

Chirton & Conock Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting
held at the Old School, Chirton
on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 8pm
The public were invited to attend this meeting
email: clerk@chirtonandconock-pc.org.uk

Present : Phillippa Radford-Howes (**PRH**), Tim Burgess, Vice Chair (**TB**), Gerald Lanfear (**GL**), Christopher Chapman (**CC**)

Attending : Susannah Lampard (**Clerk**)
Sharon Prance (**RFO**)
8 Parishioners

1 Welcome and Introduction by The Chair

2 Apologies: Cllr Paul Mills (**PM**), Cllr. Paul Oatway (**PO**).

3. Annual report by the Chair on the work of the Parish Council and Committees in 2023-2024. The Chair started with a summary of the Parish Councils' business this year. The Coronation of King Charles III celebrations included lighting the Church up and a BBQ on the 5th May and on the 6th May 2023 the road was closed for a village party and games in the afternoon. We saw the village come together for the Kings coronation funded in part by the PC.

The Queens green canopy trees have blossomed this spring and those who donated trees were recognised and thanked.

Village Hall July 9th 2023 skip clearance day and social event. The former drill hut was cleared by the community, and we look forward to receiving a grant in due course, to further our ambitions for this building.

We experienced one of the wettest late summers going into Autumn and Winter. Thanks to Paul Oatway ditches were dug out ahead of storms in February in time to mitigate flooding in Small Street. Conock and some properties there that have never flooded, needed to be evacuated just before Easter and one that flooded 5 times since December 2023. The flood plan and comprehensive program of work continues in Conock, and the A342 gully works are well in progress, with summer works and further gully clearance continuing with landowners help, thank you for this vital contribution.

You'll also have noticed, thanks again to Paul Oatway that resurfacing works were completed on the A342 From Lydeaway to Chirton on Friday 26th April 2024. Councillors' were thanked for volunteering their time and thanks also to the Clerk and RFO for ensuring that council business continues and we have money to spend in the community.

Highways & Footpath Improvement Group and Rights of Way

The CHIR17 Footpath re-instatement work once again continues with the help of Wiltshire Council this summer. We will keep you updated regarding progress.

Chirton's request for 20mph speed limit assessment to include Conock. Issue 10-20-9. A report in the Speed Assessment was included in the LHFIG meeting on 24th April 2024. The criteria has been met for a 20mph limit and the estimated cost for this, inclusive of legal fees is £7,500. The Parish wish to pursue this and have offered the 40% contribution, as required; a sum of £3,000.

4. Report from the Clerk – PC Year financial year April 23-24

The Clerk thanked PRH for her comprehensive report of Parish Council business that has been carried out over the year and added, in response to a parishioners' comment, that since last summer there has been support for renovation of the village hall and the Committee was therefore set up. The Village Hall is a Registered Charity named The Parish Hall, Chirton, with 1 trustee (appointed 16th April 2019) namely Chirton and Conock PC, and as minuted in March 24 meeting, we have instructed Goughs, who are currently amending the Land Registry title deeds, into the Charity Name.

5. Financial Report by Responsible Financial Officer Year ending 31st March 2024

The past year has been another busy with the King's Coronation and new bollards being placed on the verge by the church.

Income

The Parish Council's Income was slightly higher than last year (5%,) due to a higher VAT refund and grant towards the cost of the Conock defibrillator. There was no annual increase in the Precept.

Expenditure

During 2023-2024 the Parish Council contributed towards the cost of the bollards on the church corner verge.

Similar to previous years the Parish Council again paid for every household to receive a monthly copy of the Redhorn News and continued maintenance of grass verges and bin emptying around the villages.

The Parish Council helped to fund and organise the very successful Coronation celebrations for our new King in May, with the majority of the village enjoying the planned festivities. Refreshments were also provided when the village came together to clean the village hall.

Money has been earmarked for a couple of projects which hopefully will go ahead over the next 12 months, including a possible 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 that has been distributed. It is very much appreciated.

Sharon Prance, Responsible Financial Officer

6 Tim Burgess (VC) reported representation on behalf of a member of the community, that Wessex Internet can provide better high speed fibre broadband for Chirton and Conock (they are about to connect Wedhampton) if enough interest is expressed by Chirton and Conock Residents. Please contact : sales@wessexinternet.com Subject: Regarding Chirton & Conock case number 00212504.

In response to a Parishioners comments: regarding the state and narrow width of the footpath to the Village Hall, Cllr. Christopher Chapman reported that a working party, to cut back and widen the path from the High Street to the Village Hall will be set, for all to help. An application to LHFIC at Wiltshire Council can be made to re-surface. Regarding the Conock floods, it was also reported that the landowner will be digging out the ditches at Old Manor Farm. PRH reported that after the Millar Close garages have flooded and as previously mentioned by the resident of The Grange, which flooded 5 times (4 feet over 4000 sq. m) the pressure has been put on WC to improve infrastructure. TB and PRH both confirmed the support for Chirton and Conock and ensured the PC's ongoing commitment.

7 Next PC Meeting Tuesday 11th June 2024

The Meeting was closed by the Chair

Meeting Ends 20:24

Agreed and Signed:..... Dated:

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

Susannah Lampard
Clerk to the Council