

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Meeting	Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey.
Chair	Mr M Gray
Attendees	Mrs M Dyer-Lynch, Mrs M Kaposy, Mrs V Bolt, Mr A Dalby, Helen Jiggins, Mr P Ramsay, Mrs A Rowlands, Mrs L Hamlyn, Mr M Madeley, Mr P Jenkins
Apologies	Mr J Butler

205	To hear questions or comments from members of the public (max 15mins)	Action
	<p>Caroline Ward and Claire McCormack spoke to Council about their request for a donation for Cholsey Toddlers. Although the group is self funding and covers their running costs they are looking for help to invest in some new toys. This is part of their drive to encourage more parents to bring their children which includes an initiative to provide a series of talks by experts aimed at parents.</p> <p>Mr Gray suggested that item 214 c) dealing with Cholsey Toddlers request for £150 of funding be brought forward and proposed Council agree their request for a donation.</p>	
	Proposed	Mr Gray
	Seconded	Mr Jenkins
	Carried	Unanimously

206	To hear reports from County and/or District Councillors	Action
	Mr Gray reported that County is currently working on setting the budget for the coming financial year and that further cuts to public services are anticipated. Where possible services are being picked up by smaller local councils, as is happening currently in Cholsey, Wallingford and Benson. County Councillors have been advised that figures show 2% of the population use more than 50% of services provided by OCC.	

207	To receive Declarations of Interest for any agenda items	Action
	There were no declarations of interest by councillors in any agenda items.	

208	To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2014	Action
	The minutes of the meeting of 5 th November were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
	Proposed	Mr Gray
	Seconded	Mr Dalby
	Carried	With 6 abstentions

209	To report matters arising	Action
(a)	from the minutes of 5th November 2014	
Item 193b	Meeting with Linden Homes representative Jeremy Alden. Mr Gray reported that the this had been rescheduled for next week.	
Item 193a	Meeting with John Cotton. Mr Gray advised that Mr Cotton was proving difficult to get hold of but that he would continue to try and organize a meeting with him.	
Item 193a	Defibrillator - Mr Gray advised that additional quotes for provision of a defibrillator had been received from the British Heart Foundation.	
Item 193a	Gutters on Wallingford Rd – Mr Gray advised that he will be meeting Keith Stenning of OCC Highways next week and will raise the situation with him.	
Item 193b	Mr Gray reported that last weeks meeting with the Environment Agency and farmers re drainage maintenance had been cancelled.	
Item 193b	Parking Consultation meeting for West End area residents – Mr Gray reported that the residents meeting on 2 nd December had come up with proposals to enhance the access only restrictions with the addition of more prominent signage and to re-invigorate the local permit scheme.	
Item 203	Mr Gray advised that he is meeting David Bellchamber next Friday to look at sites for the Fair Mile bus stop.	

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210	Planning					
(a)	To consider Planning Applications as at 2014:					
	P14/S3518/HH	2 College Close – 2 storey side extension Mr Jenkins advised that the property adjoins 21 Queens Rd. There have been no objections from neighbours and the householders have consulted with SODC's building inspectors on their plans. Mr Jenkins recommended Council approve the plans.				
	Proposed	Mr Jenkins	Seconded	Mr Gray	Carried	Unanimously
	P14/S3567/HH	8 Rowland Rd – Ground & first floor side extension Mr Jenkins advised that the property has a large garden to extend into. No objections had been raised by neighbours. Mr Jenkins recommended Council approve the applications.				
	Proposed	Mr Jenkins	Seconded	Mrs Bolt	Carried	Unanimously

