

**RECORD OF POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023 IN THE READING ROOM**

PRESENT

Sir Richard Packer - Chair

Sir Raymond Jack - Cllr

Mr Carl Jacobs - Cllr

Mrs Morag Philpott - Cllr

Mr Peter Young - Cllr

Sarah Miller - PC Clerk

Mrs Bridget Wayman – Wiltshire Council

In attendance: Josh Goodchild & Adam Holloway for Wessex Internet; Mungo Melvin for Forbes Field

Management Grp; Lady Chelsea, Colin Diaper, John Perou

1. Welcome & Apologies – The Chair Cllr RP welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr Bev Small and Cllr Johan Denekamp

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr RJ declared an interest in Planning application ref The Yoga Barn, 88 Ridge (under item 8)

PUBLIC FORUM

Following the flash flooding in Chilmark during May 2023, Lady Chelsea raised concerns about damage to her property caused by the massive volume of water that had come down Cow Drove and across her field, The Fairmead, at incredible speed. She wondered whether anything could be done to prevent it happening again. Cllr CJ (Flood Warden) noted he had been discussing Chilmark's flooding issues at a flood forum that morning and that Wiltshire Highways and a Drainage Engineer would be meeting with him in the village soon to look at ways of mitigating the problems. Cllr Wayman said that Renate Moulton of Wiltshire's Flood Resilience team was asking for photos of evidence of the flooding problems and that individual properties affected needed to report any problems / damage direct to Wiltshire. Cllr CJ to provide contact details for this and would welcome any photos.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 3 May 2023

- Approved without amendment
- No Matters Arising

4. Wiltshire Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report:

- Cllr Wayman said that under the newly approved Boundary Commission report, the whole of the Nadder Valley constituency would be moved into the Salisbury Parliamentary Constituency at the next General Election, away from South West Wiltshire.
- The draft Local Plan was due to go Cabinet in the coming week and would go out to consultation in the autumn. House numbers proposed would be unlikely to affect Chilmark, with only infill development being permitted, and a slight relaxation of affordable housing requirements. The size of developments allowed would not be more than 5% of the current number of houses in the village.
- Cllr Wayman was more concerned about renewable energy proposals that might impact on the Cranborne Chase AONB, particularly in relation to wind turbines. She noted AONBs are being asked to sign up to commitments on renewable energy and she was concerned there would be pressure to install wind turbines.

5. Wessex Internet update:

- Josh Goodchild, Community Engagement Manager reported that the Operations team had been busy trying to complete the network build in the village. This had been split into three phases: Phase one (9 properties) was completed; Phase 2 covered 106 homes of which 101 were now linked if homeowners wanted it; Phase 3 (36 properties) included Park Drive which would be the most difficult as cabling would have to go under the pavement, hence a high level of commitment from residents was needed to make this viable.

- Overall, he was confident that 178 properties could be supplied; however, the sign-up rate of Chilmark residents currently stood at just 26%; ideally Wessex would like it to be 40%. He suggested the poor take up rate was down to the fact Chilmark fell in two halves: the top part of the village with more modern infrastructure already had good broadband speeds and so there was little demand for the Wessex service.
- He apologised for the failure to deliver on promises to provide monthly updates to the village. Meanwhile Wessex's Special Projects Operations Leader, Adam Holloway, said Chilmark had proved to be a tough build and Wessex was endeavouring to make it right. Cllr RP noted that the bumps in the road had been more prevalent than they needed to be.

