

# CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.15pm at The Great Hall, Cholsey Meadows**

**Present were** Cllr V. Bolt, Cllr J. Finch, Cllr G. Herbert, Cllr J. Hope-Smith, Cllr L. Nixon (Chair), Cllr M. Smith

**Also present were** C. Bird (Clerk), V. Beardall-Richards (Environment Coordinator), one member of public

Start time: 7.15pm

End time: 9.10pm

### **187. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr D. Bamford, Cllr J. Collins, Cllr P. Jenkins and Cllr K. Ofield.

### **188. To receive Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items**

There were none.

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

There were none.

### **190. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February and they were signed by Cllr Nixon.

### **191. To receive any reports from County and/or District Councillor**

There were none.

### **192. To note the Clerk's Update, in particular:**

#### **a. To approve and adopt the following draft policies:**

##### **i. Biodiversity policy**

The new Biodiversity policy was approved and the Clerk will publish this on the Council web site. The logistics involved in carrying out a biodiversity audit of Council managed land will be explored further. It is hoped that the community might help in this. The next step required by the Biodiversity Duty (*Environment Act 2021*) is to develop a biodiversity action plan of specific objectives.

##### **ii. Health and Safety policy**

Cllr Nixon asked that the Reporting of Accidents section be revised to make sure the scope is clear. The Clerk will bring a revised version to the next meeting.

#### **b. To discuss and approve request received to hold a Family Fun day on the Recreation Ground on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

Cllr Bolt has been informed that the proposed event has been postponed for now.

#### **c. Annual Community Meeting planning update**

Plans are underway for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk is contacting community groups to invite them to participate and will advertise the date via posters, social media, web site. Councillors were reminded of the date for their diaries and a small Council working party will be formed to organise the event.

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## **d. To approve full Council meeting dates for the remainder of 2024**

The following full Council meeting dates were confirmed:

Wednesday 17th April 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

Wednesday 8th May 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

Wednesday 5th June 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

Wednesday 26th June 2024, 7.15pm, The Great Hall

Wednesday 17th July 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

Wednesday 18th September 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

Wednesday 16th October 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

Wednesday 20th November 2024, 7.15pm, The Great Hall? (tbc)

Wednesday 18th December 2024, 7.15pm, The Pavilion

## **193. To note the Environment Coordinator's Update (verbal)**

The Environment Coordinator updated the Council on CHEC volunteer group activities (Energy, Food and Growing, Transport, Waste Not Want Not and Wildlife). Events such as the Swap Shop and community litter picking are well organised and attended. The Wildlife Group continues to be very active; an article written by a local ecologist will appear in the next issue of The Forty with news on the Forty wildflower meadow project. Trees have been planted on the Recreation Ground in collaboration with the Treehouse School and the Green Gym as part of a Trees not Tees initiative. A project proposal for funding under the 'Mend the Gap' initiative is underway and will come to Council for approval when ready. The Transport CHEC group is now a Working Group of the Council helping to deliver transport plan objectives. A first meeting of a Growing Better Together initiative recently took place, bringing interested people together in Cholsey to begin sharing ideas/support. The Energy group needs more volunteers and ideally another Councillor involved to help identify aims and take projects such as Draughtbusters forward.

The Council expressed interest in visits suggested by the Environment Coordinator from a Community Speedwatch officer and the Oxfordshire County Council EV Charging project manager.

A bicycle-powered smoothie maker for use at e.g. the Green Fair will be purchased (rather than continuing to hire) with support of Cholsey's Tomorrow and some funds from the CHEC budget.

The Council expressed appreciation of the Environment Coordinator's work and noted the importance of the role in furthering the new Strategic Plan.

## **194. To receive update on developing a Community Emergency Plan (Cllrs Herbert and Smith)**

Cllrs Smith and Herbert have begun work on a Community Emergency Plan and hope to have this completed and approved by Council by June.

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### **195. To receive update from the Transport Lead (Cllr Collins), in particular:**

Councillor Collins reported that despite continued follow up there is no further progress on the A329 crossing proposal. Problems with the zebra crossing lights on Wallingford Road are being followed up with Bellway Homes by Oxfordshire County Council. The status of unadopted roads queried by Cllr Bamford have been clarified. The Clerk will email Councillors asking for another member to join the Transport Working Group.

#### **a. To agree the formation of a Cholsey Station Working Group**

It was resolved to form a Cholsey Station Working Group, coordinated by Cllr Collins, to include nominated Council members and other interested Cholsey residents. Cllr Nixon will write to Wallingford Town Council and Benson and Moulsoford Parish Councils about the initiative. Cllr Collins has written to David Johnston MP.

### **196. To receive update from the Staffing Committee (Cllr Finch)**

Cllr Finch updated Council following the 28<sup>th</sup> February Staffing Committee. Draft Minutes of the meeting are available on the Council website.

### **197. Finance**

#### **a. To discuss and agree upon S137 grant request for Cholsey Village CIC (contribution to employment of Children's Centre staff and Mental Health Support Worker)**

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the S137 grant request to Cholsey Village CIC, of £20,000 for 2024/2025, to support the continued operation of the Happy Hub and Mental Health Support drop-in, which are no longer services of the Parish Council.

#### **b. To approve payments made and note payments received**

The payments were approved and signed by Cllr Finch and Cllr Herbert.

### **198. To agree responses to planning applications as at 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

P24/S0610/HH	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension 5 Cross Road  It was <b>resolved</b> to comment that in line with CNP H7, confirmation is required that sufficient parking will be available with an increase in number of bedrooms.
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### **199. To note planning decisions as at 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

P24/S0148/HH	Side extension and porch Meadow Farm, Reading Road <b>Granted by SODC</b>
P23/S2272/HH	Dropped kerb access to property 25 Crescent Way <b>Granted by SODC</b>

### **200. Items for information or inclusion on future agenda**

Concerns re. bollards, tree planting, and landscaping on Bellway Homes East End estate:  
Cllr Smith is in touch with the Construction Manager and landowners to resolve these issues.  
Emergency Plan  
Office revamp  
Health and Safety policy  
Annual Community meeting  
Station Working Group  
Estate Manager's update  
Councillor co-option