<p>Mr Gray proposed suspending standing orders under section 6dx to discuss application P14/S3583/LB, seconded Mr Jenkins carried unanimously.</p> <p>The planning application related to the installation of Overhead Line Equipment at Mouslford Viaduct, which although in South Stoke Parish, Council had been asked to comment on. After discussion Mr Jenkins recommended Council approve the application. Seconded Mr Gray Carried unanimously</p> <p>Mr Gray proposed returning to standing orders under section 6dx, seconded Mr Jenkins, carried unanimously.</p>						
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(b)	To note planning decisions received.					
	P14/S3171/HH	65 Honey Lane - Granted				

211	Finance					
(a)	To approve accounts for payment					
	The accounts were approved for payment					
	Proposed	Mr Gray	Seconded	Helen Jiggins	Carried	unanimously

(b)	To note payments received					
	Noted					

212	To review the proposed budget for 2015-16					Action
	<p>Mr Gray advised that the Finance Group had met prior to the meeting and reviewed and agreed the figures. It was agreed that, as usual, the approach should be to review the budget section by section and agree and vote on each section.</p> <p>General Administration Mr Gray advised that expenditure this year was expected to be down due mainly to lower insurance and audit costs. These costs were expected to remain at this lower level in the coming financial year. The suggested budget for professional fees had been increased for 2015-16 due to uncertainty around the future gravel extraction plans for Oxfordshire and the impact this may have on Cholsey. The proposal was that, taking into account the above, the overall expenditure budget for administration be reduced in the 2015-16 financial year down from the 2014-15 budgeted figure of £10,660 to £7,620 Proposed Mr Gray, Seconded Mr Ramsay, carried unanimously</p> <p>Accommodation (Office Rental) It was proposed that the budget for accommodation should remain the same at £2,000 The office</p>					

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is rented from the Pavilion Trust at a fixed cost which includes electricity.
Proposed Mr Gray, Seconded Helen Jiggins, **carried** unanimously

Burial Ground

Mr Gray advised that council now have sufficient reserves to cover the cost of the planned repairs to the burial ground walls and therefore it would not be necessary to budget for this in 2015-16. It was proposed that, taking into account the above, the expenditure budget for the burial ground be reduced down from the 2014-15 budgeted figure of £9,750 to **£,7102**.
Proposed Mr Gray, seconded Mr Madeley, **carried** unanimously

Staff

Mr Gray advised that an increase in the staff budget was proposed, to allow:
A 1.5% salary rise for existing staff.
An increase in the Youth Workers hours from 16 to 18 hours per week because of the amount of work he is currently doing.
Employment of a street cleaner as discussed by Council at their meeting of 2nd July 2014. Mr Gray advised that match funding for this may be available from SODC. The proposal would be to combine the role with that of a lollipop person. An amount had been put in the budget to cover the costs of a street cleaning cart and protective clothing.
Employment of an Elderly Persons Worker to work on Community Information Network and dementia initiatives. Mr Gray advised that the Day Centre may help with some funding as they would like to have an outreach worker to drive attendance at the Day Centre.
It was proposed that, taking into account the above additional expenditure, the staff budget should be increased from the 2014-15 budgeted figure of £38,737 to **£48,102**.

Office

Mr Gray advised that the office costs were expected to come in below budget this year. It was proposed that, taking into account the above, the budget for the office be reduced down slightly from the 2014-15 budgeted figure of £2,250 to **£2,180**.
Proposed Mr Gray, Seconded Mr Dalby **carried** unanimously

Allotments

Although the costs of running the allotments for this year was expected to be below budget it was proposed that the expenditure budget for 2015-16 remain the same as for 2013-14 at **£850**.
Proposed Mr Gray, seconded Mr Ramsay, **carried** unanimously

Open Spaces

Mr Gray advised that although it appeared that there would be an overspend on the Open Spaces budget this year the expenditure figures were distorted by the work on the Ilges Lane track improvements, the replacement of Bulls Hole bridge and the Agatha Christie trail signage all of which Council had/would receive partial or full reimbursement of costs.
It was proposed therefore that the budget remain at around the same level as last year down fractionally from £9,080 in 2013-14 to **£8,945**.
Proposed Mr Gray, seconded Mr Dalby, **carried** unanimously