6. Finance

- The Clerk presented a Payments & Receipts Statement for 1 May to 30 June 2023. There had been no receipts during this period. Grants totalling £1,850, to four village organisations, had been paid out. The annual insurance premium of £450.14 and the subscription to Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, £211.16, had been settled. The only other expenditure for the period was £345 on grass cutting. The PC's current account bank balance stood at £10,716.64 on 30 June 2023, of which £1290 was ring-fenced for the upkeep of the Millennium Cross.
- Cllr JD had provided a Financial update for the Forbes Field Management Group for the quarter 1 April to 29 June 2023. There had been very little activity in this period: two AONB grant claims totalling £2,946.52 had been submitted but payment not yet received. Expenditure totalled £1,061.27 for items including two picnic tables, £432, cameras and a bird box, £290.04, chain harrowing, £120, and five other smaller items totalling £219.23. A water bill of £36.28 had also been paid. Interest income of £19.66 had been received on the Forbes Field account and the bank balance was £9,992.29 on 29 June 2023.
- The Clerk provided a financial forecast for the year ending 31 March 2024. This year's Parish Precept, £9,600, had been received in April; the only other anticipated receipt was a VAT refund, circa £150, taking likely receipts for 2023/24 to £9750. Expenditure so far was £3,004.20, consisting of £1,850 in grant payments to village groups; £732.30 on Insurance premium and annual subscriptions, and £421.90 on grass cutting & dog bin emptying. At this stage anticipated expenditure for the year was £8,600 approx, against a budgeted sum of £9,110. Key items in the forecast expenditure included: £2,850 for Clerk salary, expenses and payroll costs; a further £955 on grass cutting; and £1,105 on Highways improvement expenditure, which had originally been factored in for the 2022/23 financial year but had been delayed. On the present trajectory, there was likely to be a surplus in the region of £1,200 by the year end. The clerk would present an updated forecast at the November PC meeting in preparation for setting the budget at the January 2024 meeting. Cllr RP noted that the current forecast caused no obvious concerns at this moment.

7. Forbes Field Update

Mungo Melvin outlined activities since the last meeting, which had included the successful village Coronation Celebration on 7 May, financially supported by both the PC and the Forbes Field Management Committee. Weekly watering of the newly planted trees had taken place during June to counteract the effects of the hot & dry weather. This effort was likely to continue throughout the summer. A wildflower survey of the field was due to be conducted by the AONB in July and a Wiltshire Council Woodland Officer would be visiting to give advice on the tree planting plans. The FFMG would host a visit from Chilmark School, involving nature trails, before the end of term and later in the year the planting of a Coronation Grove with the school would take place; the current plan was to plant 7 Whitebeams. New fencing and entrance gates alongside Hops Close would be installed in the early autumn and the water trough in the field would be replaced with a standpipe and tap by the orchard, making the watering effort much easier in future. Plans for a winter wet area and associated sump and sluice in the northeast corner of the Field were being worked on in conjunction with the AONB, Wessex Water, Wiltshire Council and potentially the Environment Agency. In tandem with this, a line of 10 or so willows and alders would be planted along the northern edge of the field to assist with water retention. Finally, it was noted that a Bat Walk would be conducted in the field on Friday 15 September by a local bat expert. This would be a ticketed event.

8. Planning Procedures and Applications

Applications determined or progress since last meeting

- **PL/2023/03045** – The Old Post Office, The Street, Chilmark SP3 5AR - Proposed works to tree in Conservation Area: Apple Tree – reduction of canopy by 50%.
Decision: No Objection - 30 May 2023

- **PL/2023/03997** – Whitehill, Becketts Lane, Chilmark, SP3 5BD - Proposed works to trees in Conservation Area: Hornbeam – crown reduce by 20%; Beech x 5 – reduce height by 15-20% and shorten over extended laterals by 25% in length.
Decision: No Objection – 14 June 2023
- **PL/2023/02062** – The Malthouse, The Street, Chilmark SP3 5AU - Householder Application: Clad existing annex with horizontal locally sourced larch or cedar.
Decision deadline – 11 July 2023. *PC Position: Support*
- **PL/2021/09778** – Land at Station Works, Tisbury, Appeal Decision. Cllr PY reported that the Appeal against non-determination of the planning application had been dismissed. The main reason for the dismissal was the risk of flooding in area of the raised footway through one of the bridges. The Appeal Inspector had no criticism of a nursing home on the site or the proposed density of housing. Nor had he been concerned with the problem of lorries accessing the site through neighbouring villages. In Cllr PY's view the matter would come to the fore again within a matter of months. Was it time to consult with other villages/the Access to Tisbury Group about the way forward? *Action - Cllr PY to inquire.*
- **PL/2022/04333 & 04332** - Chilmark Estates (former RAF Chilmark) SP3 5RW: Retrospective Change of Use applications. *Decision deadline: 5 September 2022.* Cllr PY noted that the planning officer was still waiting to receive revised plans indicating access visibility splays from the applicant, as requested by Highways. Everyone would be reconsulted once these had been received. The Applicant had been repeatedly reminded they were needed.

