

**RECORD OF POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF
THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE READING ROOM**

PRESENT

Sir Richard Packer – Chair
Mrs Bev Small - Cllr
Sir Raymond Jack - Cllr
Mr Carl Jacobs - Cllr
Mrs Morag Philpott – Cllr
Mr Johan Denekamp - Cllr
Sarah Miller - PC Clerk
Mrs Bridget Wayman – Wiltshire Councillor
In attendance: Neil Pattenden, Colin Diaper

1. **Welcome & Apologies** – The Chair Cllr RP welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Young and also Mungo Melvin, Forbes Field Management Group chair.

PUBLIC FORUM – no issues raised.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

3. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 July 2023

Approved without amendment & no Matters Arising

4. **Wiltshire Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report:**

- Local Plan: consultation of the draft Wiltshire Local Plan would start on 27 September and run to 22 November. A live Webinar would take place via Teams on 10 October from 6.30 to 8pm. Participants would need to register in advance and submit any questions by 2 October - details on homepage of the Wiltshire website. There would be a drop-in session at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury, on Wednesday 4 October, 3-7pm, open to all Wiltshire residents. The Local Plan sets out the vision and framework for housing, infrastructure and land for employment growth for the next 15 years. Once adopted, all planning applications will be determined against the Plan, making it the most important place-shaping document for Wiltshire. Cllr Wayman said her chief concern was about the possibility of wind turbines being proposed for the Cranborne Chase AONB; although high unlikely, this was not an impossibility.
- Household Recycling Centres: as already reported in the September Village Voice, Cllr Wayman noted there are now to be designated sorting areas at Warminster and Salisbury HRCs for residents to pre-sort their waste. The hope is it will reduce by a third the number of items destined for the *general* rubbish skips.
- Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group: the LHFIG had met that afternoon. Cllr BW noted that if any further highway improvements were planned in Chilmark, then the PC must budget for the 25% contribution required. Discussion of a possible 50% contribution from Parish Councils in future had been set aside. Cllr CJ enquired whether the PC would be expected to make a contribution towards drainage improvement work; this had been indicated by Wiltshire Highways Engineer David Button. Cllr BW thought this unlikely though agreed it might apply to the installation of raised kerbs. She noted that the new Highways contractors Milestone were already way behind schedule with diared works and there were numerous problems. There would be no more white lining on roads this year (in addition to those items already commissioned).

5. **Ridge Phone Box**

Linda Jones had been invited to address the PC on behalf of Ridge residents who wished to adopt the Gilbert Scott design phone box on Knapp Lane, Ridge; the box was given Grade II listed status by English Heritage in 2010. Linda explained an application had been made to BT to adopt the kiosk in 2005 and by the time she moved to Ridge in 2009, everyone was under the impression that Ridge owned it. The phone itself had not worked for many years and a faulty light was reported to BT in 2005. At the time BT said they were unable to provide a date for the repair as works had to be prioritised. Some 17 years later towards the end of 2022, an engineer arrived to reinstall the light. Until then, BT had not maintained the kiosk and it was in an appalling state, with ivy growing out of it. When questioned about the light installation at the end of 2022, BT insisted the phone was still in commission and working, which evidently it was not.

Then, just three weeks before the PC meeting (Sept 2023), BT installed a replacement telephone; meanwhile the new light had stopped working again.

Linda told PC members Ridge residents would be happy to maintain the kiosk if it were adopted – previously they had repainted it and it had been used as a book swap venue. She said it was an iconic feature of Ridge, and given everyone now had mobile phones, there was no demand for a community payphone. She requested that the Parish Council adopt the phone kiosk on behalf of the Ridge community, via BT's Adopt a Kiosk scheme.

Cllr JD pointed out that as long there was an electricity supply to the kiosk (for the light) then someone would be billed for that electricity; the PC would not wish to take on responsibility for that cost. It was agreed unanimously to pay £1 for the adoption of the kiosk but on the basis of there being no electricity supply. *Clerk to follow up with BT and process adoption.*

6. Finance

- The Clerk presented a Payments & Receipts Summary for the PC Treasurer's account for period 1 July to 31 August 2023. There had been one receipt during this period, an AONB grants payment for Forbes Field totalling £2,946.52, which was transferred into FF deposit account. Six payments totalling £1,640.78 were made on regular PC expenditure, ie Grass Cutting, Litter Bin emptying, Defibrillator pads purchase and Clerk's salary. The closing balance in the PC Treasurer's Account on 31 August 2023 was **£9,075.86**, which includes the ring-fenced sum of £1,290 for the upkeep of the Millennium Cross.
- The Clerk noted she would be submitting a VAT claim before the next meeting.
- Looking ahead, the cost of Highways improvements totalling £1,198 would be due in coming months.

