

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TO BE HELD AT CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 13 MAY 20224  
COMMENCING AT 18:00  
**A G E N D A   P A C K****

1. Apologies
2. Election of Chairman and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the code of conduct
3. Election of Vice-Chairman and to receive the Vice-Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the code of conduct
4. To receive declarations of acceptance of office and written undertakings to observe the code of conduct from remaining councillors
5. Registration of Pecuniary Interest – To confirm no changes to RoPI form or complete a new form
6. To declare any Declarations of Interest for this meeting
7. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on [10 April 2024](#)
8. Appointment of Committees, Working Parties/Groups, their members and agree their Terms of Reference: -
  - a) [Planning Committee](#)
  - b) [Flood Advisory Group](#)
  - c) [Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee](#)
  - d) [War Memorial Playing Field Development Group](#)
  - e) [Chilbolton Strategy Group Working Party](#)
9. Appoint Lead Councillors/Representatives: -
  - a) Highways
  - b) Village Hall
  - c) Community Fundraising
10. To review the following policy documents: -
  - a) [Standing Orders](#)
  - b) [Code of Conduct](#)
11. [Annual Report Finance](#) (Mandy Denyer, Clerk/RFO) to include: -
  - a) Approval of the [Annual Governance Statement](#) and [Accounting Statements](#) for 2023/24
  - b) [Notice of the period for the exercise of Public Rights](#) – Monday 4 June to Friday 15 July 2024.
  - c) [Declaration of Conflict of Interests with BDO LLP](#)
  - d) [Monthly Finance report](#) – to inc. approval of accounts for payment
12. [Annual Flood Advisory Group Report](#) – Cllr Marits
13. [Annual Highways report](#) – Cllr Cockram
14. [Annual Open Spaces Committee Report](#) – Cllr Griffiths
15. [Annual Planning report](#) – Cllr Larcombe
16. [Annual Village Hall report](#) – Cllr Ewer
17. [Annual Community Fundraising report](#) – Cllr Hall
18. [Annual Strategy Work Group report](#) – Cllr Ewer  
[Annual Chairman report](#)
19. To discuss and decide on any urgent matters
20. [Correspondence](#)
21. Questions from public – (3 mins. per person)
22. Any other business – For information ONLY
23. Items for the next agenda
24. Date of the next meeting – Monday 3 June 2024; 18:30 at Chilbolton Village Hall

Mandy Denyer (Parish Clerk)  
Published 07/5/2024

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**11 Annual Finance report:**

The opening balance for all accounts was £57264.91. Of which the following was ringfenced - £17085.31 for Common, £10191.74 for West Down, £3777.08 for WMPF Capital, £3,225.35 for Batty (Common capital expenditure) and £21689.68 for Community Projects (allocated as follows: £15000 improvements to WMPF, £2519.55 WD tree planting, £45.13 village highways, £4125.00 Common information boards and signage).

**Receipts: -**

The Precept was £16805. An increase of £2305.00 compared to 2022/23.

Other receipts totalled £46631.25, of which

£133.13 Bank interest. £99.75 more than 2022/23.

£94.68 Wayleaves. (£24.68 more than budgeted). £25.60 more than 2022/23.

£269.55 Allotments. (£2.45 less than budgeted). £97.81 more than 2022/23.

£3838.25 Common RPA grants (£712.75 less than budgeted). £742.75 less than 2022/23.

£883.36 Other Common receipts such as contribution to track repairs. £374.80 more than 2022/23.

£3198.92 West Down RPA grants. (£47.92 more than budgeted). £70.76 less than 2022/23.

£3115.51 VAT reclaimed.

£275.00 WMPF Running Costs. (£425 less than budgeted). £85 more than 2022/23.

£15172.00 WMPF Capital. (£10828 less than budgeted). £12559.50 more than 2022/23.

£16381.65 Community Projects (CiL and Open Gardens event). £16046.65 more than 2022/23.

£500.00 TVBC Coronation Grant.

£2769.20 Part-funded Grants. £618.95 more than 2022/23.

**Expenditure: -**

Total expenditure was £87669.36, of which

£1865.00 Grants. (£465 more than budgeted). £665 more than 2022/23.

£2710.00 Part-Funded Grants. £559.75 more than 2022/23.

£25.00 S137 – Test Valley School.

£6855.99 Staff Costs. (£1002.39 more than budgeted). £1090.45 less than 2022/23.

