

CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at 6.00pm
The Pavilion, Allington Fields, Frogwell, Chippenham SN14 0YZ

1st June 2022

Present: Cllr S Eades, Cllr H Ham and Cllr P Reynolds, Wiltshire Councillor H Greenman, 13 members of the public and Mr V Vines Clerk of the Council.

MIN 1. Apologies: Cllr C Harford and Cllr Mrs L Selman.

MIN 2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2021:

Draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 28th April 2021 were circulated to those in attendance and had been available online.

Cllr H Ham proposed, Cllr S Eades seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes from the above Meeting. The Parish Meeting Chairman, Cllr P Reynolds duly signed the Minutes.

MIN 3. Matter arising from the Annual Parish Meeting 2021:

There were none that were not included as later Agenda items.

MIN 4. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr P Reynolds, reported on the Parish Council activities for the year and advised that this Annual Meeting had been scheduled slightly later this year to allow the opportunity for Parishioners to attend a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration following it. All Parishioners had been invited.

In opening his comments, Cllr Reynolds highlighted the physical size of the Parish and the rural nature and the need to protect this from urban encroachment. He reflected on the historic assets within the Parish including Sheldon Manor, the Roman Settlement and The Long Stone. With this in mind he stressed the importance of sound rural planning policies and the need for an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and thanked Cllr H Ham and Cllr S Eades, the Council's representatives on the Steering Group, for their sterling work throughout the last 12 months.

With the Covid-19 restrictions being gradually lifted the Council had been able to return to face-to-face meetings, moving the meeting venue into the Parish at The Pavilion, Allington Fields.

The Council had responded to all planning consultations throughout the year with varied success. The Council now had a forward capital programme of providing Parish "entrance gates" and also the improvement of notice board provision. He remarked that the Council was well served by the local Wiltshire Council Parish Steward

In closing all Council Members were thanked for their work during the year.

MIN 5. Parish Council's Budget 2022-2023:

The Clerk circulated the Parish Council's Budget and Precept Requirement for the year 2022/2023.

The Council had considered proposals for Year 2022/2023, together with background advice from Wiltshire Council and future Capital and Revenue spending requirements at their November 2021 Meeting. Consideration had been given to a forward budget and cost pressures and the Council had been mindful of the fact that any large increases proposed needed the support of Parishioners during inflationary times. The Council had agreed that there was a need to maintain the Capital Fund by resisting any reductions to support the Revenue Account.

The Council had been advised by Wiltshire Council of their (89.58) Band D Tax Base and as usual the Band D property charge would result from the Council's Precept divided by the Tax Base. The previous year the Tax Base had been (88.03) with Precept £12,000.00 resulting in a £136.32 Band D property charge. The Council had increased their budget for 2021/2022 from £10,000.00 to £12,000.00 to accommodate rising revenue costs and potential capital spending, without using any of the existing Capital Funds held.

Following consideration the Council had agreed to retain their Precept requirement at £12,000.00 for this Council Year. This had resulted in a reduction in the Band D Property Charge to £133.95 (£2.37) for the year.

MIN 6. Report from Wiltshire Council Representative:

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman was pleased to attend and advised that it was good to be able to report on this, his 13th Annual Parish Report, although life continued to present its' challenges.

A year ago, he had reflected on the blight that Covid-19 had become on life and society in general, hoping that we'd soon be through the tunnel, and yet a year on albeit with a different variant Omicron, we continued to be beset with it, with spikes in different parts of the country and in fact in Wiltshire too. Although as a County we seemed to have been spared the worst outbreaks. Covid-19 had put significant strain on Wiltshire Council health budgets and on wider health service provision too, with the SWAST, South-West Ambulance Service Trust reporting numerous instances of inundation of their services. The NHS too, had valiantly soldiered on in the face of seemingly endless pressure on their expertise and care also. We owed them all a debt of gratitude. His thoughts continued to be with those of who had lost loved ones due to this pandemic. Even for those who hadn't lost loved ones, the aftermath would be felt for a long time to come.

He advised that he would come to some Wiltshire Council budgetary pressures, but that it was worth reflecting too on the utterly tragic situation being played out in the Ukraine. Who could have foreseen this ugliness just a few months ago? The impact of this, hot on the heels of Covid19 had been, and would be further felt by everyone no doubt, but he also knew that a number had offered accommodation to those displaced from the Ukraine, and everyone was to be applauded for that. He was hopeful that in the short term the bureaucratic obstacles to putting the kind gestures into practice would be overcome, as only too soon, everyone would need to 'step up to the plate' in this very practical way of fulfilling need. Within Wiltshire Council they were doing all they could to facilitate this. However, as a word of warning he reported that the Ukraine refugee situation was complex although around 1500 accommodation offers were locally registered there remained a need for a strict vetting process.

Moving on to Wiltshire Council budgets for the following fiscal year he reported that, it was a bit of a mixed bag really, although happily not as painful as he once imagined it would be. Wiltshire Council had needed to plug a £27m shortfall in the budgetary provision, through £3m on the Adult Care levy, and £24m in savings. There had been a sharp increase in adult care and

social services requirement necessitating some very careful and imaginative handling of fiscal priorities.

