

CHILMARK PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 3 July 2024, 7pm
Chilmark Reading Room

Sir Richard Packer – Chair
Bev Small – Vice Chair
Sir Raymond Jack - Cllr
Carl Jacobs - Cllr
Johan Denekamp – Cllr
Morag Philpott – Cllr
Peter Young - Cllr
Sofya Samokhina - PC Clerk

In attendance:

Becky Lee, Daniel Milton, Jerry Moore, Roy Trigwell, Ali Whipp-Long.

1. **Apologies/welcome** - The Chair Cllr RP welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies.

2. **Public Forum**

Playing Field/Playground

Cllr RP read out emails he had received from SDBE. They had received a professional valuation of the playing field of £25K which SDBE appreciated would be well beyond the PC's means. SDBE had contacted the Charities Commission to confirm that it would be in order for them to transfer the field to the Parish Council for a peppercorn amount.

Car Crash on B3089

Cllr MP had received an email regarding the car crash on Salisbury Road. A fence had been damaged and the milestone in the front garden of the property had been damaged. It was suggested that a speed detector on Salisbury Road might be useful. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Parish Council meeting.

Parking on Barn Hill

Mr Moore and Mr Milton said that they continued to be concerned at the inadequate parking on Barn Hill, which could prove serious if, e.g. ambulances, were required. The matter was complicated by the existence of an agreement on access between the owner of Cheriton and Wiltshire Council dated 15 December 2016, which they had seen, and which impacted on possible improvements. It appeared that residents, likely to be affected may not have been consulted by Wiltshire at the time about this. Perhaps the PC had not been consulted also?

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8 May 2024 - Approved without amendment and no Matters Arising.

5. **Wiltshire Councillor Bridget Wayman's Report** – BW was not present on this occasion.

6. **Playing Field/Playground** – It was agreed that Cllr RP would circulate a draft reply email to SDBE.

7. **Claybush Playground Lease update** – Clerk read out the Claybush Playground Chair's report. – **attached.**

8. **Black Dog update** – Cllr BS read a piece from VV - **attached.**

BDWP could not apply for grants unless their offer was accepted by the owner of the pub.

9. A) **Forbes Field update – Mungo Melvin** – Cllr JD read out the report on behalf of MM who was not present. – **attached**.

It was pointed out that long grass and deer, who were spotted at the field, attracted ticks.
Next event at FF - Sat 7th September.

- b) Forbes Field Financial update – Cllr JD read out the report. – **attached**.

10. Finance (Clerk):

- Clerk read out the Payments & Receipts statement for period 1 May to 30 June 2024. – **attached**.

11. Annual Accounts & Governance Returns 2023/24 (Clerk):

Clerk had now submitted the correct form to PKF Littlejohn LLP using the minutes reference of the Annual Parish meeting, as the forms which were originally submitted did not have Points 9 (Governance Statement regarding Trust Funds) and 11a and 11b (Accounting Statements). Annual return papers were posted on Parish Council website on 3 June for public inspection.

Additional questions to approve:

- a) Assertion 9 of the Governance Statement regarding Trust Funds – unanimously agreed.
b) Boxes 11a and 11b of the Accounting Statements – unanimously agreed.

12. Planning Procedures & Applications

Applications determined since last meeting:

PL/2023/10702 Barn at Bevisfield, Cow Drive - Lawful development: Existing use.

Parish Council Position: Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 09/05/24

The PC objected as the applicant has not been able to clearly demonstrate that the three buildings have been in continuous, uninterrupted use for the last 10 years for the purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the adjacent residential property. There were a number of other objections from the villagers. The deadline for decision has been extended as the case planning officer is busy and is aware of sensitivities.

Planning Application was withdrawn by the applicant. - Barn – 3 agricult.buil – number of objections, PC objected. The planning officers did visit the site and the main house. Following the site visit – the app was withdrawn.

