

Chirton & Conock Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
held at The Old School, Chirton
on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.15pm

Susannah Lampard, Clerk to the Council: clerk@hirtonandconock-pc.org.uk

The public and press were invited to attend this meeting via notice boards and on Chirton PC Website <https://www.chirtonandconock-pc.org.uk>

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

Attendees: Susannah Lampard (**Clerk**)
 Sharon Prance (**RFO**)
 Councillor Paul Oatway
 2 Parishioners

122 Welcome by Chair and received apologies for absence – Tim Burgess (**TB**).

123 Receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensation – (PM) declared a conflict of interest re. item 131 PL/2023/11109 - 30 Patney, as owner of property.

124 Receive and approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2023. Resolved: Chair (PRH) received and signed the Full Minutes of above Meeting, now available to view on the PC Website.

125 Matters Arising/Outstanding from previous Meetings.

Ongoing: (November Minutes Item 90 & December item 109) **Ditches and Flooding in Small Street.**

In PO's absence The Clerk reported that on 4th January PO called, post his Meeting on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 with Senior WC engineers and on Wednesday 3rd January heavy Machinery had been used to dig out the entire length of miller close and Small Street ditches. A parishioner commented that this work (long overdue) was completed just in the Knick of time as the severe flooding that affected the whole area and nationally occurred on Thursday 4th January and asked what provision for a grabber to remove the soil that is banked up.

- Ditches and Flooding in the Parish including A342 at Conock – have been addressed since last meeting thanks to PO's support.

126 New Representations from Members of the Public for any items not listed on the Agenda.

- 14.12.23 Clerk received VM re. Full Dog Waste Bin on track near Manot Farm, Conock and promptly contacted Idverde via their online contact portal. A second report on 8th January 2024 that this was still not done needs follow up - Clerk to call Idverde/Cllrs to check bins
- 2 Parishioners reported that they had experienced 6 floods in as many weeks over November/December and new year 2024. PRH and Cllrs understood the issue and discussed the local pumping station as reaching capacity limit (despite Marden pumping station only running at 38%) at this time. The ongoing aim of the PC to mitigate the danger of flooding to properties was once again discussed and agreed remains a priority.

Return to Item 125

PO joined the meeting at this point and was updated and asked if the soil from the ditched dug out by machine on 4th January 2024 was due to be taken away. He responded with a report that the plan for landscaping possibly by a Parish Steward would be planned once it was dried out a bit. He agreed that it was a good job finally completed more comprehensively as the following day unprecedented storms and flooding affected the areas outside of Chirton.

Ongoing: All Drains in Parish. PRH asked for confirmation that WC were going to send the tractor to gully suck the drains (from previous minutes: item 109) PO reported that he has emailed the Sewer Team who have a blaster and operate on a programmed work schedule that circulates within the county and has requested a scheduled/programmed visit. A second Team 'sewers@wiltshire' respond to a specific request. PO will ask for this second team to visit spontaneously to attend to drains at the junction of The Hollow and Small Street, also Yew Tree Close 2 drains there.

Cllr. PO was also able to report that he recognises again that due to our low-lying Geographic location beneath Salisbury Plain, traffic and the Weather. That the roads in the area are an ongoing issue and that he has recommended to WC that reported underspending by WC; rather than being rolled over into reserves, is used to buy a JCB.

127 FINANCE

- a. **Resolved:** Approve Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation statements December2023.
- i. Treasurers Account = **£371.14**
 - ii. Savings Account = **£22,526,84.84**
 - iii. Total Unrestricted = **£8,868.89 unrestricted not in EMR's**
- b. **Resolved:** Approve Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation statement December2023.
- i. Chirton Parish Hall Account.= **£1,015.40**
- c. **New Invoices** were discussed and agreed as follows:
- Agreed - usual request for payment of the Chirton & Conock Redhorn News subscriptions. 177 monthly copies were provided throughout 2023 and, with the annual subscription remaining at £6 per copy, the total remains the same as last year - £1062.
 - Month total £1,847.84 to pay

Invoice No.	Supplier	Description	Net	Vat	Total
P375	SSE	Phone Box Elec Nov 24	£11.87	£2.37	£14.24
P376	IONOS	January 24 Website+ storage	£18.00	£3.60	£21.60
P384	R P Bridewell	Grass and village maintenance	£750		£750.00
P383	Redhorn Magazine	2023 Annual Subscription	£1,062		£1,062.00
TOTAL			£1,841.87	£5.97	£1,847.84

- d. **Budget & EMRs - Precept Full PC Authorisation 2024-2025** from detailed discussions at Budget Meeting held 14.11.23
- **Precept tax base received from WC.** Calculation based on tax base average of D band properties in the Parish. £184. per household. Calculated at £75.30 per Band D household. Total Precept Applied for : £13,886.46.

PROPOSED: PM, SECONDED: PRH. FULL AUTHORISATION WAS AGREED.

- **Application to be submitted** by Clerk by 18th January 2024

e. Agree Charity Donations – Allocation of allowable Funding £450.

- £25 Citizens Advice Bureaux
- £75 Devizes Link
- £50 Bobby Van
- £150 Air Ambulance
- £100 Devizes and District Food Bank
- £100 Open Doors

The increase of Air Ambulance costs and use by Chirton Village in the past year, was discussed and proposed by TB. It was agreed that despite being over the allocated budget, that this should be our largest donation.

PROPOSED: PM, SECONDED: PRH. AGREED.

128 Parish Steward – Report by Chair

Ongoing: As we still do not have a Parish Steward. WC are yet to appoint.

129 Chirton Village Hall Community Group Update

- Postponed meeting. New date TBA
- Preparing for submission now round 4 in 3 months; application for Community Ownership Fund.

130 Memorial Stone - TB nothing new to report. Next sub-committee meeting TBD for Feb/Mar (1 more name to be added).

131 Planning Applications

1. PL/2023/11109 30 The Street, Chirton SN120 3QS. Comments by 12.01.24.

Fell 2 trees Leylandii trees.

2. PL/2024/00069 Yew Tree House, 12 The Hollow. Comments by 29.01.24. work to chestnut tree ¾ m - Support.

132 Late Planning Applications – None

133 Next Full Parish Council Meeting is to be held Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.15pm at The Old School, Chirton.

134 Chair Closes Meeting at 20:14

Susannah Lampard

Clerk to the Parish Council

Agreed and Signed:..... Dated:
Phillippa Radford-Howes - Chair