Broadly speaking he advised that the revenue spend for 2022/23 would be £417.703m, to be spent as follows;

- 35% caring for adults,
- 20% spent on supporting and safeguarding our children and young people,
- 10% on managing Wiltshire's waste,
- 9% funding the investment in Wiltshire's schools, new roads and housing,
- 9% on maintaining Wiltshire's highways and subsidising local bus services,
- 7% on running the council and local elections,
- 4% on our property,
- 3% on our online and digital services,
- 2% on Wiltshire's leisure and libraries, and
- 1% on improving Wiltshire's economy.

He continued to chair the Strategic Planning Committee for Wiltshire Council and beyond the clear environmental pressures of some planning applications, was often faced with the tensions between Neighbourhood Plans and government targets for housing delivery. He was proud then of our Parishes that have completed the Neighbourhood Plan process and urged others to continue to bring theirs to fruition.

He hoped soon to revitalise the Rural Parish Forum too following the break due to the pandemic, and would be focusing on fly-tipping once again as the scourge in our countryside and environment it was, and also hoped to bring back the Cyber Crime expert from the Wiltshire Constabulary to heighten our awareness of the increase of cyber crime, as it was now the fastest form of crime our police forces face.

In conclusion he thanked all for their time, with every good wish for the year ahead.

The Chairman of the Meeting thanked Councillor Greenman for his advice, continued involvement and assistance during the past year.

MIN 7. Reports from Local Organisations:

There were no Reports.

MIN 8. Chippenham Without Neighbourhood Plan:

Stephen Eades reported on further progress throughout the year on what was considered to be an essential planning tool for the protection of the Parish during the Neighbourhood Plan period. The Steering Group had produced a Draft Neighbourhood Plan and following both the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council approval had carried out the Regulation 14 Consultation. Everyone in the Parish, including all landowners and local businesses had been consulted and the vast majority of responses had fully supported the Draft Plan proposals. The Consultation had also included external bodies, such as the Environment Agency, Historic England, all service providers and others and no negative comments received. Sadly Wiltshire Council, despite having supplied a Link Officer throughout the process, submitted a lengthy response requiring the Steering Group to fully assess each policy recommendation within the Draft Plan. This had now been completed and a slightly updated Plan has been forwarded to them for their further comment.

Providing Wiltshire Council confirm that the proposals conformed to National and Local Planning Policy the Draft Plan could move forward to the next stages, the first of which would be the appraisal and approval of an appointed Planning Inspector. Completion of this stage would lead to a Parish Referendum, where all on the Electoral Roll would be given the

opportunity to approve the Final Plan. Timescales remained unknown but it was hoped that before the next Annual Parish Meeting in 2023 the Chippenham Without Neighbourhood Plan had been adopted and now formed part of the material planning considerations on all development proposals within the Parish.

Stephen Eades highlighted the fact that the Draft Plan included proposals for more community involvement, suggesting that working groups be formed to carry out various important tasks, that included an aspiration for better communications throughout the Parish. Volunteers would be required to take matters forward.

The Chairman of the Meeting thanked Stephen and Howard Ham and other Steering Group members for their work throughout the year.

MIN 9. Public Questions and General Discussion of Parish Issues:

Cllr H Ham reported briefly on a number of Parish related matters:

- a) **New Parish Notice Boards.** The Council had agreed to provide a new Notice Board at Allington Crossroads as part of a programme of updating notice board provision throughout the Parish.
- b) **New Parish Entrance Gates.** The Council had agreed a forward programme of erecting highway verge entrance gates on all roads leading into the Parish.
- c) **Organisation of Parish Newsletter.** The Council had been made aware of the need for more communication within the Parish and had considered that an electronic Newsletter could be made available, with hard copy delivered to those unable to receive through electronic means. There would be a need for a volunteer Editor to come forward to assist.
- d) **Defibrillator Provision with the Parish.** The Council continued to lease two defibrillators from the S W Ambulance NHS Trust to provide an essential local service.
- e) **Traffic Speeds.** The Council mindful of traffic speeds throughout the Parish on the A420 had requested Wiltshire Highways to consider a lowering of the speed limit. This involved a traffic survey and the Council was supporting this with local partnership funding.
- f) **Roadside Verges.** The Council having been informed of Wiltshire Highways new cutting proposals and re-wilding policies had queried the timing of cuts and had requested that a length of verge within Allington Lane be left uncut to allow wilding to occur before cutting.
- g) **Broadband Installation.** The provision of high speed broadband throughout the Parish was now available following the completion of the Gigaclear ducting installation.
- h) **Public Rights of Way.** The maintenance of the Right of Way network throughout the Parish was important particularly as the Parish offered rural amenity opportunities to the adjacent urban area that were to be enhanced by improved connections across the A350.

There were no questions or issues raised.

MIN 10. Closure of Meeting:

The Chairman of the Meeting thanked all those who had attended the Annual Parish Meeting and closed the Meeting at 7.00pm.

Unveiling of the Parish's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Memorial. Following the closure of the formal business the Chairman of the Council invited all to the unveiling of a Ceremonial

Bench purchased to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to partake in the refreshments available. The intention was to install the bench at Allington Crossroads

Signed:

Councillor:

Date: