

# CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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4 HOME FARM  
TEBWORTH  
LEIGHTON BUZZARD  
BEDFORDSHIRE LU7 9QD

THE **NEXT MEETING** OF CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at 7.30pm at CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL.

Lesley Smith, Clerk to the Council

## **AGENDA**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. OPEN FORUM
3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MEETING
4. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
5. POLICE MATTERS
6. REPORT from WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION
7. REPORT from ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE
8. MATTERS ARISING FROM JANUARY 2024 MINUTES
9. POINTS RAISED from DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024 CORRESPONDENCE
10. EMERGENCY PLAN-Report and update.
11. JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
12. ACCOUNTS-a) To approve online payments
13. TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR the PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024
14. HIGHWAYS ISSUES
15. COMMITTEE REPORTS
16. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA
17. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**MINUTES** of the meeting of Chalgrave Parish Council held on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr Harvey Greenwood; Cllr Ken Green; Cllr Vicky Hydes; Cllr Kevin Ludgate; Cllr Phil Parry (Chair); Cllr Jane Spiers; Cllr Peter Warburton; Ward Cllr Mark Versallion; The Rev. Linda Washington; Lesley Smith-Clerk.

**Public present:** 0

Guest: Lindsay Measures-Rights of Way Officer (South 1)

#### **Committees**

<b>Planning</b>	Cllr Warburton	07941 624419	
<b>Rights of Way</b>	Cllr Green-Chair	874107	Cllr Warburton 07941 624419
<b>Website</b>	Cllr Warburton	07941 624419	
<b>Speed Watch</b>	Cllr Parry	07831 605600	

#### **Responsibilities**

Cllr Parry	Highways liaison	07831 605600
Cllr Greenwood	Police liaison	07932 326274

#### **Volunteers**

Defibrillator	Barbara Jackson
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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

#### **2. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 MEETING**

The minutes of December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting were approved by the council and signed as correct by the chair.

#### **3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Spiers declared interests in:

- Chalgave Memorial Hall; she is a member of the committee.
- The Chalgrave News; she is on the editorial team.
- All Saints Church, Chalgrave.

#### **4. GUEST: LINDSAY MEASURES-Rights of Way Officer (South 1)**

Lindsay thanked Cllr Green for all his work on the parish's rights of way (ROW).

- P3 Groups.** Forming a P3 group within a parish is always helpful in maintaining the ROW. Otherwise CBC has to hire contractors to do the work. P3 members walk the ROW and carry out maintenance. Lindsay can provide equipment and insurance to cover volunteers. She will arrange training for using strimmers etc. Cllr Spiers has volunteered to help. Cllr Parry will put an article in the Chalgrave News.
- Stiles.** Cllr Green said that all the stiles were in bad condition.
- Footpath 17** continues to be the biggest problem. There are sheep in one of the fields, which is surrounded with an electric fence and there is no way through.
- Landowners.** Cllr Warburton asked if permission was needed from landowners to carry out ROW work on their land. Cllr Green said that the farmers were generally cooperative.

Lindsay concluded by saying that most of Highways budget goes on the roads so little is left for ROW.

#### **5. REPORT FROM WARD CLLR VERSALLION**

- CBC Budget.** The budget meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It is likely that council tax will increase by 5%. CBC has an overspend of £10 million. However CBC has reasonable reserves in the bank.
- Ministry of Defence Land, Chicksands.** The CBC offices are built on former MOD land. The government has announced that the rest of the land could be sold within the next few years.
- M1-A6 Link Road** looks in jeopardy because the developers will not finance the £13 million gap needed to complete the project. It could be another 5 years before completion.

- d) **Queen's Head.** Cllr Green proposed that the PC sends a letter to Highways (HW) asking for clarification on how HW land is defined and the origins and reasons for this. **All Agreed.** Cllr Verslillion agreed to deliver the letter by hand to the relevant person at HW once he had received it from the clerk. **Clerk**
- e) **The Plough Inn.** Cllr Verslillion will support the PC's application to make The Plough a Community Asset. He said that CBC would accept any additional evidence to support the importance of the pub to the community.
- f) **Ward Councillor Grant.** Cllr Parry asked if any money was still available. Cllr Verslillion said 'yes' and to apply as soon as possible.
- g) **Lords Hill Roundabout.** Cllr Hydes mentioned that there had been several accidents on the roundabout when turning left from the Toddington direction onto the bypass, possibly caused by the camber. Contact National Highways to report. **Clerk**

