

**Minutes of the Chilton Parish Council Meeting held in the Community Room on Wednesday 27th September 2023
at 8.00 pm.**

Present	Mr C Broad Dr J A Berry Mr C Clements Mr F Dumbleton Mr R Girling Dr M Hansard Mr J King Mr M Urso-Cale	Chairman
	Dr D Dewhurst 4 members of the public	District Councillor from 8.30pm
	Mrs M E Morris	Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** Ms H Gascoigne, District Councillor
2. **Signing of Acceptance of Office** by Mr Clements and Mr King, co-opted Councillors.
3. **Declarations of Interest** None
4. **Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting** were signed as a true record.
5. **Area Beat Officers' Report**
PC Deane emailed to say there had been a report of a suspicious vehicle in Latton Close and a report of indecent exposure in the A34 underpass enroute to school.
6. **Open Forum**
 - (i) Prior to the meeting Mrs Smart sent a letter, which was circulated, to the Parish Council asking for support in the lowering of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph along Newbury Road from the Avon/Frome Rd entrance to the North Drive entrance. She has also written to Harwell Campus and Harwell Parish Council for support. Mrs Smart said that a speed survey had been commissioned which showed the average speed to be just above 40mph. After a discussion the view of the Parish Council was that the Council does not have the expertise to support a reduction in speed and the best way would be to contact Ms Povolotsky, the County Councillor.
 - (ii) Mr Softley said an outfit called 'Solar Together' works with Local Authorities to put together group buying schemes for domestic properties (and some small businesses) for solar panels. West Berkshire has recently set up a scheme, he wondered if the Vale had such a scheme and has emailed Ms Gascoigne. He noted that it rather difficult to walk past the work in Perimeter Road where the sewer connection is being put in. Mr Softley asked if the dead branch in the tree by the zebra crossing could be removed. The Clerk said the Tree Survey Report had just been received and it will be removed.
7. **County Council Report**
None
8. **Planning**
 - (i) **Applications to be considered by the Parish Council**
Application for change of use of existing garden shed to site for dog grooming business, to include works to insulate and board the interior, add suitable lighting and water source. 18 Elderfield Crescent P23/V2071/FUL
Comments No objections

Application for extension and conversion of a detached garage to form residential annex. 51 Chilton Field Way P23/V2064/HH

Comments

The Parish Council objects to this application, there will be an increase in the number of bedrooms and the loss of parking spaces. Parking on Chilton Field Way is a problem and this will increase the problem. Should the application be approved, the Council would like a condition that the residential annex cannot be sold as a separate dwelling. Clerk to attach a photo of parked cars.

(ii) Applications Determined by the Vale

Permission for Single-storey side extension. Replacement Garage (as amended by plans submitted on the 22 August 2023) 2 Lavender Cottages Main Street P23/V1544/HH

Application withdrawn for "Fermi Gate" development P20/V1667/O

Permission for single storey rear extension. 6 Spa Street Chilton P23/V1769/ HH

Permission for removal of Condition 2 (retention of mobile home) Skippets Stables Chilton P23/V1540/S73

(iii) The Clerk received a phone call complaining about a paddock adjacent to Gore Hill farm being used for motor bike scrambling. The complaint was referred to the Enforcement Officer.

The public left the meeting at 8.20pm.

9. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

(i) Upper Farm Road

The letter was re sent, Mr Francis has put the request on the future works list for when funds are available.

(ii) Play Equipment Working Group

Mr Urso-Cale reported that the Sec 106 application form has been submitted, now waiting to hear if the request must go to Cabinet for approval. Once approved the work can go ahead. The £3000.00 from the County Councillor fund has been received.

(iii) Spa Street Trees

Jenks have carried out the survey and the Clerk has just received the Report. It was reported there is a tree stump sticking up where the dead tree was removed on the playing field. The Clerk will contact The Landscape Group Oxford as they removed it. It was noted that the lights on Downside do not belong to the Parish Council.

(iv) Car Park

The allotment carpark area belongs to the Parish Council.

10. District Council Report

Prior to the meeting the monthly report was put on the website. Dr Dewhurst said she had been speaking at the Vale Planning Meeting discussing the application for the first parcel of homes for the Valley Park Development. She raised the problem of noise issues as it is on the edge of the A4130. The first parcel of land is remote and it will not be possible to get anywhere without a car. There is no connection with Great Western Park. It will be a green development with cycle parking at the houses, solar panels and heat source pumps. The application was approved.