PL/2024/00419 Bevisfield, Cow Drove - Vary Condition No 3 on PL/2022/00888 - to add an additional Dormer window (of the same design as those to each side) above the porch on the front (east) elevation. Vary condition 2 on PL/2022/00888 to state "The development shall be constructed using the following materials: Clipsham stone walling as shown on document entitled stone sample photos; timber boarding, roof materials and driveway surfacing materials all as approved under application PL/2023/01717."

Parish Council Position: PL/2022/00888 – Vary Condition No 3 - No Objection; Vary condition 2 on PL/2022/00888 - Objection with a comment.

Wiltshire Council Decision: Planning Permission granted on 14.05.2024

Applications in progress:

PL/2024/04186 Holly House, Cow Drove, Chilmark, Salisbury, SP3 5AJ - Alteration and extension of a two-storey, detached dwelling house.

Parish Council Position: No Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 1/7/24

Cllr BS stated that the Planning Application was very thorough, the property was not listed or in the conservation area. Parish Councillors had conducted a site visit. The neighbours did not object.

PL/2024/05096 Frog Cottage, Frog Lane, Chilmark, Salisbury. SP3 5BB – Listed building Consent- Replace modern single glazed timber frame windows with traditional timber flush frame double glazed units.

Parish Council Position: No Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 2/8/24

PL/2024/05077 Frog Cottage, Frog Lane, Chilmark, Salisbury. SP3 5BB - Listed building Consent - Replace a timber post and rail side fence alongside the drive, on the east side of the property and construct a new stone boundary wall in its place. – Chilmark Stone and in keeping with neighboring houses.

Parish Council Position: No Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 29/7/24

PL/2024/05366 Frog Cottage, Frog Lane, Chilmark, Salisbury, SP3 5BB - Householder planning permission - Replace a timber post and rail side fence alongside the drive, on the east side of the property and construct a new stone boundary wall in its place.

Parish Council Position: No Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 6/8/24

PL/2024/05732 12 RIDGEWAY, CHILMARK, SALISBURY, SP3 5BX - Householder planning permission - Install wood burner with flue.

Parish Council Position: No Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 19/08/2024

Cllr BS stated that there was no issue with the planning application as it was a modern house, and that the application was thorough.

PL/2024/05989 THE OLD RECTORY, THE STREET, CHILMARK, SALISBURY, SP3 5AT - Mixed species - (G1) - trees overhanging driveway: cut back lateral limbs by up to 1m and overhead limbs to increase clearance by up to 3m; Mixed broadleaves - (G2) - crown raise low hanging limbs up to 3m Irish Yew trees - (G3) - reduce by up to 50% - up to 1m offside and up to 2m off the tops
Cherry tree - (T1) – fell; Holm Oak tree - (T2) - reduce limbs away from house by up to 2.5m

Parish Council Position: No Objection.

Wiltshire Council Decision Deadline: 12/08/2024

13. **Barn Hill Parking update**

Cllr RP pointed out that, with the benefit of hindsight, when the houses had been built insufficient parking was provided. The issue could probably not be solved completely but there might be a few places where parking spaces could be created. Wiltshire Council Cllr Bridget Wayman had visited the site with him and would seek advice from officials about what could be done. Chilmark residents would be within their rights to ask Wiltshire Council about the procedure followed in the case of the agreement referred to in the Public Forum.

14. **Chilmark War Memorial Restoration** – It was stated that the specialist restorer would inspect the site in July-August. The working group of PCC had agreed to cover that cost (£100).

15. **Bin emptying contract update** – Cllr MP – reported that a new larger bin had been installed in Lower Mooray by WC. The emptying of the bin was covered by WC. Special thanks to Cllr CJ for removing the old small bin.

16. **Frickers Paddock playground** – Cllr PY reported that the playground was in a satisfactory condition. There were 2 trees which needed attention – an ash tree which probably was dying and a sycamore tree in need of pruning. Cllr PY was to report once a specialist had been contacted and visited the site.

17. **SW Wilts Meeting Dates / Attendance**

Area Board Meeting - Wednesday 29th May 2024

Cllr MP had attended the meeting. Cllrs discussed whether it was useful to go to these meetings as they are long, and the minutes are sent out to clerks any way. It was agreed to attend them when Cllrs were available. Next Area Board meeting - 11 September 2024.

