

RECORD OF POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023 IN THE READING ROOM *Draft*

PRESENT

Sir Richard Packer - Chair
Mrs Bev Small - Vice Chair
Mr Carl Jacobs - Cllr
Mr Peter Young – Cllr
Mr Johan Denekamp - Cllr
Sarah Miller - PC Clerk
Mrs Bridget Wayman - Wiltshire Cllr
Mungo Melvin - Chair, Forbes Field Management Group (FFMG)
Neil Pattenden - FFMG Community Engagement
One member of the public – Mr Ben Fowles (*applicant, item 8*)

1. **Welcome & Apologies** – The Chair Sir RP welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies were recorded for Cllrs Sir Raymond Jack & Mrs Morag Philpott
2. **Public Forum**
No points raised
3. **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr BS noted an interest in x3 planning applications for Chilmark House - Item 8.
4. **Minutes of last Meeting** on 4 January 2023 – approved subject to inclusion of Forbes Field *field day* dates, ie 12 Nov & 3 Dec 2022.
5. **Matters arising** - none
6. **Wiltshire Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report**
 - Cllr Wayman noted that in future the Parish Council will be billed by Wiltshire Council for the four-yearly PC election costs, next one due in May 2025. The cost of an uncontested election will be £390; a contested election will cost £680.
 - She noted that Wiltshire Council had agreed a budget increase of 4.99% for the coming year.
 - The annual charge to households for the green garden waste bins is to increase from £60 to £66 per bin.
 - As of 1 April 2023, there will be a £20 charge for anyone with a car *and* trailer visiting Wiltshire's household recycling centres (HRCs).
 - A campaign is underway to educate households about the correct use of the blue-lidded recycling bins. Too many wrong items – including nappies & plastic bags – are being put in them. Wiltshire is now issuing warnings to households via amber coloured hangers on bins; if the offence is repeated, the bin will not be emptied and a red hanger will be placed on it.
 - She informed members that EHD London, the bonded wine warehouse company would be moving from its Fonthill Estate depot – on the former RAF Chilmark site – in June. Wiltshire will be seeking to ensure the EHD road signs are removed. It isn't yet clear who the new tenants of the site will be.
 - She noted that Wiltshire's roads were now in a shocking state following last year's long hot summer and the subsequent wet & cold winter. Notification from the Department of Transport about the coming year's Highways Grant was still awaited.
7. **Finance**
 - The Clerk noted under Payments & Receipts that the only activity for the period **01.01.23-28.02.23** was a payment of a £200 Grant towards Chilmark's planned Coronation

celebrations on 7 May 2023. This sum was agreed unanimously by members. The closing balance for the PC *Treasurer's A/C* was **£5891.45** as at 28.02.23.

- Presenting a financial forecast for 2023/24, the Clerk noted the 2025 PC election costs (flagged up by Cllr Wayman) would need to be factored into future budgeting. More immediately, given the minimal financial activity since January it was too soon to provide an accurate forecast for 2023/24. *If all anticipated invoices for the current financial year were settled before 1 April 2023, then we would end the current year with a £1312.90 deficit, and the outlook for 2023/24 indicated a year-end surplus of £490. However, the picture for next year would clearly be less rosy if invoices due in this year were not raised/settled by 31 March 23. It was agreed in future to present an updated forecast at the July and November PC meetings.* *Action: clerk*
- The Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) was seeking to increase its annual subscription from £36 to £60 from 1 April 2023. However, rather than lose members, it would accept £36 for the coming year. Members agreed unanimously to continue at the £36 rate.
- Notification had been received via the National Association of Local Councils of the LGA 2022/23 National Salary Award in relation to the Clerk's salary. This indicated that the Pay Scale 11 rate (as per current and previous two clerks) had risen from £11.50 to £12.50 per hour. Members agreed unanimously that the Clerk's salary should rise to this new rate with effect from 1 April 2023.
- It was agreed that an update of PC assets should be carried out to include value of new litter bins/emergency generator equipment/noticeboards and any other items purchased/granted in recent years. Playground equipment at Frickers to be included (**Query: replacement or current value?*). *Action: details of equipment/assets to be provided to Clerk by PC members.*
- The question was raised whether it might improve efficiency, and avoid burdening PC members with trivial matters, if a sub-group - the chairman and clerk were suggested - were authorised to approve expenditure up to a maximum limit of, say, £50. This was approved. [Note: subsequent investigation has revealed previous discussions on the subject and a note will be put to the PC at its next meeting. In the meantime, no expenditure will be approved without all members being informed, and if necessary, voting on the measure in question.]

