

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT – Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 January 2024; 18:30, Chilbolton Village hall

Present: Cllrs David Griffiths (Vice-Chairman) (DG), Geoff Cockram (GC), David Hall (DH), Julian Hudson (JH), Sue Larcombe (SL), George Marits (GM), Mandy Denyer (Clerk) (MD), HCC/TVBC Cllr David Drew (DD)
Members of public: Four (inc. Rick Nightingale (RN))

1. Apologies: Cllrs Tony Ewer (Chairman) (TE), Rick Franke (RF)

In the absence of TE, DG chaired the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest: DG and JH signed the request for dispensation. There were no other declarations of interest.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2023: These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising:

COSC

Warden arrangements for Common - DG to draft article for Parish Magazine asking for volunteers. (To date one volunteer has made contact with the Clerk) – Cllrs agreed to the scheme and to NH re-drafting an article for the parish magazine. DG advised that 90% of visitors to the Common are respectful of the conservation area. The 10% that don't are likely to be defensive and possibly abusive. He is therefore reluctant to ask volunteers to approach these people. **Action: CLOSED**

Tree survey –

To obtain quotes to deal with larger trees **Action: COSC/PROGRESSING**
COSC to produce a full report of any actions to be taken and any reasons for not taking action. **Action: COSC**
DG has asked Rick Nightingale to look into this matter (RN has been sent all the Bawden tree survey information)

DG and GC to meet and discuss where WMPF boundary posts need to be installed **Action: Complete**

A member of the public made a call to the police at the weekend to report antisocial behaviour, only to be told that the Andover Police Station is closed at weekend. DD advised contacting Police Commissioner Donna Jones and Caroline Nokes MP. TE has contacted Donna Jones but has had no acknowledgement. **Action: TE**

TE to talk to DVLA to see if car owner details can be given to CPC of those vehicles that park inappropriately so that CPC may write to the owners warning that if they are caught parking inconsiderately again they may be fined. **Action: TE**

There is a dead ash trees that have fallen on the Common boundary fence. TE to ask Freelands if they can remove these trees. DG to check with RN this week. **Action: DG/Ongoing**

RPA grants - TE has asked K Bradley if she is able look into the RPA grants. As yet Clerk unaware of KB decision **Action: TE**

COSC Budget: TE suggested that one way that might reduce the cost for the tree survey work to be completed is to ask any log/wood merchants if they would do the work at a reduced cost if they can keep the wood. TE and GM to ask their suppliers. COSC to investigate too. RN advised that this idea probably would not be viable to wood merchants because of easier wood being available elsewhere. **Action: CLOSED**

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Planning/SL and TE –

Request for TPOs to be placed on trees at Winston, Village Street not granted – Response from TVBC ([6223 2](#)).
CPC to challenge this decision. SL email to TVBC ([6323 11](#)). SL to chase.

Action: SL/Ongoing

TE and SL to introduce CPC to the residents of Valley Field Park in early spring 2024.

Action: TE/SL

Highways/ GC–

GM informed that the HCC are giving away speed signs. GC to investigate. This applied to East Hampshire. But GC to investigate if any are left that may be available for Chilbolton. No response as yet.

Action: GC

First Aid course: To date only 11 residents have registered an interest in attending a full first aid training course. The quote received from St John Ambulance was based on 20+ attendees. After discussion, Cllrs agreed to arrange refresher first aid courses instead. MD to contact R Mawer. MD to check with insurers that R Mawer will be covered by CPC Public Liability insurance. As Rick Mawer is a registered paramedic and Member of the College of Paramedics he is covered for this type of private work and therefore no need for CPC insurance. **Action: Complete**

Community Fundraising: DH to ask F and/or H Barrie if they will look at the solar farm Draft Community Benefit Fund agreement. **Action: Complete**

5. To take questions and to discuss and decide on any proposals within the monthly reports as follows:

A. Finance report: Prior to the meeting MD circulated the attached report ([8124 18](#)).

DH checked, agreed and signed the bank reconciliation check.

i. Approval of accounts for payment: A Denyer salary, expenses and reimbursement of £629.09; £600 annual village hall grant and £150.42 A Bond (Coronation green bench work) were approved.

ii. To discuss and decide on draft 24/25 budget: MD circulated the draft 24/25 budget within the finance report. After discussion, Cllrs agreed to the draft budget. A caveat was put on the annual village hall grant in that CPC would review this again at the time of the Village Halls request for the grant.

iii. To discuss and decide on the 24/25 Precept application: Cllrs discussed the reasoning's for the proposed increase in the precept. One of those reasons being that volunteers have kept costs down in the past. Now there are fewer volunteers and those that remain are ailing and ageing and unable to do as much as in the past. Therefore contractors will need to be employed to carry out these tasks instead. There is also a lot of tree work that needs to be carried out that volunteers are unable to do and a contractor will need to be employed to carry out a vast majority of this, which will not be cheap. It was noted that the increased precept will bring Chilbolton in line with neighbouring village's precepts.

Cllrs agreed to round up the proposed precept to £29800. MD to submit to TVBC.

Action: MD

B. Flood Advisory Group: Prior to the meeting GM circulated the attached report ([8124 11](#)).

GM reported that prior to the recent downpours the Environment Agency had issued a statement that ground water levels are up from above normal to exceptionally high and mean river flows are exceptionally high for the River Test. There has been a 25-60% above average rainfall.

Chilbolton ground water dip for Feb/Mach 2014 (the last time of flooding) was 5.8, it is now at 6.3.