18. Date of next PC meeting – **Wednesday 18th September 2024, 7pm.**

Attachments

1. Chair of Claybush Playground Committee:

Ellie and I are sorry not to be able to make this meeting. It's been yet another frustrating two months for the playground committee. The conversations over the land ownership still lie with the SDBE and Parish Council, and we leave it to them to update you.

In the meantime, we are seen as responsible for a playground which, in the absence of a lease, doesn't have valid public liability insurance. This safety of the playground is our utmost concern, and validating our insurance is our top priority. We are investigating whether signing the license to occupy (offered to us in lieu of a lease but refused by the committee on the grounds of an unrealistic notice period - two weeks) could be a good option for us, or whether that would jeopardise the negotiating position further down the line. We don't know if this is even an option at the moment, but it could be a good short term solution to validate our insurance and put everyone's minds at ease.

We had a Playground Committee meeting last week and made the collective decision to take down the climbing frame. It poses a safety risk and whilst the discussions drag on and remain, in the round, opaque, we feel removing this would be prudent.

To reassure everyone, we continue to be a passionate and dedicated committee who are keen for the issues surrounding the playground and the Claybush field to be resolved so we can start the exciting and proactive part of fundraising for a fantastic new recreational space that will be a central part of village life for decades to come.

Olivia von Halle

Chair

Chilmark Village Playground Committee

2. The Black Dog Report from Village Voice:

- 1. The concern about rat activity at the pub was reported to The Black Dog's owner before Christmas and has got noticeably worse, encroaching on neighbouring properties. Wiltshire Pest Control came out to review the situation in May, discussing the activity seen along the road and on our properties. A report was sent to the Environmental Health Officer. There is no update regarding their success in getting hold of the owner.*
- 2. There are many concerns regarding the state of the listed building. The first step in the process of reporting this is via Wiltshire Council, which we did earlier in the year. We are following up on what step two looks like now. If we need messages of concern from the village to strengthen our case, then we shall be in touch!*
- 3. Two more local pubs have come onto the market this year: The Wyndham Arms, Dinton (£375k) and The Benett Arms, Tisbury. The latter appears to have sold at auction for £450k via Savills. Following these pubs coming on the market at a significantly lower price than the The Black Dog, the BD estate agents were contacted to supply a justification for their value on our pub. We note that the asking price for the pub has since been reduced from £550k to £495k.*
- 4. A significant grant potentially available to us, subject to application, is the Community Ownership Fund; all applications to this have been paused until after the General Election, at which point there may be a whole new process. Therefore, subject to the availability of a similar grant pot, we shall need to wait for this to be clarified before applying, should we be successful at negotiating a suitable price for the increasingly dilapidated building.*

3. Forbes Field:

Introduction

- 1. This routine update covers the period May – June 2024, documenting recent activities and outlining future tasks and plans. It also records the arrival of a new member of the FFMG.*

Recent Activities

- 2. Our main effort during this reporting period – apart from Johan Denekamp's regular mowing – was to give the Field a very thorough summertime trim. During the late afternoon of Wednesday,*

12 June, 20 Friends of Forbes Field (FoFF) undertook a series of strimming and weeding tasks to give our young trees and hedging whips the best possible conditions for future growth. We also mounted an information panel at the Western Grove, which lists the names of people who have very generously pledged various tree types in this plot.

3. We finished off this FoFF activity with a barbeque to thank to all those who had attended, and given freely of their time and effort for the Forbes Field project. I would like to thank all participants and, in particular, Johan and Lesley Denekamp for organizing this most successful event, and to Carl Jacobs for running a wonderful barbeque.

Future Activities

4. The principal outstanding task is to erect a cairn at the south-western (hill) corner of the Field, which will incorporate a plaque recording Diana Forbes' gift to the village. Groundworks, involving an external contractor with a digger, are due to start on 9 July.

5. We shall also mount near the entrance to the Field the main information panel concerning the project, and place the rubbish bin we have purchased next to the pedestrian gate. I would like to thank the PC for arranging the supply of this bin and for agreeing to pay for its regular emptying.

