

CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT – Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5 February 2024; 18:30, Chilbolton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Tony Ewer (Chairman) (TE), 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: six

1. Apologies: Cllr Rick Franke (RF)
2. Declarations of Interest: NONE
3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 January '24 – These were agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising:

COSC –

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. The Deputy Superintendent contacted TE and basically said there is no budget for this. **Action: Closed**

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. DVLA told TE that this was not possible and should send any evidence to TVBC and/or HCC. **Action: Closed**

There is a dead ash tree that have fallen on the Common boundary fence. RN to remove tree from fence when ground conditions permit. **Action: Ongoing**

RPA grants - TE has asked K Bradley if she is able look into the RPA grants. KB unable to assist at this time. **Action: Complete**

JH has agreed to take the lead on this matter, with assistance from MG and DG.

Flooding on Common – COSC to contact Wessex River Trust. [See correspondence](#). **Action: Complete**

DG to arrange with Vesper Conservation to carry out works to clear the open area at the top of the slope on WD. Cllrs agreed and set a limit of £1700 for these works (i.e 1 weeks work for 2 men using brushcutters). **Action: DG**

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 forward communications to DD, who will look into the matter. **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. See [Highways report](#). **Action: Complete**

First Aid course – Still no response from R Mawer. **Action: MD**

Finance –

2024/25 precept application – MD has sent the application to TVBC. **Action: Complete**

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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 ([2524 21](#)).
GM checked, agreed and signed the bank reconciliation check.
- i. Approval of accounts for payment: MD salary, Exps and reimbursement £573.27, Business Stream £37.69, DG reimbursement for fuel £45.98 and Abbots Ann Pest Control (WMPF mole catching) £205 were approved.
- ii. SSE contract renewal ([2524 20](#)) and DD approval: After discussion the SSE renewal and setting up of variable DD were agreed and signed by TE and MD.
- B. Flood Advisory Group:
- i. Monthly report: Prior to the meeting GM circulated the attached report ([2524 11](#)). GM reported that the river is slowly going down and ground water levels are down to 6.3.
Thanks was given to GM and R Nightingale in tackling blockages to keep water flowing.
TE added that CPC Planning Committee always highlight infrastructure issues to TVBC when commenting on planning applications. However, TVBC Planners only look into planning matters not infrastructure, unless it is a massive build.
- ii. Minutes of the meeting held on 29/8/23 ([2524 11b](#)).
- iii. Sothern Water IRP and generic IRP appendix ([2524 10b](#) and [10c](#) respectively).
- iv. Proposed draft letter to Southern Water CEO ([2524 11a](#)). After minor amendment, Cllrs agreed to sending the letter via the Clerk (cc'd to Cllr Drew and Caroline Nokes MP). **Action: MD**
- v. To discuss Southern Water (SW) overpumping on the Common: TE confirmed that CPC have objected to overpumping but Southern Water have the Environment Agency authorisation and CPC have no power to stop this from happening.
TE to write article in next parish magazine stating CPC position on the matter and request that everyone writes to the Southern Water CEO. **Action: TE**
DD suggested that CPC join the Pan Parish Forum set up to cover the area from Kimpton to Abbots Ann, as many of the issues will be the same. DD also mentioned that when water firms were privatised they were told to keep bills low. But that meant there was no investment in infrastructure. DD has asked SW to make a 'statement of fact' on planning applications with regards to the capacity of their drinking water and sewerage works.
- vi. To discuss and decide on whether to join the Houghton River Pollution working group ([2524 15](#)): This was already agreed at a November 2023 CPC meeting.
- C. Highways: Prior to the meeting GC circulated the attached report ([2524 17](#)). DD suggested that CPC join with another parish council to jointly purchase speed watch or speed display signs and apply for a HCC Cllr grant as soon as possible. GC to investigate costs and funding for a minimum of one sign. **Action: GC**
- i. To discuss speed and village gateway signage: After discussion, GC is to further investigate designs and costings for gateways and road markings. Any gateway or road markings must be approved by HCC highways. **Action: GC**
- D. Open Spaces Committee (COSC):
- i. COSC meeting minutes: Prior to the meeting DG circulated the DRAFT minutes of the meeting held on 11/1/24 ([2425 7](#)).
Tree works: DG proposed that Cllrs accept the estimate supplied by R Nightingale to undertake various tree works raised by the Bawden 2022 parish tree survey ([2524 7a](#)). It was agreed that certain works within the Bawden survey need not be undertaken as there is no risk to the public. After discussion, the estimates were accepted by Cllrs.

