

**CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT - MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**MONDAY 25 APRIL 2022 18:00 – 20:00 at Chilbolton Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Tony Ewer (Chairman) (TE), David Griffiths (Vice-chairman) (DG), Geoff Cockram (GC), Rick Franke (RF), David Hall (DH), Sue Larcombe (SL), George Marits (GM), Mandy Denyer (Clerk) (MD)  
Members of public – Emma Noble (member of WMPF Development group and COSC) (EN), James Painter, Jill Carter (JC), Martin Larcombe, Mike Gillbert and 2 others.

Apologies: Cllr Kate Bradley

TE welcomed all to the meeting.

Powerpoint slides for the meeting are attached [here](#)

1. [Approval of 2021 Annual Parish Assembly minutes](#) – DG proposed and DH seconded the approval of the minutes, these were therefore agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
2. Introduction from Chilbolton Parish Council Chairman Cllr Ewer. Apologises on confusion on the starting time of meeting. This year we decided to have a meeting to discuss what things the Parish Council are thinking about and what residents are thinking about for the village.

TE handed the meeting over to DH.

3. Discussion on community and fundraising events.

DH went through the PowerPoint presentation

Community events – what kind of events would people in the village like to see?

Objectives for events – to contribute to the social calendar of the village. CPC doesn't create, lead or run a social calendar for the village. The Church Council don't either, but they do have events that would populate that calendar. But there are other events that go on run by local business and local groups etc. The idea is to work together as organisations that have an interest in Chilbolton to make sure those events are co-ordinated and that the village have a series of events to bring the community together.

Collaboration between these organisations is key.

Raising funds – We have been very fortunate that the programme of things that CPC have been investing in for the last 18 months or so has been heavily supported by a large contribution of £30,000 from a film production company that filmed at the Observatory. Using those funds CPC has been driving a certain number of projects within the village. That money will run out and we need to start to find new ways of contributing to these projects. CPC need to raise funds and attract investment from elsewhere without having to increase the precept/council tax.

Does anyone have any comments or any additional things that may have been missed in terms of objectives for village events?

RF – regarding the first objective, to contribute and collaborate to a thriving social calendar that brings our community together, that is a terrific statement but how do we get there?

DH - The approach we have taken so far, which started during lockdown, was to set up a Community Fundraising Group led by the Parish Council, which had events as a side bar of its

Agreed and Signed ..... (Chairman)

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Mandy Denyer (Clerk)

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remit, and one of the first things we did was to reach out to the Church Council because they are responsible for events such as the fete, auction of promises etc. Timing of village events will need to be on one agenda, so CPC and Church Council will need to collaborate so events don't clash. To date the Church Council have been great and totally involved.

Event Ideas -

What kind of things to people want?

Would we consider doing past events again?

In July 2020, we had organised a Big Village Party (BVP) as we came out of the Covid situation. However, by July 2020 we had nowhere near come out of Covid, and we decided to postpone as many people were not comfortable with attending such events. But this was not an event for fundraising but to bring the community together after Covid. It has now been decided that as the 2022 calendar of events is already full we would cancel the event. It may be that sometime in the future we could organise something along the same lines, with the major purpose being a social event rather than a fundraising event.

Chilfest is a slightly different proposition, this was a big event. A festival down at the playing fields with a combination of family events in the afternoon leading to music and food in the evening.

Octoberfest was held at the village hall. This wasn't really a family event as it was more of a beer festival.

These types of events are for raising funds, so we want to attract a lot of people, but where should we hold such an event in the future as there is some conflict with access to the Playing Fields and the interests of the Common?

Suggested events we could consider in the future -

A beer or real Ale festival may be held at the Playing Fields or Abbots Mitre.

Music, Entertainment and/or drama events with local groups performing.

The Andover Musical Theatre Company is keen for their touring cabaret group to do a performance at the Abbots Mitre. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the Parish Council to raise funds for the community.

Perhaps we could hold entertainment evenings at the Church as it is a good space to perform in.

Quiz nights.

Is there anything that has been mentioned that appeals to you? Or are there alternative suggestions you think we should consider?

DG – Chilfest has been done and maybe it is time to do something else.

GC – King Somborne regularly hold Folk evenings during the autumn/winter, the performers are paid and the evenings are well attended and very enjoyable. (CPC could reach out to the organisers for contacts for holding a similar event).

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DH – October through to March is a ‘dead zone’ for events (with the exception of Christmas events). Perhaps we could hold such events at different locations.

Jill Carter – there should be more events aimed for children

DH – Good point. The Chilfest and the cancelled BVP both had an emphasis on families earlier in the day and then progressing to a more adult event later in the day/evening. But yes we should definitely do more for children.

RF – how big do you want these events to be? Just people from Chilbolton or Chilbolton and Wherwell or from further afield?