6. As previously notified, we are holding a fun 'open day' barbeque and information activity in the Field at lunchtime on **Saturday, 7 September**. This event is designed to showcase what we have achieved to date, and equally, to encourage villagers to visit the Field and to enjoy its special amenity space. In line with other village activities, we intend to put up some advertising posters in mid August.

7. Looking further ahead, we are planning on holding a Field Day in late autumn or early winter to carry out an end-of-year tidy up and to plant any replacement trees if required.

Membership of the FFMG

8. The FFMG is very pleased to welcome Janey Whipp of Cow Drove, who takes the place left in the Group by Simon Butcher.

Future Fundraising

9. With a view to securing funds for future running costs, we are looking at running over the winter a fund-raising campaign within the village seeking annual pledges of support.

Conclusion

10. With the project now halfway through its third year since the initial concept was launched in January 2022, we can see the Field assuming its future shape and so offering considerable amenity value for the benefit of the village as a whole. At the same time, we must begin to turn our efforts towards securing its long-term maintenance for the good of our local community.

Mungo Melvin

Chair, Forbes Field Management Group

4. Forbes Field Financial Report:

This report covers the financial activity of FFMG from 1st April 2024 to 30th June 2024.

It also presents the budget for the current fiscal year to 31st March 2025 for review and approval.

Activity to date has gone to plan and our finances are looking robust.

We started this fiscal year with £8,168 in the bank at 1st April 2024, and at end June we now have £7,895 at the bank. The last remaining NL claim of £848 was paid and the Forbes family contributed £1,080 to the construction of our cairn in memory of Diana Forbes.

In the quarter we paid for the high-quality oak frames, and we have installed two of the composite information boards. That work has come to £1,800 against a budget of £2,000 (almost 100% funded by the NL/FiPL grant). We procured two more oak trees to conclude the initial planting plan.

The budget for this coming fiscal year shows that we expect to end this year with £1,096 in hand. This is after some fairly generous allowances for activity to take place in the next 9 months. We will not replace every tree that fails but we have allowed £750 for some replacements. We will gap fill the hedgerows with whips where needed, £500 should be more than adequate. We have allowed a total of £2,500 for the cairn installation. This breaks down into about £1,000 or so for the materials and ground worker to create the slabs required for the cairn and the smaller slab for the waste bin. Then we have allowed the remainder for the mason who will construct the cairn. These external

costs are unavoidable, and we will work alongside them on the day labouring.

Our recurring costs are estimated at approximately £2,000 pa and as the capital intense aspects of this project have now come to an end, we will need to budget/fund raise perhaps £2,000 pa (plus some buffer) to keep things looking as good as they do now. It has always been our intention to seek some village sponsorship of a recurring standing order nature. We would hope that perhaps 20-25 households would agree to set up a DD of just £100 per annum/£2 week.

The project has gone very well, and the overwhelming view of the villagers is that the transformation is amazing. Of course, we are left with ongoing maintenance and the Friends of Forbes Field have continued to prove to be indefatigable and indeed very enthusiastic in that regard. Witness 20 people who turned out at our last event on 12th June as you will have seen in the VV and in Mungo's report.

JH Denekamp

As at 29th June 2024

5. Payments & Receipts Summary for period 1 May to 30 June 2024.

Opening Balance on 1 May 2024 was £10033.23. In this period, we did not receive any money.

PC has made quite few payments:

5 payments of grants were made to CCC, PCC, Claybush Playground Committee, Village voice and the Reading Room, amounting to £2000. Insurance was paid on 22 May of £492.52. Clerk's salary amounted to £486. Grass cutting at FP came to £320. WALC subscription was paid on 22 May of £213.55. Grist was paid for animal waste collection £94.08. It's come down now due to a new bin being installed in Lower Mooray by WC, which has significantly brought the costs down.

Closing balance on the Treasurer's account on 30th June was £6427.08. Second installment of precept (£5500) is expected to be received in September.

Millenium cross account's balance on 30th June was £1300.05.