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DG updated Cllrs that, although the Mark Way is passable, the village end needs to be cut back further. Although this is the responsibility of HCC, Cllrs agreed that DG ask R Nightingale to quote for this. **Action: DG**

GM informed that the sleeper bridge on the Common will need repairing. DG to ask A Bond and R Nightingale to come up with a plan and quote for this project. **Action: DG**

- ii. Fishing Rights update: After discussion, the Deed of Grant of rights of access and ancillary fishing rights affecting land at Chilbolton Cow Common and Fishing rights easement plan were approved ([2524 26](#) and [26a](#) respectively). To be signed by MD as Proper Officer of the Parish Council. **Action: MD**
- iii. To discuss and decide on Agreement for Common residents parking: Due to a technical issue DG was unable to circulate the amended agreement. DG to circulate for Cllrs approval prior to MD sending to the three properties on the Common. **Action: DG & MD**
- 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 confirmed that WMPF will be eligible if enclosed. After discussion, Cllrs agreed in principal to the fencing off of the play area and the Test Way. DG to investigate costs and to prepare a diagram for Cllrs to discuss at the next meeting. **Action: DG**
- v. To discuss and decide on the Stop Chilbolton Overdevelopment groups (SCO) concerns re Status of Improvised Track from West Down (WD) concrete road to Test Valley Farm (TVF) ([2524 22](#)): DG informed that HCC were informed of the intention to clear access to a gate way to TVF to allow temporary access to TVF during a particularly dry summer so the cattle could graze there without having to be TB tested. However there was no response from HCC. TE believes that CPC has no power to permit permanent access to TVF from WD. After discussion, it was agreed that DG will write to HCC (Mr M Hardy) and inform him that CPC intend to close the temporary access from WD to TVF. A courtesy letter will also be sent to the grazier. **Action: DG**
- COSC to investigate if the loose sewage cover in this area can be secured. **Action: COSC**
- vi. Common car parking signs update: SL enquired as to when these new signs (along Coley Lane) will be installed. DG agreed to get these installed prior to Easter. **Action: DG**
- vii. Adventure Tower update and decision on final payment: The WMPF Development Group were unable to circulate an update report to Cllrs due to the late meeting with Caledonia Play on site on Friday 2 February. They will report to COSC on Thursday 8 February. Cllrs agreed that they would be content to except the recommendation of COSC regarding final payment to Caledonia Play.
- E. Planning Committee: Prior to the meeting SL circulated the attached report ([2524 4](#)) and minutes of the meetings held on 8/1/24 and 22/1/24 ([2524 4a](#) and [4b](#) respectively). SL added that the TVF appeal re 7 houses has been dismissed. SL has been informed that the TVF application for 4 houses will go to the Northern Area Planning Committee at some point in the future.
- F. Village Hall: Prior to the meeting GC circulated the attached report ([2425 18](#)). TE added that there were 24 attendees to the warm hub today.
- G. Community Fundraising update:
 - i. Update on Solar Farm: Prior to the meeting DH circulated the attached report ([2524 23](#)). DH reported that the Civil Aviation Authority had no objections to the application.

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Cllrs agreed that DH should contact REPD and inform them of ‘the areas of discussion’ regarding the draft agreement which will include, but not limited to, the following: -

- The non-disclosure clause
- Definition of commercial operation
- Control of funds
- Directors
- Payment amount to be a set amount and not pro rate of size of build or output.
- Transfer of Wherwell Solar Farm ownership
- Trigger to commence and cease payments.

Action: DH

- ii. Open Garden event update: A provisional date of Sunday 30 June 2024 was agreed. MD to contact local parish clerks to check for any conflicting village events. **Action: MD**

H. Strategy Working Group (SWG) update:

Prior to the meeting TE requested the following be considered by Cllrs: -

‘Request for a referendum on Test valley Farm

Dear Councillors and other concerned residents,

I request PC for permission to carry out a referendum prior to responding to the section in the draft 2040 Local Plan relating to our settlement boundary.

