

# CHUTE FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Meeting held in Chute Village Hall held at 19:30 on 26 October 2023

### Present:

Cllr D Pike (Chairman), Cllr Robertson and Cllr Haigh.

1 **To Record any Apologies.** Apologies received from Cllr Farrell (Vice Chair), Cllr Geraghty, Wilts Cllr C Williams and PC J Kinge Wilts Police.

2 **Declarations of Interest.** None declared.

3 **Co-Option.** No applications received

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Having considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 Cllrs **Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, which the Chairman then signed as a true record.**

5 **Matters Arising.**

6 **Public Questions.** No public present.

7 **Wiltshire Council Report.** Wilts Cllr C Williams reported the following by email: that since the last meeting, I have attended several events and meetings including Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet, Full Council and have chaired a Southwest Armed Forces Covenant Partnership meeting. Items at Full Council included a report on Corporate Parenting Strategy 2023-26, an update to the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and revised Environmental Policy, Community Governance Review and some proposed changes to the Constitution affecting the Code of Conduct. Further information regarding all these items and more can be found on the Wiltshire Council website. At a more local level, the Tidworth Community Area Health and Wellbeing Group met online on 12<sup>th</sup> October, mainly consisting of updates from the various local organisations, but also received an excellent presentation from Jo Hillier from Warm & Safe Wiltshire, which is a service provided by both Wiltshire and Swindon Councils in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Warm and Safe Wiltshire provides in-depth telephone support and home visits to help people save money on their gas and electricity bills, and to get funding for heating and insulation improvements in their homes. The help available includes free and impartial advice on:

- Understanding fuel bills and tips on simple ways to save energy and lower your bills.
- Guidance on heating systems and controls.
- Eligibility for heating and insulation grants and fuel vouchers.
- Issues with damp and condensation.
- Fuel debt advice.
- Switching energy suppliers and fuel tariffs.



- Signing up to the Priority Services Register.
- Discounts and support with water bills.

More information is at [www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk](http://www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk)

The Local Plan event for our community area was held in the TLC library and there is more information regarding the consultation online and paper documents can be found in the library. closing date for comments is 5pm on Wednesday 22 November 2023. Tidworth Area Board will meet on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30 for 7pm at the Ludgershall Memorial Hall and there is still funding in the grant pots with only one more meeting in this financial year on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March in the Civic Centre, Tidworth.

Wilts Cllr Williams then answered questions from Cllrs and the Chairman thanked him for his report.

8 **Wiltshire Police Report.** No police present. However, Cllrs noted the September email report from PCSO R Kaur and the emailed October report from PC J Kinge for which they were both thanked.

9 **Correspondence** – None received that has not been circulated.

10 **Finance:**

10.1 The Clerk having presented the bank statement and cash book Cllrs **RESOLVED To accept and sign bank reconciliation as per the bank statement of £7,127.91 as of 23 October 2023.**

10.2 **To authorise payments made.**

(1) Clerks Salary

(a) Oct - £244.98

(2) HMRC

(a) Oct - £61.20

(3) P Gill

(a) IONOS Oct 23 - £3.60 (VAT £0.60)

(b) (HUGOFOX) Sep 23 - £11.99

10.3 **Payments received.**

(1) No payments received

10.4 **Budget FY 24/25.** To note the requirement to set the Budget & Precept for FY24/25 at the next Council Meeting. **Action: All Cllrs**

10.5 **Grants.** The Clerk informed Cllrs that although there were budget lines for grants to be made to the PPC and the Village Hall no grant applications had been received this in FY. He went on to explain that grants should only be made on receipt of a grant application that articulated what the grant was to be used for. Moreover, it should be noted that the pursuance of transparency and sound financial management. There is a reasonable expectation that grant recipients would attend the Annual Parish Meeting a to inform Electors how the grant had been spent. It should also be noted that Council has no power to make grants to the PPC for the upkeep of the Church except, bizarrely, for the upkeep of the Church Clock if there is one.

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11 **Planning Applications as received from Wiltshire Council.** None received.

12 **Safety Signs.** Cllr Farrell reported by email that he had done some research into signs and feels that if we are to spend parish money then they need to be of a good quality material and able to stand the test of time. He prefers the idea of a more personal type of sign but in order to do that we need to come up with some design ideas and materials to go to a signwriter with as a proposal for costing. We could keep cost down considerably by purchasing some generic internet shop type plastic/foamex signs that would probably cost under £100 but would not last that long and quality wouldn't be as good as a professional job. He proposes that one sign should be placed (coming from North) just before the village, towards the top of the hill, before the bends but not immediately on the corner, and the second (from the south) somewhere just before Tantanoola. For now, for discussion purposes There are two quotes/budget costs based on landscape signs, using two round, powder coated steel posts (per sign) **The costs on this kind of specification is around £800. Councillors were concerned that this was too expensive and wanted to explore if there are any ways of reducing the budget and update Cllr Farrell. Electors' views on this item are welcomed.**

**Action: Cllr Farrell & all other Cllrs**

13 **Footpaths Report.** Cllr Farrell reported by email that further to an email from Judy Wallbank to Cllr Pike on 30/9/23 raising concerns that footpath 5 had 'disappeared' He has spoken to a contact at Tangley Estate who assures him that the signs are very much still in place, albeit a little overgrown. He has now seen these for himself and is satisfied that they exist. He has requested that they trim the growth around the signs which they have agreed to in the near future. The gates at the Chute end are very often left open for access during the day and when they are locked, there is a gap beside them to walk through. This gap is a little overgrown due to infrequent use. There is currently no crop in the field but when there is a crop, they will mark where to walk. He is satisfied that this is concluded. After consideration **Cllrs RESOLVED that Cllr Farrell was to contact Judy Wallbank and inform her of the situation.**

**Action: Cllr Farrell**

14 **Highways Report.**

14.1 Cllr Pike reported that he had attended the LHFIFG meeting on Wednesday 11 October and raised the issue of repairs to the road by the two cottages before Red House Farm on the road to Clanville and as a result the road section was patched/repared on 18 October. Although he is not sure about the longevity of the fix, it was a substantial step up from filling individual potholes by the parish steward. More to the point it was immediately noted and commented on in the village WhatsApp and he had thanked the Senior Traffic Engineer at Wilts Council for making this happen.

14.2 Cllr Pike also reported that at the meeting he had talked to Senior Traffic Engineer about reworking the wellhead in the vicinity of two properties in Cadley Bottom to allow water to flow out more freely when the system is overwhelmed. One of the owners of the properties had reported the issue on MyWilts ref Case number – 00127097 Case type - Road Drain or Manhole. The Senior Traffic Engineer had said she would try and see if she could get an engineer out to advise on options. Secondly, she was going to try and find out who was responsible for the well given the slight ambiguity in that the well is on private land but the drain

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system was put in by the council. Due to annual leave he does not expect to hear back from her on before 30 October.

**Action: Cllr Pike**

**15 Village Hall Report.** Cllr Robertson reported that the lunches and coffee mornings are proving to be very successful. Moreover quotes for some roofing work and to revitalise the ladies' toilets are being sought. **Cllrs Noted the report.**

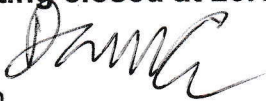
**16 KGF Report.** Cllr Geraghty reported by email that there had been no change since the previous meeting. **Cllrs noted the report**

**17 Future Meetings meeting.**

17.1 **Date of Next Meeting.** The date was confirmed Thursday, 11 January 2024


**The meeting closed at 20.15.**

Signed:



Chairman

Date:

  
11/1/24