

RECORD OF POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 JANUARY 2023 IN THE READING ROOM *Agreed*

PRESENT

Sir Richard Packer - Chair
Mrs Bev Small - Vice Chair
Sir Raymond Jack - Councillor
Mr Carl Jacobs - Councillor
Mrs Morag Philpott - Councillor
Mr Peter Young - Councillor
Sarah Miller - PC Clerk
Mrs Bridget Wayman - Wiltshire Councillor
Mungo Melvin - Chair, Forbes Field Management Group (FFMG)
Johan Denekamp - FFMG Treasurer
Neil Pattenden - FFMG Community Engagement
One member of the public

1. **Welcome & Apologies** – The Chair Sir RP welcomed those present to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Public Forum**
Mungo Melvin asked whether anyone had brought forward ideas for celebrating the forthcoming Coronation over the weekend of 6-8 May 2023. As chair of the FFMG, he was offering Forbes Field as a potential venue for any Coronation celebration. It was agreed to inquire via the Village Voice, and also Chilmark School, whether there was someone prepared to take responsibility for running an event; they would have the support of the Parish Council.
Action: Clerk
3. **Co-option of a new member to vacancy on the council**
Cllr RP noted that following the last PC meeting, Johan Denekamp had expressed an interest in the role. His application was unanimously supported by PC members and Mr Denekamp was co-opted onto the council with immediate effect.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr BS noted an interest in the planning application for Chilmark House - Item 10.
Cllr RP noted an interest as a customer of Wessex Internet - Item 13.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting** on 2 November 2022 – approved
6. **Matters arising** from above minutes – Cllr RP said the salt bin at the top of Barn Hill was full of salt but it was rock hard and not easy for elderly residents to access. Cllr CJ agreed to break up the salt, and also look into replacing the broken cover on the salt bin at the bottom of the hill, Hops close. *Action: Cllr CJ*.
Cllr CJ reported that following the last meeting he had met with James Griffin of Velcourt (managers of land owned by Bapton Manor Farm) about the water run-off from the arable field adjacent to Hindon Lane. The discussion had been constructive and measures were being put in place to alleviate the problem.
7. **Wiltshire Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report**
 - Cllr Wayman reported that Wiltshire Council is focusing on filling the numerous potholes which have developed on roads across the county following the hot summer. She urged residents to report every pothole they see via the MyWilts App, though she noted that the repairs may only be temporary.

- She reminded councillors that cost of living of advice was available for residents on the Wiltshire Council website.
- She noted that bus fares were being cut to £2 for a single fare until 31 March 2023.
- She also noted that if anyone was looking for work, Wiltshire was holding a jobs & careers fair at County Hall, Trowbridge, on Thursday 26 January.

8. Finance

- The Clerk presented the **Payments & Receipts for period 1.11.22 to 31.12.22**, noting it had been a relatively quiet period. Forbes Field activity aside (reported under Item 9 – Forbes Field), outgoings had been as follows: £50 one-off consultancy fee to former Clerk; £610 for grass-cutting, including an honorarium of £150 for Pat Newbury's long service; £690 for Clerk's salary Aug, Sept, Oct & Nov 2022; £283.41 for Dog Poo bin installed at Lower Mooray in 2021. The closing balance of the PC *Treasurer's A/C* was **£6,091.45** at 31.12.22.
- **Budget & Precept for 2023-24** – the Clerk presented Actual expenditure so far for 2022-23 with forecast outgoings for the remaining 3 months of the financial year, plus predicted expenditure for 2023-24. As noted at the November meeting, expenditure for the current year was on course to be on the high side, owing to additional grants, planned highway improvements and the purchase of two extra bins for the village, with a potential deficit in the region of £1,000. This needed to be borne in mind, along with the current 10% inflation rate, when agreeing the Parish precept for 2023-24. Councillors had previously been circulated a range of Precept increase options, along with comparisons with neighbouring parishes. A healthy discussion took place, with some councillors urging an increase of more than 10% in order to offset the current year's deficit. Others felt an increase of more than 10% would send the wrong message in the current climate. On a majority vote (6 in favour, one against – Cllr RJ - and no abstentions) it was agreed to set the Precept for **2023-24 at £9,600, an increase of 9.83%**. This represents a rise of £3.51 per year – or £0.06 pence per week – for a Band D Council Tax property. It was noted that Chilmark's Parish Precept is considerably smaller than that of some neighbouring parishes, including Teffont, Dinton, Hindon & Fovant. The newly agreed Precept to be submitted to Wiltshire by 18 January 2023. *Action: Clerk*
- Further it was suggested that for 2023 it would be worth examining financial prospects in the course of the year. It was noted that a deficit had been incurred in 2022 and that reserves had tended to diminish in recent years. This suggested financial caution. Against that, it was arguable that an unusual number of exceptional costs had been incurred recently and, if necessary, some grants to village groups could be flexed later in the year, so the prospects were not really worrying. It was agreed that on balance it would be useful to examine how matters were progressing financially, perhaps twice during the year. The clerk was invited to provide a financial forecast for the next (March) meeting and Johan Denekamp's offer to help with this was gratefully accepted.