DH – it would depend on the nature of the event. If the objective of the event is a social/local community event and not fundraising then it would be aimed at residents from Chilbolton. But if the aim is for fundraising, we would like to attract people from further afield.

By a show of hands who would support the following events -

Chilfest – 13

Big Village Party – All

Folk evening – 6

Real Ale/beer festival – 7

Are there any other ideas?

GC – Stockbridge have/had Trout ‘n’ About, perhaps something on a smaller scale to promote local business.

TE – Events for teenagers

GC – something to promote the Playing Field, perhaps ‘it’s a knockout’ type of event.

MD – Guy Fawkes competition for Chilbolton children followed by bonfire/firework evening at Playing Field.

GC – Invite Hawk Conservancy to an event to attract more attendance.

4. Discussion on improvements to village facilities

Planned projects, status of these projects and where do we go next?

WMPF play equipment – The table tennis table work is underway. This is being funded by existing CPC funds and a TVBC Community Asset grant has been applied for.

Next will be planned is the replacement of the mound and slide with a play tower.

The WMPF Development Group is looking into the priority of what’s next in the way of equipment. Some years ago, Chilbolton residents were asked what equipment they would like to see at the Playing Fields. From this a prioritised list was drawn up. The Development Group will check with residents if this is what they still want us to do.

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Mayfly footbridge – A footbridge to cross the River Test to the Mayfly to allow people safe passage to the pub rather than walking on the main road. Unfortunately, as the owners of the pub, Fullers Brewery, have not agreed to the scheme the project has faltered. It is hoped that at some stage Fullers Brewery may change their position and the project can go ahead.

Tree Planting – As you may have noticed a tree has been planted on Stocks Green. This is part of our contribution to the Queens Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy Initiative. There will be more information in the next parish magazine, including tree sponsorship and a Sponsorship lottery.

Common – Just as reminder, CPC are enhancing signage, installing a gate at the cattle grid (so that if the Common needs to be closed, we can do so without the awkward chain and padlocks).

Future plans for the redesign on the gravel area are subject to separate consultation to the village, and not for discussion this evening.

Street Furniture – Our funds are used to maintain things such as benches, telephone kiosks and various signage around the village etc., there is an ongoing programme to keep these things up to scratch.

Does anyone have any particular thoughts of things they think need repairing/replacing/improving around the assets of the village, or are you happy with how we are going? There were no comments.

DG mentioned the improvement to the permissive bridleway on West Down. Currently this is inadequately signposted. DG is currently involved in improving the signage for horse riders and cyclist linking the Test Way and the Mark Way, so they hopefully will avoid going into the protected area of West Down.

GC – the lower footpath (through the protected area) across West Down is very uneven, is there a way to make it more user friendly? DG – this is something that will be worth looking into and would need to be in conjunction with HCC.

TE – During the Neighbourhood Development Plan discussions some future plans were mentioned. It is possible that in 50 years' time or so the village could be 50% bigger and in which case the village will need to look into providing the following (in no order of priority): A medical centre, gym, a proper stage for the Village Hall, an office for the Parish Council, 10 affordable homes and 10 downsizing homes (CPC are currently looking into forming a Community Land Trust to drive this project), the junction of Martins Lane and Gravel Hill needs to be made safer, improvements to the parking area near the recycling centre, village entrance by recycling centre needs tidying up, and a dedicated team sport venue (football/cricket etc.) so access for larger number of users is better than that to the WMPF.

DH - is there anything that annoys people?

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RF – the 20 mph speed limit is not adhered to, especially by local business vans. I’m not suggesting speed cameras or speed humps and I’m not sure how to address this issue, but this is my biggest bug-bear.

GC - what are the next Playing Field developments planned?

EN – it is hoped to re-use that soil from the mound to make bumps for bikes and the Development Group are looking into the possibility of providing climbing nets and a trim trial.

Are there any other ideas?

GC – Tennis court.

EN – this was one of the suggestions that were made originally. The group had to weigh up how popular each suggestion was and its achievability. A Tennis court was one suggestion that was very popular but deemed expensive and unachievable. However, if in the long term, there is a separate sports venue a tennis court could be included.

DH thanked everyone for their thoughts and added that if they later think of anything else to please get in touch with any Cllr or the Clerk. DH then handed the meeting back to TE, and TE introduced GM.

