

# CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

MRS. LESLEY SMITH  
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL  
Tel: 01525 874716  
email: clerk@chalgrave-pc.gov.uk

4 HOME FARM  
TEBWORTH  
LEIGHTON BUZZARD  
BEDFORDSHIRE LU7 9QD

THE **NEXT MEETING** OF CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, APRIL 16<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 MARCH 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MEETING
4. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
5. POLICE MATTERS
6. TO DISCUSS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
7. REPORT from WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION
8. REPORT from ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE
9. MATTERS ARISING FROM MARCH 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MINUTES
10. POINTS RAISED from FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 CORRESPONDENCE
11. MARCH/APRIL 2024 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
12. EMERGENCY PLAN-Report and update
13. PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024 DEBRIEF
14. TO DISCUSS LEISURE and PLAY FACILITIES WITHIN THE PARISH
15. ACCOUNTS-a) To approve online payments
16. HIGHWAYS ISSUES
17. COMMITTEE REPORTS
18. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA
19. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**MINUTES** of the meeting of Chalgrave Parish Council held on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr Harvey Greenwood; Cllr Ken Green; Cllr Kevin Ludgate; Cllr Jane Spiers; Cllr Peter Warburton; Ward Cllr Mark Versallion; Lesley Smith-Clerk.

**Public present:** 1

Guest: Ian Delgarno, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner; PC Stuart Grant; PC Rob Millen.

### **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
---------------	-----------------

*Due to the absence of Cllr Parry, Cllr Green took the chair this evening.*

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Phil Parry (Chair); Cllr Vicky Hydes.

#### **2. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MEETING**

The minutes of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting were approved by the council and signed as correct by the chair.

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

- a) Cllr Spiers declared interests in:
- Chalgrave Memorial Hall; she is a member of the committee.
  - The Chalgrave News; she is on the editorial team.
  - All Saints Church, Chalgrave.
- b) Cllr Greenwood: Willow Tree Farm, The Lane, planning application. Cllr Greenwood lives on The Lane.

#### **4. GUEST-IAN DELGARNO**

Mr Delgarno introduced himself. Part of his role as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is to visit town and parish councils. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are the voice of the public regarding the police.

- a) **Police Officer Numbers.** There are 14,067 warranted officers in Bedfordshire, more than ever before. 300 are on probation and 350 are already through. People from ethnic communities are being recruited. Bedfordshire has the youngest force in the UK. Rate of exit is 6%, down from 11%. Bedfordshire is funded as a rural police force.
- b) **Rural Crime Team** consists of 88 constables and response officers. The force hopes to improve the current rate of prosecutions of 7%. There is an increase of burglaries on commercial properties and farms. Officers are working with farmers.
- c) **Current Situation.**
- i. Beds has the largest housing growth in the country so the police are working with other services; Fire and Rescue, Ambulance etc.
  - ii. Safer Streets; more money is available for combatting antisocial behaviour.
  - iii. More money available for Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, Dog Watch and Horse Watch.
  - iv. Working with South Wales Police on facial recognition.
  - v. Shoplifting is being targeted. In partnership with supermarkets.
  - vi. Improvements have been made in communication and response times.
- d) **Funding.** Government funding has increased this year.
- e) **Local Successes.**
- i. The size of the Rural Crime Team has doubled.

- ii. Hare coursing has decreased but targeting pheasants and other birds has increased. Magistrates need to understand the wildlife issues in order to prosecute more effectively.

Questions and comments were then put to Mr. Delgarno and the two Police Officers.

## 5. POLICE MATTERS

- a) Reported Crime. No crimes were reported in February and the first half of March 2024.
- b) Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. February 2024 newsletter in correspondence.
- c) Neighbourhood Watch. Our News March 2024 newsletter in correspondence.

## 6. REPORT FROM WARD CLLR VERSALLION

- a) Budget 2024/25. The council has agreed a 5% increase in council tax but some services still have to be cut. Cllr Versallion explained that CBC had used some of its reserves in the past but inflation and extra funding for children with special needs has necessitated this year's increase in council tax.
- b) Ward Cllr Grants. The PC has received a grant to replace the defibrillator cabinet. Cllr Versallion still has money available.
- c) The Plough Inn is now a Community Asset.

## 7. REPORT FROM CHALGRAVE CHURCH.

No report this month.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING FROM FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 MINUTES

- a) The Plough Inn. The Plough is now a Community Asset.
- b) Lords Hill Roundabout. The PC contacted National Highways to report that there have been several accidents on the roundabout when turning left from the Toddington direction onto the bypass. National Highways has responded and they say that they are investigating and collecting data to see if traffic calming measures are required. Ongoing.
- c) 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 has objected to this application.
  - ii. Tebworth Solar Farm.
    - The public meeting for Tebworth Solar Farm was held on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6-8pm.
    - Alpaca have sent answers to Cllr Warburton's questions about the solar farm. To be put on the website.
- d) CBC Tree Planting Scheme. Information in correspondence.
- e) CBC Biodiversity Initiatives The PC has sent an expression of interest to CBC for their No Mow May campaign.
- f) Hedgehog Awareness. The PC has now **agreed** to buy one sign to be put up on Hockliffe Road. **Clerk**

## 9. POINTS RAISED on JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Willow Tree Farm: Planning Application 24/00253. Comments made that:
  - i. Lane Farm was the only residence opposite to Willow Tree Farm to receive a notice of the application.
  - ii. Residents of Lane Farm are concerned about potential noise from the workshop.

