

CHADDLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to The Parish Council: Mrs Kim Lloyd

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MINUTES

TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2023, PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE CHADDLEWORTH VILLAGE HALL, UPPER END. RG20 7DY.

Cllr's Present:

Cllr. J Mills

Cllr. J. Wilson

Cllr. S. Mcallister

Clerk: Mrs K Lloyd

Ward Member: Cllr. Clive Hooker

Members of the Public: 4

1 NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF NEW CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Wilson offered to stand as Acting Chairman and the remaining members agreed.

The Clerk then spoke to Council regarding the elections in May when everyone has to step down and need to re-elect themselves if they want to stand for Council after 4th May 2023.

2 APOLOGIES

No apologies raised.

3 RESIGNATION OF PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN, AND COUNCILLORS

Since the last meeting Grahame Murphy, John Ballard and Kevin McNamara had all resigned from Council.

Cllr. Mills said it's a very sad ending to a very dedicated and courageous Chairman. He felt that Mr Grahame Murphy had been betrayed by West Berkshire Council (WBC).

WBC did not speak with any other members of the Council and the Clerk regarding this matter. Mr Grahame Murphy had been treated terribly and he was very disappointed to see him go, and for this reason Cllr. Mills said he will not be standing again in May in the elections, out of respect of how Grahame Murphy was treated.

Cllr. Wilson echoed Cllr. Mills words and said Cllr. Murphy is a very diligent member of Council and served for a very long time, and Council are worse off for losing him. Unless Cllr. Murphy wants to fight it, then we must accept his decision to stand down.

Council also gave a big Thank you to Mr John Ballard and Mr Kevin McNamara that had stepped down in support for Mr Murphy. They had also done a lot while on Council and they will be sorely missed along with Grahame Murphy.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

All members declared an interest in the Precept setting under item 10 as residents of the Parish.

5 **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm and adopt the minutes for the meeting held on 1 November 2022.

6 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the Entertainment Committee asked what the process was for Parish Council to fund a contribution towards the Coronation event. The Clerk confirmed £1,000 had been budgeted towards the event and that a member of the EC would need to come along to a PC meeting to report on why the funds would be needed, and what they are to be spent on. The Council would then consider and decide.

7 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

No planning applications received at time of publishing Agenda.

8 **FINANCE**

Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to approve the February payments. Cllr. Mills passed the Clerk a receipt for £5.75 for the War Memorial Flag which was also approved to pay.

Statement of Accounts
Accounts for Payment February 2023

Expenditure brought forward 21-22 £10,489.73

Payments

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount
800134 *	Mr J Mills	Playground Gate latch	£ 10.57
800135 *	Mr G Murphy	Football Goals/Playground Gate	£ 362.87
800137	Kim Lloyd	Back dated salary as per NJC Pay Scales	
SO *	Kim Lloyd	December Salary	
SO *	Kim Lloyd	January Salary	
SO	Kim Lloyd	February Salary	
DD *	Chadd Village Hall	Hal Rent for Dec, Jan and February	£ 75.00
DD *	Alpha Xperience	Newsletter Printing - December	£ 87.25
DD *	Alpha Xperience	Newsletter Printing - January	£ 87.25
DD	Alpha Xperience	Newsletter Printing - February	£ 87.25
SO *	Mrs H Anderson	Litter Pick from Dec to Feb.	£ 60.00
8000137	Kim Lloyd	Stamps	£ 10.88

PAID *

Receipts

Total Receipts £ -

The Budget vs Expenditure table to date was noted.

(All above finance documents emailed to members of the Parish Council before the meeting)

9 **TO CONFIRM THE 2023-2024 PRECEPT**

The Clerk had circulated the 2023-2024 Budget and figures to Council before the meeting.

The Clerk reported that £17,361 - Excluding the Reserves was the estimated balance to be carried over on the 1st April 2023.

The new budget is set at £19, 985, if PC account for another £2k on top of the budget to save into the Reserves account which will be primarily used for the capital playground replacement fund, the parish would need around £22k for 2023-2024. This leaves a shortfall of £4,624.

The Clerk said that Chaddleworth is now in a stronger financial position, from past years there were not so many funds available. However, the Clerk recommended that the Parish still ask for £16k to be able to add more funds to the Reserves. There is currently £7k in the Reserves account with £2k added for 2023-2024, which will then be a total of £9k from 2023-2024.

