

Chilton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held 2nd September 2020 on Zoom, 7:30pm

In attendance:

Louisa Vincent – Chair (LV)

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

Diana Bird (DB)

Nicholas Barlow (NB)

Rebecca Wasey – Clerk (RW)

1. Welcome

2. **Apologies** received from Julie Brunskill. Councillor Angela Macpherson also sent her apologies and was deputised by Cllr Michael Rand.

3. **Declarations of Interest** – HAF declared his interest in the Village Development item.

4. **Minutes of Meeting** on 19th May 2020 were approved as a true record. It was noted that the council elections are still deferred.

5. **Correspondence** – None

6. Finance

6.1 Bank Account Balance Report

Current Account: £6,536.12. An update was provided on recent transactions including a grant of £150 received from Buckinghamshire Council for VJ Day celebrations.

Business Account: £579.45

Savings Account: £15,378.03

6.2 Annual Audit Filing

This should have been filed by 31st August but PKF Littlejohn agreed to a new deadline of 30th September. The internal auditor, Kate Allen, has signed off the accounts. The Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements. LV and RW to sign and submit.

6.3 Application for Exemption - AGAR 2019/20 Part 2. Committee approved the document to be signed by LV and RW for submitting to PKF Littlejohn.

7. Projects

7.1 Village and churchyard clean-up – Keep Britain Tidy campaign runs from 11th – 27th September. It was agreed that the Chilton clean-up day should be Sunday 20th September. JB has litter pickers and tabards for volunteers to use. Diana offered to distribute these on the day if JB

is not in attendance. A time and place to meet has yet to be confirmed. RW to update notice on website and put up posters on the notice boards.

8. Planning Applications

8.1 Ref: 20/02853 /APP Signpost Cottage, Brill Road; Replacement of existing canopy, repairs to timber cladding, new openings on existing kitchen's east wall and single storey rear extension; Awaiting decision. RW to send details to Committee for comments and will forward to the Development Management Department at Bucks Council.

8.2 HA-F advised that an application from Addingrove Farm was imminent. RW to inform Committee when application is current.

9. Members of the Public – Open Forum for agenda items only

9.1 Village Development – Harry A-F explained the first draft of the design had been done but was not yet satisfactory; but the concept of the housing, repurposing of barns and a multi-purpose building remained the same. The estate is committed to this concept but the Bucks Council Planning Department is not convinced the site is suitable for development. However, it is hoped they can be persuaded with the compelling case that there is demand for the houses and the multi-purpose building. Harry AF acknowledged that there is currently no community space for village events and very generously offered use of Chilton House (CH), which has recently been closed for refurbishment, for this purpose.

9.2 Expressway Update – DB said that whilst the threat of the road has receded there are still plans to continue building new homes in the area and therefore new or upgraded roads would be needed to provide links. However, Harry A-F said that whilst there was still significant housing development in the county, the plan for the A34 – M40 link road was 99% dead. Cllr Rand agreed with this and stressed our local MP's commitment to improving existing roads and electrification of the East-West railway, which are of more benefit to the Bucks community.

DB said more funding was required to complete the environmental survey work around the Parish. LV proposed the PC could contribute an amount of £150 and hoped that individuals would make up the balance. The proposal was seconded by HAF and NB and agreed by the PC. DB to confirm the actual amount required.

9.3 St Mary's Church, Chilton - Bertie A-F reported that recruitment of the new Vicar has been put on hold because of Covid-19. The Diocese of Oxford is believed to be considering reducing the number of churches in the Bernwode Benefice from seven to five or possibly three. Church finances are increasingly unstable and should the number of services at St Mary's decrease, the situation would worsen, in time leading to its closure. For this reason Chilton residents should seriously consider adapting the interior for community events and gatherings. Pews could be removed, and installation of underfloor heating, a level floor, a servery and a toilet would help to create a usable space. Harry A-F explained how the existing staff car park at CH is being redeveloped as part of its refurbishment and would create space for up to 30 cars and step-free access to the church. He invited Chilton residents to walk through CH grounds towards the church to envisage the development. If anyone knows of someone who could photoshop the pews out to help this process, please let Bertie or LV know.

LV suggested a separate meeting should be held for anyone in the village concerned with the future of St Mary's church building. A date is to be set.

9.4 Long Crendon Surgery – Unity Health – The surgery is set to close because the building is not fit for purpose. It is unlikely that funding will be acquired to build a new surgery so patients will need to use surgeries in Thame or Brill. There is an opportunity to log your views on the closure via the Unity Health website under the “Latest News” section.

9.5 Defibrillator for the village – LV raised the topic of whether the PC should invest in a defibrillator for the village. It has been discussed previously but not followed through. Harry A-F reported there was a defibrillator from CH which was no longer needed there so could be made available for use in the village. It is kept in the Estate Office where 2-3 people are trained in how to use it but as it isn’t connected to the emergency services and requires training to use, there may be insurance risks.

9.6 Village Signs – Bertie A-F reported that the Dorton Road sign on the corner of Dorton Road, is very faded and needs replacing. Bertie to forward photos and RW to investigate replacement.

9.7 Noticeboard – Several residents have requested it be moved to its original spot from its current site in the bus stop. It had been erected there in error but then agreed that it should remain there until the Village Green development has been completed to avoid damage. The wooden inscription is to be cut from the original board and placed next to the new board in the bus stop.

10. Date of Next meeting – Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm

11. Meeting Closure – The PC thanked the Aubrey Fletcher family for generously offering use of Chilton House. The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.