

**Minutes for the Meeting of East Challow Parish Council**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30 pm at East Challow Village Hall**

Present: Councillor Vanessa Bosley (Chair), Councillor Frances Webb (Vice Chair), Councillors Sarah Parker and Trevor Hayes and Dr. Paul Barrow (also District Councillor),

Members of the Public: Neil Seymore (observer)

**Note:** In the absence of the Clerk, and the meeting having sufficient Councillors to remain quorate, Councillor Parker stepped down as an attending Councillor, and took up the role of Clerk.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Yvonne Constance (OCC Member), Councillor Iris Game

**2. Approval of the minutes for Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

Minutes approved, proposed Councillor Webb, seconded Councillor Bosley.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

None declared.

**4. Public discussion time**

No members of the public in attendance.

**5. District and County Council Matters**

No report has been received from County Councillor Constance.

District Councillor Dr. Barrow reported that he had spoken to the Planning Officer responsible for the application received for 7 Childrey Way. Amendments have been made, but in essence the issue is still the same, the proposed new build annex is too big for the site. We are awaiting further plans, but Councillor Barrow requested that it be referred to the Planning committee.

A response has been received to our request for Tree Preservation Orders for the Trees in the parkland setting next to Challow Park House. We are told that they are of interest, but at this time no order will be issued, as they are not in immediate danger; should this change then we should go back OCC .

**6 Planning Matters.**

**P21/V2702/FUL Hill Farm, Faringdon Road, East Challow, OX12 9PD**

The change of use of a series of existing agricultural barns to a mixed development of residential (C3) and commercial units (B1/B8).

The converting of a barn for a farm office and butchery.

The associated landscaping drainage works required for the development.

Councillor agreed "No Objection" following a satisfactory visit to the site by Councillors Barrow and Hayes. However, the position in the middle yard of a cattle shed did attract concerns over the proximity of livestock to the new buildings, and their changed use to Dwelling and Office space.

**P21/V1643/HH** 7 Childrey Way, East Challow, OX12 9RX Amended Plans.

**P21/VO200/FUL** St. Nicholas C of E School, Windmill Place, East Challow, OX12 9RY

Discharge of condition 9, Archaeology (new single storey two classroom building with associated external work).

This is a discharge of condition not requiring response from ECPC. It was agreed that ECPC would take up the offer to directly liaise with the appointed Site Manager, to keep channels of communication open through the build. **Action Clerk** to write to the school accordingly.

**OCC Call for Sites:** Land east of Canal Way, East Challow, submitted for consideration as part of "Call for Land and Buildings"

Letter from Neame Sutton for Bewley Homes Plc. A response will be sent to decline to meet at this time, (same as per Wises Farm), **Action Clerk**.

#### **7. Matters to report not otherwise covered on the agenda.**

The action to contact the developer Crest Nicholson regarding the state of the part constructed footpath in front of their development is carried forward, as is the action to get an update on the path through the MacTaggart and Mickel site. **Action Cllr Barrow**.

#### **8. Accounts**

a) Payments of £3,542.14 (as detailed) were approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Webb, Seconded Cllr Bosley.

b) Councillors have been requested to consider funding requirement to be included in the April 2022 Budget. Funds for project that do not benefit from S106 allocation. Cllr Barrow requested that the Neighbourhood Plan will still have some requirement next financial year, and that he will confirm the requirement with J Evans.

#### **9. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

It was confirmed the amount of £7,542.33 had been credited to our bank on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

#### **10 Cemetery**

a) New Cemetery Project. Cllr Hayes reported that his readings show the water table remains high, and in the worst case was 150mm on Monday of the previous week. Contractor CDS has informally commented that they expect water levels to continue to rise through the winter, which raised the doubt that the site will ever be usable for a burial cemetery. It may be that we will have to develop the site into more of a Memorial Garden/ Garden of

## **11. Speeding through the Village A417**

Cllr Barrow reported that dialogue with OCC Highways is ongoing about installation of further signage and interactive speed reduction tools such as Elan and VAS. Councillors discussed at length the dangers that the continued flouting of the 30mph limit presented. All the Councillors agreed that the reduction of the speed limit in all other parts of the village to 20mph (in line with the 20 is Plenty Scheme being promoted by OCC), will be applied for. The understanding is that this can not be applied to an A status road, which is where our main concern lies. Action Cllrs Barrow and Hayes to continue their negotiation with Highways to get the electronic signs installed ASAP. We have also been told that the developer at the top of the village maybe obligated to contribute.

## **12. Neighbourhood Plan**

The six-week public consultation has started. Hard copies are available to view in the Church and at the Cricket Club. The documents will also be available to view online on the ECPC website. A banner has already been produced which will be put up in a prominent place. Volunteers will need to be at the Cricket Club whilst it is open to the public to ensure the safety and security of the building and contents, as it will not always be manned by a Member of the Cricket Club. Cllr Barrow is coordinating the dates.

## **13. Tree Planting for Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee**

Councillors agreed that we do not have space in the village to put extra trees in areas that we have responsibility for. It was agreed to Contact the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust (WBCT), to see if we could liaise with them, and apply for trees along the canal path through the village. Many trees have been lost to Ash die-back and storm damage, and replacements would be appreciated. **Action Cllr Barrow** to contact WBCT as he is already involved with them.

