

CHADDLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to The Parish Council: Mr David Jennings

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MINUTES

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2023, PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE CHADDLEWORTH VILLAGE HALL, UPPER END. RG20 7DY.

Councillors Present:

Cllr. J. Mills

Cllr. S. Mcallister-Lovelock

Cllr. G. Stanley

Cllr. J. Wilson

Cllr. A. Woodroffe

Clerk: Mr D Jennings

Ward Member: Cllr. Clive Hooker

Members of the Public: 2

1 **APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK**

David Jennings was welcomed as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Chaddleworth Parish Council.

2 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were raised.

3 **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Graham Stanley and Cllr. Alex Woodroffe were welcomed to their first Parish Council meeting.

It was noted that the regular election process will commence on the 24th of March during which all prospective members of the Parish Council will submit their nominations for elections taking place on 4th May.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No declarations of interest were raised.

5 **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to confirm and adopt the minutes for the meeting held on 7th February 2023.

6 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A member of the Chaddleworth Entertainment Committee gave an update on the plans for this year including the Coronation Big Lunch, Easter Sunday Egg Hunt, Fete and Open Gardens. A request for £500 from the Coronation budget was raised to aid the cash flow.

Cllr. Clive Hooker gave an update from the recent Full Council meeting, including the budget for the next 12 months and associated grants including for trees, wild flower verges and School Health Warden, on the pickup to repairs of pot holes in the area and on the coming local elections to be held on 4th May – especially that a suitable ID is needed.

7 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

No planning applications were received in time for this meeting.

8 **FINANCE**

Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to approve payments for Chaddleworth field rents, W.H. Ponsonby memorial plaque and tree and flowers for Rev. Miri Keen.

As Clerk to Chaddleworth Parish Council, David Jennings requested, and the Councillors **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**, that the Metro Bank business account mandate be changed to a Business Online Plus banking type with joint account operators being David Jennings and James Wilson. The previous account operators Grahame Murphy, John Ballard and Kim Lloyd to be removed.

It was noted that presentation of the regular ‘Statements of Accounts’ and ‘Budget vs Expenditure’ tables will recommence in the future Parish Council meetings once the Metro Bank mandate change is completed. In the meantime, the Clerk thanks previous Cllrs. John Ballard and Grahame Murphy for their support whilst these changes are completed.

9 **THE MONDAY CLUB**

Cllr. Wilson updated that ‘The Winter Club’ will become ‘The Monday Club’ with more of a social emphasis and with existing financial support agreed and in-place until the end of April. Thereafter, further Parish Council funding may be sought and this has been budgeted for. Cllr. Mcallister-Lovelock shared a situation-report of the Bakers Trust history and current position.

10 **HIGH SPEED INTERNET IN CHADDLEWORTH**

Cllr. Woodroffe updated on the frustrating lack of high-speed internet provision in Chaddleworth, seeming to fall just outside other areas benefitting from this, that the existing speed is only just sufficient to support home-working and that the length of copper from the exchange/cabinet is likely to be a significant limitation. Cllr. Wilson updated that Gigaclear Ltd probably did not provide service to Chaddleworth as the Openreach exchange is already located here and further suggested that the Parish Council make contact with Openreach regarding the current situation. A member of the public noted that neighbouring Brightwalton Parish have had some success and share a contact there. Action: Cllrs. Woodroffe and Stanley will seek to progress this.

11 **CLERK REPORTS**

The Clerk gave updates from recent correspondence including Scofell Commercial Landscapes contract for year commencing 1st March 2023, West Berkshire District Council service charges since 1st April 2022 (invoices to follow), requesting West Berkshire Council to remove three roadwork signs left in the Parish, the results of the recent speed survey conducted in Great Shefford, the planned closure of the road between Nodmore Corner and Holt Lane/Goose Lane 28th to 30th March 2023 and on the completion of the initial handover from the previous Clerk, Kim Lloyd.

12 **COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

Cllr. Stanley asked about the status of Parish Risk Assessments and Safety Reports. Action: Clerk to share these with Cllr. Stanley to seek feedback.

Cllr. Stanley has made a review of the current state-of-repair of the Village Entrance Gates. These are not as respectable as they could be, it was noted that this has been raised before. Cllrs. Were in support of this being improved. Action: Cllr. Stanley to make an assessment of the work needed and how best to address this.

Cllr. Mcallister-Lovelock provided an update from the recent Saunders, Wynn and Coventry Educational Foundation charity's meeting which went well.

Cllr. Mcallister-Lovelock also updated that a branch has recently been cleared from the footpath near Crosspit Cottages.

Cllr. Mills updated that a footpath at 27, Nodmore is dangerous and a drain has subsided and is infested with vermin. It was noted that other organisation have already reported this to Sovereign Housing. Action: Cllr. Wilson and Cllr. Mills will contact Sovereign Housing, noting that if there is no progress then the next recourse would be to contact Environmental Health Services via West Berkshire Council.

Cllr. Wilson reported that Rev. Miri Keen had been very happy to receive the thank-you flowers from Chaddleworth Parish Council and thanked both Cllr. Mcallister-Lovelock for organising them and Mr Grahame Murphy for presenting them.

Cllr. Wilson reported that the soak-away work had been completed on Mount Road. It was noted that, with the next heavy rains, it would be apparent whether the drainage situation has been improved.

13 **MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

Kind Charles III Coronation. {£500 is requested to support cashflow in preparation for the local Big Lunch event – which is budgeted for. It is also noted that a Village coronation Shield may be commissioned.}

14 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th May 2023 in Chaddleworth Village Hall and will form the new Chaddleworth Parish Council following the West Berkshire Election of Councillors held 4th May.