

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 7.15pm at The Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey

Present were Cllr V. Bolt, Cllr J. Collins, Cllr J. Finch, Cllr G. Herbert, Cllr P. Jenkins, Cllr L. Nixon (Chair), Cllr M. Smith

Also present were C. Bird (Clerk), SODC Cllr A.M. Simpson (7.30-7.45pm), B. Guiver (7.15-8.40pm) and J. Neville (7.15-8.40pm)

Start time: 7.15pm

End time: 9.30pm

160. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr D. Bamford and Cllr J. Hope-Smith.

Cllr Worley has resigned from his role of Parish Councillor. The Clerk will arrange a notice of casual vacancy.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

163. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024

Approved with amendment to minute 155 – removal of 'pending more detail from the consultation'.

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

Cllr Simpson's report was noted with thanks.

165. To discuss Local Planning (led by planning experts B. Guiver and J. Neville) **a. To discuss next steps for the Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan**

Recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) mean that Neighbourhood Plans are now protected for five years rather than two years. The current Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan was made on 13th October 2022 and therefore needs to be updated by October 2027.

The Council discussed beginning the process of reviewing the CNP in January 2026, with the intention of adopting an updated version in Summer 2027.

b. To agree a response to the Joint Local Plan consultation

Cllr Simpson left the meeting prior to the Parish Council discussing their response to the Joint Local Plan consultation.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are working together on a Joint Local Plan which will inform planning decisions for the districts. With guidance from Beryl and John, who are both Cholsey residents and planning experts, Councillors discussed a Council response to the Joint Local Plan 'In a Nutshell' survey. Based on these discussions, the Clerk will draft a response and circulate this to all Councillors for their further input and approval.

The Council expressed grateful thanks to Beryl and John for their continued advice on planning matters affecting the village.

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

166. To note the Clerk's Report (verbal)

A date of Saturday 11th May was agreed for the 2024 Annual Community Meeting.

167. To note the Estate Manager's report

The Estate Manager's report was noted.

The possibility of introducing allotment deposits for new plot holders was discussed, to avoid having to pay for significantly overgrown allotment plots to be cleared in the future. Several councils in our area have deposit policies. It is hoped that recent clearances will be a one-off, to tackle historically neglected plots. Differing views were expressed and Councillors will decide what to do at the next meeting. The Estate Manager was able to introduce a programme of twice annual allotment inspections in 2023 which should help considerably.

168. To receive update from the Transport Leads (Cllr Worley and Cllr Collins)

Cllr Collins reported that the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) parking consultation has now been completed, and the proposed changes for Cholsey were approved by OCC's Transport Committee.

The changes to line marking will be implemented within the next few months, and it is proposed that the situation be monitored to see how they impact the village. The OCC officer working on the parking review has offered to help develop a survey to gain feedback from residents on how they are finding the changes.

169. Finance

a. To agree amendments to the Financial Regulations as recommended by the internal auditor

It was unanimously **resolved** to make the recommended amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations.

b. To approve payments made and note payments received

The payments were approved.

170. To agree responses to planning applications as at 25th January 2024

P24/S0148/HH	Side extension and porch Meadow Farm, Reading Road It was resolved to make no comment.
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171. To note planning decisions as at 25th January 2024

P23/S2710/HH	Single storey side extension 29 Honey Lane Granted by SODC
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172. Items for information or inclusion on future agenda

Fix My Street feedback

Leases/fees – Bluebirds, Cholsey United, Tennis club

Emergency plan

Next meeting on 21st February, 7.15pm, The Pavilion