

**RECORD OF POINTS AND DECISIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2022 IN THE READING ROOM**

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

Representing the Forbes Field Management Group (FFMG): Major General (Rtd) Mungo Melvin
(Chair) and Johan Denekamp, Treasurer

Seven members 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 noted that with the onset of darker mornings & evenings, the perennial problem of pedestrians being put at risk by vehicles speeding through the village had returned. He suggested that the school be asked to remind parents to be aware of dog walkers and children whilst dropping off and collecting. It was agreed the school would be approached and a notice placed in the Village Voice. *Action: SM*

3. Declarations of Interest - Cllr BS noted she had an interest in the planning application for Chilmark House (as per Agenda).

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 7 September 2022 – approved

5. Matters arising from above minutes - it was noted that on the advice of the former Clerk JMcD, the PC had chosen *not* to opt out of the existing SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.

6. Wiltshire Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report

- Cllr BW noted that information on funding support / help with energy costs was available on the Wiltshire website, along with advice for residents on pre-payment meters.
- In preparation for the winter weather, the county's gritters had been out on practice runs. The Parish Council should check that salt bins are full. If levels become depleted, this should be reported on the MyWiltsApp.
- Additional funding is now available for the Parish Steward Scheme to tackle larger jobs where a two-man *gang* might be needed.
- Cllr BW said she was getting increasingly frustrated by the failure of the Police to come out and check speeding issues; it seemed that all local resources were focussed on Mere & Tisbury. She planned to check what proportion of the police precept was allocated to the Chilmark area, with a view to getting speed patrols carried out.
- Cllr RP thanked Cllr BW for helping out with a resident who didn't have electricity.
- Cllr CJ flagged up the problem of flash flooding in Hindon Lane, with water running off the adjoining fields onto the road. CJ would contact Velcourt - farm managers for the land – to see if anything could be done. Meanwhile the ongoing issue of the drainage gully on Kents Hill/Hops Close having not been cleared for some years was again raised. BW to chase.
Action: CJ & BW

7. Finance

- a) The Clerk presented the **Payments & Receipts for period 1.09.22 to 31.10.22**, noting it reflected a much quieter period in terms of outgoings than the preceding 4-month statement. Reading Room hire for the year - £82.50 - and the salary of former clerk Mary Flower - £230 - were the only payments unrelated to Forbes Field activity. The closing balance of the PC share (non-FF) of Treasurer's A/C funds was **£7,924.86** at 31.10.22. The balance of Forbes Field funds in Treasurer's A/C stood at **£10,387.56**. **Total closing balance** of Treasurer's A/C: **£18,312.42**. Balance of Savings Account (FF ring-fenced funds) stood at **£4,570.70** on 31.10.22.
- b) Johan Denekamp gave a brief run through of **Forbes Field** banking activity for the period. Some 50 villagers as of 2 Nov 22 had pledged and *paid* a total of **£10,605** into the Parish Council Treasurer's A/C (this was £250 more than the sum of £10,355 recorded under FF pledges in Payments-Receipts statement referenced above). He noted that orders had now been placed for 22 trees which would be received ready for planting on Sat 3 December, the second of the FF *Field* days
- c) The **banking arrangements** for **Forbes Field** were discussed. It was agreed that as a deposit/savings account had been specifically set up for FF funds earlier this year, it made sense now to transfer all FF receipts into that account where interest, if only a small amount, could at least accrue. JD had kindly volunteered to pay for all FF expenses & purchases from his personal bank account, on the basis of these sums being reimbursed to him by the PC (ex Forbes Fields funds) at regular intervals.
- d) A discussion took place about whether the cost of valuing the FF Ransom Strip that was due to be transferred to PC ownership should be carried by the Parish Council or taken from Forbes Field funds (the £400 bill had been settled out of the PC Treasurer's a/c in August, and them subsequently reimbursed from FF deposit funds into the main PC account). It was **proposed** and **agreed** that the sum should be split 50-50 between the PC and Forbes Field funds, ie £200 apiece.
- e) Former Clerk payment – RP explained it had transpired that the former Clerk John Nicholas had been paying tax direct to HMRC rather than by deduction, and that HMRC records differed from his as to what had been paid/what was owed. The backlog had now been cleared but JN had subsequently requested a payment for five hours extra work, owing to enquires/requests for his ongoing assistance following his departure at the end of May. It was agreed that to remunerate him on the basis of his clerk's salary would precipitate further tax difficulties; hence it was subsequently agreed by all that he should be given a one-off payment of £50 in recognition of his help.
- f) **Budget estimate** for 2023/24:
In advance of setting the Precept at the January meeting, the Clerk presented a draft outline of likely expenditure for 2023/24. Members were asked to flag up any items that should be included in calculations. SM noted that the annual inspection of the Frickers Paddock playground had not taken place since May 2020. Members agreed this should be arranged. Cllr RJ said there was a further grass cutting invoice from Pat Newbury of £460 to be settled. Cllr MP inquired whether invoices had been received for the x2 new bins installed in the village, and subsequent emptying fees. The answer was *not as yet*.

