

# **Minutes of Cheverell Parva Parish Council Meeting**

## **Held on Wednesday the 13th September 2017 at 19.00 hrs.**

### **In the Village Hall**

Present: Parish Councillors Wes Parfitt – Chairman, – Bill Mowatt taking the minutes, Linda Deane, Sue Ivey, Anne Venus – Responsible Financial Officer.  
The early part meeting was attended by Wiltshire Councillor Richard Gamble.

1. **Approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 12 July 2017**  
It was noted that item 5.3 (Request for £500 toward insurance of the village hall) in the previous minutes should be clarified. The next insurance payment for the village hall should be paid by the Village Hall Committee and subsequently be reimbursed by the Parish Council. This arrangement would then be reviewed by the Parish Council prior to any future insurance payments.  
The amended minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed off by Chairman Parfitt.
2. **Apologies**  
None.
3. **Declarations of Interest**  
No declarations of interest were made.
4. **Welcome to the public and Public Forum**  
Two members of the public attended the meeting. The personnel were Michael Maxwell and Michael Brain (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee).
- 4.1 **Discussion with Cllr Gamble not announced on the published agenda**  
It was decided to let Cllr Gamble contribute to the meeting first to enable him to attend other Parish Council meetings later on the same evening.
- 4.2 Cllr Gamble stated that there was a closure pending on the A360 Devizes to Tilshead road on 14<sup>th</sup> September for essential maintenance work.
- 4.3 Cllr Venus raised the topic of an item that she wished to be published in the News & Views pamphlet regarding driver behaviour and bad driving habits on Low Road. Cllr Gamble stated that he was concerned about such matters and informed of future meetings to discuss these problems. There is a meeting in West Lavington village hall Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Police Inspector Morson will be present at a meeting of the Devizes Area Board on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 in the Hub in Devizes if people want to address specific points to him. There is also a meeting at Edington Parish Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> October to which 2 members of the Parish Council are invited to comment regarding traffic on the B3098 from West Lavington crossroads to the West but not including Westbury. Michael Maxwell made a comment that he has been corresponding with Wiltshire Council in relation to the Black Dog crossroads. Cllr Gamble made the suggestion that a roundabout would be the solution to the dangerous junction.
- 4.4 Cllr Gamble mentioned other meetings that are taking place.  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30 there is a discussion of local budgets involving the

Council at the Devizes Corn Exchange.

Claire Perry MP is present at two meetings on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September in Devizes Conservative Club. The first is a forum on broadband provision from 4 to 6 PM followed by a discussion on local housing needs at 7.30 in the Town Hall.

Another item of interest was the disclosure that the recycling centre in Devizes will be closing for 2 weeks at the end of November / Start of December for upgrading works.

Cllr Gamble departed the meeting at 7.25.

- 4.5 A discussion then followed regarding Broadband provision in Little Cheverell. Michael Brain interjected with a comment that the village of Broad Chalke had installed a transmitter mast to relay broadband with partial funding from the Westminster Government. Michael Maxwell then proceeded to present his very interesting report on broadband provision in Little Cheverell which is provided as appendix A at the end of the minutes.

## 5. **Financial Matters**

Responsible Financial Officer Cllr. Venus advised the expenditure and requests for expenditure since the last meeting were as follows:

- 5.1. **Payment of £250 for village hall grass cutting** – approved.
- 5.2. **Request for £150 for repairs to the Nosworthy Bench** – approved.
- 5.3. **External Auditors Report:** This document was reviewed and approved by Cllr Venus and Chairman Parfitt.

## 6. **Parish Steward**

- 6.1. Cllr Ivey is the person in communication with the Parish Steward and suggested that there were several areas where brambles were overgrowing the road and required cutting back. There is also a fallen reflector plate to be mended. Cllr Venus requested that some of the verges should be cut back to aid walking, particularly towards the North of the village. Chairman Parfitt put forward the idea that there is excess mud on Low Road at Cedar Croft which causes water to be channeled North along the road towards Coldharbour rather than draining into the stream. Generally there is a need to find someone who may be willing to undertake this work and other tasks as an extra over to tasks undertaken by the Parish Steward and Chairman Parfitt asked Councillors to ask around to try to find someone to carry out these tasks. Michael Maxwell suggested that it may be possible to get a village work group together to accomplish the same end.

## 7. **Low Road 20mph speed limit**

Chairman Parfitt and Michael Maxwell attended the last CATG meeting and the report by Michael Maxwell is attached as Appendix A at the end of the minutes.