£329.25 Village Hall Hire (£63.25 more than budgeted). £67 less than 2022/23.

£747.95 Insurance. (£4.05 less than budgeted). £32.05 more than 2022/23.

£200.72 Stationery. (£40.72 more than budgeted). £44.52 less than 2022/23.

£987.21 Admin – Audit costs, staff expenses, uncontested election fee, CLT fee and printing costs, Microsoft subscription, potage, mobile phone, ICO and website. (£38.21 more than budgeted). £105.24 less than 2022/23.

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£382.08	HALC Subscription. ( <i>£19.92 less than budgeted</i> ). £0.86 less than 2022/23.
£223.00	Defib costs.
£3336.76	WMPF running costs. ( <i>£1,251.77 less than budgeted</i> ). £294.40 more than 2022/23.
£15344.00	WMPF Capital - Part of the expenditure towards the Adventure Tower. ( <i>£10656 less than budgeted</i> ). £12746.13 more than 2022/23.
£2140.65	Village Greens inc. maintenance. ( <i>£610.75 more than budgeted</i> ). £1253.98 more than 2022/23.
£11795.19	Common. ( <i>£1923.39 more than budgeted</i> ). £4355.35 more than 2022/23.
£545.33	Footpaths. ( <i>£251 more than budgeted</i> ). £827.51 less than 2022/23.
£4486.71	West Down. ( <i>£396.72 less than budgeted</i> ). £1379.76 more than 2022/23.
£559.20	Coronation events.
£114.17	Machinery Costs (precept portion of machinery costs). ( <i>£34.17 more than budgeted</i> ). £580.21 less than 2022/23.
£25915.09	Community Projects – incs. Remainder of the Adventure Tower expenditure. ( <i>£4,225.41 more than budgeted</i> ). £16737.30 more than 2022/23.
£21.21	Green Canopy.
£9084.85	VAT.

The Closing balance of all accounts was £33031.80. Of which the following was ringfenced: -  
£10011.73 for Common, £8903.95 for West Down, £6980.56 for Community Projects, £3851.23 for WMPF Capital and £3284.33 Batty Account.

**Assets: -**

There was an increase in assets of £31,689.47 due to the following –

Removal of Slide, matting and tunnel	-£3170.50
Addition of: -	
Common information boards	£4,665.00
Common Parking signs	£194.97
Common and Test Way way markers	£425.00 and
Adventure Play Tower	£29,575.00

Total assets as at 31/3/24 £362,065.79.

**Hyperlinks to full breakdowns of**

[2022/23 Precept budget review](#)

[2022/23 Ringfenced budget review](#)

[2022/23 variances between 2022/23 and 2023/24](#)

[2022/23 Common and West Down variances between 2022/23 and 2023/24](#)

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**Annual Finance report continued:**

2023/24 Final accounts:

[Receipts and Batty and WMPF Capital Account,](#)

[1st Quarter payments,](#)

[2nd Quarter payments,](#)

[3rd Quarter payments](#) and

[4th quarter payments.](#)

[Receipts and Payments account](#)

[Year End Bank Reconciliation.](#)

The Receipts and Payment account and Year End Bank Reconciliation to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Approval of the [Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2023/24:](#)**

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24: -

Section 1 - The Annual Governance Statement:

[List of assertions for the completion of the AGAR.](#)

Cllrs need to satisfy themselves that the assertions are correct before approval of the Section 1 of the AGAR and signing by the Clerk/RFO and Chairman.

Section 2 – [Accounting Statements](#)

To be agreed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Notice of the period for the exercise of Public Rights – Tuesday 4 June to Monday 15 July 2024.

Declaration of Conflict of Interests with BDO LLP – All Cllrs need to confirm they have no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

**May '24 Monthly Finance report:**

**S106 Funds as at November '23** – (TVBC s106 [Explanation of categories](#)): -

Available ([spreadsheet](#)) -

Children's Play Space = £ 1771.90

Informal Recreation = £121.43

Formal Recreation = £ 4531.61

TOTAL available for CPC = £ 6424.94

Outstanding (to be paid prior to occupation) ([Spreadsheet](#)) -

Children's Play Space = £ 1220.10

Informal Recreation = £ 2628.99

Formal Recreation = £ 2865.53

TOTAL outstanding for CPC = £ 6714.62

NB from TVBC: The amounts shown on the outstanding list are not guaranteed payments; this is because of a variety of reasons such as the permission not being implemented or the amounts being superseded by a later application or agreement.