GM is still waiting for a response from HCC Highways to his request to jet the culvert by the Abbots Mitre which was submitted in Oct '23. He has now registered this problem as a flood but still no response.

GM and RN will try rodding the culvert again with longer rods and will speak to the owners of Abbots Rest about removing any blockages they find on their land.

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GM asked the members of the public present to write to the Southern Waters CEO and Director of Customer Services (and a copy to Caroline Nokes MP) outlining the problems that they are having.

The Joys Lane ditch that runs in front of the Old Inn was then discussed as the Old Cottage is now flooding. After discussion, it was agreed that RN will investigate what work can be carried out immediately on the ditch to help with drawing the water into the river. He will report to CPC as quickly as possible. It was agreed that action should be taken as soon as possible.

It was also noted that the work done on the river by Wessex River Trust (WRT) may have had an unexpected consequence and they should be contacted for advice or help in addressing this matter. COSC to contact WRT. **Action: COSC**

Later in the meeting DD suggested that HCC Highways should be contacted late summer to request jetting of culverts etc.

C. Highways: GC had nothing to report.

D. Open Spaces Committee (COSC):

i. COSC draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 December '23 ([8124_12](#)). DG, on behalf of COSC and CPC, thanked RN for undertaking work, such as clearing fallen trees, at short notice.

Little progress has been made on WD due to weather on working party days. DG proposed that volunteers should work on the slope of the enclosed area down to Coley Lane and that Rob West (Vesper) should be employed to clear the open area at the top of the slope. Cllrs agreed and set a limit of £1700 for these works (i.e 1 weeks work for 2 men using brushcutters). **Action: DG**

The Adventure Tower has been a big success with youngsters.

ii. Fishing Rights Update: Awaiting response from CPC solicitors re Church Commissioners comments on latest draft agreement.

iii. To discuss and decide on Agreement for Common residents parking: DG to draft an agreement that will include a plan of the parking area. **Action: DG**

iv. To discuss and decide on enclosing the WMPF to be able to apply for an 'Enclosed Sports Area' under the TVBC Public Spaces Protection Order: DG to meet with Rod Mason of TVBC on Thursday 11th to discuss and will report to COSC that evening.

DD arrived at the meeting.

E. Planning Committee: Prior to the meeting SL circulated the attached report ([8124_10](#)) and minutes of the meeting held on 18 December '23 ([8124_10b](#)). Two meetings have been set up, 1st with the owners of the land adj. to Copyhold and the 2nd with Geoff Cooper (TVBC ward Cllr for North Baddesley) to discuss Test Valley Farm.

F. Village Hall: Prior to the meeting GC circulated the attached report ([8124_13](#)).

G. Community Fundraising update to include update on Solar Farm: Prior to the meeting DH circulated the attached report ([8124_14](#)). DH informed that there are 114 documents on the TVBC website for the

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Wherwell Solar Farm application, the majority of which are objections. The draft agreement is being looked at by F Barrie from a legal perspective.

- H. Strategy Working Group update: No report prior to the meeting and with the absence of TE there was nothing reported at the meeting.
6. HCC and TVBC Cllr reports:
Prior to the meeting DD circulated the HCC report ([8124 19](#)) and reported the following for TVBC: -
Fly tipping – Mr Albert Bower was fined £875 for failing to pay a littering fine.
Free Start Your Own Business Guide for Test Valley Businesses, information can be found [here](#).
TVBC have secured £0.5M from Rural England Prosperity Fund. More information can be found [here](#).
Hampshire hospital update – Winchester A&E will remain open to accidents and Emergencies but major traumas will go to the new hospital (if built). Maternity at Winchester will be midwife led. Elected caesareans will be at the new hospital (if built). It is hoped that more medical expertise (such as that provided by Hampshire Air Ambulance) will be sent out to the patient in emergencies and more Critical Care Paramedics are needed.
7. Policy Reviews: -
a) [Business Continuity Plan](#): No amendments were required.
b) [Safeguarding Policy](#): No amendments were required.
8. To agree May '24 CPC and Planning meeting Date: The village Hall is not available on Tuesday 7th May. Cllrs agreed to hold Planning meeting on Wednesday 8th May and CPC meeting on Monday 13 May.
9. Correspondence:
4/12/23 - LCPD Autumn Winter Newsletter ([8124 1](#))
4/12/23 - S Walsh email re Common residents parking ([8124 2](#)) for discussion under item 5Diii
5/12/23 - Press release - The IncuHive Group Awarded Contract to Propel Test Valley's Net Zero Business Transition ([8124 3](#))
7/12/23 - SSEN Support ([8124 4](#))
8/12/23 - Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan consultation coming soon ([8124 5](#))
8/12/23 - Wherwell Primary School Christmas card ([8124 6](#))
18/12/23 - Dragonfly Power "Leaky Homes" roadshow ([8124 9](#))
02/01/2024 - TVBC Precept requirement ([8124 15](#))
02/01/2024 - Resident email re Southern Water and Drainage issues in Chilbolton ([8124 17](#))
10. Questions from public: RN asked about the status of discussions on speed signage coming into the village, such as speed indicator devices and road markings (i.e painting 20 on the road). After a brief discussion, it was agreed to put this on the next agenda.
11. Any Other Business: NONE
12. Items for next agenda: Village speed signage
13. Date of the next scheduled meeting: Monday 5 February '24; 18:30, Chilbolton Village Hall. All monthly reports are due by 12:00 Monday 29 January '24.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 20:40.

Agreed and Signed (Chairman)