One playground climber can cost up to £10-15k. To keep adding to this fund would be sensible. The Council also need to bear in mind the implications of losing members of council who used to provide free labour to the parish, more expenditure might be spent in labour costs. A new Council may also have new aspirations that might be resolved to approve where additional funding may be required.

In 2022-2023 parishioners were paying £8.63 a month for their Parish Council contribution in a Band D household. From 1st April they would pay £6.55 a month in a Band D household if a £16k precept was requested, that's a reduction of 24.1%. Not many parishes are reducing their precept, - (i.e., parishioners' council tax) - this year due to inflation rises.

After consideration, the members of Council **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to £16,000.

The Clerk said the Council could start to look at reducing the precept from next year onwards if inflation doesn't rise too much, as the capital replacement playground funds will be more sufficient in funds.

Please see the full budget for 2023-2024 shown as Appendix 1.

ACTION: Clerk

10 **WINTER CLUB**

Cllr. Wilson spoke to The Ibex publican to ask how it was moving along. They were happy for it to continue if the Parish Council agreed. It was suggested by the publican to change the advertisements from Hardship Fund as this could put people off and said a rebrand would be a good idea. The Hardship fund donation of £363 had just been spent. This will be an agenda item to discuss in the March meeting.

11 **RESIGNATION OF CLERK**

Since the last meeting in November the Clerk had resigned from CPC due to being offered a Clerk position in a larger parish. The Clerk will be leaving on 28th Feb, and the vacancy advert is published. The Clerk spoke of the impending Audit, Elections, etc.

The members of Council said they were sorry to see Kim go and thanked Kim for all her years of Clerking and wished her well in her new position.

12 **CLERK REPORTS**

As Mr Murphy had stepped down, Mr Murphy had asked Parish Council via email who will be the new Saunders and Wynn representative? This is to be decided.

It was confirmed that the new football goal posts had been passed over to Council members from Mr Murphy.

A Thank you letter from the Downlands Volunteer Group for the donation of £150, which will be put towards a new handy bus with wheelchair facilities.

The Clerk read out an email forwarded on from Mr Murphy regarding the works on Mount Road. WBC had no longer needed to channel the water to the plot of land on the corner as they have found a soakaway. The soakaway had not been emptied for years, it was full of mud and silt, and

not working. They took at least eight tons out of the soakaway on 1st February. They cleared one gully drain and the pipe all the way to the soakaway, but need to return to clear the other two. They have programmed the siding out of the verge for the 9th of February using a Road Closure, and their contractors are trying to get a jetting unit to clear the remaining gullies at the same time.

13 **COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr. Mills proposed that the funds left over from the late Henry Ponsonby, which he had kindly donated towards the Memorial Garden could be spent on a tree with a plaque in remembrance of Henry. All agreed it was a lovely proposal.

Cllr. Mills also proposed to buy some more shrubbery for the memorial garden, which was agreed. The Clerk confirmed there is still £500 left in the memorial garden budget.

15 **MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

Kind Charles III Coronation. {Cllr. Wilson said he would be the Parish Council representative for this event and go to the next Entertainments Meeting}

16 **CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO COUNCIL**

Mr Graham Stanley and Mr Alex Woodroffe both contacted Parish Council to stand for Council. Both were in attendance and signed the Acceptance of Office and the Clerk witnessed. The current members of Council welcomed both.

Ward Member Cllr. Clive Hooker in attendance then spoke and wanted to record his thanks to Grahame over the past 40 years. Cllr. Hooker said he has known Grahame all his working life and he is a totally dedicated public service person. From listening tonight to the budget, he has left the parish council in a good financial position and did not know many parishes that had reduced their precept this year. Grahame has many different arms to his interest, he sits on lots of trusts, being Saunders and Wynn, Welford Park Museum, Basildon Trust - you really don't find someone like that often!

Thanks to Joe Mills, and sad to hear he will be standing down in May, he has always been there looking after the memorial garden, the playground, if anything needs fixing, Joe is there to repair it. A very dedicated person who has given so much of his time to the community.

My Thanks also go to John Ballard who stands in for Grahame at Welford Memorial Services and has also given years to services, it should be recorded my grateful Thanks to all of them.