9. Forbes Field: adoption of updated Forbes Field Management Group agreement

The updated version of the document originally agreed by the PC on 7 September 2022 had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. This was adopted unanimously and is attached to these Minutes. Members also agreed that, as a public document, it should be posted on the Forbes Field website, as well as the council's website.

Mungo Melvin (MM) provided a **progress report** on behalf of the **FFMG** for the period November to December 2022. Two very successful and well attended Field Days had taken place on Sat 12 November & Sat 3 December, respectively, with significant clearance work undertaken and subsequent planting of some 22 fruit trees, ie half the planned total. A further Field Day with more planting was planned for Saturday 11 February. The support of volunteers from the charity RE:ACT on the two Field Days was greatly appreciated, with nine of them turning out on both occasions, including the RE:ACT CEO on the second Saturday.

MM was pleased to report that a letter of consent regularising the use of the ransom strip area at the eastern edge of the Field, adjoining Hops Close, had now been signed by all four Heirs of Diana Forbes. On a further positive note, the Cranborne Chase AONB was delighted by all the work being achieved at Forbes Field and would like to use the project as a Case Study to submit to Defra. MM confirmed that a *before and after* photographic record of all the progress at Forbes Field was being kept. He also noted that the FFMG had ideas for holding an opening event on the Field at some point in the coming year.

Cllr JD presented a summary of **Forbes Field financial activity** for April-December 2022. He noted that the Forbes Field bank balance was very healthy with funds currently held standing at £13,522.82. This included some £10,705 that had been raised in generous donations from villagers, of which so far only £2,459.10 had been spent (mainly on tree purchase).

10. Planning Procedures and Applications

Applications determined or progress since last meeting

- **PL/2022/04333 & 04332** - Chilmark Estates (former RAF Chilmark) SP3 5RW - Retrospective Change of Use applications. *Decision deadline: 5 September 2022 - Application on hold whilst applicant gathers/provides requested transportation information for Highways department*
- **PL/2022/06661** - Chilmark House, Chilmark, SP3 5AP. Listed Building Consent - internal alterations to rear hall and first floor bathroom. *Decision deadline: 25 November 2022*
- **PL/2022/07603** - 1 Council House, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AL. Householder Planning Permission - remove existing timber store/garage & construct new single storey side extension & new first floor rear extension. Decision: Approved with Conditions, 2 December 2022
- **PL/2022/08390** - The Black Dog, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH - Consent under Tree Preservation Orders: 4 x Ash trees, fell. Decision: Approved with conditions - *to replace each removed tree within 6 months of felling* - 20 December 2022
- **PL/2022/08393** - The Black Dog, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH. Notification of proposed works to trees in Conservation Area: group of Ash trees plus 3 x Ash trees – fell. Decision: No Objection, 20 December 2022
- **PL/2021/09778** - Land at Station Works, Tisbury. Outline planning application for redevelopment of Station Works site, Tisbury. *Decision deadline - 30 June 2022. Appeal date set for non-determination - Cllr PY*

Applications received since last meeting

- **PL/2022/08769** - Beech House, Chilmark, SP3 5BD. Proposed works to trees in Conservation Area: Silver Birch x3 fell. PC Position - No Objection. Decision: No Objection - 22 December 2022
- **PL/2022/08847** - Odin Cottage, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH. Change of use from agricultural to garden. *PC Position - No Objection. Decision deadline - 19 January 2023*
- **PL/2022/09037** - Cross Farm, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AR. Changing existing three bay garage and store into two bay garage and single bed 'granny' annex for ancillary living accommodation for family and staff to the main house Cross Farm with no alteration to footprint (permission renewal). *PC Position - No Objection. Decision deadline - 27 January 2023*

Black Dog Ash Tree felling applications (as per above)

Cllr BS told members she had contacted Wiltshire's Tree Officer Shane Verrion after receiving reports from residents that trees were being felled before permission had been granted. However, Mr Verrion confirmed that those being felled were in fact trees subject to previous permissions. The latest applications had now been approved but with conditions requiring planting of replacement trees.

