

DRAFT

Minutes of Chesterton Parish Council Meeting at Chesterton Community Centre Tuesday, 9th April 2024 at 7.00 pm.

Councillors Present: Mel Cantwell, Jenny Hodges, Jo Rogers, Andrew Thomas (Chair), Tony Thompson,
In Attendance: Brian Inglis (Clerk), Mike White (RFO)
Public Attendance: 1 Member of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence

The Council accepted apologies from Councillors Paul Andrews, Johnathan Chavda, Chris Hawes and Gary Warland, Stephen Webster and Cherwell District Cllr Nigel Simpson.

2. Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest, Gifts and Hospitality

To receive any requests for dispensations or declarations of interest from Councillors relating to items on the agenda, in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and to note any gifts or hospitality. None received.

3. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th March 2024 -

The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

4. Update on Progress from Previous Minutes – Reports of progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision. None recorded.

5. Public Participation – None.

6. To Receive a Report from the District / County Councillor

District Cllr Nigel Simpson had submitted a report, which The Clerk would circulate to councillors.

7. To Receive a Report from the Allotment Committee

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that all but 8 allotment tenants had paid their 2024/25 rental fee and that he would send a polite reminder to the late payers.
Two plots have been given up and are being offered to those on the waiting list.
Cllr Hodges then gave a concise report on pre-season activity and work scheduled to be carried out, including turning on the water.
- 7.2 A letter (email) from a member of the public, which had been circulated and contained concerns over animal welfare on the allotments, was discussed. Councillors have been in contact with DEFRA and RSPCA and are satisfied that no creature on the allotments is being mis-treated. The Clerk was asked to reply to the writer to this effect and the situation will be kept under observation.

8. To Receive a Report from the Highway Committee

- 8.1 The Clerk reported on a notice of the temporary closure on the A4095 in the village, which would involve a period of 3 hours in total within the dates of 1st to 3rd May. Residents will have access to properties as and when required.
- 8.2 Community Speedwatch – Cllr Rogers gave an update on recent activity, paying tribute to the ongoing efforts of the volunteers involved in the programme.

- 8.3 Cllr Rogers reported that she had attended a meeting on 15th March 2024, chaired by County Councillor Ian Corkin between two representatives from Thames Water and councillors from four other neighbouring parish councils, stating that the proceedings had been cordial and mostly positive. The Chair would contact Cllr Corkin to request an update.

9. To Receive a Report from the Community Committee

- 9.1 Cllr Rogers gave an update on the Keep Chesterton Tidy Working Group
- 9.2 A letter (email) from a resident of Lander Close, which had been circulated and contained concerns over the upkeep of the wild meadow in the estate, was discussed. The Clerk would reply with an update on contractor activity, emphasising that the area remains under the control of the developer Taylor Wimpey and that there is no suggestion of CDC being close to adopting it.
- 9.3 A letter (email) from a resident of Augustan Road, which had been circulated and contained concerns over the lighting from the nearby driving range. The Clerk would reply, suggesting that the writer would make direct contact with the owners of the golf range, with a suggestion that an alternative lighting system is considered (Circulated)
- 9.4 There are no new residents in the village.

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from District Cllr Nigel Simpson which referred to a recent situation where customers of Chesterton Hotel had been forced to park outside the hotel grounds due to the hotel having inadequate parking provision on days when the hotel is at full capacity and had led to the police being called. Cllr Simpson is due to meet with officers from TVP to discuss this and other matters and will provide an update. The Clerk will suggest to Cllr Simpson that the hotel would be encouraged to run a courtesy bus service from the park and ride at busy times.

10. To Receive a Report from Environmental/Burnehyll Woodland Committee

- 10.1 Cllr Thompson gave a report on recent activity on the Burnehyll Woodland site, plans for the future, an update on grants received and gave credit to everyone involved in this project to date.

11. To Receive the Finance Officer's Monthly Report, Discuss other Finance Matters and Approve Expenditure/Income

- 14.1 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes March 2024 (circulated prior to the meeting). Accepted. RFO Mike White reported that Year End preparations and the process of internal audit are under way, and he will work with the Clerk to address any issues as they may arise. This was accepted.
- 14.2 Monthly Report (circulated prior to meeting) Discussed, to satisfaction of councillors.
- 14.3 Receipts & Payment Report - (circulated prior to meeting). Scrutinised, all councillors in agreement.
- 14.4 It was RESOLVED to spend an amount of up to £2,000 to make the hedging on the eastern perimeter of the playing field safe for users of the field. (Action – Clerk / Cllr Rogers)

12. Governance

- 12.1 Councillors RESOLVED to adopt an updated Privacy Notice (circulated prior to the meeting), which will be appended to the parish website (Action – Clerk)
- 12.2 The Chair informed council that discussions are ongoing, and the proposed Lease Agreement with Football and Cricket Club for 2024-25 will be finalised and circulated soon. (Action – Cllr Chavda)
- 12.3 The Chair informed council that discussions are ongoing, and the proposed Lease Agreement with CIO for 2024-25 will be finalised and circulated in due course (Action – Cllr Chavda)

13. Report from OALC / OCC day on 20th March

Cllr Hodges reported on an informative day which she was thanked for taking the time to attend.

14. Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 23rd April 2024

The Clerk circulated a suggested agenda and reported that some of the village groups have submitted reports ahead of this meeting. The Chair will prepare a power point presentation, with input from the RFO and Stephen Webster. (Action – Clerk / Chair)

15. To Receive a Report from the Planning Committee

Stephen Webster had circulated a report, giving updates on Great Wolf, the Wates Development Appeal, the Emerging Cherwell Local Plan (2040) and the ongoing application to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. He was thanked for such a comprehensive report and for his ongoing work on behalf of residents.

16. To Receive A Report On Planning Applications Received

Cllr Hodges gave an update on two new planning applications, noting that comments have been submitted to CDC in both cases. Cllr Hodges then gave an update on several pending and decided planning applications.

17. Important Correspondence Received Since The Last Meeting

The Chair reported that he had received an email from a resident asking why there had been no prior notification the residents of the increased precept charge for 2024/25. The Chair had responded, stating that the information had been made public on the parish website and social media page as well as the ABC magazine, stating that the decision had been taken following opinions given during a busy residents’ meeting in the community centre on Saturday 28th October 2023. No further action needed.

The meeting Finished at: 8:41pm.

The Chair reminded councillors to consider content for the next edition of ABC magazine. (Action - All)

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 14th May 2024, 7pm

Signed: Date:
(Chair)

Chesterton Parish Council Meeting Dates 2024
All meetings commence at 7pm at Chesterton Community Centre

- Tuesday 14th May 2024
- Tuesday 4th June 2024
- Tuesday 2nd July 2024
- August – No Meeting
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- Tuesday 1st October 2024
- Tuesday 5th November 2024

Members of the Public welcome to attend.