**CHITTERNE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of General Meeting Held on Monday 4th November 2025 at 7pm**

**Present:** Councillors Charles Horsfall, Jane Bell, Julia Hendrickse, Graham Potter, Tony Hulton.

**In attendance:** Councillor Christopher Newbury, Barry Ricketts, (acting Clerk) Dick Johns, Nicola Horsfall, Charles Carter (RA Hunt), Johnny Hathaway-White.

**Apologies:** John Dillon.

**Submissions from members of the public:**  Dick Johns drew attention to a number of road and traffic related issues: Sunken ‘cats-eyes’ in need of replacement; badly worn painted white lines, over-large vehicles transiting the village and the lack of a speed limit on the Codford Road, which has very poor visibility at various points, leading to frequent ‘near-misses’ for villagers travelling in either direction.

 Councillor Newbury advised that the new Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated greater resources to traffic-related issues, but suggested that this was still not adequate to deal with current problems. He pointed out that police will only attend communities to deal with consistent speeding if a community speed-watch team is in existence. With regard to white lines, the current wisdom appears to be that drivers are more cautious if white lines do not exist. It is likely that the Wiltshire Council policy of only providing physical traffic-calming measures (chicanes, humps etc.) if street lighting exists, will continue, because of the likelihood of legal action being taken if injury is caused by such an obstruction in the absence of street lighting.

Charles Carter of the RA Hunt, expressed the Hunt’s desire to continue the tradition of a Hunt Meet gathering on Chitterne playing field on Boxing Day. There has been pressure from the Health and Safety Executive to see a ‘Risk Assessment’, and measures to ensure public safety in the presence of horses and hounds. It is clear that, unless strong and evident measures are taken to comply with public safety needs, (crowd control, safety zones, etc.) there could be further complaints from those who oppose Hunt-related gatherings. The Council urged the Hunt representatives to prepare and present a risk-assessment as soon as possible.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2024.**

Approved as a correct record.

**Dispensations.**

None received

**Declarations of interest.**

None received

**Co-option of new Clerk/Councillor**

 Barry Ricketts was co-opted as Clerk/Councillor.

**Planning Applications.**

Dead tree removal continues in various locations, without the need for planning.

**Correspondence.**

 An email has been received from Mr Michael Dear, a retired Community Sustainable Development Consultant, offering to assist Chitterne to access grant funding for various projects. His terms and experience seem ideally suited to Chitterne’s needs, so the Clerk will contact him to discuss a way forward. Councillors who wish to contribute to developing a ‘Needs Analysis’ are invited to contribute their suggestions to the Clerk a.s.a.p.

Chitterne has been asked to contribute to an EV charging point survey by Wiltshire Council. It was suggested that the King’s Head might be a suitable location. Clerk to progress.

Nicholas Walters updated by email the progress to extend Vodaphone coverage in the village. Noted.

An invoice for £54.00 has been received from ‘Parish Online’ for ‘Mapping Software’ for the coming year. Since no councillor could account for this service it will be cancelled forthwith. Clerk to act.

The Crime Report from CPC Kolasinski was noted and extracts printed in ‘Chit-Chat’ . CPC Kolasinski was invited to attend a future Chitterne council meeting.

**RA Hunt.**

See ‘Submissions from the Public’.

**Banking Assets and Finances.**

The updated accounts were accepted and signed (*I assume we just attach the balance sheet?)*

**Receipts and Payments**

(See balance sheet attached)

**Tree Survey and Planning Permission**

 A tree survey has been carried out and a number of quotes are awaited to carry out the essential work indicated by the survey.

**RoSPA Inspection/Playing Field & General Village Maintenance**

The Clerk suggested that as the above topics all result in a requirement for skilled maintenance, the Council should consider them together. Currently the village has an ad hoc arrangement for these tasks to be carried out by Mr Lee, but it is suggested that, since we are currently in a favourable financial position we should also invite Mr Foster to join Mr Lee to deal with the tasks indicated by the RoSPA survey, and a number of other outstanding projects. In order to facilitate this, a list of projects will be compiled and a discussion will be held with the objective of completing a number of outstanding tasks in a timely and efficient manner. This will be put to the Council for approval at the next meeting, in January. Clerk to facilitate.

**Chit-Chat**

The new arrangements for the village newspaper were acknowledged and approved by the Council, Clerk to continue as editor.

**Kings Head Purchase**

Solicitor expects completion before Christmas.

**Reports from Councillors**

Charles Horsfall (Chairman)

* Chitterne Brook /The Cut: Work removing vegetation and other obstacles was carried just before water started to appear in the Cut on Saturday 2nd November. Silt deposits still remain at various points and work will be underway soon for their removal.
* Playing field & play equipment: The Cricket Club and Brian Lee have been maintaining the playing field and keeping the area around the play equipment tidy.
* A safety inspection of the play equipment was recently carried out. Three items were identified needing a little attention but the issues are minor and the equipment will remain open for use.
* Trees: A health and safety survey was recently carried out on trees that are the responsibility of the Parish Council. A sizeable number need attention; a planning application has been submitted and quotations are being sought for the work that needs to be done.
* SSEN work attending to trees likely to interfere with with HV and LV power lines is ongoing.
* Highways / Parish Steward: Parish Steward’s monthly visits continue. He is also tasked for emergency work resulting in not much being achieved in the village.
* Road sweepers and Gulley emptying vehicles will be made available on a more frequent basis.

Tony Hulton (Flood Warden)

* Drain and cut clearance has taken place across most of the village
* Residents are encouraged to sign up to flood warning:  [Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)
* Also to refer to flood awareness information provided by Wiltshire Council on their website: [Flooding - Wiltshire Council](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/flooding)
* CPC holds very limited stocks of sandbags, some signage and a portable generator. Households are responsible for ensuring they have necessary flood defence mechanisms for their property and to check guidance provided by their home insurance provider.
* Copies of flood impact forms completed in 2014 will be posted to those addresses which completed a form at that time.  This is for awareness.
* A village flood information sheet will be made available in November.

John Dillon (King’s Head Purchase and Allotments)

* Final negotiations on the contract of sale for The Kings Head are progressing. Potential tenants are being interviewed and assessed. Proposals for renovations are in hand, and a grant application for refurbishment work is ongoing.
* The allotments. Solicitor instructed to register the change of title with the Land Registry, from Wiltshire County Council to Chitterne Parish Council. Agreements for the two grazing plots are being reviewed.

Graham Potter (Police and Neighbourhood Watch)

* Nothing to report at this time.

Julia Hendrickse, Jane Bell (Traffic)

* The LHFIG (Local Highways & Footways  Improvement Group) have now approved all funding for the new Pedestrian/Horse signage which we have requested for the village.  The Parish Council have already approved their part of the funding and LHFIG have ordered the signs.  LHFIG confirmed that the signs will be installed in November.
* We are continuing to be in touch with Wiltshire Police regarding speeding in the village.  There is evidence from other villages that having a Speed Watch Group helps to encourage the police to focus on enforcing, as a joint approach.  If anyone would like to set up a Speed Watch Group, please contact either Jane Bell cpc.jbell@outlook.com or Julia Hendrickse cpc.hendrickse@hotmail.com

**AOB**

No matters brought forward.

**Date of Next Meetings**

Monday Jan 6; Monday March 3, Monday May 5.