Land at Station Works, Tisbury (as above)

Cllr PY noted that the Planning Inquiry to determine the applicant's Appeal against Wiltshire Council's non-determination of this proposal will start on Tuesday 21 February at the Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury. Hindon and Teffont PCs had now joined the Access to Tisbury group which is objecting to the application on behalf of Ansty, Fovant, Sutton Mandeville, Swallowcliffe & Chilmark PCs. In addition to this, Cllr PY had sent an additional written submission to the Planning Inspector, outlining Chilmark's chief objections to the application on grounds of Access and Scale. Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr PY established that the Inquiry is expected to run until at least 24 February and could extend to include Feb 28 and 1 March. He was aiming to attend the first day of the Appeal hearing.

11. The Black Dog – Asset of Community Value

The clerk reported that 32 Chilmark residents had submitted their names in support of an application being made to Wiltshire Council to request The Black Dog pub be listed as an Asset of Community Value. This was well in excess of the 21 names required to pursue this initiative. PC members agreed that the 32 villagers should be approached to find out if one of them would be happy to take the lead on the application. The Parish Council would lend its full support to the process and accordingly would cover any small associated costs, such as acquiring a copy of the land registry entry.

Action SM

12. Grass Cutting

Cllr RJ had previously circulated a quotation he had received for the grass cutting of Frickers Paddock Playground and community land, and the maintenance of the four village footpaths. The quotation of £1,300 for the year, from Malcolm Roberts, was based on an estimate of the number of cuts that would be required; clearly this might vary according to whether it was a dry or wet summer. Cllr RJ noted that the advert for a Grass Cutter in the December Village Voice had prompted only one response, and the applicant had subsequently decided they were not interested. Cllr RJ had subsequently approached Malcolm Roberts (who cuts his grass) for a quote; he was therefore declaring an interest. He said Mr Roberts was well equipped for the role with a ride-on mower, and he had found him wholly reliable. Members agreed unanimously to accept the quotation.

Cllr RJ also noted he much appreciated the assistance of a Frickers Paddock resident who had volunteered to use a leaf blower to clear the leaves off the FP playground.

13. Wessex Internet

Cllr RP reported that he and Mungo Melvin had attended a meeting with the CEO of Wessex Internet and five other staff members at Wessex HQ to discuss the PC's concern over the unsatisfactory nature of the Wessex roll-out in Chilmark. Cllr RP said Wessex recognised they had allowed a PR problem to develop and that this was their fault. MM added that, as the former Wessex Community Champion in Chilmark, he had received a personal apology from the CEO, Hector Gibson Fleming, about the way matters had developed.

Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr RP had received a letter from Mr Gibson Fleming and this was circulated to PC members. Cllr PY noted that the CEO had undertaken in his letter to provide a further update to the parish council by mid-January and from then on, every two to three weeks, until the work in the village was completed. It was agreed that Cllr RP would draft a reply, confirming that the PC looked forward to receiving these promised updates.

Action: RJP

14. Appointment of Munro as PC payroll bookkeepers

Members agreed unanimously to the appointment of Munro Accountants Ltd, of Salisbury, to produce PAYE payslips for the clerk's salary, at a cost of £148 per year, plus VAT.

15: AOB

Cllr MP had spoken to Wiltshire Streetscene about the bin by the gate to Claybush Playing Fields. The Claybush Playground safety inspector had noted that the bin was loose in the ground and required repair. The PC was to report the problem via MyWilts App and the repair would be carried out by idverde on behalf of the Council.

Action: Cllr MP

The Clerk noted that the annual inspection of the Frickers Paddock Playground was booked but had not yet taken place.

16. Items for Village Voice – SM to include items as flagged in Minutes.

17. Date of next PC meeting: *Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 7pm* in the Reading Room.

The meeting closed at 20:45.

Sarah Miller – Parish Clerk