

Chilton Parish Council (CPC)

Meeting – 3rd March 2020 at St Mary's Church, 7:30pm

1. In attendance:

Louisa Vincent – Chair (LV)

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher – Vice-chair (HAF)

Julie Brunskill (JB)

Nicholas Barlow (NB)

LV welcomed the members of the public joining the meeting.

2. Apologies from Mike Hawkett, Angela Macpherson and Diana Bird

3. Declarations of Interest – HAF declared an interest in items 8.1 (Planning – Canon Court Farm) and 9.1 (Village Development)

4. Minutes of Meeting on 4th December 2019 approved as a true record.

Proposed by JB, seconded by HAF.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Clerk to CPC

Vacancy in the office of Clerk will be filled by Rebecca Wasey of Chapel Lane. BALC training to be offered/provided and remuneration terms to be discussed. Previous Clerk received £9.50 per hour. A formal handover of responsibilities, information and change of signatory/correspondence address is required.

5.2 Council Elections

Due to take place on Thursday, 7 May 2020. Initial information has been received and is being reviewed by LV. The Buckinghamshire County and Parish Council election voting is due to take place in a caravan polling station for ease of public access.

6. Finance

6.1 Banking

An application has been made for online banking; update to follow from LV.

Balances:

Community Account £6,653.39

Savings Account £15,378.03

JB queried the retention of funds in the Savings Account. These relate to the s.106 payment following the development at Hornage Barns and needs to be applied for community benefit.

6.2 Precept and Churchyard donation

In 2019, the donation to Chilton PCC for the upkeep of the Churchyard was £375 (£350 in 2018) and the previous decision on 4 December 2019 to donate £400 in 2020 was confirmed as approved.

Precept of £2,200 to be increased to £2,300 in 2020 to cover additional costs relating to the Council Elections, as previously agreed. The application to make the increase has been submitted to AVDC.

7. Projects

7.1 Churchyard clean-up & 7.2 Village clean-up

Suggested weekend of 4/5 April at 10:00, details to be posted on the village notice board. This will coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean campaign. A group email can be sent to those on the database of contacts in the Village.

Renewal of the data protection permissions at the Information Commissioner's Office needs to be checked, following the change of Clerk.

7.3 Parish Notice Board

The old notice board had a commemorative element and needs to be relocated or rededicated. The site of the new notice board is to be determined at a meeting on Friday 6 March at 10:00.

7.4 Speed sign

The sign has been relocated and seems to be effective. Chris Humphries has volunteered to be the person responsible for charging the battery and relocating it from time to time.

7.5 Village Fete

A committee has been convened and a date will be agreed by the organisers.

7.6 Expressway

JB reported that it was hoped that the proposed Expressway will be scrapped in the Budget, but the related plan for the electrified east-west railway line, 1m new homes and a major development at Oakley remain a threat to the local countryside. Donations to the Just-giving page for the completion of the species survey would be welcome.

8. Planning

8.1 Canon Court Farm – retrospective permission application

Harry Aubrey Fletcher was invited to explain the position to the Councillors as there had been 3 letters of objection submitted in response. Harry stated that there had been 2 barn applications in the last 10 years. 3 years ago a new barn and machinery shed had been built, with related landscaping done to replace a previous barn and calf shed. The Estate did not obtain prior approval and full planning is now needed because the new barn has a larger footprint (though Harry commented that the same number of cattle are housed there).

Harry reminded the Councillors of the existence of a village cricket pitch, which was unknown to most present, that currently has a shipping container and remains of a barn on it.

Comments have been made about the intensity of activity at the farm, which has grown in scale and numbers of cattle. Harry confirmed the Estate's view that the village is an Estate village and the Farm is part of the community.

Approval to be sought from BCC for tidying of the entrance to the farm, which could include a refurbishment of the village water pump.

The possibility of an expanded turning area, cutting into the verge in front of 1-4 Princes Close, to allow access for tankers and machinery as well as space for school buses, was discussed though care would need to be taken to avoid interfering with telephone and fibre optic cabling underneath the verge. This project will require the approval of the contractors and design at BCC so may take some time.

9. Public Forum – Agenda Items

9.1 Village Development

Harry reported that there had been no progress in the discussion of design and architecture, but reassured the Councillors that the community aspects were unchanged. Harry noted that the Adopted Local Plan has the area around the club zoned as not for development and the Estate have no wish to tidy up the Club site whilst approval from AVDC was awaited.

9.2 Correspondence – updates

Overhanging trees in Princes Close; dead trees in the village and the access to the defunct playground were discussed. Fix My Street remains the most direct way to communicate the need for works to BCC.

9.3 Correspondence – new

Proposal for VE Day celebration in the afternoon of 8th May (4-6pm) with trestle tables and bunting in front of Chilton House has been proposed.

10. Date of next meeting

Due to other community commitments, Tuesdays are not convenient to the new Clerk. 11 or 13 May proposed as possible dates, to be confirmed.

11. Closure

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.