Applications received since last meeting:

- **PL/2023/04776** – Land at Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH
Prior notification: Development by telecoms operators: Installation of Single 9m Telecommunications Pole.
Consultation deadline: 13 July 2023. Josh Goodchild of Wessex Internet explained the additional pole was needed to provide coverage to 5 homes on the Salisbury Rd. It was pointed out that none of the 5 homeowners who might benefit had expressed interest in signing up to Wessex, and indeed 3 households had said they would rather the pole was not installed. Cllr RP noted that while the clutter and inconvenience was not wanted by current householders, the internet service might be desired by future occupants. It was agreed that parish councillors would conduct a **site visit** before reaching a decision.
Consultation deadline: 13 July 2023.
- **PL/2023/04652** – Barn at Bevisfield, Cow Drove, Chilmark, SP3 5AJ
Full Planning Permission: carry out alterations to Barn to facilitate permitted commercial use. Councillors agreed to carry out a **site visit** and to ascertain further information about whether the building had been in sole agricultural use for the past 10 years. Consultation deadline: 25 July 2023.
- **PL/2023/04627** – 1 Hops Close, Chilmark, SP3 5BE. Householder Planning Permission: Single storey extension to North-East elevation to provide accommodation (revised details). *PC Position – No Comment.*
Decision deadline: 20 July 2023.
- **PL/2023/05327** – The Cross, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AR
Householder planning permission: replace existing garage and lean-to at end of garden with new to match existing. The existing garage is very old and run down, and no longer fit for purpose, particularly the garage doors which are to fall off. *PC Position – No Objection.* Decision deadline: 28 August 2023.
- **PL/2023/03636** – The Yoga Barn, 88 Ridge, Chilmark, SP3 5BS
Lawful development: Existing use – Use of the yoga barn as a single dwelling house.
Members heard that permission had been obtained on Appeal in 2014 to build a home office and yoga house. The PC had objected at the time. In addition, Fonthill Estate had a covenant that the land should only be used for the purposes of one dwelling. Cllr RP noted he had supported an objection at the time of the original application, knowing this development would come along in due course. It was unacceptable to expand the number of houses in the village on this basis. It was agreed members would look at the Appeal ruling and current plans but, on the basis of present knowledge, the inclination would be to Object.
Consultation deadline: 2 August 2023.

9. Frickers Paddock Playground

- Cllr RJ confirmed the Parish Council owns the land on which the Playground sits and as such is responsible for looking after both land and the play equipment. The grass is cut regularly; some work is occasionally needed on nearby trees and at this stage the equipment is largely maintenance free.

- Cllr RJ had smoothed out a rough surface on the climbing frame that had been flagged in the Feb 2023 Playground Inspection Report and it was agreed that rather than putting a councillor's number on the ground's board it was better to leave it to users to contact emergency services in the case of an emergency.
- Since the last PC meeting, a letter had been received from a mother about the growing number of children who will be using the playground in coming years. It was important for the PC to bear in mind the equipment is ageing and substantial expense will be required in due course, possibly 7 years. The relevant matter now was to consider what reserves might be needed for this. Cllr MP asked whether the PC could set aside money for future expenditure on this as the problem was not going to go away. It was agreed that Cllr RJ should look into possible future costs and availability of grants. *Action – Cllr RJ & Clerk*