## 6. **REPORT FROM CHALGRAVE CHURCH. Report by the Rev. Linda Washington**

- a) **Christmas Services** went well with good attendance. The church was decorated beautifully. Linda thanked Cllr Parry for reading a lesson on behalf of the PC. Carol Services also took place at Toddington Church.
- b) **Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea.** Linda attended the Afternoon Tea held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at Parkfields Middle School. She chatted to many parishioners while she was there and took away spare food to distribute to people in the village.
- c) **Christmas Hamper Bags.** Both churches prepared hamper bags for families and individuals in need. The parcels were made possible by donations from church members and the Toddington Church 'Love Fund'.
- d) **Chalgrave Churchyard.** Volunteers, including Roger Fenwick, have cut back overgrown shrubs. The Portaloo will be removed as it is no longer needed. Linda thanked everyone who has helped to maintain the grounds during the year.
- e) **Church Beams.** The church beams in the Nave have been surveyed by the church architect and the church builder. One beam is rotting at one end. Permission from the Diocese will be needed before going ahead with the repair. The internal eaves of the Chancel will be investigated and a hatch will be cut out on the right-hand side of the Chancel so birds' nests etc. can be cleared away. These have been causing potential damp and rot issues. Hopefully the church will remain open for Sunday services but fund raising and other activities will not happen until the work is completed. The costs are already £37,000 with further costs for the repair of the Nave beam.
- f) **Pop Up Tearoom.** The tea room will continue every month. The Memorial Hall Committee is paid £20 for each session. The funds raised add to the church finances. Linda thanked all those who provide the cakes and savouries and help on the day. She also thanked the attendees.
- g) **Community Funding.** The Memorial Hall Committee has asked the church and the PC to support an application for funding. The church is happy to support.
- h) **Services at Chalgrave Church**
  - i) March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Good Friday morning service at 10am
  - j) March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024: Easter Day service with Holy Communion at 9.30am
- k) **The Year Ahead.** It is hoped to lead a benefice Alpha course, Confirmation classes and a home benefice group. Linda asked for ideas on how the church can become more involved within the parish. She thanked the PC for its annual grant to help towards the maintenance of the church grounds.

**Contact.** Rev. Linda is keen to offer care and support or just for a chat or a prayer. Contact 01525 714442; [revdchalgrave@gmail.com](mailto:revdchalgrave@gmail.com)

## 7. **POLICE MATTERS**

- a) **Reported Crime.** No crimes were reported during January 2024
- b) **Deputy Police Chief Commissioner Ian Delgarno** will attend the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Parish Council meeting. Cllr Greenwood asked that cllrs and residents let him have their concerns and views to discuss with Mr Delgarno.
- c) **Wildlife and Rural Crime.** Cllr Greenwood will contact the Rural Crime Unit concerning dog attacks on wildlife such as deer etc. **Clerk**
- d) **Neighbourhood Watch.** Our News January newsletter in correspondence.
- e) **Beds Alert.** Local Policing council tax/precept survey 2024/25 in correspondence.

## 8. **MATTERS ARISING FROM DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 MINUTES**

- a) **Chalgrave Manor and Tebworth Solar Farms.**
  - i. **Chalgrave Manor Solar Farm.** The developers have applied for Discharge of Conditions, which mainly relate to maintaining and encouraging biodiversity on the site. The PC objects to this application-see Item 15a)i.

- ii. Tebworth Solar Farm. Follow up with the agents about the public meeting for Tebworth Solar Farm and ask for the website to be updated. **Clerk**
- b) Tebworth Pond. The PC will plan to carry out maintenance work on the pond in the autumn.
- c) Ice opposite the Queen's Head Pub. The PC has responded to an email from a Tebworth resident asking what is being done to reduce the potential for frozen water on the bend. Cllr Green mentioned the flooding on Wingfield Road. The PC continues to press HW into finding solutions to both issues. **Clerk**

#### 9. POINTS RAISED on NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 and JANUARY 2024 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) CBC Tree Planting Scheme. Cllr Warburton asked if the PC could identify common/HW land where trees could be planted. Clerk to find out if trees can be requested to plant in gardens or private land. **Clerk**
- b) Flooding on The Lane. Cllr Green commented that the perceived opinion is that flooding on The Lane is caused by a blockage near Willow Tree Farm.

#### 10. CHALGRAVE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

- a) Bleed Kit. Clerk to buy a bleed kit at a cost of £75.00 approximately. **Clerk**
- b) Cabinet for Bleed Kit. The PC discussed buying a separate unlockable cabinet for the bleed kit. This would cost £250 approximately.