Unfortunately TVBC don't have the resource to investigate each contribution across the borough but if you as the Parish feel that the amounts shown on the outstanding list should have been paid please do let TVBC know and they can get it investigated.

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**Payments necessary since 10 April '24-**

Strictly Tables and Chairs (Village Hall Part-funded grant) - £1346.34 [approved by Cllrs 28/3/24]

St Mary the Less (Grant) - £600 [approved by DH, TE, GM and DG]

A Bond (Common £87.50 modify horse gate; £363.13 WD installation of fence and dragons teeth) - £450.63 [approved by JH, DG and TE]

ProMow Landscapes (Common tree works) - £520 [approved by TE, DG and GM]

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DD payments – SSE (Pavilion Electric) - £38.05

**May '24 (24/25 FY) payments for approval –**

A Denyer (Salary, Exps) – £693.59

Business Stream (WD water) - £88.61

**Current Account Receipts – Receipts since last report –**

Allotment rents- £130.60

VAT reclaim - £6612.37

TVBC 1<sup>st</sup> Precept instalment - £14900

**2024/25 Accounts to date -**

Current acc Receipts, Batty and WMPF acc's spreadsheet attached [here](#)

1st Quarters Payments spreadsheet attached [here](#)

Bank Reconciliation as at 06.05.24 attached [here](#)

**Budget review to date -**

2024/25 Precept budget review attached [here](#)

2024/25 Ringfenced budget review attached [here](#)

2024/25 Overall budget review summary and est. closing balance attached [here](#)

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**12 Flood Advisory Annual report for 2023/24:**

The principal role of the Flood Advisory Group is to ensure that the surface water dispersal system is fit for purpose. We do this by advising Hampshire County Council, Southern Water and the Parish Council when work needs doing. Complementing this, the Group also monitors adverse weather conditions to advise when flooding is likely.

The Group have continued with the work of advising HCC,CPC,SW and TVBC when work is required, to ensure that verges , ditches and drains are clear. The group has struggled to maintained good relations with all the major groups, who provide assistance to the village. This is due to the movement of staff within both Southern Water and Hampshire highways.

Members of the FAG have attended a number of events, to raise our profile with these groups, so that we can liaise more effectively with them in times of need.

This year we are still wating for Hampshire Highways to address the problem at Frog Lane, where we suspect that the main weir drain is partially blocked and needs work done to it. This means that water remains on the road for longer than is needed.

Southern Water have also undertaken a village wide survey to find out where ground water is getting into their waste water system. We are still hopeful that some work will be done on those laterals that are leaking, but have been told that we are not the priority for this work at present.

FAG Volunteers are constantly clearing out the sleeper bridge after a partial collapse caused by the builders working on one of the houses on the common. A repair to the bridge has been devised and is in progress with COSC, to approve the rebuild spending.

The Old Cottage on the common was flooded from Ground Water rising up through both the garden and kitchen flagstones. This was the only property that was affected as the other three properties, on the common, are on higher ground, though one garden has been affected slightly.

The whole of the common is saturated and in some cases ground water can be seen bubbling up.

The river has broken round the side of the Purleygig bridge and has backed up so it is flowing out of the small copse before the bridge. COSC are liasing with Hampshire Countryside , as well as Sparsholt college regarding this problem. This is all due to the amount of rainfall along with very high river and groundwater levels throughout the Test valley.

Tankering from the pump house has been constant since October 2023, with the number of tankers increasing when required. This has been a problem for those living near the pumphouse, but a quiet pump has now been installed to keep the noise volume as low as possible.

The Infiltration Reduction Plan was about to be put into effect. This plan was cancelled when a large group of people from various fishing groups, along with river keepers and other members of the public demonstrated against this action and complained to Southern Water, our MP and the local media. The Infiltration Reduction Plan removes excess water from the sewers and puts it through a series of filters before allowing it to flow into the Abbotts stream, and finally entering the river test. The plan removes the need for tankers to take the excess away.

Th flood advisory group has requested that the Parish Council send a second letter, to the CEO of Southern water and the director of customer services, as well as Caroline Nokes our MP, regarding these issues, as a resident discovered a reply from the Chair of Southern water from 1995, outlining exactly the same issues. This letter is requesting that promises made then are now overdue for actual implementation.

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Members of FAG have had to don waders and tackle various problems on the common, mainly clearing fence lines that have had detritus stopping the progress of water down the river. Also the removal of a tree from upstream of the Purylgig Bridge.

We are now waiting for a drier period so we can clear out a number of ditches and carry out repair work where required, but until we get this drier period, work with diggers et , will have to wait as the ground is too wet.

M.G.Marits

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**13 Highways Annual report for 2023/24:**

**Speed Mitigation Measures**

An investigation was carried out on the potential benefits of deploying Vehicle Activated Speed Signs and conveyed back to the Parish Council. Hampshire Highways Policy & Guidance for Temporary Speed Signing is extensive and after discussion the Parish Council agreed that the work involved with installing these signs far outweighs the benefit and to 'park' this idea for the time being.

The installation of Village Gateways and Road Markings as speed reduction measures were investigated and presented at the Annual Parish Assembly meeting in order to gauge the level of community support, which is required to gain a grant from the Community Asset Fund. Three potential locations would be Coley Lane at the Test Way/Coronation Green crossing to West Down, Martins Lane/Winchester Street near the allotments and Winchester Road coming from Wherwell. It was generally agreed that Village Gateways were attractive to advise traffic of moving from a rural environment into a settlement area but not necessarily effective as a speed reduction measure.

Other suggestions from the public at the Annual Parish Assembly were "sleeping policemen" and road narrowing (chicanes) in places through the village. These options will be reviewed with Hampshire Highways and an action plan will be reported back to the village.

**Pot Holes**

Routine reporting of pot holes to Hampshire Highways to inform action to repair. Responses have generally been slow due to the volume of this work in the county.

**Road Closures**

Monitoring of numerous road closures during the year required dialogue with Hampshire Highways when dates advised on roadside boards were erroneous or closures would present issues for traffic movement.

A road accident destroyed the barrier on the corner of Coley Lane and Romsey Road near the Mayfly road bridge. This caused damage to the perimeter wall and walls of an outbuilding in Councillor Franke's property. The barrier was finally repaired after five months.

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**14 Open Spaces Annual report for 2023/24:**

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE 2023-2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE LIST:

Common Educational visits – 7 visits claimed for 2023 (£1100 received Jan '24). Organised by Moya Grove.

Designing and implementing the reduction in size of Common gravel parking area together with new notices all intended to reduce the blocking of access to the dwellings on the Common.

Negotiating with Church Commissioners solicitors over Common fishing Rights – awaiting return of signed deed of grant

Acquiring and arranging the installation of Adventure Play Tower at the WMPF. Total cost inc. prep work and inspection £30344 – Received £15172 grant for TVBC, £15000 from Apple TV company: balance from previously raised funds – no precept funds were used.

Arranging creeping thistle clearance on the Common to be carried out by the Hampshire Conservation Volunteers. (HCV)

Designing, acquiring and installing information boards on the Common.(£4665 production cost)

Acquiring new horse gate free of charge from HCC. Arranging the installation near the Long Bridge. Arranging subsequent adjustment to the opening mechanism.

Dragons teeth installed along verge of Pond Green to prevent parking on the verge.

Considering what to do following further damage to basketball goals.

New hedging planted adjacent to fence along Test Way on WMPF

Green Canopy trees planted on WD

Common ladder boards rewored and reinstalled around conservation area

Tree works identified in the Bawden Tree Survey have been completed (with the exception of the branch above the container)

WMPF boundary with adjoining property has been clarified and marked

Clearing of Abbots Stream (HCV and one local family)

Repaired the gravel tracks on the Common

West Down ragwort pull (HCV) and volunteers

At COSC's request TVBC installed new bins on Common

WD (permissive) bridleway: more posts installed to improve way marking

Moya Grove interviewed by ITV as part of their segment called 'Spirit of Hampshire'. Filmed on the Common

Liaising with and receiving free advice from Savills of Winchester (via Future Farm Resilience Fund) to investigate new RPA scheme SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive)

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Joys Lane barrier onto Common was forced open. Measures taken to prevent this in future. This involved reinstalling the barrier.

Vesper used to cut inside WD enclosure. WD volunteers also did good clearance work to the west facing slope. Numbers of able bodied volunteers severely reduced by age, injury and ill health. Also, bad weather impeded progress. Hence professional assistance needed.