8. Forbes Field update

Mungo Melvin (MM) provided a progress report on behalf of the FF Management Group. He thanked all those villagers who had generously pledged and subsequently paid funds towards the forthcoming tree planting. Volunteer Field Days for preparation and subsequent tree planting were due to take place on Saturdays 12 November & 3 December. Some 30 volunteers had offered to

assist on one or both of the days, including a sizeable contingent from the Chilmark based humanitarian relief charity RE:ACT.

A welcome update was that a consent letter had now been received from the Forbes Field heirs granting permission for preparation work to take place on the Ransom Strip area, even though this land had yet to be transferred to PC ownership. This letter to be countersigned by Cllr RP as Chair on behalf of the PC. He would also be asked to sign AONB paperwork allowing the release of promised AONB grant funds. Members gave their approval for Cllr RP to sign both of above on their behalf.

Finally, MM noted that a new dedicated website, *forbesfield.org*, was due to go live any day.

9. 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. PC Position: Objection. Status: Still under Consultation - application had been called in but Cllr PY noted it was *not* on the agenda of Wiltshire's forthcoming Southern Area Planning Meeting on 10 November.
- **PL/2022/06294** - Ash Farm, Salisbury Road, SP3 5AH. Proposed tree works in a conservation area - removal of yew tree branch, canopy lifted by 2m & reduced by 3 metres. *Decision: No Objection, 6 September 2022*
- **PL/2022/05725** - Meadow House, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AR. Proposed works to trees in Conservation Area – height reduction by 30% of Silver Birch & height reduction by 3m of crab apple. *Decision: No Objection, 6 September 2022*
- **PL/2022/05701** - Chilmark CE Primary School, The Street, SP3 5AR. Proposed heat source pump. *Decision: Approve with Conditions, 16 September 2022*
- **PL/2022/06209** - Chilmark House, Chilmark SP3 5AP. Proposed tree works in a conservation area – felling of 3 fruit trees. *Decision: No Objection, 21 September 2022*
- **PL/2022/06605** - Land at Black Dog Inn, Salisbury Road, SP3 5AH. Permission in Principle for two self-build dwellings. *Withdrawn by Applicant, 4 October 2022*
- **PL/2022/06735** - The Old Rectory, The Street, SP3 5AT. Notification of proposed works to trees in conservation area. A systematic tree survey was carried out by a professional arboriculturist in August 2022; this survey has recommended works to 50 individual trees and three groups of trees as listed in the application schedule. *Decision: No Objection, 6 October 2022*

Applications received since last Meeting:

- **PL/2022/06661** - Chilmark House, Chilmark SP3 5AP. Listed Building Consent – internal alterations to rear hall & first floor bathroom. PC Position: No Objection. *Decision deadline: 20 October 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. *PC Position: No Objection. Consultation deadline: 4 November 2022*
- **PL/2022/08390** - The Black Dog, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH. Consent under Tree Preservation Orders: 5 x Ash Trees, fell as per Tree Report. *PC position - see discussion below. Consultation deadline: 22 November 2022.*
- **PL/2022/08393** - The Black Dog, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH. Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Group of Ash trees plus 2 x Ash trees – fell as per Tree Report. *PC position - see discussion below. Consultation deadline: 22 November 2022*
- **PL/2021/09778** – Land at Station Works, Tisbury. Outline planning application for redevelopment of Station Works site, Tisbury. *Decision deadline: 30 June 2022.* Cllr PY reported that the item was on the agenda for Wiltshire's forthcoming Southern Area Planning Meeting on 10 November, which he would be attending. It was understood that the applicant has lodged an appeal against non-determination of the application.

