

Chirton & Conock Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
held at The Old School, Chirton
on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.15pm

Susannah Lampard, Clerk to the Council: clerk@chirtonandconock-pc.org.uk
The public and press were invited to attend this meeting via notice boards and on Chirton PC Website <https://www.chirtonandconock-pc.org.uk>

Present: Philippa Radford-Howes, Chair (**PRH**), Gerald Lanfear (**GL**), Paul Mills, Vice-Chair (**PM**), Tim Burgess (**TB**),

Attendees: Cllr. Paul Oatway
 Susannah Lampard (**Clerk**)
 Sharon Prance (**RFO**).

- 1 Welcome by Chair, Apologies for absence – Christopher Chapman (CC)
- 2 Receive declarations of interest or requests for dispensation. None were received.
3. Receive and approve Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

4 Matters Arising/Outstanding from previous Meetings.

The Chair raised the issue of serious flooding in Conock, including property along the A342 that occurred on Thursday 28th March, and the frequent storms and flooding that have been unprecedented in recent months (since December 2023) and expressed on behalf of the PC sincere thanks to Paul Oatway for his huge contributions and emergency help with fire engines to pump water out of properties. Also for assistance in evacuating residents and to action a plan in February to alleviate the flood water issues with a swift program of works following, by WC.

Cllr. PO reports that the phased works are being carried out in Conock to deal with the volume of storm and surface water coming off The Plain with 3 run offs, aimed to divert water collecting in Conock to Patney, the others go to Cobbits storage area in the wood where drains have been dug. further work at Manor Farm drain toward Chirton needs to be completed. The T Junction drain at Conock is cleared and running and drainage systems would appear to be able to cope. Cllr. PO had reported that he and Mr Clewer from WC witnessed first hand the flash flooding on Thursday 28th, before Easter, as he was reviewing the works being put into place at the time. The Chair reported that WC needs to look at the water that collects before the new ditch section but then goes on to a pond on farm land before it goes to Patney, we need to contact the landowners further along as water is being held on their land.

a. Representation from residents at The White House Kennels, Conock:

The resident's attended the meeting to confirm that the property was flooded internally to a level of 18 inches twice in 12 hours on 28 March 2024. The understanding is that this house has not flooded before or in the previous 40 years, including the recent occasions this year when the A342 had been flooded.

In addition to the excessive rainfall the owners believe there may be 3 causes and are asking for help regarding ditch clearance and research to see if there is a connection with council work carried out in the week before the flood (to create a water run off from the road

into a drainage channel which then backed up the ditches around the house) he believes, causing the water to flood the property. This also has been blocked by fallen trees and blocked further down apparently intentionally, to create a large pond with a very small outflow pipe severely restricting the flow of water. The pipes under the road next to the house, it was reported also cannot cope with the volume of water, as confirmed by the workman installing the run offs. With the additional water now coming off the road these are quickly submerged meaning flow is prevented and causes the back up. The owner reported a suspected water leak in the land behind the house to Wessex water on 9 March. The water main that runs adjacent to the property along the bridle path and the owner reports that, following daily observation there has been a constant flow of water over the surface even after several dry days. The landowner is in agreement about this.

The PC agreed that 3 factors potentially contributed to the flooding at his property. PRH reports also that modern farming practices cause run off due to hardened top soil. PM raised the ditches at Conock as a proposed solution. PO asked for agreement with the residents that they might meet him on site, with a view to taking further action there with WC and the landowners. WC has been issued flood relief funding for applications **Action: PO to liaise with WC and the Landowners and offers to visit anytime w.c 29th April.**

b. LHFIG 20mph Issue No:10-20-9 - Issue No:10-20-9 - List of works and traffic counters reported fixed in the villages. The results of Counters/speed monitor analysis PM reports that the survey has been returned. A green light has been given to proceed. An estimated figure of which 25% may be payable by C &CPC is £7,500. PO reports that the breakdown of works indicates that the costs are correct. A look at the Budget is the first step and PM wishes to consult the village and this will be itemised at the Annual Meeting. PO offers advice that one way is to apply next year with a one off precept increase of £1500 to £2000 to raise the funds and reduce the following year. A meeting of LHFIG has itemised this for discussion on Wednesday 24th April. The meeting will be attended by Councillors.

c. Potholes Pewsey Community Area letter sent to Mr Clewer 14th March 2024

5 New Representations from Members of the Public for any items not listed on the Agenda.

Cllr. PO reported that from Lydeaway to Chirton overnight road surfacing works will be taking place for the week from 18th April 2024.

The discretionary gulley service is completely over-worked and they are not getting to all the Parishes that apply and are identified, including Chirton. PO has flagged this with the programmed service who apologise and suggested we pursue Wiltshire Sewers.

PRH reports that an email sent by Wiltshire Council, reporting that the flashing sign that announces the A342 Closure, close to the bridleways BR15 and BR11 crossing, could pose a serious danger to horses crossing there. PRH contacted S.L of Rights of Way and it was immediately moved further along away from the bridleway crossing.

6 FINANCE

(The RFO raised the Budget & EMR's. The Precept amount £13,886.46 and current reserves are £16,443.07, Total : £30,329.53.

We budgeted 2024-25 for £34,746.17 as per RFO's proposed breakdown which leaves a shortfall for £4,961.18. A potential solution is to cover usual costs and as this shortfall is for future EMRsan adjustment could be agreed by email and discussed and approved at the next meeting. A proposal is to be emailed round by the RFO).

- a. **Approve Cash Book** Bank Reconciliation statements to End of Financial Year 2024
 - i. **Treasurers account £648.27**
 - ii. **Savings account: £15,794.80**
= £16,443.07
- b. **Approve Cash Book** and Bank Reconciliation to End of Financial Year 2024
 - i. **Chirton Parish Hall Account** £1018.69
- c. **New Invoices** to be agreed

Supplier	Description	Net	Vat	Total
IONOS	April 24 Website + storage	£ 18.00	£3.60	£ 21.60
SSE	Feb 24 Electricity	£ 11.87	37	£ 14.24
Hurdcott Landscapes	March 24 Grounds Maintenance	£ 60.00	.00	£ 72.00
TOTAL		£ 89.87	7.97	£107.84

Dog Waste Bins – ideverde quoted an increase from £180 to £576 (this may need to be contracted elsewhere).

d) **Budget & EMRs** (As above)

e) **Quotations** - Agree any current or discuss new requirements.

7 PC Stewardship - Update by Chair.

- Matt Brake - Works carried out this month. Steward came out to fill potholes and identified those WC needs to address. Strimming on A342 due.
- Discretionary Gulley Service as discussed previously, was unable to get round to us as requested.

8 Village Litter Pick – Reminder 5th May. Meet at Chirton Old School 2pm - As advertised.

9. Planning Applications

a. Application Ref PL/2024/02659 The Grove, Conock SN10 3QQ create open plan living area to new part of property comments 19-4-24 - **Supported.**

10 Late planning applications

11 Agree Next Meetings: Meeting of the PC 14th May (7pm) followed by The Annual Parish (Open) Meeting (8pm last year) to be held by 1st June (must not begin before 6pm) Item 1 forward..(reports to its electorate on activities over the last year and invite PO and Parishioners).

12 Part II Confidentiality - Agree/Approve. The public and press may be excluded from this meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to public interest as per the Public bodies Admissions to meetings Act 1960.

13 Chair Closes Meeting 20:49

Part II Progress on transfer of land discussions.