

# Chirton & Conock Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting  
Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm in Chirton Old School**

*Jane Whatley, Clerk to the Council: clerk@chirtonandconock-pc.org.uk*

**The public and press are invited to attend this meeting**

**Present:** Cllrs. David Harmes, Chair (**DH**), Paul Mills (PM) Julia Moore (**JM**), Vanessa Litherland (**VL**) Phillippa Radford-Howes (**PRH**) Neil Warburton (**NW**) and Lynn Organ (**LO**)

**Attending:** Jane Whatley, **Clerk/RFO**  
Cllr Paul Oatway  
Three members of the Parish

*Item:*

**1 Welcome by the Chair**

DH welcomed Cllr Oatway and three members of the Parish to the annual Parish open meeting.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from PCSO Jonathan Mills

**3 Annual Report by the Chair**

DH outlined the events of the 2017/18 year which included:

- Parish Council welcoming new members and now having a full complement of seven councillors.
- The Clerk has announced her retirement at the end of November and so the vacancy will be advertised in the Redhorn News and via other mediums.
- Councillors attended a two-hour Councillor Training session and the Clerk attended an all-day Clerks' workshop for plus a webinar provided by the new external auditors, PKF Littlejohn.
- Parish Council Policies have been completely updated and new Policies for Charitable Giving, Social Media and Code of Conduct have also been implemented during the year. A Data Protection Policy will shortly be produced to confirm with the new regulations coming into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- The Parish Council applied for a 3% rise in the precept this year to ensure it covers the expected expenditure for 2018/19 with enough left to cover Solicitors fees relating to the village hall trusteeship and the probable need to take over responsibility for more of the Parish maintenance.
- The Council are now able to use the internet for Banking purposes.
- Good progress has been made regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Following the Regulation 14 Consultation process the Plan has been amended and will be forwarded to Wiltshire Council for submission to independent examination.

- Regarding the existing village hall, DH and PM met with Solicitors to discuss a way forward for the Parish Council as a body to become a trustee. If this is agreeable, then it would need one further trustee to progress the matter.
- The newly formed Village Hall Working Group has met twice and appointed a Chair, Vice Chair and secretary. Further meetings are planned to consider all the available options to provide the Parish with a community meeting place.
- The Parish are aware that Manor Farm, Chirton is on the market and DH understands that Lots 2, 3 and 5 are now sold. A local person has shown interest in purchasing Lot 1, the Manor house, farm buildings and two fields. As the house and farm buildings form a central part of Chirton, the Parish Council are hopeful of maintaining positive dialogue with the proposed purchaser.
- Planning Applications for the Wiltshire Yeoman site have caused some concern. Comments in response to the current revised application need to be submitted by 22<sup>nd</sup> May. DH thanks Cllr Oatway for his support regarding this matter.
- Following Mike Tucker moving from the Parish, the Council have arranged for two contractors to cover the work that he undertook, i.e. emptying the dog waste bins and maintaining footpaths.
- Wiltshire Council provide a Parish Steward for half a day a month who can undertake small jobs around the Parish, such as repairing street signage, some hedge cutting, repairing small potholes.
- The Parish Council has paid for the Conock noticeboard to be repaired and the two boards in Chirton to be completely replaced. All the work has been carried out by local company MB Joinery.
- The Parish Council website is fully operative and, thanks to a transparency fund grant, now own a new laptop, printer and external hard drive for use by the Clerk.
- PCSO Jonathan Mills sends a monthly Police report but could not attend tonight due to annual leave.
- The problem of school parking and the speed of traffic is being discussed regularly at the local Transport Group meetings. The suggestion is to install flashing lights just before the school, reduce the speed limit to 20mph and repaint signs on the tarmac.
- VL has arranged for the Parish to receive seven saplings in memory of the seven parishioners who died in WWI. This is part of a Wiltshire Community tree planting scheme to remember those who died to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The Parish Council continue to support Chirton School and the PCC, providing annual donations to each in recognition of their importance to Parish life.

#### **5. Report from Councillor Paul Oatway – brought forward**

- Councillor Oatway discussed the revised planning application for the Wiltshire Yeoman site. He stated that there are still irregularities concerning both properties and if he feels it is necessary he will 'call in'

the application which means it would then be discussed by the Area Planning Committee.

- Regarding the Parish Steward, Cllr Oatway is disappointed that he will not be available to the Parish until June. He suggested monitoring the work he is asked to undertake.
- Wiltshire Council are currently undertaking a boundary review. Currently there are 98 councillors which the Council is recommending an increase to 99. However, the boundary review suggests a reduction and the Pewsey Vale area is one under threat. If this area is incorporated in other existing areas, it would mean the end of PCAP, PAB and CATG.
- £55m has been taken out of Wiltshire Council's budget which is resulting in a reduction in services.
- Regarding developing a Parish Council Code of Conduct, Cllr Oatway said there is training available which he recommends.
- There are also grants available to help Parish Councils provide a village hall and he can provide the relevant information.
- On the subject of the parking problem outside Chirton school and the need for a reduction of the speed limit, Cllr Oatway said the recommendations will go back to CATG.

PM thanked Cllr Oatway for all the support he has provided to the Parish Council and the School over the last year. Cllr Oatway then left the meeting.

#### **4. Financial Report by Responsible Financial Officer**

The RFO reported that the Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation statement to the end of year 2017/18 showed a net balance of £11,503.18. Total income for the year, to include the precept, was £15,600.90 and total expenditure was £14,892.66. Copies of the year end cash book and bank reconciliation statement were available.

#### **6. Report from local Police**

None was available due to the PCSO for the area being on annual leave.

#### **7. Parishioners Questions and Views**

- Issues highlighted by parishioners were:
- Dog fouling on The Street and Small Street was increasing and a reminder in the Redhorn News would be useful.
- The fencing of the culvert by the bus stop was in a very dilapidated state. The Parishioner was informed that the Parish Council were in the process of renewing this with steel piping. This is on order and should be erected very soon.
- The street lights by the church and village hall are broken and this needs reporting to the relevant authority.
- The buses stopping by Yew Tree Close can cause traffic problems and when the school bus is unloading it has caused problems. The school bus driver has therefore been asked to stop in Small Street instead which he has agreed to do. There was general agreement that the bus stop being positioned by the entrance to Yew Tree Close is not ideal and the

Clerk was asked to enquire the procedure for the bus stop to be moved to a safer location. **Action: Clerk**

Parishioner Mr Ray Wright thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

The Chair then asked those present for their views on the revised planning application for the Wiltshire Yeoman site. Following some discussion, the Parish Council made the following decisions:

**The new property in The Hollow**

Although the pillars have been removed and the wall taken back, the original consent did not include a wall at all. The wall is not in keeping with the other houses on that side of The Hollow. Parish Council to therefore object.

**The conversion of The Wiltshire Yeoman**

The pillars have now been reduced in height but still obstruct visibility of A342 when motorists wish to turn right. The grass bank also impedes visibility, and this would only get worse if the grass was not maintained. However, anyone mowing the grass verge would also cause an obstruction to motorists. It was also the view that the shrubs planted within the wall will grow, adding to the problem. Parish Council to therefore object.

The Chair thanked Parishioners for attending and the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Jane Whatley, Clerk to the Parish Council

Agreed and Signed: ..... Dated: .....  
David Harmes, Chair