

Chieveley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Tuesday 11 February 2025 in Chieveley Village Hall, High Street

Members present: Cllr. Sandie Allan
Cllr. Maurice Beard
Cllr. Rob Crispin
Cllr. David Cowan
Cllr. Lesley Derry
Cllr. Lesley Dick (Deputy Chair)
Cllr. Eric Friend
Cllr. Matthew Gilman
Cllr Sarah Hutchison

In attendance: 0 members of the public

At the start of the meeting, Cllr Derry reported that she wished to stand down as Chair as she found it difficult to chair a meeting alongside providing the administrative support of a clerk. She was willing to continue to provide support until a permanent clerk had been appointed. Cllr. Lesley Dick, as the current Deputy Chair, agreed to chair the meeting. The position of chair would be an agenda item at the March meeting.

2502.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from District Cllr. Paul Dick

2502.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

2502.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions, comments or representations.

2502.4 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2025 were a true record of the meeting.

2502.5 ACTION FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

Clerk Recruitment [ref:2501.7]: Recruitment of a clerk would start again in February. It was agreed to place the advert on the HALC website and BALC newsletter and to use social media, Newbury Today and, if possible, the WBC website. Cllr Gilman agreed to help with advertising via social media.

2502.6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) The following new planning applications were considered:

[24/02787/FUL](#) | Car Park, Motorway Service Area, New Oxford Road, Chieveley | Construction of electrical equipment in association with an electric vehicle charging hub (EV hub). It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of no objection.

[24/02817/LBC](#) | Bussock Wood Cottage Snelsmore | Replacement of the pitched clay roof to the main house and single-storey extension, replacement of the eaves canopy covering, removal of a downpipe, repairs to lath and plaster ceiling, replacement of gypsum and plasterboard ceiling with lath and plaster, and removal and making good of a lift. It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of no objection.

[25/00110/HOUSE](#) | 24 Hazeldene, Chieveley | Retrospective planning permission for Solar PV installed in conservation area. It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of no objection.

[25/00206/FULMAJ](#) | Priors Court Farm Priors Court Road Hermitage | Section 73: Removal of conditions 3- 'hours of operation' and 6- 'occupation limitation' of previous application 16/00117/COMIND: Retrospective - Construction of use class B8 warehouse, to include mezzanine storage, car and lorry parking, landscaping and other ancillary works. It was **RESOLVED** to submit the following comments:

- If successful, the application would allow the site to be operational at any time and with unrestricted B8 (storage and distribution) consent (i.e. without limitation to furniture storage)
- The Parish Council believes that some operating restrictions would be appropriate. The site is located in a rural area and would not be acceptable as B8 use within the AONB and has two dwellings nearby. Although the dwellings are believed to be owned by the business owners, this arrangement is not guaranteed. The Parish Council therefore objects to this retrospective application to remove this condition.

(ii) The following recent planning decisions taken by WBC were noted:

[24/02242/HOUSE](#) | 6 Hazeldene, Chieveley | Retrospective planning permission for Solar PV installed in conservation area. Granted: 13 January 2025

[24/02560/HOUSE](#) | 2 Hazeldene, Chieveley | Retrospective planning permission for Solar PV installed in conservation area. Granted: 23 January 2025

(iii) The following planning notices from WBC were noted:

[23/02860/FUL](#) | Barn South of Kiln Farm, Oare | Proposed conversion of barn to form 2-bedroom dwelling with associated internal and external alterations. Application withdrawn: 23 January 2025

[23/02861/LBC](#) | Barn South of Kiln Farm, Oare | Proposed conversion of barn to form 2-bedroom dwelling with associated internal and external alterations. Application withdrawn: 23 January 2025

2502.7 FINANCE

(i) Income and Expenditure

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments shown in Appendix 1.