Also, my final thanks go to Kim the Clerk for serving Councils extremely well and providing an exemplary service to both Chaddleworth and Great Shefford over the 10 years. Doing so well on the budgets and leaving them in a good situation. He congratulated Kim on her new position and wished Kim well.

Cllr. Hooker then spoke of the latest activities in WBC, the local plan was raised, the Clerk said fortunately the local plan does not affect Chaddleworth as it does other local parishes.

Cllr. Hooker said the bus services had been capped at £2 to promote the bus service.

Great Shefford finally have the go ahead to build their flood alleviation scheme which is a million-pound project.

For further information on what WBC and Downlands Ward are doing, please contact the clerk for the latest newsletter.

Cllr. Hooker than congratulated the two new members to Chaddleworth Parish Council and wished them well.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th March 2023 in the village hall.

The Clerk mentioned that the May Annual Parish Council meeting needs to be within 14 days of the election day. The election day is on Thursday 4th May 2023. The scheduled May 2nd meeting will not be allowed to be held due to this year's elections and needs to be re-scheduled.

APPENDIX 1 **Chaddleworth Parish Council**

	New Account Year	Present Year	Present Year	Previous Years
Receipts	BUDGET 2023-2024	Forecasted to 31.03.2023 - {calculated 31.09.2022}	Budget Set for 2022-2023	From 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022
Precept	£ 16,000.00	£ 19,500.00	£ 19,500	19500
Bank Interest		£ 0.31	£ -	0.68
Member Bid		£ -		2240
CIL funding		£ -	£ -	
Sundry		£ 196.80		250
VAT reclaim 2020/21	428.38	£ -		647.42
Total	£ 16,428.38	£ 19,697.11	£ 19,500.00	£ 22,638.10
Payments	BUDGET 2023-2024	Forecasted to 31.03.2023	Budget Set for 2022-2023	From 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022
Salaries				
Salary		£ -	£ -	
Pension				
General Office & Administration				
Clerk Expenses	£ 780.00	£ 780.00	£ 780.00	780
Councillor Expenses	£ 50.00	£ 12.20		8.5
Postage and Stationery	£ 100.00	£ 32.64	£ 80.00	138.56
Subscriptions and Training	£ 375.00	£ 123.31	£ 275.00	204.43
Parish Insurance	£ 500.00	£ 406.49	£ 450.00	425.16
Newsletter Printing	£ 1,150.00	£ 1,047.00	£ 1,150.00	1352.5
Hire of Halls	£ 300.00	£ 284.00	£ 276.00	276
Website hosting	£ 150.00	£ 13.49	£ 150.00	123.49
(New Item) Website	£ 1,000.00			65.45
Audit	£ 100.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	50
GDPR registration	£ 35.00	£ 35.00	£ 35.00	35
Payroll		£ -		
Open Spaces				
Churchyard Maintenance	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	200
Field Rents	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	£ 300.00	300
Grass Cutting	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,579.96	£ 1,905.00	1535
Playground Inspection	£ 100.00	£ 72.95	£ 85.00	69.5
Playground Repairs	£ 1,000.00	£ 8.02	£ 1,000.00	
Dog/Litter Waste Bins	£ 595.00	£ 297.44	£ 500.00	297.11
Memorial Garden	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 500.00	834.37
				266.5
Grit Bins	£ 300.00	£ 80.00	£ 300.00	52.8
Village Repairs Budget	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 1,000.00	311.94
Donations	£ 1,630.00	£ 1,695.00	£ 1,610.00	1785
Jubilee		£ 722.71		
(New Item) CORONATION	£ 1,000.00			
By Elections	£ 1,500.00	£ -	£ 1,500.00	
VAT spend		£ 428.38	£ -	448.41
Total	£ 19,985.00	£ 13,288.51	£ 17,169.20	£ 14,364.26
Sinking Funds	Budget		Budget	
Playground Capital Replacement Fund	£ 2,000.00		£ 2,000.00	
CIL			£ -	
Budget including Reserves	£ 21,985.00			
Total in Playground Replacement Fund for 2022-2023		£ 7,000.00		

Tax Base and Band D Comparisons with Precept

Year	Band D Household per Month		Precept	Tax Base Figure
2023-2024	£	6.55	£ 16,000.00	203.54
2022-2023	£	8.63	£ 19,500.00	
2021-2022	£	8.17	£ 19,500.00	
2020-2021	£	7.00	£ 16,735.00	