## 8. **Planning Applications**

**The Owl refurbishment and extension** – no objections have been received.

**Cheverell Place tree surgery** – no objections have been received.

**Rose Cottage** – Scots Pine felling. Michael Brain wondered why there was no notification by Wiltshire Council on the request as it was published on the Council website. Cllr Mowatt replied that he did not know why this had happened but the

fellings was necessary as a safety measure considering that the tree roots would be damaged as a driveway was upgraded. No objections were received.

9. **Parish Council Website**

Cllr Venus considers that the existing “Kennet” website is preferable to other alternatives. There are some slight complications to publishing items on the site but it is free to use and works effectively. The people to have access to publish will be the Chairman Parfitt for meeting agendas and approved minutes and Cllr Venus to issue financial documents and statements.

10. **Parish Council bank account signatories.**

The councillors who will be signatories on the bank account will be Chairman Parfitt, Cllr Venus and Cllr Ivey.

11. **Village projects matters arising**

11.1. The Nosworthy Bench is now repaired and needs no further action.

11.2. The dipping wells are to be left as existing. The well below Rose Cottage should not be repaired at present. It is thought that the distortion may be caused by the roots of the Scots Pine above which may be removed if permission is forthcoming.

11.3. Cllr. Ivey is concerned that we are lacking items of interest for younger people in the village, particularly their involvement with the natural surroundings. She put forward the idea that nature trails could be thought about. More specifically it may be possible to provide a “willow igloo” that the children could have involvement in building and then provide a play-den. This would be built on the lower grass area at the millennium green. It is expected that the willow would take root and become a natural feature. Some councillors did note that a fence would need to be erected to prevent access to the stream. The idea was not universally popular. However the proposal will be discussed further as proposed by Cllr Ivey and seconded by Cllr Mowatt.

12. **Village Car parking**

Cllr Ivey was unable to get the suggestions for village parking published in the News and Views so the debate on the subject will be delayed until the next meeting.

13. **AOB**

13.1. Cllr. Venus’s article on vehicle drivers behavior was approved for entry into the News and Views on the basis that it may help people to be more courteous to pedestrians other drivers / horse riders on Low Road

13.2. Chairman Parfitt expressed formal thanks on behalf of the Council for all those who organized and put in the work on the village bbq which had been a great success.

14. **Date of next meeting**

15th November 2017 at 19.00 hrs. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 20.35 hrs.

## **Appendix A – Michael Maxwell's Reports**

### **Report for Little Cheverell Parish Council Meeting September 13**

#### 20mph Speed Limit Low Road

As you are aware Wes and I attended a meeting of the Devizes Community Area Traffic Group last week.

Little Cheverell has reached priority number 2 on the list of 2017/18 projects. Our contribution is fixed at £2,500 and already paid.

Work on this has been delegated to the Highway Engineer's staff to outline the work required to implement and obtain a quote from the contractor. This is expected to take 4-6 weeks and hopefully by the time of the next CATG meeting in November more concrete information will be available.

#### Broadband Issues in SN10 4JZ

Following my letter to Matt Hancock, Broadband Minister at DCMS with copy to Ofcom and Openreach CEO in July this issue has stuttered back into life. It seems the timing was good as BT were only weeks away from announcing their voluntary offer to connect 99.7% of the country to avoid Ofcom's legal requirement under the Digital Economy Act.

Openreach's Chief Engineer's dept are now looking at how they can connect SN10 4JZ to superfast broadband (10mbps +). There appears to be 2 routes, the first one would mean a contribution from the community with implementation in 6-9 months and the other would be a more lengthy process with no contribution but completion up to 3years away but no later than 2021. They have dropped any suggestion of LCPC paying a survey fee. I believe from Anne Venus that there is a brought forward reserve of £2,500 to £3,000 in the LCPC accounts for this item.

As you are aware Claire Perry is holding a broadband forum at the end of the month at which there will be DCMS, Wiltshire Council and BT/Altnets representatives present. Hopefully, therefore by the time of the next Parish Council meeting we should have definite news for a decision to be made by PC and the affected subscribers, who may need to make a modest contribution, on how to proceed. .

Generally in my discussions with John Thomson Deputy Leader Wiltshire Council I did discover that two premises from the postcode SN10 4JZ (ie South of Marlen) are in the Phase 3 build plans. They are fed from the south and will be picked up with a new Cabinet being built in the Little Cheverell area. That means for the remainder of SN10 4JZ which are fed by copper from Cabinet 5 at West Lavington from the north there is currently no commercial or Wiltshire Online plan at all to pick up the last 10 houses .