

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Cllr Trinder

Present: Cllrs Beioley, Gardiner, Golding, Humberstone, Lee, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Pearson, Roberts, D Taylor, L Taylor, Woodfine, District Cllr Fenton

In attendance: The Clerk

1.04.25 APOLOGIES Cllrs Funnell, Samaroo, County Cllr Turner

2.04.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Gardiner declared an interest in agenda items 6 and 7. Cllr Woodfine declared an interest in agenda item 7.

3.04.25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - Cllr Oakley proposed “**acceptance of the 6th March 2025 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Humberstone and unanimously agreed.

4.04.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none

District Cllr Fenton needed to leave the meeting at 7.15pm, Cllr Trinder therefore proposed we move agenda item 8 to this point in the meeting to allow members to ask questions, all members were in agreement.

8.04.25 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – A copy of County Cllr Turner’s report was circulated to members prior to the meeting; there were no questions.

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT –

Redevelopment proposals for Cheapside, Stroud - SDC have a vision to create new energy efficient homes on two sites near to the railway station, one being Cheapside carpark. Cllr Beioley asked Cllr Fenton what the rationale was for leaving no car parking at this site as this car park is well used and will restrict parking for the train station and town centre, which may have a negative impact for local businesses. It is not clear from the report what the much-needed improvements to the railway station are. Cllr Fenton agreed to find out more about the proposals and will feedback. She will also find out whether there is opportunity for the PC to comment on the proposals.

Bulky Waste concessionary Scheme – Cllr Pearson suggested that Stroud District Council consider providing a community skip e.g. once a month. There were some concerns about where the skip would be placed and potential for it to be mis-used. However, Cllr Fenton will take this idea back to the Committee for comment/consideration and will feedback.

5.04.25 VE DAY/ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – The Clerk prepared a briefing note which was circulated to members prior to meeting. This included the working group’s recommendation to spend a total of £535.00 toward the Annual Meeting of the Parish, the theme being to celebrate Chalford Band’s 140 year anniversary, followed by VE Day celebrations. The event will be held at Chalford Sports and Social Club. Cllr Lee expressed his appreciation for such an interesting event having been organised. Cllr Trinder explained that there was a small update to the briefing note, the Sports and Social Club have asked if the PC could consider contributing an additional £50 to pay for a soprano singer to perform ‘I vow to thee my country’ while the lighting of the beacon takes place. This is a nationwide initiative aimed at bringing people together. Following a brief discussion Cllr Lee proposed “**we proceed with the working group’s original recommendation for the Annual Meeting of the Council, Annual Meeting of the Parish and VE Day celebrations on the 8th May, involving a spend of £535.00**”. This was seconded by Cllr Gardiner, there was one abstention.

Cllr Lee proposed **“we make an additional contribution of £50 to cover the costs of the soprano singer, bringing the total cost for the events to £585.00”**. This was seconded by Cllr Gardiner. There were three abstentions.

6.04.25 **UPDATED CHALFEST AGREEMENT** – Cllr Gardiner left the room at 19.28pm while agenda item 6 was discussed.

Cllr Trinder prepared a note summarising the key amendments to the Chalfest Agreement and Event Management Plan (EMP) that the Working Group have agreed with the Chalfest organiser, which seek to address concerns about the event raised previously by local residents. The note, draft Agreement and Draft EMP were circulated to members prior to meeting. Many aspects of the event were discussed such as Chalfest’s financial situation. Cllr Trinder confirmed that all the people who help with Chalfest are volunteers, there are no paid employees and there have been additional costs this year with extra security and parking monitoring to address concerns from last year’s event. However, to demonstrate to the community that we are carrying out due diligence, it was agreed that Chalfest’s accounts should be reviewed on an annual basis to establish whether there is scope for additional benefits for the community to be funded. The environmental and social impact of Chalfest was also discussed. Cllr Trinder confirmed that she would contact the organisers to establish what measures are being taken to reduce carbon emissions in line with the PC’s environmental objectives for 2030, in particular in terms of generators. The organiser’s safeguarding policy was also discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Trinder would seek confirmation from RS Security that their policy is in line with SDC/GCC requirements. Following a lengthy discussion Cllr Trinder proposed **“subject to an additional clause making provision for the environmental, social and economic impact of Chalfest for the community to be reviewed annually, which should include an annual review of the accounts, and subject to an amendment to provide clarification about the measures being taken to reduce carbon emissions, we approve the draft Agreement and Event Management Plan, and delegate authority to the Chalfest working group to review and finalise the various appendices”** This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Cllr Trinder**