(ii) Parish Council Grants to Chieveley Recreation Centre (CRC)

The Proposal for simplifying Parish Council grants to CRC for the period 2025 – 2029 was considered. It was agreed that before any funds were released, the Parish Council would need reassurance that (i) the CRC would have sufficient funds to meet the future maintenance requirements of the MUGA and (ii) the outdoor free-for-all facilities would be maintained in good order.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the proposal to simplify the procedure for awarding grants to the CRC, and, for the next three years:

- (i) to use the base figure provided by the CRC for allocating future grants, and

- (ii) to contribute 25% of anticipated costs towards a playground capital replacement fund (following the same formula as for the recent playground). Periodic reviews would provide confirmation that the anticipated costs remained relevant or required adjustment.

Both (i) and (ii) would attract an annual inflationary increase based on RPI, which would be subject to the Parish Council's annual approval. [Proposed by Cllr Gilman; Seconded by Cllr Beard].

(iii) Setting the Precept

The forecast end-of-year accounts were received. It was **RESOLVED** to include the anticipated total of Small Grant Awards for inclusion in the proposed budget for 2025/26.

Following discussion and a majority vote of five to three in favour with one abstention, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a Precept request of £42,500 for 2025/26. [Proposed by Cllr Allan; Seconded by Cllr Cowan].

(iv) RBS Account

Cllr Crispin reported that it had not been possible to close the RBS Account electronically and that he would need to submit a closure request by post. Cllr Crispin and Cllr Cowan were thanked for their efforts to transfer the savings account from RBS to the Unity Trust Bank.

2502.8 WBC PROPOSALS FOR OVERHANGING VEGETATION

A request from WBC to assist in responding to nuisance and obstruction matters, particularly overhanging vegetation, was considered. As the Parish Council was without a clerk at present, it could not take on the additional responsibility of the initial management of nuisance and obstruction matters. Concern about the lack of data capture by WBC was also raised. It was **RESOLVED** to inform WBC that the Parish Council was unable to assist at this time.

2502.9 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

It was noted that the 2016 Parish Emergency Plan had been removed from the 'mychieveley' website. It was **RESOLVED** to produce an update Parish Emergency Plan using the GOV.UK template and guidance provided by WBC.

ACTION: Cllr Lesley Dick and Cllr Derry to produce a draft Parish Emergency Plan for consideration at a future meeting.

2502.10 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

A report of recent speedwatch activity was received. No traffic surveys would be undertaken in February.

Cllr Gilman was in correspondence with WBC about the action to be taken following the January accident at the junction of the Oxford Road and Downend Lane and the recent altercation between the drivers of a car and two buses at the junction of Graces Lane and School Road where the road narrows.

2502.11 FOR-INFORMATION

The following information had been received by Councillors since the last meeting

- i LPR Information update
- ii WBC News Release about plastics
- iii Contact information for Lee Dillon
- iv Safety of Lithium-ion batteries campaign

- v Police & Crime Bulletin – January 2025
- vi Adverse Weather Health Plan 2024-25

2502.12 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- i A report from District Cllr Paul Dick was received
- ii The following reports from Councillors were received:

CHIEVELEY: (i) Cllr Gilman had attended the Downland Medical Practice PPG meeting. A grant for a disabled ramp at the Compton Practice had been withdrawn and unless new funding could be secured the ramp would not be provided. There was little else to report from the meeting, but Cllr Gilman had agreed to help the practice with its social media communications.

(ii) Cllr Cowan reported that the bridleway near Hazelhanger Copse was impassable and asked that the Parish Council contact both Peasemore and Winterbourne Parish Councils to ask if joint action to address the problem would be possible.

OARE: Cllr Alan reported that WBC had confirmed that 10 years had passed since the original cause for enforcement action in relation to Stable View, so the file had been closed. From now, enforcement action could only be undertaken for any new activity that would be considered a breach.

CURRIDGE: Cllr Dick reported that the pads on the AED by the Bunk Inn would expire this month. All agreed that these should be replaced as soon as practicable.

2502.13 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 11 March 2025 @7.30pm in Curridge WI Hall