## **14 Parish Council Vacancies**

Interest has been received for both the vacant Councillor vacancy, and the Clerk/RFO vacancy. The advertised vacancy for a Parish Councillor will be re-run in the Challow News for another month, then meeting with those who have shown interest will be scheduled. The Chair has recommended to those who have contacted her to come along and observe a meeting before they commit. The deadline for applications for the Clerk/RFP post, is 30<sup>th</sup> of November. Interviews will be scheduled with suitable candidates that have already applied to allow the final decision to be made as soon as possible to the deadline passing. **Action Cllrs Bosley, Parker and Webb.**

## **15. Mission Hall**

Historic England responded to Cllr Barrows enquiry about protected status, to say that the building does not fit their criteria for protected status. We have been given to understand that since the Mission Trustees met last month, another worship group have shown interest in taking the building on, and undertaking the required work.

## **16. Footpaths and Right of Way**

a) Councillor Barrow has not yet been able to discuss the footpaths on land managed by Wasborough Estate but he will do this after the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation concludes. **Action Cllr Barrow.**

b) Works being carried out on the **Canal Towpath**. A project is underway to prevent the towpaths becoming impassable in the winter months due to mud. WBCT request a financial assistance by way of providing Hardcore/scalplings, which their volunteers would put down. The amount of £185.00 was approved to purchase the bark (a purchase order being required), this was proposed by Cllr Webb and Seconded by Councillor Bosley. **Action Cllr Bosley.**

#### 17 Recreation Area:

- a) **Play area.** Mr Broyd had carried out the monthly inspection (report received), no new issues have arisen. Cllr Hayes reported that it is proving difficult to source a company who we could contract with to take on maintenance of the existing play area. He has had quotations from Wicksteed that indicated to remove the existing surface, supply and install a new surface would be in the order of £17,359.00 (not a firm quote at this stage). However just supplying new surface tiles would be around £3,260.00, but ECPC would have to contract with another company to remove the old one and install the supplied new ones. These are considerable sums, and we need further thought to the way forward. Our S106 money is for new equipment and installations, not maintenance of existing items. A budget allowance will need to be made.
- b) **Allotments.** Cllr Webb has collected nearly all the payments due, and has just one person who not yet responded to confirm their position. These payments will need depositing with the Bank. It was agreed that we would on this occasion use our Barclays account, as there is a branch in town (the Cooperative not being easy to get to). These receipts will be recorded next month. Any vacant plots will be allocated in order of the waiting list.
- c) **Car Park.** As liaison will be in place with the Site Manager, the opening and closing of the car park barrier can be coordinated. The condition of the car park will be closely managed.  
**Action Clerk.**
- d) **Tennis Court Surface.** Cllr Hayes report that he has viewed the surface from outside the court, and that it looks a bit "scabby" in areas. We will have to see what the winter brings with regards to frost. We will keep the area brushed and leaves removed, and consider it again in the spring. **Action L Broyd (work) Action Clerk to put on agenda for March.**
- e) **Pavilion.** Cllr Hayes has invested a great deal of time gathering information and costings from various suppliers/contractors. This will be used to prepare a Statement of Use. Once we have a finalised vision of what we need from the building, we can formalise a project plan and apply for the available S106 monies and other funding as maybe required. A working group will need to be established. A call for volunteer members for the group along with tradespersons etc. should go in the Challow News, with the aim to start the group asap after Christmas. An amount to cover drawing and planning should be entered in the budget if possible. **Action Cllr Parker** to review the brochures obtained by Cllr Hayes. **Action Finance Group** to look at Budget.

#### 18 Grounds Maintenance.

The contracts are to be tendered to start on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Cllrs Bosley and Webb will assist by reviewing the existing schedules, to form a revised "spec". Contractor recommendations will be sought from Harwell Village and the Hanneys as they have similar requirements. The existing contractors has indicated they wish to be considered for the contracts. The hope is to get the documents out just after Christmas with a return date of mid-February. Previous contractors used by ECPC will also be considered.

## **19 Clerks Correspondence.**

- a) An email from a resident regarding use of illegal lasers in the recreation area. This is a matter for the police, advise resident to report it via the police non-emergency number (101) or online. Challow News entry to ask if anybody sees such behaviour to report it.
- b) An email re the Parish Car Park (adjacent to the school). Action Cllr Bosley to respond and set up liaison with School Site Manager. **Action Cllr Bosley.**
- c) Request for donation (grant) to Challow News. The amount of £250 was proposed by Cllr Webb, seconded by Cllr Bosley, this is the same as has been given in previous years. **Action Clerk/RFO.**

## **20 Challow News (Dec21/Jan 22 issue)**

Entries will be made to cover:

Use of lasers, thanks for this year's work and support to villagers, and real Christmas tree collection for recycling.

Dates of the next two meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, and 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022.

## **21 Any other Business (for information only)**

**Public Street Art.** Cllr Hayes sought the approval of the council to set in motion the process of selection of artist for the community art project. We are not financially committed at this stage it is just the artists being invited for their proposed designs. (Funding is available via S106).

It was agreed that Cllr Hayes should set thing going with the help of Abby Brown.

Football pitch use by Junior Clubs. Cllr Webb reported that no formal request/details of use, had been received from Jeremy Snell.

Cllr Parker reported that from a Facebook post made by "Penny Post", Grove Parish Council had discussed the development of the Western relief Road and the proposed 1000 new build homes that would link through the A417 by Mellor's (Dandara). We should contact Grove Parish Council to question this, as this is not their Parish, but is land in East Challow. **Action The Chair Cllr Bosley will make contact with Grove PC.**

**22 Date of Next Meeting.** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 7:30pm.

Meeting Closed at 9.46 pm.