

CHITTERNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of General Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors Charles Horsfall, John Dillon, Jane Bell, Julia Hendrickse.

In attendance: 8 parishioners.

Submissions from Members of the Public: Paul Cleary of Wessex Internet attended the public meeting to inform and update the village regarding the installation of Fibre Broadband. Wessex Internet have been awarded the contract by the Government to install the infrastructure for fibre broadband in rural communities, not reached by Open Reach. They will ensure the provision for everyone to get fibre, but no one has to sign up. The old copper network will be switched off by Open Reach in the next few years – by 2027. Work will commence in January 2025. The village will be kept up to date with developments. Any affected Landowners have been contacted directly. For further information, please visit www.wessexinternet.com

Virginia Neal thanked the Parish Council for organising the 'Horse awareness' signs. The PC thanked her for attending the ongoing Wiltshire Council meetings regarding the A303 and traffic. Virginia to give the PC some ideas for future ongoing engagement with Wiltshire Council and Highways.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Councillors Tony Hulton, Graham Potter, Kato O'Driscoll

2. Minutes of meeting held on 1st July 2024.

Approved as a correct record.

2. Dispensations.

None Received

4. To receive declarations of interests.

None received

5. Chairman's announcements.

Nothing significant to report

6. Councillor Vacancies.

Councillor O'Driscoll has tendered her resignation due to personal circumstances. There is now one vacancy for a Councillor.

7. Clerk vacancy.

Vacancy open for Locum Clerk or administrator.

8. Planning applications.

PL/2024/07777 - Works to a Listed Building: Pear Tree House - Replacement roof covering. No objections.

9. Correspondence.

None received.

10. Banking, assets & finances.

Treasurer's account, P&L and Balance sheet updated by RFO to 31st August 2024. Bank balance at 31st August 2024 - £15,338.59

11. Receipts & Payments (July & August).

Payments:	War Memorial - £250.00	Village Hall - £15.00
	INOS - £19.20	Village Hall - £500.00
	B Lee - £140.00	B Lee - £105.00
	WALC - £129.18	INOS - £18.00
	INOS - £19.20	Copymade - £80.00
	Mark Potter - £325.00	

Receipts: Second precept payment due in September.

12. Parish Accounts.

Approve and sign off Parish Accounts to 31st August 2024.

Approved

13. Chit Chat.

Councillors Jane Bell and Julia Hendrickse had a very positive meeting with Barry Ricketts, the new Editor of Chit Chat. We are all very keen to ensure that the Parish Newsletter continues for the benefit of the villagers. The newsletter will aim to encourage greater involvement of residents in village affairs and events and will also cover a wider area to include content from Shrewton, Tilshead, Codford and Warminster. We will continue to work together to ensure it remains an important source for local information.

The PC would like to thank Lindsay Lucas for all her work on Chit Chat over the years.

14. Review playing field mowing / maintenance agreement.

The Chairman reported that the mowing contract was last reviewed 3 years ago. Mr Lee mows around the play equipment and the Cricket Club mows the field. The cricket club machinery is getting old and the future of this agreement needs to be clarified.

Chairman to contact John Smedley to discuss clarity of areas of mowing/ability to mow. To be discussed at the next PC meeting.

15. Reports from Councillors

a. Allotments, Village Hall Liaison & King's Head :

Councillor Dillon

Allotments

Second invoices due to go out early October to the tenants of the two grazing plots, both of which appear to have become overgrown - will check prior to the meeting.

Village Hall Liaison:

The VHC would welcome a meeting with Cllr Hulton, following the offer to assist with a longer term strategic financial review. The PC thought this would be a useful step prior to any consideration of longer term funding of the VHC. A date to be arranged.

The Kings Head:

The Chitterne Community Pub Group has instructed solicitors to progress with the purchase of the pub. It is hoped that completion could be in October. The search for a suitable tenant is the next step, along with firming up plans for renovation works, with support from a band of village volunteers. The Public Works Loan Board borrowing facility for £400,000, which the PC had secured, is no longer needed - the facility lapsed in July.

b. Traffic & LHFIF :

Councillors Bell and Hendrickse

- The LHFIF have agreed the funding for the new permanent Horse / Pedestrian signs to be installed at either end of the village. Also a Pedestrian sign at the village hall, to ensure some safety for people crossing to the playing fields. We now await notification from Wiltshire Council regarding Installation dates.
- Wiltshire Police Traffic Team have been contacted again regarding speed watch in the village. We want to ensure that we remain a priority.
- Councillor Newbury has been contacted to clarify the weight limit restriction signs which differ between the A36 and the B390. Awaiting a response.

c. Chitterne Brook Playing field, MOD liaison & trees

Councillor Horsfall

Chitterne Brook /The Cut:

- Where necessary work will be done before water starts flowing again later in the year to remove obstacles, silt and to cut down vegetation on the banks.
- Landowners at the Tilshead and Codford ends of the village will be encouraged to do the same.

Playing field:

- Further work required to make the new shed housing the flood equipment more watertight.
- The stone boundary wall separating the playing field from the footpath along the Cut poses a risk in several places.
- Mowing and tidying up around the play equipment continues.
- The moles have returned and will need to be encouraged to leave.

Trees:

- Seb Macleod will be undertaking a health and safety survey of trees on council property. This will identify trees that require attention and enable planning consent for and work to be carried out.
- SSEN will be in the village on 2nd October to attend to some trees that could cause problems to HV lines.
- MOD agreed to take responsibility for trees but will need a little bit of ‘encouraging’ to attend to those that need attention.

Highways / Parish Steward:

Lee Haines from Highways visited the village. He is also in overall charge of the Parish Steward.

- In addition to the routine work carried out by the Parish Steward he has indicated that:
- Grass verges: mowing has started.
- Repairs to the footway at St Mary's Close: will be carried out but no start date has been fixed.
- Removal or replacement of the fence running along the west side of the C22 towards Codford from the B390: responsibility of the Facility management department and still waiting to hear what will be done.
- Fixing potholes: Highways and Parish Steward will fix the potholes. The preferred method of reporting potholes is the “My wilts” app.
- Cats eyes: the hole left from missing cats eye rarely meets the intervention level!
- White lining: has to be 80% worn before it is deemed a defect.
- Road sweeper: always available at short notice for emergency works.

d. Play equipment, Parish Steward & Defibrillator

To be re-allocated

Nothing significant to report.

e. Wiltshire Police liaison & Neighbourhood watch

Councillor Potter

Nothing significant to report.

g. Flood Warden & equipment

Councillor Hulton

As autumn arrives and there is increased precipitation the risk of flooding from surface runoff will increase, followed by groundwater flooding later in the year. Villagers are encouraged to check the guidance provided by their insurance provided and refer to Wiltshire Council Civil Emergency web pages [Civil emergencies - Wiltshire Council](#) which provides information relating to prevention, mitigation and recovery. In an emergency always call 999.

Work is ongoing to develop a Village emergency tool kit and directory. Comparisons with neighbouring villages have taken place and there is no standard format. An initial draft will be ready at the next PC meeting. There will also be a meeting 30mins before the next PC meeting to provide an overview of where to seek guidance to prevent, prepare and respond to flooding. All are encouraged to attend.

16. Other matters

- Imber Bus day. The Cricket Club organised the parking on the playing field and raised £320.00.
- Councillor Dillon stated that it is now necessary to register PC ownership of the allotments.

19. Date of next meeting:

Next meeting Monday 4th November 2024