7. Planning Procedures and Applications – Cllr BS

Applications determined or progress since last meeting

- **PL/2023/02062** - The Malthouse, The Street, Chilmark SP3 5AU - Householder Application: Clad existing annex with horizontal locally sourced larch or cedar. *PC Position: Support.* Decision: Approved with conditions.
- **PL/2022/04332 & 04333** - Chilmark Estates (former RAF Chilmark) SP3 5RW: Retrospective change of use applications. *PC position: Object.* Cllr BS noted that the PC's original objections on Highways grounds had been resubmitted. Decision deadline: 7 September.
- **PL/2023/04652** - Barn at Bevisfield, Cow Drove, Chilmark, SP3 5AJ
Full Planning Permission: carry out alterations to Barn to facilitate permitted commercial use
PC position (following site visit): Recorded concern that application was step towards using dwelling as a house. Decision: withdrawn by Applicant
- **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: Approved with conditions.
- **PL/2023/04776** - Land at Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH. Prior notification: Development by telecoms operators: Installation of Single 9m Telecommunications Pole. *PC position (following site visit:) No Comment.* Decision: Prior Approval not required.
It was noted that Wiltshire Planning had queried the PC's *No Comment* stance on this application as it raised more questions than it answered. Agreed that in future the PC would avoid the *No Comment* position on applications.
- **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. Decision: Approved with conditions
- **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. *PC Position: Object.* Decision: Approved: 17 August 2023. Cllr BS noted that the application had been approved following a site visit by a Wiltshire planning officer on 19 July and his subsequent report recommending approval. Wiltshire Council had taken the view that the Applicant's evidence adequately showed she had been using the yoga barn as a private residence for four years or more. Members expressed their concern about how this happened. Cllr CJ asked whether the applicant would be pursued for unpaid Council Tax for the last four years. It was agreed to ask Bridget Wayman to pursue this. *Action - Clerk*

Applications received since last meeting:

- **PL/2023/06253** - Hop House, Frog Lane, Chilmark, SP3 5BB. Householder planning permission: Erect Single Storey Extension to Form Timber Framed Car Port. *Pc Position: No Objection.* Decision: Approved with Conditions.
- **PL/2023/06710** - Chieldmarc Farm, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AU. Works to trees in conservation area: Lawsonia Glaucou - fell. *PC position: No objection.* Decision: No Objection.
- **PL/2023/07054** - Frog Cottage, Frog Lane, Chilmark, SP3 5BB. Listed building consent: Replacement of the existing clay single roll pantiles with new clay pantiles of matching colour and profile. *PC position: No objection.* Decision deadline: 13 October 2023

Site Visit protocol

Cllr BS said it was her understanding that in future any site visit group would be report back to the PC with their findings before a decision on an application was reached. It was agreed this would be case unless delegated powers had specifically been given.

8. Forbes Field

- *FFMG update:* Cllr JD presented the FFMG update in the absence of Mungo Melvin. The Friends of Forbes Field had pulled together during the hot dry June to ensure the young trees were well watered. In July there were visits from a Cranborne Chase AONB officer and a Wiltshire Tree officer; the former conducted a botanical survey, identifying 26 species, and gave advice on the most appropriate cutting regime; the Tree officer encouraged a more ambitious planting plan along the northern edge of the field, with a greater number of Poplars and Willows than originally intended. These visits were followed by a Chilmark School one, led by Neil Pattenden. In August Cllr CJ, PC Flood Warden, hosted a visit from two Environment Agency representatives, both seasoned professionals in flooding and chalk aquifers. They endorsed the plans for dealing with flash flooding. Some 100 metres of pipe was channeled through the field in preparation for moving the water trough nearer to the orchard to facilitate future watering. Replacement wooden fencing and a new five-bar gate were erected along Hops Close at the end of the month and there had been open trench work in the north-east corner of the field where a sluice gate is planned to manage and hold water in the field at moments of crisis. Future Planting days will take place on Saturday 9 December and Sat 10 February 2024. The first of these will involve pupils from Chilmark School helping with the planting of the Coronation Grove Whitebeams. Villagers are being encouraged to visit the field and enjoy it; it was heartening to note that many of the fruit trees in the orchard were now bearing fruit. Cllr RP noted that the whole project had been remarkably successful so far.
- *FF Financial update:* Cllr JD gave a brief update for the two months to 4 September 2023 during which there had been just four transactions of which three were receipts: two bank interest payments totalling £15.29, and an AONB grant payment of £2,946.52. The biggest transaction was a reimbursement to Cllr JD of £5,152.54 for FF expenditure, including the new fencing and gates, and the trenching and digger works, along with a number of small items. The FF bank account balance stood at **£7,801.56**.