There is no further news from the Integrated Care Board regarding the Great Western Park Medical Centre.

11. Finance

(i) Expenditure

Cheques

15. Mrs Morris - August salary	385.59
16. Parish on Line - renewal	45.00
17. Nurture Landscapes - August POS	2216.30
18. The Landscape Group Oxford - August grass cutting	433.56
19. Mrs Morris - Chron 503	99.36
20. Tactical Facilities Management Ltd - bin emptying	77.33
21. Fenland Leisure - New slope and pull up rope	3523.20
22. Playsafety - RoSPA annual inspection	513.00
23. Castle Water - Chilton Field allotments	23.29
24. Mr S Gibson - wine, in lieu of payment for internal audit	101.92

Total	7418.55
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(ii)	<u>Income</u>	
	SA Clothing Bank	93.42
	VAT refund	9130.72
	OCC County Councillor Fund	3000.00
	VWHDC 2 nd part of Precept	<u>11798.50</u>
		24022.64

Balances

Treasurers Account	500.00
Instant Access Account	87930.92
Business Account	172631.03
Petty Cash	50.00

- (iii) The Annual External Audit Report and Certificate has been returned. The Auditor noted that the inspection period for the exercise of electors' rights was set for 31 days instead of the mandatory 30 days. Also the Clerk answered no to Box 11b instead of yes, the form was corrected and re-submitted. The Parish Council accepted the report.
- (iv) Prior to the meeting Dr Hansard produced a report on alternative bank accounts. It is proposed that the existing Instant Access, Treasurers and Charity accounts be retained and the Business account be closed and instead 5 other accounts be opened. The Parish Council agreed to the proposals, Dr Hansard and the Clerk will investigate the new accounts. To report back to the November meeting.
- (v) Car park marking has not been done yet, the Clerk is chasing the company.
- (vi) The Clerk sent an email to say that the Parish Council will be terminating the paddock agreement but there has been no reply.
- (vii) Gallagher, the insurance brokers, have written with the insurance premium for the next 12 months. As the terms of the Long Term Agreement has been broken due to the insurance claim, the insurance company has had to reviewed the policy. The renewal premium for the next 12 months is £7425.92. It was agreed to pay the premium but once the insurance claim is settled the Council will look to get a quote from an alternative insurance company. There is no further news regarding the claim.

12. VHMC Report

Mr Dumbleton reported that they are still waiting for quotes for a replacement Hall door. The Energy Audit for the Village Hall and Community Room has been completed, the report should be ready in about 2 weeks time. New software for the bookings is being investigated. CCTV installation is being looked into. There was a query that the proposed patio might need planning permission. The Clerk will try and find out.

13. Play Equipment Inspection

Dr Berry carried out the playing field inspection, Mr Dumbleton to do the next one. Mr Girling carried out the Chilton Field inspection. The Clerk has received the RoSPA reports, a list of items to be actioned will be prepared.

14. Correspondence

- (i) From the previously circulated list it was noted; Chilton Primary School had written to ask if the Parish Council would plant a hedge on the Council side of the school fence to prevent people being able to talk to and watch the children through the fence without the school being aware. The Council discussed the request and it was decided against planting a hedge because it was felt that a hedge could provide a means for people to hide in. They felt that more hedges/bushes would create a problem. It is also not a footpath but an access track for vehicles to get to the bore holes and to the back of the site. May be the School can put up some kind of screen on their side of the fence.

- (ii) The Vale is holding 2 Planning Training meetings on 9th October and 1st November, a maximum of 2 people per council. Mr King to attend on the 9th October and Mr Clements on the 1st November. If there are any vacancies on the 9th October Dr Hansard would like to go.
- (iii) Castle Water are changing their system of billing the allotment water. Mr Clements to take allotment meter readings.
- (iii) There was a report on the Quarterly Campus Meeting that Chilton and Harwell attended. A transport and traffic analysis is being carried out at the moment and there seems to be close liaison with the County regarding traffic. It is disappointing that there will be no work on the Rowstock Relief. When the traffic assessments are received they will be shared with the Parish Council. Moderna is applying to work at night as they are behind schedule.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.