

EAST CHALLOW PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
12th APRIL 2023

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

The Clerk Ms L Hooper has resigned after nearly six months of absence due to illness. Her resignation was accepted. In the absence of a clerk the Chair will 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 meeting.
No declarations were made.

61/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 8TH MARCH 2023

Change to Minute 59/23 - The date of the next meeting will be changed to 17th May as Cllr Webb (Acting RFO) is on holiday. Cllr Bosley will book the Village Hall.

Minute 59/23 - The defibrillator light on the village green is still off. Cllr Terry will investigate.
The minutes of the 8th of March meeting were approved by Cllr Hayes and seconded by Cllr Terry.

62/23 PUBLIC DISCUSSION TIME

No members of the public were present.

63/23 DISTRICT AND COUNTY MATTERS:

Cllr Barrow reported on the Mission building. A few interested villagers have formed an action group and are looking to set up a charity with Mrs J Miller, Ms F Compostela and Ms K Bentley as trustees. They plan to issue a flyer and will register the Mission as of being community value. It was felt that Cllr Barrow would benefit from speaking to Mrs E Redford regarding ownership of the Mission and the intentions on selling the building.

Cllr Barrow also updated councillors on the Warm Spaces Initiative which will now run bi-weekly at the Cricket Club.

Cllr Barrow mentioned the poor state of the Childrey Bridlepath which pupils from Childrey will have to use to walk to King Alfred's School in the absence of a school bus.

64/23 RESIGNATION OF THE CLERK

The Chair will advertise the Clerk vacancy on the local Facebook page, in Challow News and with the OALC. The Clerk had not completed the financial reconciliation and AGAR form for 2022/23 before resigning, the appointment with the external auditor is due on 13th June so a replacement RFO is urgently required. The Clerk undertook to try to identify a locum as it is unlikely a new Clerk could undertake the work at such short notice.

65/23 FLOOD ALLEVATION PROPOSAL ADJACENT TO LJ & CA CANNINGS

Cllrs Bosley, Barrow and Hayes met with Mr L Travers of VWHDC on site to be informed about a proposal to excavate the area of village green outside Longs Cottages to install a "rain garden".

At the site meeting Mr Travers was told the village green is registered as common land.

The proposal was discussed at Parish Council with many questions raised by councillors, Cllr Barrow undertook to put together a list of questions to be sent to Mr Travers.

Cllr Bosley will contact the Open Spaces Society regarding the common land (village green). As it has no owner it is not clear who can give permission for work.

Cllr Hayes requested a copy of the drawings.

66/23 PLANNING MATTERS

P23/V0121/HH. The Barn Park Farm. Replacement of fence. Refused. Cllr Barrow has spoken with the applicants who intend to re-apply at a later date.

P23/VO488/HH. Windmill House, Ickleton Road, Erection of outbuilding, store, office, fitness studio. ECPC has no objections.

P23/VO678/F. W&G Estate. Demolition of building and replacement with new building. ECPC has no objections, Cllr Barrow will contact the applicant's suggesting addition of solar panels.

P22/V2347/HH. Field View, Canal Farm Lane. Extension has been refused.

67/23 MATTERS TO REPORT NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA & UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Work is to be undertaken on the dropped kerbs near Goodlake House and Letcombe Hill. Cllr Webb asked what was to be done regarding parked cars on the pavement area at these points.

Cllr Barrow will put together a notice for approval – it should contain the quote by Mr Francis of OCC on the Highway code Road Traffic Act Section 22.

68/23 ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

To agree the April payments of £4218.83 proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Bosley.

The April invoice for Wises Garden & Hedge maintenance needs to be checked.

The resigned Clerks comments on the AGAR report had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

69/23 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Acceptance of the ECPC Complaints Procedure was proposed by Cllr Hayes and seconded by Cllr Barrow.

70/23 CONFIRMATION OF STANDING ORDERS

Cllr Bosley will check if a copy is on the website.

71/23 CONFIRMATION OF ASSET REGISTER

Acceptance of the asset register for 2023, proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Terry.

72/23 VICARAGE HILL CEMETERY

There are no details regarding the purchase of a noticeboard for the Vicarage Hill Cemetery, it is thought the Clerk never actioned it.

73/23 TRAFFIC MATTERS

Cllr Barrow will chase OCC regarding the reduction of speed in the village.

20's Plenty – Could possibly be added to the A417 through the village. To be discussed at a later meeting.

A meeting with representatives from Charney Bassett who have experience of Speedwatch will be arranged.

Location of SIDs has been decided by Cllr's Barrow and Hayes in conjunction with Mr Francis of OCC.

HGVs continue to use Letcombe Hill, there has been no additional/change in signage.

Cllr Hayes reported a road traffic accident at the junction of Letcombe Hill with the A417, Main Street, it happened early in the morning, he had no more details.

Community bus – Cllr Barrow is due to attend a meeting with representatives of Wantage and Grove Councils, he will report back.

74/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan is due on the 4th May as part of the local elections and will hopefully be approved.

75/23 RECREATION AREA

Allotment Fence – Money has been obtained from Cllr Constance's Community Fund and S106 money. Work is due to start at the end of April.

Tennis court – Cllr Terry has met with Mr Broyd, work on the surface is needed and the hedge adjacent to Trevoise is still in need of cutting back. Mr Wise will be reminded the work is outstanding, but he cannot do it for some time due to his workload. A quote from another contractor may be required. Cllr Terry has opened two tennis court gates. Netball will resume at the end of April. Cllr Bosley suggested a replacement tennis court surface might need to be considered. Pavilion project – Cllr Bosley has asked Mr Snell (Childrey) and Mrs Rutter (Childrey) for information on their pavilion. A local builder has also been contacted.

76/23 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The overhanging tree on The Park footpath needs to be checked, it had been in urgent need attention. Mr Wise was asked to cut it back; it is not known if the work has been done.

77/23 PUBLIC ART/S106 FUNDING

Cllr Hayes reported it is hoped that work on the submission (which is ongoing) will be ready later this month or at least by the May Parish Council Meeting.

78/23 CORONATION OF KING CHARLES 111

It is not known if the Royal British Legion have plans to celebrate the coronation. Cllr's are not aware of anything being arranged by St Nicholas School. The church has a flower festival planned. A Community Celebration is planned for the 4th of June.

79/23 REPORT FROM ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Cllr Hayes had nothing to report.

80/23 CHALLOW NEWS

Vacancy for a parish clerk.
Date of next Parish Council meeting which will also be the AGM.

81/23 CLERKS CORRESPONDANCE

A request has been received from the Royal British Legion for a letter supporting their S106 funding application (repairs/work on the building roof).

82/23 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Update on clerk vacancy/cover for clerk.
Waste recycling meeting – Cllr Barrow to update.
Update on insurance cover for the damaged rail at Old School Lane.
Cllr Terry to report on the Challow Cricket Club defibrillator.

83/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of meeting changed to 17th May.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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.