This will be part of the Strategy agenda item.

Attached is a draft of the [referendum that we would like to circulate to all residents](#) of the parish,

a summary of the [proposed response to the Reg 18 stage 2 draft](#) of the 2040 Local Plan assuming that the referendum supports the proposal,

and the [summary submission made in response to the Reg 18 Stage 1](#) submission on 7/4/2022.’

After discussion, Cllrs agreed to the proposal of a Settlement Boundary referendum.

TE informed that a Housing needs survey will delivered in March which will be funded and analysed by TVBC.

The SWG will produce and circulate a questionnaire to update village aspirations.

6. HCC and TVBC Cllr reports:

Prior to the meeting DD circulated the attached HCC report ([2524 25](#)) and Highways information ([2524 25a](#)).

TVBC report as follows –

Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 2 Public Consultation public exhibitions to be held at Picket Twenty Sports Ground on Monday 26 February (3.00pm to 7.00pm) and The Guildhall, Andover on Tuesday 12 March (3.00pm to 7.00pm). Other dates and venues are available (see the attached [2524 27](#)).

The next Village Shops network (organised by TVBC’s Economic Development Office Jackie Hewson, will be held on 27 February.

DD suggested advertising village events on the TVBC website - www.testvalley.gov.uk/Events/IndexTestValley

DD reported another successful prosecution for fly tipping.

GC asked DD if he know anything of Stage Coach appraisal of bus route 15? DD didn’t know, but pointed out that bus services are not a statutory service that HCC has to provide and suggested GC contact Stage Coach directly.

TE asked if there will be a delay in the roll out of new bins now that the government has changed its proposal. DD said that yes, there will be a delay. When TVBC have a plan they will inform households.

TE asked who should be contacted about litter on highways (especially the A303 and A34). DD said that Highways England should to be contacted regarding this matter.

7. Policy Review – Delegation Scheme ([2524 13](#)): the Community Fundraising Group TOR needs to be removed. No other amendments were required. **Action: MD**

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8. Correspondence:

9/1/24 -HCC Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update - Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Consultation 9 January 2024 to 5 March 2024 ([2524 1](#))

9/1/24 - Test Valley Draft Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 2 ([2524 2](#))

10/1/24 - Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation - Information for Parish Councils ([2524 3](#))

18/1/24 - HALC January '24 newsletter ([2524 6](#))

18/1/24 - Resident email re Whitelands Path and WD barrier ([2524 8](#)) – on COSC 8/2/24 agenda for discussion and decision

19/1/24 - Mike Blackmore, WRT, report re The Chilbolton carrier ([2524 9](#)) 22/1/24 further info from Mike re Water Situation Report for December, compiled by the area Environment Agency hydrology team ([2524 9a](#))

23/1/24 - Sothorn Water re Chilbolton Groundwater Management ([2524 10](#)) (Chilbolton IRP Sep '21 V2.2 EN approved overpumping plan ([2524 10b](#)) and generic appendix ([2524 10c](#)))

24/1/24 - HCC Local Nature Recovery Strategy workshop for Test Valley ([2524 12](#))

25/1/24 - Chilbolton resident email re Discharge of Untreated Sewage into the Test at Chilbolton Common ([2524 14](#))

26/1/24 - TVAPTC Update re Houghton River Pollution Working Group ([2524 15](#)) – to be discussed under item Bvi of the agenda

26/1/24 - Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Council meeting - Thursday 7 March - Longstock Village Hall ([2524 16](#))

27/1/24 - resident email re SW Chilbolton Groundwater Management ([2524 19](#))

2/2/24 - Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Council meeting - Thursday 7 March - Longstock Village Hall ([2524 24](#))

9. Questions from public: NONE

10. Any Other Business (for information only):

11. Items for the next agenda:

Enclosing the WMPF to be able to apply for an 'Enclosed Sports Area' under the TVBC Public Spaces Protection Order

12. Date of the next scheduled meeting: Monday 4 March 2024; 18:30, Chilbolton Village Hall.

All monthly reports are due by 12:00 Monday 26/2/24.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 20:55.

Agreed and Signed (Chairman)