Black Dog Ash Tree felling applications (as per above)

Cllr BS explained that the two applications related to the same 8 Ash trees, however five of them were protected by Tree Preservation Orders. It was noted that the Applicant's Tree Report appeared to be the same report that accompanied a previous (recently withdrawn) application for two self-build houses and which recommended the felling of all **24 mature trees** in the grounds of The Black Dog. A member of the public said for those living in Chilmark, the tree dense nature of the village was an essential part of its character. Members agreed that if trees at the Black Dog were to be felled owing to Ash Dieback, then a requirement should be put in place for replanting of mature trees, particularly in relation to those trees protected by Tree Preservation orders. Cllr BS to talk to Wiltshire Tree Officer Shane Verrion prior to the Parish Council reaching a decision on its position. *Action BS.*

10. The Black Dog – Asset of Community Value?

The Clerk outlined the purpose of applying for a village asset – eg a much loved pub or village shop - to be listed by the local authority (Wiltshire) as an Asset of Community Value. The listing could be requested either by the Parish Council or a group of 21 community members, ie villagers. Cllr RP felt it would be better if the request came from a group of 21 residents but, if there was a general view that it was a good idea, then the Parish Council would lend its support to the process. Cllr PY said he thought it important for the Parish Council to be seen as supporting any such initiative. Cllr CJ suggested an item explaining the purpose of an Asset of Community Value listing should be included in the forthcoming Village Voice, along with a request for interested villagers to contact the Clerk. Agreed unanimously. *Action SM.*

11. Highway Matters

Cllr RP said he had received complaints about the volume of bad parking in the vicinity of the bus stop in The Street. The bus had no room to stop safely when picking up/dropping off passengers and people were parking their cars in the way. It would help if the existing *no parking* white line was extended from the bus stop right up to the corner of the junction of The Street with Becketts Lane. The Clerk noted that applications for White Line repainting / extensions needed to be lodged with Southwest Wiltshire LHFIFG (Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group) by 16 November. The cost to the PC was likely to be in the region of £300. It was agreed unanimously to apply for this. *Action SM.*

12. Grass Cutting

Cllr RJ had circulated a report noting that Pat Newbury would not be able to continue with grass cutting duties next year. He had been doing the grass cutting for the parish for at least 10 years. This year there had been less work than usual because of the drought. In recognition of Mr Newbury's services for so many years, it was agreed to give him an Honorarium of £150.

It was further agreed to place an advert in the December issue of the Village Voice to seek for a replacement for Mr Newbury. *Action: RJ/SM*

13. Wessex Internet

Mungo Melvin reported that a community meeting staged by Wessex in the Reading Room on 5 October had proved an unsatisfactory affair and despite promises at the time (and subsequent reminders) that they would provide an update on their plans to the Parish Council and the Village Voice, nothing had been forthcoming.

The current state of Wessex's full fibre provision was that the periphery of the village was now connected, with up to 25 homes actively online with Wessex. However, it emerged halfway through the year that the company had changed its method of full fibre provision to the main part of the village, deciding to make use of existing infrastructure rather than the *fields & gardens* underground access. It transpired they had not completed agreements with BT Openreach or

SSE to use the existing infrastructure in Chilmark. Hence the majority of homes in village have not been connected, despite Wessex's earlier promises.

MM said that, on behalf of the village, he felt let down by Wessex and he would be informing the company of his decision to remove himself from the role of their Community Champion. He was thanked by the PC for all his support and work in the role. It was agreed Cllr RP would write to Wessex's CEO expressing the PC's concern and disappointment with the state of affairs. MM would draft the letter. *Action MM/RJP*

14. Parish Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy exists for one Parish Councillor. The vacancy would be advertised in the December issue of the Village Voice, assuming no-one put their name forward in the interim.

15. AOB

- Cllrs CJ & MP had checked the Emergency equipment (generators etc) and everything was in working order. Cllr CJ had checked that the grit bins in Chilmark were full; the Ridge one still needed checking. *Action RJ*
- Cllr MP said the Litter Pick in October had been moderately successful; not as much litter was found as had originally been collected in the first village litter pick. Cllr RP said he thought the litter pick one of the best initiatives in the village.
- Cllr PY noted that the Parish Steward had done everything he'd been asked to do and was generally very efficient and proactive. Cllr RJ reported that the surface of the road leading to Ridge from the B3089 was very broken up at the entrance point. The whole width of the road at the junction needed the attention of the Parish Steward. *Action PY*
- Cllr MP noted that Wiltshire was sending Dog Poo signs for the PC to put up as required round the village.

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

17. Date of next PC meeting: *Wednesday 4 January 2023 at 7pm* in the Reading Room. It was proposed & agreed that for the remainder of 2023, the meetings would take place on the first Wednesday in March, May, July, September & November.

The meeting closed at 20:41.

Sarah Miller – Parish Clerk