8. Planning Procedures and Applications

Applications determined or progress since last meeting

- **PL/2022/08847** - Odin Cottage, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH. Change of use from agricultural to garden. Approved with Conditions – 20 February 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). Approved with Conditions – 30 January 2023.
- **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/2021/09778** - Land at Station Works, Tisbury. Appeal underway. Cllr PY reported he had attended in person the first day of the Planning Inquiry into non-determination of an outline application for 86 houses and a 40-bed care home at Tisbury Station Works. Since then he had followed proceedings via Zoom. He noted that the Planning Inspector was due to visit the site in coming days, and final presentations in the case would be made on 20 March. Disappointingly, concerns about the proposal's traffic implications for nearby villages – including Chilmark – did not seem to be considered a significant issue.

Applications received since last meeting

- **PL/2023/00101** - Chilmark Manor Farm, SP3 5AF. Variation of condition 2 & Removal of condition 3 of planning permission PL/2021/03621 (Erection of replacement steel framed building for B2, B8 and E(g) uses, car parking & associated works) to change the proposed external materials. Approved with Conditions – 17 February 2023.
- **PL/2023/00492** - Chilmark House, Chilmark SP3 5AP. Works to a listed building. Repairs to the Greenhouse. PC Position - no objection. *Decision deadline: 20 March 2023*
- **PL/2023/01132** - Barbrook, Frog Lane, Chilmark, SP3 5BB. Proposed works to trees in Conservation Area: Pollarding of x2 Willows adjacent to the Winterbourne on The Street. PC position - no objection, subject to Applicant (present at the meeting) consulting with Wiltshire Tree Officer on acceptable height of pollarding. *Decision deadline: 27 March 2023*
- **PL/2023/01537** - The Cross, The Street, Chilmark SP3 5AR – Proposed works to trees in Conservation Area: Beech Tree – crown reduce by 20%. Malus – crown reduce by 30%. PC position – no objection. *Decision deadline: 7 April 2023.*
- **PL/2023/01155** - Chilmark House Chilmark, SP3 5AP. Full Planning Permission: erection of a tennis hut and solar panel frame. PC position - no objection. *Decision deadline: 24 April 2023.*

9. Flooding Update

Cllr CJ was thanked for an excellent summary of the groundwater flooding in Chilmark during January. He noted that groundwater levels as recorded at Fonthill Terraces peaked at 119.2 metres on 18 January. Subsequent to the exceptionally dry February, levels had now dropped 10 metres in a month. He noted the Wiltshire Floodline service had worked well and, thanks to the Flood Alert, and subsequent Flood Warning, residents were pretty well prepared for what ensued.

Having the Reading Room as a refuge for those households experiencing sewage issues had been a great help. However, Hindon Lane was *like a river* and attempts to contact Highways for a temporary road closure proved unsuccessful. This, plus Wessex Water's tardiness in providing portaloos for residents at Spring Cottages were issues that needed addressing ahead of future winters. Cllr PY also raised the fact that Chilmark School pupils were having to walk through raw sewage on their way to school. Cllr RP noted that a solution was needed to avoid future over-pumping of contaminated water into the Winterbourne. It was agreed discussions should take place with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Highways & Wessex Water. Cllr CJ to contact Wiltshire's Flood Working Group to discuss way forward on above issues. He would also source more cones to facilitate emergency road closures. *Action: Cllr CJ*

Cllr CJ said the icy conditions that followed the flooding highlighted the need for a Salt Bin near the centre of the village – the School Bus had got stuck one morning, and conditions were treacherous. One option would be to move the newly replaced Salt Bin at the bottom of Hops Close to a discreet position near the bus stop. Some concern was expressed about positioning a yellow salt bin in the middle of the Conservation Area. Cllr Wayman said she would ask Wiltshire Highways for The Street (including past the School) to be added to the county's gritting routes. *Action: Cllr BW*

10. Forbes Field update

Mungo Melvin, as Chair of Forbes Field Management Group, reported that site investigations were underway into methods of contributing to flood control in Hindon Lane/The Street whilst also developing a winter wet area for wildlife in the Field. Willows and Alders were to be planted along the northern edge of the Field and it was hoped to introduce a system for holding back more water when the water table rises rapidly. He noted that Cranborne Chase AONB was in favour of any measures that would attract winter wildlife.