7.04.25 **CHALFORD CHURCH CHARITY** – Cllr Gardiner did not return to the meeting; Cllr Woodfine left the room at 7.53pm.

Cllr Trinder prepared a briefing note following the meeting with the Secretary of the Chalford Church Charity, this was circulated to members prior to meeting. After a brief discussion, Cllr Trinder proposed **“the Parish Council do not need to take any further action at this stage”** This was seconded by Cllr Beioley and unanimously agreed.

Cllrs Gardiner and Woodfine returned to the meeting at 7.59pm.

9.04.25 **CLERK’S REPORT** – Bussage Pleasure ground new fenced play area - Cllr L Taylor raised concern that the gap under the fences allows dogs to enter the play area. The Clerk will raise this with the Groundsman.

10.04.25 **LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN (LNAP)**

Cllr Oakley’s LNAP report was circulated with meeting papers along with details of small grants which are available for climate and nature activities; this information has been advertised via the PC’s Facebook page and website and applications should be made directly to SDC by 9th May.

Cllr Gardiner will organise to meet with members of the LNAP at Frith wood cemetery to assess the new planting and look at where bat boxes can be located, it may be possible to obtain a grant towards this project. **ACTION: Cllr Gardiner**

11.04.25

COMMITTEE/EXTERNAL MEETING REPORTS

PAC - Cllr Morris-Wyatt had nothing to report from the PAC.

F&M Committee – Cllr Morris-Wyatt confirmed that the parish land rover has sold, and the new parish vehicle has been delivered. The new vehicle is more practical than the land rover, is more cost effective, is petrol not diesel and has lower emissions. Cllr Morris-Wyatt thanked the Clerk and RFO for achieving a good price for the land rover. The RFO has been working on the end of year finances, and Cllr Morris-Wyatt confirmed that the small surplus leftover from 2024/2025 will be transferred into the general fund for 25/26.

Cllr D Taylor thanked the RFO for obtaining various insurance quotes and significantly reducing the annual premium.

Works Committee - Cllr Oakley read an update from Cllr Samaroo in her absence which reiterated that the Works Committee agree that Chalford needs a composting site, but there is not any parish land available and the site that was investigated at the Middle Hill allotments proved unsuitable. It was a difficult decision to decline the project, and the Committee will continue to work with the community composting group, appealing to landowners to see if they can give up some land to assist the group.

Cllr Trinder thanked Cllr Oakley and made it clear that this item was not on the agenda and no decision was being made. She also confirmed that there is no suggestion that the Council doesn't support the Works Committee's decision.

Cllr Roberts asked what the next steps were, the Clerk confirmed that the working group (which consists of members of the Works Committee and members of the community composting group) are in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss the next steps. Cllr Roberts asked if he could join the working group, Cllr Pearson also requested to join. The Clerk and Cllr Trinder confirmed that this is a working group of the Works Committee, and as they are not members of that Committee, it was best for the original group to meet initially to discuss the way forward before deciding whether / when to include other councillors in the discussion. Cllr D Taylor pointed out that he had also requested to join the working group if it was felt appropriate by the Chair of the Works Committee.

Bussage pleasure ground play equipment project – the new play area is complete, and the PC should feel very proud of this project. Cllr Samaroo has visited the site regularly during the installation phase to oversee the project. The next project the Works Committee will be considering is for the Valley pleasure ground.

12.04.25 **CORRESPONDENCE** – None

13.04.25 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - None

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.15pm.