

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, JANUARY 21st, 2025** 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 DECEMBER 17th, 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 DECEMBER 17th, 2024 MINUTES
9. POINTS RAISED from NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024 CORRESPONDENCE
10. DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
11. EMERGENCY PLAN-Report and update
12. FACEBOOK UPDATE
13. ACCOUNTS-to approve payments
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, December 17th, 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

Public present: 0

Committees

Planning	Cllr Warburton	07941 624419	
Rights of Way	Cllr Green-Chair	874107	Cllr Warburton 07941 624419
Website	Cllr Warburton	07941 624419	
Speed Watch	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

Cllr Ken Green; Cllr Vicky Hydes.

2. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19th, 2024 MEETING

The minutes of November 19th, 2024 were approved by the council and signed as correct by the chair.

3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

4. POLICE MATTERS

- a) **Reported Crime.** No crimes were reported in November 2024. One was reported during the first week of December: 3 December 2024-Chalgrave-Public Fear, Alarm or Distress. No further details.
- b) **Police and Crime Commissioner's Office: Watch Scheme Meeting.** Cllrs Parry and Greenwood attended the Coffee morning on 3 December, 2024.
- c) **Parish Assembly 2025.** Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), John Tizard, has agreed to attend the Parish Assembly in April. The Deputy PCC, Umme Ali, will attend a PC meeting in 2025.
- d) **Police WhatsApp Group.** Cllr Greenwood mentioned that Beds Police have a WhatsApp and a local farmer is a member of the group.

5. REPORT FROM WARD CLLR VERSALLION

- a) **New Houses.** Central Government wants to build 1.5 million new homes and is consulting with local councils. Local Government Association and CBC both doubt this number is achievable, one reason being there are not enough builders. Cllr Versallion has been asked about potential plots of land in his ward. He believes the land between McDonalds in Hockliffe and the junction of the A5/C193 will be put forward again.
- b) **Devolution.** Joining up councils will save money. Joining CBC with Bedford Borough Council may be proposed, which Cllr Versallion supports. However, there is a possibility that CBC will merge with Milton Keynes Council, which raises concerns about more local issues.
- c) **Budget.** The 2025/26 budget has been drafted. A 5% rise in council tax is proposed. A similar figure is being proposed for the Police and Fire Services. CBC is running out of resources and £13 million of savings have yet to be identified. There are likely to be hundreds of redundancies.
- d) **Appointments.** Cllr Versallion has been appointed to the Police and Crime Panel. He is also on the Fire and Rescue Authority.
- e) **Flooding by The Queen's Head.** Cllr Versallion will contact the Highways Area Manager regarding this issue. **MV**
- f) **Potholes.** Cllr Versallion will investigate CBC's progress repairing potholes. **MV**

- g) **National Highways** is consulting on introducing a speed limit on the A5 from the Flying Fox roundabout to the Thorn Turn.

6. REPORT FROM CHALGRAVE CHURCH; Rev Linda Washington

a) Events at Chalgrave Church over Christmas

- Sunday 15 December at 9.30am: Holy Communion
- Saturday 21 December at 6pm: Carols by Candlelight
- Sunday 22 December at 9.30am: Christingle Service with Holy Communion
- Tuesday 24 December at 2.30pm: Crib Service
- Tuesday 24 December at 11.15pm: Midnight Mass

- b) The church has invested in a mechanical music system. However, it still has an organist.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM NOVEMBER 19th, 2024 MINUTES

- a) **Police and Crime Commissioner's Office: Watch Scheme Meeting.** Cllrs Parry and Greenwood attended the Coffee morning on 3 December, 2024.

- b) **Chalgrave Manor Solar Farm.** There are pre-commencement conditions which have not been discharged. The planning permission requires development to commence on or before 19 May 2025.

c) Tebworth Solar Farm.

- i. Meeting to be arranged with a representative/s of the developers, Verdant. Awaiting response from Verdant. Ongoing. **PP; Clerk**
- ii. **Drone Photos.** Cllr Greenwood has flown over the site and taken photos some of which will be published on Facebook and The Chalgrave News. **HG**

- d) **Leisure and Play Facilities** at Chalgrave Memorial Hall ongoing.

- e) **Tebworth Pond.** The clerk has arranged a site meeting at the pond in January 2025 with the ecologist at Beds Rural Community Charity (BRCC) to discuss carrying out a survey of the pond. Ongoing. **Clerk**

- f) **Chalgrave Memorial Hall: Dog Waste.** The Hall Committee has decided to leave the waste bins next to the bus shelter.

g) Parish Assembly 2025.

- i. The PC has sent another invitation to **Alex Mayer MP** for Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard, to attend next year's Parish Assembly. Awaiting response.
- ii. **The Police and Crime Commissioner, John Tizard** has agreed to attend the Parish Assembly in April 2025.

- h) **Buses.** The survey regarding bus use in Chalgrave Parish has been drafted. Once approved it will be published on Facebook. Ongoing.