Finger way markers installed on Village Street indicating footpaths to Common

COSC investigating making the WMPF an 'Enclosed Sports Area 'to which the TVBC Public Spaces Protection Order would apply

Arranging the removal of a large tree that had fallen in the Purleygig Stream.

Obtaining a quote for the Sleeper Bridge on Common to be repaired/replaced

Investigating the possible extension of Purlygig Bridge. This involved contacting HCC and Wessex Rivers Trust.

Designing and obtaining a quote for the reconfiguration of Joys Lane horse gate onto Common. Grant for half the cost of the gate has been applied for.

Inspecting the fence around the enclosed area on WD. Subsequently obtaining quotes for making the fence stock proof.

Arranging the erection of a barrier between a gate to TV Farm and the concrete road.

I would like to thank the members of COSC and the WMPFDG for their hard work and enthusiasm. We could do with more members of COSC. We badly miss Glynne Evans who looked after West Down so well for years. We need to find someone to take over this task. I would also like to thank the West Down Volunteers. We badly need more able bodied, younger persons. My thanks also go to Ian Daubney for his work in maintaining our village greens and rights of way. Special thanks to Rick Nightingale for his invaluable assistance in carrying out the recommendations of the Bawden Survey and dealing with fallen trees (often FOC). A thank you to Ed Treadwell for his assistance in adjusting and maintaining the self closing gates and our machinery.

Finally, my thanks to Mandy without whose input this report would be far less comprehensive!

David Griffiths (Chairman of COSC)

1st May 2024

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**15 Planning Committee Annual Report – Cllr Larcombe**

In addition to the record of applications for the last year at present I can report the following

1. No movement on TVF. Appears to have stalled after Alfred Homes were advised by TV that in light of the robust refusal by the inspectorate on the previous application they would be advised to reconsider their later application for 4 houses.
2. No decision by the Inspectorate on appeal by Fenstanton to remove condition 15 of the planning consent.
3. Owners of Lynton Meadow site have not complied with enforcement order (March 21<sup>st</sup>) I have written to enforcement officer to query and also to case officer for definition of amenity/residential land as referred to in the certificate issued.
4. Chasing conservation officer and head of planning regarding alterations to frontage of Oakwood. No reply as yet.

[Planning applications list for 2023/24](#)

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**16 Annual Village Hall report for 2023/24:**

This report is an update on the activities of the Village Hall Management Committee over the year.

My first duty is to thank all the members of the Management Committee for their hard work and dedication through the year.

The Village Hall is a social centre of our village, popular for weddings, private parties and village celebrations. We are fortunate indeed to have one of the best halls in the area and a wonderful village asset that is enjoyed by many parishioners throughout the year.

**Administration**

Although year end accounts are not yet audited, the management accounts show an operating gain of £2,803. The bank balance at the year-end is £44,401 and this figure includes a ring-fenced amount of £2,574 that is being held for future amateur dramatics activities in Chilbolton.

The objective is to break-even whilst maintaining and improving the various services and facilities. The management committee aims to have over a year of expense “in the bank” to cover unforeseen circumstances and it can be reported that the bank balance is sufficient for the year ahead.

The annual return to the Charities Commission was submitted on 7<sup>th</sup> February as required by the Charities Commission.

The VH committee actively seeks grant funds to improve and finance the VH. We have been allocated funding from Cllr David Drew’s Test Valley Community Grant Scheme for the purchase of the first tranche of 40 replacement chairs and a promise of further funding from his 2024/25 Hampshire County Grant Scheme to help with purchase of the remaining 80 chairs.

**Fit for purpose and Village Emergency Centre**

Generally, the Hall is in good shape and meets a growing demand in our Village. The entrance hall, cloakrooms and Durnford Room have all been re-decorated.

The safety checks have been reviewed and updated where necessary, and regular checks are carried each month. The fire extinguishers, boiler and generator have all been serviced and emergency lighting replaced where required. Ian Walukiewicz has provided much valuable support on routine repairs to equipment – thank you Ian!

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The weekly 'Warm Hub' for parishioners recommenced in September and ran through to April. This provided a choice of soups and rolls followed by tea and biscuits on Mondays and was well supported with regular attendance of 20 – 25. We record our grateful thanks to Jane Brown and her many volunteers. 'Afternoon Tea' will run from April to the end of July, fortnightly on Thursdays and the Warm Hub will recommence in September.