10. The Black Dog

- The application to have The Black Dog listed as an Asset of Community Value by Wiltshire Council had been submitted in the Parish Council's name on 7 June; this was coincidental to the pub being put up for sale, without the full extent of its existing curtilage. The PC had been informed by Wiltshire that a decision would be reached by 2 August 2023. Since then, it was noted some 40 letters of support for the application had been submitted by residents to Wiltshire Council.
- The PC had now been approached by The Black Dog's current owner requesting the ACV application be removed as he feared it would hinder his ability to sell the pub. Cllr RP said he didn't believe the ACV would make it more difficult to sell the pub; rather the reverse, in that it would prove there was support for the pub in village. It was agreed the Council would write to the owner as follows: 'The ACV application has got wide support in the village and we don't feel it would be appropriate to withdraw it. We are not convinced that it will have a detrimental effect on your ability to sell the pub.' *Action – Clerk*

11. Highways

- Cllr MP had attended the recent meeting of the Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG). The application for the extension of the *no parking* white line in The Street (from the bus shelter towards the Cross) had now been approved, and the PC would be charged 25% of the total cost as originally quoted, ie £184.
- Wiltshire had recently switched to new highways contractors and there were already huge delays, hence it wasn't clear when the blind summit signage and SLOW markings near Rock Cottage would be installed; likewise the white line extension at the Cross.
- Cllr MP noted it was essential that in future all the LHFIG and Area Board meetings were attended by a Chilmark member; it was the only way to find out what other parish councils were doing and if the PC didn't attend, it wouldn't receive any funding towards Highways improvements. Cllr CJ reiterated this message having just attended the latest Area Board meeting.
- Cllr RP volunteered to attend the next LHFIG meeting on Wednesday 6 September, 2pm, at the Nadder Centre. Cllr CJ would continue to attend Flood Defence meetings. *Action: Clerk to get calendar for forthcoming LHFIG & Area Board meetings so that a PC representative could always attend.*
- Cllr MP reported Bridget Wayman was looking to raise parish contributions towards Highways improvements from the current 25% to 50%.
- Clerk reported that the application for a new Traffic Survey near Rock Cottage had been submitted but the Transport Planning Technician dealing with it had rejected the proposed spot for the survey, instead suggesting it be attached to the last speed limit sign leaving Chilmark towards Tisbury. Estimated survey commission date is October/November 2023.

12. Emergency Planning – SSE Resilience Grant Application

Cllr CJ gave a Power Point presentation setting out 4 options for improving facilities or equipment in the village with a grant of up to £10,000 from SSE. The purpose of the grant was to improve community resilience to problems created by poor weather. Options considered were: 1. Reading Room Solar Power; 2) Flood Defence Equipment; 3) Reading Room Fixed Back Up Generator; 4) Space Heaters. It was agreed unanimously to make an application for funds for Flood Defences – Cllr RP to see application prior to submission. Cllrs CJ & MP thanked for all their work on this.

13. Litter Bins / Village litter pick

Further to reports that the dog poo bin at Mooray was at times overflowing, Cllr MP had checked on the emptying schedule and discovered that it hadn't always been emptied when due. This problem now

corrected and emptying would in future be fortnightly. A local resident had kindly volunteered to monitor situation.

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- 14. AOB – Winterborne Clearance** – it was agreed residents in homes adjoining the Winterborne / with Riparian responsibilities would be asked via the next Village Voice to ensure their stretch of the Winterborne was cleared of debris and any potential blockages ahead of winter. It was noted that some residents had already done this. Cllr CJ would be contacting Seeds4Success for help with clearing the Hindon Lane ditch that led into the Winterborne, plus other stretches. He also noted that a lot of drains had become silted up following recent flash flooding. He had been informed that Wiltshire's discretionary gully and clearance team had been suspended, and reporting drainage problems via the MyWilts App was not effective.
Cllr PY said he would like to acknowledge the great work done by the Parish Steward Simon.

15. Items for Village Voice – as per Minutes

16. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 7pm in the Reading Room.

Meeting closed: 9.38pm

Sarah Miller – Parish Clerk