- i) **London Green Belt Council (LGBC)** The PC has written to Alex Mayer MP agreeing with LGBC that more social housing is required and any money made under the Right to Buy scheme should be used to build more social housing.

8. POINTS RAISED on OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Community Safety Briefing.** Two cllrs agreed that the briefing, published in October 2024, contained lots of interesting information and was well worth reading.

- b) **Call for Sites.** Cllr Spiers said that she better understood what a brownfield site is after reading the government's definition in CBC's launch of Brownfield Call for Sites.

9. NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) **Alex Mayer MP: Town and Parish Council Update.** December update in correspondence.

- b) **CBC: Support with the Cost of Living.** CBC voted to support some of the lowest income pensioner households with a £200 award. Information in correspondence.

- c) **National Highways: M1 Jcts 10 to 13.** Notification on overnight closures in correspondence.

- d) **CPRE: Campaigns Update.** December 2024 update in correspondence.

- e) **NALC: CEO's Bulletin.** December 2024 bulletin in correspondence.

- f) **Grand Union Canal Transfer.** Community update in correspondence.

- g) **Climate Emergency UK.** Newsletter in correspondence.

- h) **Power for People.** Update on the organisation's efforts to amend the Great British Energy Bill so that it includes support for community energy. In correspondence.

- i) **The Rural Bulletin;** 26 November 2024 edition forwarded to cllrs.

10. CHALGRAVE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

The PC will be organising a 'How to do CPR' class in the new year.

11. ACCOUNTS

- a) **Online Banking.** The following online payments were made from 20 November 2024 and up to and including 17 December 2024.

	Payee	Description	Amount £
1	P Parry	Organist for Remembrance Sunday	25.00
		Total	25.00

The following online payments were approved by the PC this evening

	Payee	Description	Amount £
1	Lesley Smith	Clerk's salary + expenses; December 2024	305.29
2	Phil Parry	Chair's expenses 2024	90.00
		Total	395.29

- b) **Also paid.**

Standing Order	Chalgrave IT Solutions	Computer monitoring-December 2024	5.00
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- c) **Income.**

Interest on Reserve account-29 November 2024 £6.86

- d) **Bank Statements; 05/12/2024**

- i. Current Account: £4,654.81
- ii. Reserve account: £6,397.70

12. PRECEPT 2025/2026

After discussion the PC **agreed** to raise the precept from £9,100 to £10,000. This represents an increase of 4.0% for a Band D property annual charge from £39.74 to £41.32.

Clerk

13. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

- a) **Fir Trees Near Park Farm Sub-Station** need cutting back. Contact HW. **Clerk**
- b) **Lords Hill Roundabout.** The PC recently wrote to National Highways and Alex Mayer MP regarding the ongoing concern about the roundabout. Ms Mayer has contacted National Highways and is awaiting their response. Ongoing.
- c) **Tebworth Road, Wingfield.**
- i. The grass verge is encroaching onto the road. Contact HW. **Clerk**
 - ii. Cllr Parry has checked that the road is being cleaned between Heath Farm and Lords Hill.
- d) **Potholes.** There are several around the parish. These have been reported to HW. The pothole near Upper Tythe Farm has been repaired.
- e) **Tebworth Boundary Sign, Toddington Road.** Cllrs Parry and Greenwood will move it to the other side of the road to improve visibility for nearby houses. Ongoing. **PP; HG**

14. 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
23/03990/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
24/00744	Trinity Hall Farm, Watling Street.	Expansion of the anaerobic digestion plant to include additional infrastructure &an increase in feedstock.	Object. Huge increase in footprint; visual impact; inappropriate development within Green Belt.	To be decided

		Amendments to original application.		
24/03254/DOC	Trinity Hall Farm, Watling Street.	Discharge of Condition 3, relating to the drainage system of a new building for the storage of silage.	No comments made	To be decided
24/01958	Chalgrave Manor Golf Club	Redevelopment of golf course, erection of golf house etc	No objections	To be decided
	Hill Farm, Wingfield	Prior Approval of change of use of agricultural building to dwelling: Barn to dwelling house.	N/A at this stage	Granted

- ii. Trinity Hall Farm Crane. Trinity Hall Farm was served an enforcement notice by CBC to remove the crane some time ago. Cllr Warburton has followed up but there is no further information. Ongoing.

b) Rights of Way (ROW)

- i. The PC sent a letter to CBC stating that it is unacceptable that they can close a footpath yet farmers are obliged to carry out maintenance on all footpaths on their land. Still awaiting response.
- ii. It has been reported that a bridge on FP 3 has disappeared. Cllr Green will follow up.

c) Website

Nothing to report this month.

d) Speed Watch.

Two Speed Watches took place in December. Another Speed Watch will take place in January.

PP

Apologies in advance from Cllr Spiers.

Meeting closed at 20.41pm

Signed by Chair.....

Date.....