

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.15pm at The Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey

Present were Cllr D. Bamford, Cllr V. Bolt (7.15-8.30pm), Cllr J. Collins, Cllr J. Finch, Cllr G. Herbert, Cllr J Hope Smith, Cllr P. Jenkins, Cllr L. Nixon (Chair), Cllr C. Worley

Also present were C. Bird (Clerk), SODC Cllr A.M. Simpson (from 7.30-7.45pm), one member of public

Start time: 7.15pm

End time: 9pm

147. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr M. Smith.

148. To receive Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items

Cllr Bolt has an interest in item 156b due to her involvement with Cholsey 1000 Plus; Cllr Jenkins' also has a personal interest in this item as his wife is the Treasurer of the organisation.

Cllr Finch has an interest in item 156c due to her involvement with Cholsey Community Library

149. To hear questions or comments from members of the public (max 15 mins)

The Parish Council expressed thanks to Clive Miners for his organisation of the Christmas tree for the village.

150. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December and they were signed by Cllr Nixon.

151. To receive any reports from County and/or District Councillor

Cllr Simpson's report was noted with thanks.

The Clerk will promote the Joint Local Plan consultation via social media and posters. The deadline for responses is 21st February.

152. To note the Clerk's Report (verbal), and in particular:

The Clerk reported that the Cholsey Community Support Services (Happy Hub and Mental Health Support Worker) have now successfully transferred to the Cholsey Village CIC. This transition was necessary because the Parish Council no longer has a power under which it can provide these services.

Two new defibrillators purchased with matched funding have been received and will be installed by a local electrician, outside Tesco on the Forty and at the Cholsey Meadows cricket Pavilion.

Phase 1 of the Ilges Lane hedge coppicing project has been completed.

a. To agree next steps in the proposed transfer of Cholsey Meadows Play Area to the Parish Council

It was agreed to continue progressing the transfer process, subject to the replacement of the play area fence by the developer Vistry. The Clerk will liaise with SODC's legal team and the solicitor appointed by CPC to manage the transfer.

b. To discuss response to Joint Local Plan consultation

This will be included on the 31st January agenda, in conjunction with Neighbourhood Plan discussions. The deadline for responses is 21st February.

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153. To receive update on the 5-year Strategic plan (Strategic plan subgroup)

The Clerk reported that the 5-year Strategic plan is currently with a local graphic designer, who is helping to prepare it for publication.

154. To note the Estate Manager's update, and in particular:

a. To agree how to proceed with allotment plot clearances and any expenditure involved

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the quote from Contractor C and to go ahead with the works at a cost of up to £2500. The Council would like to introduce deposits for new allotment plot holders to help minimise such expenditure in the future.

b. To agree how to proceed with playground equipment repairs and any expenditure involved

It was unanimously **resolved** to go ahead with the quoted repairs (with the exception of the Tornado Carousel which will not be reinstated) at a cost of up to £4500.

Cllr Finch will work with the Parish Office team on a proposal to add more recreation ground facilities for older children, based on 'The Cholsey We Choose' community input.

155. To receive update from the Transport Leads (Cllr Worley)

Cllr Worley reported that the parking enforcement company contracted by Oxfordshire County Council had recently fined a number of residents in error. Single yellow line fine enforcement is currently suspended pending the outcome of an OCC parking review in the village. The single yellow line fines will be cancelled or refunded, and the contractors have been reminded not to enforce these for the time being. Double yellow line enforcements continue.

Cllr Worley reported that OCC's public consultation on the parking review has concluded, with 69 responses which are now being analysed by OCC. Cllr Worley had received an initial summary of the responses and said that in general only ~10% of respondents had raised objections. Based on this he was happy for the changes proposed by OCC to go ahead, and asked Councillors to confirm whether they remained in support of the proposals. Those present indicated that they were, based on Cllr Worley's viewpoint. There will be an OCC Transport Committee meeting to discuss the parking review on 25th January, which members of the public will be able to attend.

A query had been received regarding the East End estate. It is believed that this will become an adopted Highway and therefore included in the village 20mph speed limit proposal.

Cllr Worley continues to pursue the A329 pedestrian crossing project with OCC and will be writing to David Johnston, MP, on behalf of the Parish Council.

We are also awaiting a response from SODC Planning on the requirement for planning permission for a possible recreation ground path project.

Cllr Worley has received the go ahead for planters at the station. Councillors strongly agreed that the accessibility and general state of Cholsey Station is of high priority to address. Cllr Worley has been pursuing this and the Councillors discussed possibilities for involving the community on this project.

156. Finance

a. To agree the Parish Council's Precept request for 2024/2025

Version 3 of the 2024/2025 was included in the agenda pack and based on this, it was unanimously **resolved** to request a precept of £198,019 for 2024/2025.

This equates to a Band D council tax of £112.18 (Parish Council element) in 2024/2025 compared to £106.03 in 2023/2024 – a 5.8% increase.

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b. To agree response to 2023/2024 grant request from Cholsey 1000 Plus for The Forty Magazine

It was unanimously **resolved** (with abstentions due to personal interests: Cllr Bolt and Cllr Jenkins) to make a grant in 2023/2024 to Cholsey 1000 Plus of £1250 to assist with increasing costs of producing the Forty Magazine.

Council wishes to support the continued provision of a newsletter for the village and will seek to work with Cholsey 1000 Plus to make the magazine sustainable going forward.

c. To agree response to 2024/2025 S137 grant request from Cholsey Community Library

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the annual grant to Cholsey Community Library, of £3400 for 2024/2025.

d. To approve payments made and note payments received

The payments were approved.

157. To agree responses to planning applications as at 4th January 2024

P23/S4137/FUL	Retrospective application for car park engineering 47 Reading Road It was resolved to make no comment.
P23/S4339/HH and P23/S4341/LB	Renovation of western range of building 2 Ilges Lane It was resolved to support this application.

158. To note planning decisions as at 4th January 2024

P23/S3380/HH	Single and two storey extensions Wellfields House, Caps Lane Granted by SODC
P23/S3468/HH	Single and two storey extensions, and front porch 2 Brentford Close Granted by SODC
P23/S3469/HH	Air source heat pump installation Kentwood House, Station Road Granted by SODC
P23/S3609/HH	Annexe outbuilding Little Lollingdon, Westfield Road Refused by SODC

159. Items for information or inclusion on a future agenda

Financial Regulation amendments (advised by internal auditor)
Neighbourhood Plan
Local Plan consultation
Transport update – parking review
Collaborative growing initiative - Community meeting 6th February.
Office revamp plan
Leases/fees – Bluebirds, Cholsey United, Tennis club
Emergency plan

Next meeting on 31st January, 7.15pm, The Pavilion