The arrangements for the Warm Hub are a good starting point should the hall need to be activated as an emergency centre because there is an established core of supporters.

**Next actions by the VH committee**

During the forthcoming year the Village Hall Management committee propose to:-

- Investigate solar panels for electricity generation and possibly a pay as you go vehicle charging bay.
- Develop plans for additional storage facilities, seeking cost and grant funding.
- Investigate ways to re-configure 'Film Night' possibly through the purchase of our own equipment, advertising for a volunteer(s) to operate the equipment, applying for a Public Performance Licence and creating a 'Film Club'. Recent attendance levels have often not enabled us to break-even on cost and the current projectionist, who also provides the equipment, licence and films, has indicated he would like to scale back.

I would like to thank all our hard working and dedicated committee members and volunteers and the Parish Council, Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council for their grants and support. We thank them for many years' service on the Management Committee.

Kate Ballard our bookings secretary, who also keeps the building clean and tidy, has continued to make an extraordinary contribution and her enthusiasm has helped to bring in many hirers of the hall and thus kept the rental income at a good level. She has worked with Steven Cooper on providing a new web site and also has promoted the Hall on social media and through magazine advertising in the Test Valley Gazette and Chilbolton & Wherwell Magazine.

A sincere 'Thank You' also to Mike Croston who audited our accounts and to Liz Blakemore for financial control and to Beryl Lawrence who manages the film shows. Finally, a very special thank you to Wendy Fakes who maintains our agendas and minutes in a most professional way.

All these good people give of their time and skills to ensure that the village hall is and will continue to be such a wonderful asset for all in our village.

Geoff Cockram  
Chairman. 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

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**17 Community Fundraising annual report –**

The first **Chilbolton Open Gardens** event on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 was a great success, raising in excess of £2k before deduction of some modest costs. The monies raised were shared between the CPC Community Fund and Hampshire Air Ambulance. CPC approved the recommendation to make the Open Gardens an annual event and build on this encouraging start.

It has been agreed that the 2024 event will take place on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> with the ticket tent at the Abbot's Mitre. All monies raised will be held in the CPC Community Fund to which local charities can apply for grant funding at CPC's discretion.

A Planning application was submitted in September 2023 by REPD and Third Revolution Projects for the construction of **Wherwell Solar Farm** on the down between the A3057 and the B3420. This will have a significant impact on the landscape, visible from Chilbolton and both CPC and WPC submitted objections to the proposal. No decision has yet been made although documents relating to the application now number 126 with a number of landscaping mitigations proposed to the many objections received.

In the event that permission is granted, CPC have provided comments on a draft agreement received on November 30<sup>th</sup> relating to regular payments to the Community Benefit Fund. This confirms the proposed sum of £5k per annum (linked to RPI) for the operational life of the solar farm (25 years + 15 years). After this time the Solar Farm would be decommissioned and returned to usable farmland. Should a plan to develop the solar farm is approved then the Community Benefit Agreement would be finalised between CPC and Wherwell Solar Farm Limited.

David Hall

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**18 Annual report on the Strategic Working Group May 2024**

The Strategy Working Group is responsible for preparing proposals for the PC on the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan and establishing a Community Land Trust (CLT) to deliver 10 affordable and 10 downsize homes in the parish and to formulate a long term plan for Chilbolton that will be used to guide the Parish Council and its committees on the direction and strategy from 2030 to 2050.

The regular membership is 12 persons including 5 parish councillors and the committee met 6 times during the year with several ad hoc meetings as well.

I am very grateful for the dedication and hard work by members of the WG who during the year arranged for a housing need survey to be conducted and paid for by TVBC and prepared and carried out a survey of parish aspirations, and a referendum on removing part of Test Valley Farm (TVF) from the settlement boundary and prepared the PC response to Reg. 18 Consultation on draft 2040 Local Plan including a public meeting to present the proposals to the community. A special thank you to Carole Marits who did the analysis on the surveys.

The WG also met with Community land trusts at Anna Valley and Wickham to gain from their experience in setting up CLTs to deliver and manage housing, and is also preparing a proposal to set up a community land trust that will progress the 10 affordable homes and 10 downsize homes that have been agreed in our neighbourhood plan. The WG also met with TVBC planning to discuss the possible location of the 20 houses. TVBC advised us that we would be wise to update our housing need survey to confirm the housing need before proceeding further.

