will need to contact the Clerk to obtain the polling district and elector numbers of their proposer and seconder. **ACTION: All**

14.03.24 COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Works Committee – Cllr Samaroo advised that Friends of Frith Wood along with the assistance of residents and Cllrs, Funnell, Oakey and Samaroo had planted 2,000 snowdrops around the car park entrance. There are also Bluebells coming up.

Finance and Management Committee – Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised that our precept increase of 9.19% was by no means the highest; for example, Eastington increased its precept by 90.79% and Minchinhampton by 82.18%. He advised Chalford is in the bottom half of comparable Councils and Bisley with Lypiatt had a similar increase at 8.76%.

15.03.24 CORRESPONDENCE - None

16.03.24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 4th April 2024.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.47pm