

**EAST CHALLOW PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**In Attendance:** Ms.S V Bosley (Chair), Mrs F Webb, Mrs S Terry, Mr P Barrow, Mr T Hayes.

**Apologies:** Mrs I Game.

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Apologies: Mrs I Game

Due to the absence of the Clerk the Chair undertook to take notes of the proceedings of the meeting.

The Chairman invited councillors to declare any interests in matters about to be discussed and to declare an interest if any items in which they have an interest arise during the course of the meeting.

No declarations were made.

**22/23 MINUTES OF MEETING 9th DECEMBER 2022 & 11th JANUARY 2023**

After amendments Cllr Hayes proposed and Cllr Webb seconded acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2022.

Cllr Hayes proposed, and Cllr Barrow seconded acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held 11th January 2023.

**23/23 DISCUSSION TIME**

No members of the public were present.

**24/23 DISTRICT AND COUNTY MATTERS**

Cllr Barrow (District Cllr) spoke on various matters: - As Deputy Chair of the HOSC they are constantly perplexed by the constant re-organisation in the health service at County level.

Local farmers are concerned about the uncertainty around the implementation of the Governments Agri-Environmental Legislation, ELMS.

The County Council is working its way through our Villages introducing 20mph including East Challow.

Cllr Barrow also spoke on Heritage Buildings, some not being listed. Two very old barns in our village are close to collapse as a result of neglect by the owners.

Villagers are trying to save the Mission (Main Street) for continued Village use.

**25/23 PLANNING MATTERS**

P22/2702/0. Bewley Homes 55 dwellings Canal Way. Decision awaited.

P22/V2843/HH. 4 Vicarage Hill rear extension. Approved.

P22/V3002/Ful. Grove Business Park, erection of catering structure. Decision awaited.

P23/V0121/HH. The Barn Park Farm. Replacement of fence. No objection.

P23/V0243/T28. Grove Business Park. Removal and replacement of antennas. No objection.

**26/23 MATTERS OF REPORT NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Barrow has not received an update from OCC regarding a start date for installation of dropped kerbs near Goodlake House and Letcombe Hill. He will chase Mr M Francis of OCC Highways.

**27/23 ACCOUNTS/FINANCE**

**Budget/Precept 2023/24**

The 2023/24 budget was prepared without the assistance of the Clerk due to sick leave.

It is estimated the budget spend in 2023/24 will be in the region of £42000 while the 2022/23 precept was £35895. Errors were found in the 2022/23 budget calculations which meant an insufficient precept was requested and there will be a shortfall in income which will have to be funded from the existing reserves.

The budget for 2023/24 was prepared on the basis of maintaining spend at the same level as the previous year but adding 10% on selected items where the current level of inflation is likely to impact, mainly staff costs. Some items have been reduced with reference to the 2022/23 spend. All headings have been looked at with a view to reducing cost.

Our village population has increased considerably over the last few years therefore the precept will be a funded on a higher number of dwellings.

It is suggested a precept for 2023/24 of £40000 is requested. This will be an increase on the 2022/23 precept of £4105 but will mean a reduction in the budget of around £2000.

Spending over the next financial year needs to be monitored very carefully.

Due to timing the budget and precept for 2023/24 was agreed by email outside the meeting.

At this meeting acceptance of the budget/precept was proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Barrow as correct. The Chairman has requested a precept of £40000 from the Vale.

Cllr Webb proposed and Ms V Bosley seconded the February payments of £3034.48.

The review of bank signatories is ongoing by Cllr Webb.

Cllr Bosley confirmed the CIL reconciliation for 2021/22 has been completed.

#### Donation Requests

The annual donation to the Village Hall of £2000 was proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Bosley.

A donation of £500 towards the Hedgerow Reinstatement Group headed by Mr A Barclay of West Challow was proposed by Cllr Hayes and seconded by Cllr Terry.

### **28/23 RISK ASSESSMENT**

The adjustments have been made to the wording, Cllr Hayes proposed and Cllr Bosley seconded the 2023 Parish Council Risk Assessment.