Reg. 18 Consultation on draft 2040 Local Plan

A new local plan (LP) which is now being prepared by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) was issued for consultation. The parish strategy working group (SWG) prepared on our response to this.

A public meeting was held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March to present and discuss the proposed Parish Council response to Local Plan 2040 Reg.18 Consultation was attended by some 50 residents.

The proposed response to Test valley was approved by those present and submitted to Test valley.

Housing Need and Parish Priority Surveys

Parishioners completed a housing need survey and a survey of parish priorities in March. The last surveys were some 5 years ago, and it was considered necessary to revalidate the earlier findings on housing need and priorities for improvements to the parish before moving ahead with the planned build of 10 affordable and 10 downsize homes. The draft report has been received from TVBC and appears to confirm the need for 20 homes but needs discussion.

Referendum on removal of part of Test valley farm (TVF) from the settlement boundary.

The Chilbolton settlement boundary (SB) was extended in the 2016-2029 TVBC Local Plan (LP) to include part of Test Valley Farm (TVF) after a poorly executed consultation process, as acknowledged by both our councils. The subsequent Chilbolton Neighbourhood Plan (NP) sought to over-ride the extension. In turn, TVBC officers insisted that the NP change was deleted in the final made NP on the grounds that the adopted LP could not be challenged due to statutory time limitations. The Parish Council (CPC) was told by TVBC officers that a change could only be made in the next LP.

Throughout the process the majority of Chilbolton residents have objected, and continue to do so, to the inclusion of any part of TVF within the SB.

The proposed settlement boundary methodology in the TVBC 2040 Draft Local plan includes removal from settlement boundaries of non-developed land that has a closer functional relationship with the adjoining countryside including open space, recreation grounds, allotments, school playing fields and farm complexes.

The PC decided that a referendum was required to confirm the view of residents and to be used as evidence for a formal request to TVBC to remove TVF from the settlement boundary in the 2040 Local Plan and the WG arranged this.

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There were 207 responses to the Referendum on removal of part of Test Valley Farm (TVF) from the settlement boundary and 93.2% supported removal of TVF from the settlement. The parish council will write a formal letter to TVBC with this request. A letter has been drafted for PC to send to TVBC.

Tony Ewer  
Chairman Strategic WG  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

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**Annual CPC meeting – Chairman’s report**

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year to May 2024.

First, I wish to record my personal thanks and those of the parish for all the work done by volunteers through the year, especially our councillors who willingly give so much of their time and the Planning, COSC, War memorial Playing Fields, Highways, Flood Advisory and Strategy committees and working groups and other volunteers and to Mandy Denyer our dedicated parish clerk.

The following sections briefly record the extensive work undertaken during the past year.

Coronation of King Charles III

We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III on the 6<sup>th</sup> May with TV coverage of the event in the village hall and a procession, led by a lady musician, of children, dogs, parents and others to the Abbots Mitre for a BBQ , tea and cakes. For many of us this was the first Coronation that we had ever experienced and a reminder of the continuing and unique history of our England / United Kingdom.

Threatened Pumping into the River Test

Everyone was very concerned about the excessive flow of water and effluent and the need for 24-hour removal by tankers. Southern Water could have legally started pumping directly into the river through filters when aquifer levels rose to the highest level recorded in October in terms of an agreement with the Environment Agency. Aquifer levels are now receding.

The Parish Council objected strongly at the contemplated discharge onto our SSSI Common and the unique River Test.

Regular contact with Southern Water by our Flood Advisory Committee avoided any pumping but when Southern Water delivered a large pump unit and pipes onto grindstone green the objections were also taken up by river keepers, owners of fishing rights and politicians with extensive media coverage.

The parish council has joined with other affected parishes and concerned organisations, land and fishing right owners to maintain pressure on Southern Water to stop all pumping of untreated sewerage into the river Test and to increase the capacity of pumping stations and sewerage treatment plants.

Southern Water have stated that *“We are not, and will not be, using the pipes set up to pump into the Test. At the moment tankers are taking excess flows away for normal treatment.”*

Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee

This hard working committee manages our land especially Chilbolton Cow Common , the War memorial playing field and West Down (leased) and looks after fallen trees, footpaths, Bridle ways, clearing overgrown areas and the river test and the bridges over it.

