

Chirton & Conock Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting
held at the Old School, Chirton
on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 8pm
The public were invited to attend this meeting
 email: clerk@chirtonandconock-pc.org.uk

Present : Phillippa Radford-Howes (**PRH**), Chair, Paul Mills, Vice Chair (**PM**), Gerald Lanfear (**GL**),

Attending : Susannah Lampard (**Clerk**)
 Sharon Prance (**RFO**)
 Cllr. Paul Oatway (**PO**)

1 Introduction and Welcome by the Chair on the work of the Parish Council and Committees 2021-22. Councillors **Re- Elections** took place last May despite restrictions and thanks to GL taking all the forms and paperwork to Trowbridge, all Councillors standing at the time, were re-elected. David Harmes stepped down as Chair in October and PRH took the position of Chair, a further Councillor KC stepped down also in October and Christopher Chapman joined. Currently there are two Councillor Vacancies.

What's been done: Flood Plan has been updated and the Steward has kept ditches clear.

Rights of Way Committee - CHIR17 Footpath and a potential further permissive path is being progressed this is ongoing with the help of WC, in order to mitigate the danger from traffic in the Street and The Hollow especially at School commute times.

CATG are giving their support, to further the 20mph qualifying speed assessments.

The Defibrillator for Conock has been ordered and a course is planned and will be advertised.

Jubilee Celebrations – Plans are progressing, with the help of Volunteers and funding applied for by the PC from the Council has been granted.

War Memorial Committee with the PCC – the possibility of a suitable location is currently being explored. Community support is welcome.

Thank you for the work that is done by Councillors and the valued commitment over the year. Thank you to Cllr CC who has been giving good representation and the upkeep of the footpath to the Village Hall and plans to re-paint railings and assets before the start of June, are much appreciated.

2 Apologies: Christopher Chapman (**CC**),

Cllr. Paul Oatway sent a message as he will attend another meeting and is therefore due to join the Meeting late

3 Report from the Clerk – PC Year April 2021 – March 2022

The past year with restrictions still in place at the start of May, Councillors navigated the May 2021 Elections process and appointments at County Hall, Trowbridge and all 5 Councillors were re-elected on May 6th. The lifting of remote Meeting guidance meant that the first physical meeting

back at the Old School was held on June 22nd 2021, with remote meeting access via Zoom still available. PC Actions and business had been carried out, monthly meetings had continued, as they had since the start of the Pandemic and Auditing took place on 22nd May 2021 to the normal timetable.

August 2021 saw works finally carried out to re-instate the A342 Footpath with the help of CATG and W.C and continued pressure from the PC and support from Councillor Paul Oatway. The aim is to alleviate the pedestrian and school traffic issues. Cllr Paul Mills and the Chair agreed to speak with the School PTA working group, which has the support of the PC, to help in any way we can.

In October our then Chair, DH resigned and Phillippa Radford-Howes was duly elected. Paul Mills remained as Vice Chair and thanks to all Councillors Christopher Chapman and Gerald Lanfear for the time that they commit and continue to offer in order to make things happen for the Community. There are currently 2 positions for anyone who wishes to contribute in a similar way.

Work to maintain assets and instruction from PRH to best use our Steward's time, ensure that trees are cut back before storms. Gullies, ditches, drains and paths are cleared and this continues especially with run-off from the Plain at flood risk times.

Thank you to residents who, in response to letters from the PC cut back overgrown hedges and trees next to the highways; Patney Road and High Street. This is ongoing as is tractor hedge trimming.

Village Clean - Litter picking this year planned for **Sunday 22nd May 2pm** Meet at The Old School

The War Memorial Committee is now meeting regularly, Cllr Christopher Chapman is the contact if you wish to be involved.

Finally thank you to the RFO who manages all PC finance, updates and changes.

Susannah Lampard, Clerk

10th May 2022

4 Financial Report by Responsible Financial Officer Year ending 31st March 2022

The past year has seen some improvements with the easing of the lockdown restrictions, allowing major projects to take place.

Income

The Parish Council's Income was less than last year due to little bank interest and no application for grants. It was decided to keep the precept at the 2020-21 level.

Expenditure

A new grit bin was purchased for Chirton and our long-awaited project to re-build a footpath around the Old Wiltshire Yeoman and improve visibility onto the A342 from Chirton, did eventually go ahead. The cost to the PC was £4,500 as a proportion of the overall cost.

The easing of Covid restrictions also had an effect on the Salary Budget which decreased by nearly a fifth when compared with 2020-21 expenditure.. Similar to previous years the Parish Council again paid for every household to receive a monthly copy of the Redhorn News and the maintenance of grass verges and bin emptying around the villages.

Money has been earmarked for a number of projects which hopefully will go ahead over the next 12 months including improved rights of way and investigation into a 20mph speed limit within Chirton.

I would like to thank the Chair and Vice Chair for prompt authorisation of bank payments, and for the patience of all Councillors over the past year in digesting the myriad of financial information and policies that have been distributed. It is very much appreciated.

Sharon Prance, Responsible Financial Officer

10th May 2022

5 Vice Chair **PM** Welcomed **Cllr. PO** and thanked him for joining us again in addition to his other commitments.

Report from local Councillor Paul Oatway - A new national Code of Conduct for Town and Parish Council's looks likely to be adopted and rolled out hopefully early next year. Existing Code of conduct is still in use until then, PO will keep us informed.

PO reported that the long-awaited Freight Strategy review of our highways will be underway late 2022 to early 2023 and he will keep us informed of developments.

Highways & Footpath Improvement Group, Formerly CATG - proposed kerbing and drop-kerbing is so far approved for further investigation and costing and may include a further length of highway closer to the school. PM mentioned the representation from the PTA who may have an interest in this. Horse signage – PO was surprised by the complaint made about its positioning until it became clear that the post had been positioned incorrectly. County acted immediately once this was realised.

6 **Next Meeting - Tuesday 14th June 2022.**

7 **Chair to close meeting**

The Meeting was closed by the Chair

Meeting Ends 20:50

Agreed and Signed:..... Dated:

Phillippa Radford-Howes (**PRH**) – Chair, Chirton & Conock Parish Council

Susannah Lampard
Clerk to the Council