5. Discussion on Chilbolton Community Emergency Plan and its implementation Plan –
- GM – Some time ago TE and I undertook the task of drawing up an emergency action plan. We realised that we had a village hall, but the hall is powered by electricity and oil. TE contacted SSE and through their funding a generator was installed at the Village Hall. TE explained that if electricity power goes off the generator will automatically come on. However, if the power goes off during the night then generator will be running with no one using the hall and waste a lot of fuel. So the automatic function has been turned off. There are several Village Hall committee members that know how to switch the generator on if it is needed.
- GM explained that the Emergency Plan flow chart was a way of describing what we thought we might need to do and some of the actions we might take in the event of certain things going wrong. For example, an aircraft crash, major accident on A303 – maybe the crews working on the incident will need a relief centre.
- One thing that wasn’t included in our plan was when and how do we implement the plan. This is what we would now like your help with.
- How do will activate the village hall in an event such as Storm Eunice?
- What about the vulnerable people of the village? – We, as a parish council, are not allowed to hold a list of vulnerable people. We can hold a list with their consent, but how do we know who to contact? Thanks to GC we may have found a solution to this by contacting those who registered for the Covid Support team. We are going to try and work that though.
- How do we let people know that the Village Hall is open? – One thought we had was to drive around the village with a loudhailer letting people know when the village hall is open.
- How do will let people know what we are doing? One idea was to have Street Captains, where we would contact one person and they would let the rest of the street know.

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Does anyone have any better ideas? But please remember that if the power is out your telephones may not be working and your mobile power will be running out. We need something that we can do person-to-person. Any ideas?

RF – when does the emergency centre open following a power outage?

GM - For short power outages people seem to be able to cope. It is for the longer periods that are difficult. 3 hours of power outage seems to be a reasonable point to implement the emergency centre.

RF – For longer periods of power outage you'll need to have a rota of people to staff the emergency centre. Is the centre going to be open just for the vulnerable or everyone?

GM – the way the hall is set up I don't think there will be a problem letting everyone use the facility. There may be queues of people waiting to charge mobiles, but for those needing hot water, for example, there is a boiler in the kitchen that can supply this (provided that there isn't a water supply issue).

GM – do we open the centre all day or set opening times? If we have the centre open all day will we run out of man power to staff the centre.

DG – with the number of people that are present this evening, I don't think we will get answers to these questions tonight, so I think this is something that we should address by surveying the whole village.

TE – During Storm Eunice, when it became clear that the power wasn't going to be coming back on for some time, I went and saw Nicky Bond at the shop. I told her that we could get the village hall open but we need supplies. She agreed to provide provisions (this would need to be paid for of course, and that's a separate issue that needs to be addressed). But we had no way of letting people know that the hall would be open. Fortunately, in this instance the power came bring on before we had a chance to implement everything. But if this sort of thing happens again, I think we should have the hall ready to open by 9am the next morning. With the generator going, we can have somewhere for people to charge phones etc. The village hall has a landline telephone and as we have power it will be working. Some people may need to be contacted directly as they may need assistance/transport to get to the village hall.

DG – If the vulnerable people, or anyone else, have the village hall landline number they could ring in to ask for help.

SL – GC do you know how many people were on the Covid vulnerable list? GC – about 100.

EN – printed notes could be delivered to each household, which could have the village hall telephone number on and information letting people know when the hall will be open in an emergency. Obviously, this would need to be done before any power outage.

TE – this information could also be permanently placed at the back of the parish magazine.

GM – Who should be responsible for making the decision to activating the plan - The Village Hall Committee or the Parish Council?

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DG – at present there are strong links between the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council; there are 3 members of the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee, so there shouldn't be any issue in activating the plan.

DH – so any of those who know how to start the generator could activate the emergency centre. TE – yes. So now we need to pick the times when the hall will be open and produce a note for each household.

MD – to clarify, if there is a power outage during the night and the power is not back on by 9am the hall will be opened. If there is a power outage during the day and the power is not back on within three hours the hall will be opened. How long will the hall remain open? TE – until the power is back on. 24/7 if needs be to ensure that people have heat, means of communication, hot food and water etc. A rota of volunteers will be needed to staff this.

TE – do those people present this evening think we should do this? – All agreed.

DG – there has been plenty of suggestions this evening for the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to consider.

DH – I think the next step is to produce a draft plan from tonight's deliberations and then consult with residents on this draft plan. GM – agreed.

TE gave a brief outline of his contact with OfCom following Storm Eunice. He got no response from OfCom, so wrote to Caroline Noakes MP. She managed to get hold of someone at the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. TE then received a 2-page response and went through the major points of that response - [attached here](#).

GM – if you have a BT style phone line going to your home, get yourselves an old style telephone, one that is not connected to a base unit or answerphone. In the event of a power outage, plug this in, as there is residue power to the connection you will be able to make and receive phone calls\*.

TE thanked everyone for attending this evening and closed the meeting at 19:50.

\*Post meeting note:-



If you have one of these in your BT phone socket then an old fashioned phone plugged direct into the phone socket of this device should still allow you to make calls. You will need to disconnect any new Answer Phone, multi phone base station from the socket.

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