Chilbolton Cow Common continues to be our greatest asset and concern, and some people with disabilities have asked for more information about access and parking. The common is private land owned by the parish council but is also a registered common and an SSSI. It is, of course, open to all.

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On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July Andrew Pate of ITV Meridian filmed on Chilbolton Cow Common and made a TV feature that concentrated on the natural beauty, fauna and flora of our unique common and SSSI. Thank you to Moya Grove for acting as a guide for this important programme.

A number of trees have already been planted on West Down as part of the green canopy project and with more planned.

There were improvements to the Purleygig stream by the Wessex River Trust and the river is running much faster and becoming deeper as planned.

In view of the anticipated high volume of visitors over hot summer weekends the gates were closed by COSC to control unlimited vehicle access. Although there were many visitors to the common and many cars parked in Village Street in general behaviour was good and children had a great time splashing about near the bridge. Unfortunately some people are careless about the rules of the common and there have been tents erected and campfires lit, requests to stay out of the bird nesting area disregarded and ignoring of no parking signs.

The parish council has installed new gateways for equestrians adjacent the cattle grid and at the long bridge to improve safety and access for horses and riders and is investigating the extension of the Purlygig Bridge to make access easier for pedestrians when flooding occurs.

An adventure tower for the play area on the war Memorial playing field was installed with a grant from Test Valley. Thank you to the playing field team who managed this project from start to completion and successfully applied for a grant for 50% of the cost from Test Valley Borough Council.

Further, regarding Chilbolton Cow Common, the parish council has negotiated with the Church Commissioners England an agreement regarding fishing rights and this is now being finalised. The fishing rights are owned by the Church Commissioners and are leased to the Freelands estate.

#### Open gardens

A very successful open gardens event was held on Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. More than two hundred people attended and more than £2000 was raised for the Parish and Ambulance service. It is pleasing to report that the Open Gardens event made £1954 and that 50% was donated to the air ambulance. Thank you to the organisers and the residents who opened their gardens.

#### The smell problem from Tunnel Tech

The smell emanating from Tunnel Tech in Leckford, close by the telescope, that processes compost for mushroom cultivation continues to plague and annoy local people. Tunnel Tech has enclosed the conveyor system, which is the main source of the smell. A public meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September at the Village hall received presentations from the Tunnel Tech management on the modifications to overcome the smell.

The work on the TunnelTech plant is now completed and we hope that there will be a reduction in the smell emitted from the site. We continue to monitor the position.

#### Annual Precept (Money to run the parish)

At the parish council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January councillors unanimously agreed that the precept had to be increased to £29,800 for the 2024/25 year. This is a large increase on the 2023/24 precept of just over £18,000 but we cannot budget for a loss and even the new precept represents a charge of approximately £65 per annum on average for each property in the parish and in is line with neighbouring parishes. The main drivers of the necessary increase are the statutory increases of salary and levies and the ever-increasing costs of keeping the parish in a safe state. For example, we have to engage contractors to mow the playing field, clear ditches and fell or trim unsafe trees because our diminishing number of volunteers are not able to undertake these large works. The detailed budget is on the parish website and if this is studied it will be seen that there are no unnecessary expenses.



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Village Shop

Our village shop is struggling and could become financially unviable. A village needs a village shop, church and pub and without these most properties would be worth considerably less.

A number of local residents have joined an informal scheme to set up a standing order of £10 per month to support Nicky and the shop. Contributors will have a birthday cake baked for them as well as other benefits whilst helping to keep our shop viable. Please support our village shop and Nicky.

Finally I again thank all those who have worked so hard in the interests of our parish.

It has been an honour to contribute and serve our parish.

Tony Ewer  
Parish Council Chairman  
May 2024

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**20 Correspondence:**

10/4/24 – Letter sent to Station Rd property re Fly tipping on West Down – Response received 15/4/24

15 and 27/4/24 – Emails received from Mr A Gibson

16/4/24 - HALC newsletter ([51324 4](#))

17/4/24 - Thriving Communities - Rural Central Test Valley workshop ([51324 5](#))

19/4/24 - Transport for the South East and our Your Voices survey now live! ([51324 6](#))

23/4/24 - Rural Crime Prevention Booklets ([51324 7](#))

2/5/24 - Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils - Meeting 23 May 2024 - Planning Enforcement ([51324 12](#))

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