A successful 3rd Forbes Field *field* day had taken place on Saturday 11 February with 31 volunteers turning out, including again a team from the Chilmark based disaster relief charity RE:ACT; this despite their concurrent deployment to the Turkey-Syria earthquake zone. MM wished to make a special note of thanks to RE:ACT for their ongoing support and noted he was organising a fund-raising event on their behalf in Tisbury in April. Another 19 fruit trees had been planted on the Field Day bringing the total in the orchard to 41; meanwhile fences had been repaired /renewed, and bat and bird boxes and wildlife cameras were now in place. The 4th Field Day was taking place on Saturday 11 March, with further tree planting and site preparation planned.

MM was delighted that Forbes Field was to be the venue for Chilmark's Coronation Celebrations on Sunday 7 May, and confirmed the Field would be made safe and ready in time for the event. Finally, he urged members to visit the newly live Forbes Field website: forbesfield.org

Cllr JD said he would be giving a full update on FF finances at the May meeting. The only expenditure items since the last meeting were a £2168.87 reimbursement of expenses (including purchase of fruit trees, fencing and benches) and a £200 donation by the FFMG towards the costs of the Coronation Celebration. Interest receipts on the FF account for Jan & Feb 2023 totalled £12.67. The closing balance for the FF *Savings A/C* was **£11166.62** as at 28.02.23.

11. Coronation Event

Cllr JD reported that plans for the Coronation celebration on Forbes Field on Sunday 7 May were well in hand. Circus Wessex and a portaloos had been booked. Entry would be free. The Reading Room Committee would run the Bar and BBQ. It was hoped the local 'Bobbie' would be present on the day with a patrol car, and JD was awaiting confirmation from Hannah Trent and Catherine Potts about Chilmark School's input. The plan was for the day to be children orientated. Thanks to the £200 grant from the PC, a further £200 from Forbes Field MG and further donations totalling £560 from PC members, only a further £40 was needed to reach the agreed £1000 budget for the event.

12. Wessex Internet Update

The PC had received a progress report from Wessex's new Community Engagement Manager Josh Goodchild (as per March Village Voice article). It contained no specific detail aside from stating Wessex would have a 'fun activity' stand at the Forbes Field Coronation on 7 May. Mungo Melvin, in his role as Wessex Community Champion, had sought a further update and noted that some 21 homes in Chilmark were now connected to Wessex's full fibre broadband service. There were a further 33 households in the village with access to a connection if they wanted it. He had been reassured that the Wessex cabling currently lying unconnected in Forbes Field would be removed in time for the Coronation weekend. It was agreed that the Clerk should inform Josh Goodchild that more regular & detailed feedback was required by the PC as promised by the Wessex CEO in his letter to the Chair of December 2022. *Action: Clerk*

13. Frickers Paddock & Claybush Playgrounds

The Clerk reported that the Frickers Paddock Playground Inspection had now been received. Nothing was needing urgent attention but there were a number of maintenance items. She would forward the report to Cllr RJ on his return and the PC would await his proposals. *Action: Clerk & Cllr RJ*. Meanwhile, the PC heard that interest had been expressed by a group of young parents in the village about the future of the Playground at Claybush. Options were being investigated. *Action: Cllr BS (as member of Playground Ctte) to provide PC members with update*

14. The Black Dog – Asset of Community Value

The Clerk reported that Mrs Catherine Potts had received further expressions of support for the Asset of Community Value application following the piece in Feb Village Voice. She was processing the application and would keep the PC informed.

15. Protocol for forwarding of PC mail as received by Clerk

Members agreed they were happy to be forwarded all relevant emails, ideally in the form of one batch of emails per week. To avoid creating long email chains, members would only reply if they deemed response necessary and where appropriate they would not 'copy all'.

16. AoB

It was noted the first village litter pick of the year would take place on Saturday 25 March, to coincide with the Great British Spring Clean 2023. Cllr RP said in his view this was one of the best village initiatives in recent years.

Cllr PY asked if there might be a case for holding PC meetings at 6pm rather than 7pm. Although there was some support for the proposal, it was noted that this might preclude attendance by members of the public (and potential future PC members) who are of pre-retirement age. Agreed current start time to remain 7pm.

17. Items for Village Voice – Flooding, Forbes Field, Coronation event, Wessex Internet, Litter Pick

18. Date of Annual Parish Assembly / PC AGM:

Wednesday 3 May 2023 at 7pm in the Reading Room.

Sarah Miller – Parish Clerk