#### 11. DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) Chalgrave Memorial Hall. The Co-Chairs of the hall have contacted the PC and All Saints Church about the possibility of a collaborative approach to applying for a Community Grant from CBC. The PC would support any application by the hall committee.
- b) Civility and Respect Project. December 2023 newsletter in correspondence.
- c) National Highways.; M1 Jct 10-13. Details of overnight closures throughout January 2024. In correspondence.
- d) Streetworks.
  - i. Chalgrave Road closed from 10<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024
  - ii. The Lane; Closed from 16 to Lane Farm for gully cleansing 4-6 March 2024
  - iii. The Lane. Road closed by The Grain Store and Willow Tree Farm 2-5 April 2024
- e) BATPC. Newsletter. December 2023 edition in correspondence.
- f) CPRE: Campaign Update: Rooftop Renewables Survey. Results of the survey in correspondence.
- g) Hedgehog Awareness. Information about road warning signs in correspondence.
- h) ERTA. Agenda for meeting on Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in correspondence
- i) CBC. Letter from Cllr Adam Zemy, Leader CBC. Cllr Zemy has asked people to send him a list of where the worst local flood damage was in the recent rainy weather. He also asked that the information is also sent to the Environment Agency as they will be collating the information nationally. In correspondence.
- j) Clerks and Councils Direct. January 2024 magazine in correspondence.

#### 12. ACCOUNTS

- a) Online Banking. The PC has approved the following online payments:

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount £</u>
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator pads	73.14
Community Heartbeat	VETS fee	60.00
Lesley Smith	Clerk's salary + expenses November/December 2023	688.79
Cloud Next	gov.uk Domain (chalgrave-pc.gov.uk)-biennial payment	132.00
London Green Belt Council	Annual subscription 2024	25.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>978.93</b>

- b) Also paid.

Standing Order	Chalgrave IT Solutions	Computer monitoring-January 2024	5.00
DD	Clear Methods	Payroll service December 2023	10.25

- c) Income.

None this month.

- d) Bank Statements; 05 /01/2024

- i. Current Account: £4,678.84
- ii. Reserve account: £6,321.95

### 13. ANNUAL DONATION

Each year the PC makes a £100 donation to a local charity. It was **unanimously agreed** to make the 2023 donation to Keech Hospice. **Clerk**

### 14. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- a) **1 Home Farm.** At the October meeting Cllr Parry commented that the 20mph sign should be located before the bend by The Vicarage. HW was contacted to ask for the sign to be relocated. No response yet. Closed.
- b) **Grass Verge from Church Road to Toddington.** The PC asked for a footway along this stretch of verge prior to the installation of the new cable. Follow up. **Clerk**
- c) **Hockliffe Road.** Several weeks ago the PC asked HW to cut back the vegetation, which is growing over the footway. Awaiting response. Chase. **Clerk**
- d) **Pothole.** The pothole on the B5120 at the top of Lords Hill near the Tebworth Road junction still has not been repaired. Report again. **Clerk**
- e) **Log in Gateway.** At the December 2023 meeting Cllr Hydes mentioned the log placed in front of a farm gate on Tebworth Road and the large containers further down the road. She was concerned that a vehicle might hit them as they are close to the road. Cllr Ludgate will speak to the landowner.
- f) **Sign Indicating a Bend** by Pond Farm is facing the wrong way. Report to HW. **Clerk**

### 15. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### a) Planning

##### i. Applications

Application No.	Address	Proposed work	PC comments	CBC decision
22/04307	Land at Sundon	Development of new sports facility	No objections	To be decided
23/02952/LDCE	Ivy Farm Barns Plot 2	Retention of grey cladding	Object. Cladding not in keeping with surroundings.	To be decided
23/03692	The Paddocks, Wingfield Road	New exterior finishes. New door and windows on side elevations	No objections	Granted
23/03792	Queens Head, Tebworth	Retention of weather shelter - to be reduced in size	No objections	To be decided
23/03409/SCN	Chalgrave Manor Golf Club	Club House to be demolished and a new one built plus other works	N/A	Pre-application advice released
23/03990/DOC	Chalgrave Manor Solar Farm	Discharge of conditions 13, 15,16, 17 and 19 against application 22/04302	Object. Removes requirement to encourage, protect and maintain biodiversity	To be decided

- ii. CPRE Bedfordshire: Understanding Planning Workshop. To be held on 03 February 2024. Cllr Hydes will attend. **VH**

#### b) Rights of Way (ROW)

See Item 4.

#### c) Website

- i. Cllr Warburton has contacted Alpaca, the agents for Tebworth Solar Farm, for an update to submit to the website and The Chalgrave News. Awaiting response. **PW**
- ii. Cllr Warburton has uploaded Cllr Greenwood's profile onto the website. He still has Cllrs Hydes and Spiers to upload. **VH; JS**

#### d) Speed Watch.

- i. Cllr Parry has arranged January Speed Watches. Cllr Parry has asked the police if a Speed Watch could be carried out near Upper Tythe Farm, Hockliffe Road. They will investigate and report back to Cllr Parry.
- ii. Cllr Hydes will do the online training in order to join the Speed Watch volunteers. **VH**

**16. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

Parish Assembly 2024

**17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 20.56pm

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....