### **29/23 VICARAGE HILL CEMETERY**

Details regarding the notice board for Vicarage Hill Cemetery are not available, and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

The height of the beech hedge in Vicarage Hill Cemetery is not satisfactory and needs further work, Cllr Barrow who lives in the adjoining property will make contact with Mr Wise to agree work on the height of the hedge.

Cllr Barrow requested an update on the work to clear/reclaim ground for burial plots.

### **30/23 TRAFFIC/HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Crest Nicolson has agreed to fund two SIDs (speed indicator devices). Cllr Barrow and Cllr Hayes have “plotted” potential sites, to be agreed with Mr Francis of OCC. The Parish Council will need to provide posts for the SIDs.

#### 20s Plenty Survey

The application for 20mph speed limits has been submitted. OCC is introducing 20mph limits in many villages. The decision is based on the current traffic speed and could take 18 months to be implemented if agreed.

#### Speedwatch

Further research is required. Cllr Bosley will contact a neighbouring parish which operates Speedwatch for their experience on its efficiency.

#### Drains

Many road/kerbside drains are blocked and require emptying, Cllr Barrow will contact OCC.

### Vicarage Hill

It has been reported that many HGVs are ignoring the signs advising of its unsuitability for such vehicles. Mr Francis of OCC Highways will be made aware.

### Community Bus

No further information is available. Cllr Barrow will make enquiries.

### **31/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Barrow has made small modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan in the light of the examiners comments. He awaits a decision on whether they have been accepted.

### **32/23 RECREATION AREA**

#### Allotment Fence

Money has been received from Cllr Constance's OCC Priority Fund for the allotment fence. A response is awaited from the Vale for S106 funding which has been applied for.

#### Pavilion

Cllr Terry will ask the Cubs and Beaver Group Leader if she has been able to obtain information on the Childrey pavilion.

Cllr Barrow will contact Mr Snell of Childrey who worked on the Childrey pavilion.

Due to the receipt of a bill from SSE it was decided to de-energise the Pavilion.

Cllr Bosley will chase Mr Allen for information on the football pitch.

### **33/23 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The replacement village green posts need to be ordered. Mr J Hanham (contractor) requested their purchase some months ago. The purchase was approved by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Barrow.

### **34/23 PUBLIC ART/S106 MONEY**

Cllr Hayes updated councillors that the work is progressing well but as yet he has no drawings/examples to show Councillors.

### **35/23 WARM SPACES INITIATIVE**

Cllr Barrow updated councillors, the initiative at the Challow and Childrey Cricket Club is doing well with more than a dozen attendees on Friday mornings. Its future after the end of March has yet to be decided.

### **36/23 CHALLOW NEWS**

#### Dog fouling

Help to develop village sports facilities.

### **37/23 Defibrillator**

In light of the mention of defibrillators in the February Challow News Cllr Hayes noted the Defibrillator at the front door of the Challow and Childrey Cricket Club does not appear to be registered on the Save a Life App.

### **38/23 CLERKS CORRESPONDENCE**

The stone and wording for a memorial for Mr Douglas White in the Vicarage Hill Cemetery was agreed. Cllr Bosley will contact the Undertaker to confirm the Councils agreement.

Cllr Bosley has contacted the family of Mr Eric James regarding the relocation of a memorial tree.

**39/23 NEXT AGENDA**

Coronation

Additional work on the recreation area hedge.

Report from the Parish Council representative on St Nicholas School Governing body.

**40/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 8th March 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed (Chair.....)

Notes on declaration of interest

- I. Any member arriving after the start of the meeting is asked to declare personal interests as necessary as soon as practicable after their arrival even if the item in questioned has been considered
- II. With the exception of the circumstances listed in paragraph 9(2) of the Local Code of Conduct for Members, a member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member’s judgement of the public interest. In such circumstances, the member must withdraw from the meeting room, and should inform the Chairman accordingly.  
It is not practical to offer detailed advice during the meeting on whether or not a personal interest should be declared, or whether a personal interest should also be regarded as prejudicial.