## 10. FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) Chalgrave Memorial Hall.
  - i. Update on the hall's latest committee meeting held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in correspondence.
  - ii. The hall committee has asked the PC for a grant of £355 to help pay for upgrading the external lighting. The PC normally awards the hall a grant each year. Grant to be considered once the PC has received the 2024 precept. Ongoing.
- b) BATPC: New Councillor Induction Training Session will be held on Thursday April 18, 2024 at Shefford House, Shefford, 7.30pm-9.30pm.
- c) CBC: Partnerships, Community & Engagement Team: Sustainability Projects. The PC received an email from Cllr Tracey Wye-Executive Member for Sustainability and Climate Resilience asking councils to send her details of their sustainability projects. In correspondence.
- d) CBC: Partnerships, Community & Engagement Team: Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Notification of an online session on the Bedfordshire LNRS taking place on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6-7pm
- e) CBC: Supporting Young People's Mental Health. Details of a website, Everything OK?, for young people. In correspondence.

- f) **CBC: Celebration of Arts and Culture.** Details of a podcast on the arts and cultural heritage in Central Bedfordshire. In correspondence.
- g) **CBC: Grant Allocations for Community Projects.** CBC has awarded £240,589 worth of grants to 12 organisations. Information in correspondence.
- h) **Stop the Arc Group.** March 2024 newsletter in correspondence.
- i) **National Highways.** Details of M1 overnight closures from March 20-23, 2024.
- j) **CBC: Coffee Pods.** Information on CBC's coffee pod recycling scheme. In correspondence.
- k) **Clerks and Councils Direct.** March 2024 magazine in correspondence.

**11. LEISURE and PLAY FACILITIES WITHIN THE PARISH**

Questions asked by Cllr Hydes deferred until the April meeting.

**12. CHALGRAVE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

- a) **Defibrillator and Bleed Kit Cabinet.** The PC has received a grant of £379.50 from Ward Cllr Versallion to go towards buying a new cabinet and bleed kit. Progressing. **Clerk**

**13. ACCOUNTS**

- a) **Online Banking.** No payments made this month.

- b) **Also paid.**

Standing Order	Chalgrave IT Solutions	Computer monitoring-March 2024	5.00
DD	Clear Methods	Payroll service February 2024	10.25

- c) **Hill Close Noticeboard.** The noticeboard is wobbly. The PC has received a quote of £200 to set the legs into concrete to stabilise.

- d) **Income.**

- i. Interest on Reserve account £7.28
- ii. Repayment of Clerk's salary for November/December 2023 £688.79
- iii. Ward Cllr Grant: £379.50

- e) **Bank Statements; 05 /03/2024**

- i. Current Account: £3,583.41
- ii. Reserve account: £6,329.23

**14. PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024**

The Parish Assembly is arranged for April 11<sup>th</sup> and the format will be as in past years. Invitations have been sent to the parish organisations, Andrew Selous MP, Ward Cllr Versallion and the police.

**15. HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

- a) **Potholes.** Reporting the following again:
  - i. Toddington Road by the Queen's Head.
  - ii. Lords Hill near the junction with Tebworth Road. **Clerk**
- b) **The Lane, Tebworth.** Report the blocked drains again. **Clerk**
- c) **Grass Verge from Church Road to Toddington.** The PC asked for a footway along this stretch of verge prior to the installation of a new cable. Ongoing. **Clerk**
- d) **Hockliffe Road.** Several weeks ago the PC asked HW to cut back the vegetation, which is growing over the footway. Chase again. **Clerk**
- e) **The Lane: HW Boundaries.** Follow up on where the HW boundaries are. **Clerk**
- f) **Log in Gateway.** There are now two logs placed in front of a farm gate on Tebworth Road and there are large containers further down the road on the verge. The PC is concerned that a vehicle might hit them as they are close to the road. Report to HW. In progress. **Clerk**
- g) **Sign Indicating a Bend** by Pond Farm was facing the wrong way. Report sent to HW. Report again. **Clerk**
- h) **Chalgrave Road Sign** at junction with the B5120 has been dislodged. Cllr Parry has contacted the Tebworth Solar Farm Site Manager to reinstate the sign. Ongoing.

**16. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Planning**

**i. Applications**

<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Proposed work</b>	<b>PC comments</b>	<b>CBC decision</b>
22/04307	Land at Sundon	Development of new sports facility	No objections	To be decided
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
24/00253	Willow Tree Farm	Erection of single storey workshop for joinery and cabinet making (Use Class E(g)(iii))*	Object. Concerned about increased traffic and noise	To be decided

\* Class E(g)(iii) is described as a use that can be carried out in a residential area without detriment to its amenity.

- ii. Trinity Hall Farm Crane. Trinity Hall Farm has been served an enforcement notice to remove the crane. The crane is still there. Ongoing.

**b) Rights of Way (ROW)**

- i. Cllr Spiers is joining the ROW Committee. She is working with the ROW Officer, Lindsay Measures.
- ii. FP 17. The CBC enforcement order for Trinity Hall Farm to clear FP 17 is ongoing.
- iii. FP 10 leading off Tebworth Road, Wingfield. The kissing gate at the road end of the footpath is in bad condition. Unfortunately, it cannot be replaced as there is a kissing gate already there. There was a stile at the other end of the FP but it is no longer there. Stiles can be replaced with a kissing gate but, in this case, a kissing gate cannot be installed because the old stile no longer exists.

**c) Website**

Cllr Warburton sent Alpaca, the agents for Tebworth Solar Farm, a list of questions. Alpaca has responded. Cllr Warburton will upload the questions and answers onto the website. **PW**

**d) Speed Watch.**

- i. One Speed Watch has been carried out in March.
- ii. The police have allowed Speed Watches to be carried out near Upper Tythe Farm, Hockliffe Road.

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

Neighbourhood Watch.

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

Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 22.05pm

Signed by Chair.....

Date.....