9. The Black Dog

Cllr RP gave a brief report on the village meeting in the Reading Room on 31 August 2023. 54 people had attended and there was overwhelming support for triggering the moratorium on the sale of the pub until 24 January 2024. This had now been actioned and a working group had been set up, under the leadership of Natalie Surtees, with a view to raising the funding for a credible bid for the pub. Cllr RP noted that the hard work would start now and that the task ahead was a difficult one. Cllr BS would forward to the Wkg Grp the details of the landlord who was successfully running a pub at Longparish, Andover, following its purchase by the local community.

10. Highways

- Cllr RP had attended that day's meeting of the Local Highway & Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG). Some 35 schemes had been discussed and, tellingly, the only one on which no decision was reached was the Dinton one, and Dinton had not had a representative present. He reiterated Cllr Wayman's message that Milestone, the new highways contractors, were way behind schedule. Officers at the meeting had thought Chilmark's blind summit signage and SLOW markings near Rock Cottage were already in place; Cllr RP had to advise them otherwise.
- Cllr Bev Small volunteered to attend the next LHFIG meeting on Wednesday 15 November, 2-4pm, at the Nadder Centre. Cllr RJ asked for *Future Meetings* to be an Agenda item. *Action: Clerk*
- *Traffic Survey:* the Clerk confirmed that the Traffic Survey for the Chilmark to Tisbury road was due to take place in Oct or November 2023. The survey location would be the 20mph sign entering Chilmark from Tisbury direction. Meanwhile, it wasn't yet clear whether a survey could be conducted on the Chilmark to

Sutton Mandeville road at Portash. The Transport Planning Technician had indicated it probably didn't tick enough requirements to justify a survey - TBA.

11. Flood Prevention

Cllr CJ reported that during August two Environment Agency people had visited Chilmark to carry out an assessment following the January groundwater flooding and the May flash flooding. They also met with James Griffin of Velcourt, manager of the land owned by Bapton Manor Farm adjoining Hindon Lane. Velcourt has already planted a crop of maize & sunflowers to help reduce rain run-off from the field, plus they've bent tram lines around a corner rather than directly onto the lane. Meanwhile the Environment Agency proposed building up bunding in the corner of the field to further reduce risk of flash flooding. Cllr CJ had tried unsuccessfully to engage with Emmanuel Kitson for the meeting. They also looked at the flooding issues affecting Chilmark Manor with recommendations for the Fairmead. Interesting maps of the flooding catchment area were produced, and suggestions made for steps to manage farming landscape to reduce flooding into the village in the future. The Wiltshire engineer who'd been expected at the meeting didn't show up but was now coming on 12 Sept instead. They would look at land drainage issues opposite the Black Dog as well as Forbes Field. They would also look at silted up drains in the village. Cllr CJ recorded his thanks to the Parish Steward for clearing a fallen tree from the Hindon Lane ditch.

12. Seeds for Success

Cllr CJ noted that the Mere based youth work charity had done a brilliant job during its two days in the village in August and it was hoped to get them back for a third day. It was agreed unanimously that the PC should make a donation of £250 to the charity in recognition of the work they had done. Cllr RP would write a letter as Chair to accompany the donation. *Action: Cllr RP*

13. Emergency Planning Resilience Event

Cllrs MP & CJ had attended a Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared Resilience Event in Tidworth Garrison Theatre the previous week. Cllr MP noted the event was well attended by 253 town & parish councils. It became apparent that Chilmark is already pretty well prepared for an emergency and was in a position to advise other PCs who don't yet have an emergency plan in place.
Action: Cllr MP to provide piece for The Village Voice

14. Frickers Paddock Playground

Cllr RJ had been asked to look into future sources of money for replacing play equipment when the time comes. He noted there were a number of providers that could also provide funding advice. It seemed likely something may need doing in 5 or 10 years but it was difficult at this stage to know how much would need to be done. The possibility of obtaining some funding does exist. Homefront Outdoor Play, Salisbury, had provided the existing equipment and a quick look at their site suggested that replacement costs might be in the region of £6,000 to £10,000. It would be helpful to have a playground strategy. The concern is that even if some funding were available, a considerable sum would still need to be found by the PC.
Action: it was agreed that prior to the next meeting, ALL members should visit the playground

15. Area Board mtg attendance, 20 September 2023.

Cllr JD said he would try to attend, and Cllr CJ would go in his place if he was unable to.
Dates of future Area Board meetings are: **Wednesday 29 November, 6-8pm** East Knoyle VH
Wednesday 28 February, 6-8pm Broad Chalke VH.

16. Wessex Internet

Nothing to report.

17. Items for Village Voice

Forbes Field planting dates, The Black Dog, Ridge phone box, Winterbourne clearance thanks

18. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 7pm in the Reading Room.