Sundries

Mr Gray advised that as next year was an election year the proposed budget had been increased to include £300 for election costs In addition a small cost of living rise had been proposed for the library worker.
It was proposed that the budget for the coming year be increased from the 2014-15 budget figure of £4800 to **£5200**.
Proposed Mr Gray, seconded Helen Jiggins, **carried** unanimously

Summer holiday play scheme

Mr Gray proposed that the budget be increased to **£800** from £500 as the £300 he contributed last year from his County budget would not be available this year. He advised that it is intended to encourage donations from parents, many of who expressed a wish to contribute last year. Mr Ramsay felt that more should be spent on the play scheme.
Proposed Mr Gray, seconded Mrs Dyer-Lynch, carried with 1 against.

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<p>Pavilion It was proposed that the budget for the pavilion remain the same at £27,753 the amount required to cover the mortgage payment.</p> <p>Precept Total expenditure to provide services in 2015-16 was anticipated to be £110,552. Income was anticipated to be £11,535 and the CTRS Grant £4,228 leaving £94,789 to be covered by the precept. Therefore to deliver services for 2015-16 it was proposed that the precept be increased by 1% from £65.9p per band D household to £66.56p per band D household - a 66 pence per annum increase per household. This would provide a precept of £94,828.</p>					
Proposed	Mr Gray	Seconded	Mrs Bolt	Carried	unanimously

213	To discuss purchasing the defibrillator(s)				Action
	Mr Gray proposed that, as Council are in a better financial position than expected, due to savings on insurance, that a defibrillator is purchased this financial year. He also suggested that Council approach Tesco, who have money for community projects, to ask them to contribute. After much discussion it was proposed that Council agreed to spend £2000 on defibrillator(s).				AP14/198
Proposed	Mr Gray	Seconded	Mrs Rowlands	Carried	unanimously

214	To consider requests for S137 donations from:				Action
	<p>a) South and Vale Carers South and Vales Carers had provided figures on the number of carers they support in Cholsey. After discussion it was proposed Council give £150</p>				
Proposed	Mrs Hamlyn	Seconded	Mrs Dyer Lynch	Carried	unanimously
	<p>b) South and Vale Citizens Advice Bureau CAB had provided a breakdown of numbers of people in Cholsey who had used their services. After discussion it was proposed Council give £500 as budgeted.</p>				
Proposed	Mr Gray	Seconded	Mr Madeley	Carried	unanimously
	<p>c) Cholsey Toddlers Group This item was dealt with earlier under item 205</p>				

215	To consider renewing Council's membership of the C&WRPS.				Action
	Mr Ramsay proposed that Council continue to support Cholsey and Wallingford Railway.				
Proposed	Mr Ramsay	Seconded	Mrs Kaposy	Carried	unanimously

216	To set the meeting schedule for 2015				Action
	Mr Gray advised that the clerk had requested that the meeting schedule for the following year be formalised. After discussion it was agreed that as usual there would be no meeting on the first Wednesday of January, no meeting on the second Wednesday in August and that the meeting on the second Wednesday in April would be a short meeting only to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.				
Proposed	Mr Gray	Seconded	Mrs Bolt	Carried	unanimously

217	To receive the Estate Managers report for November				Action
	Council reviewed the Estate Managers report for November including a summary of the tree survey carried out by Venners Arboricultural.				

218	To receive lists of recent Correspondence and Publications and Notices				Action
	<p>Council reviewed the following correspondence:</p> <p>1 (i) Thank you from Royal British Legion for donation</p> <p>2 (i) The Big Plan – OCC Learning Disability Strategy Consultation</p> <p>(ii) Venners Arboriculture – Tree Survey Report</p> <p>3 (i) Oxfordshire High Sheriff Awards – request for nominations</p>				

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	4 (i) SODC – South News - November (ii) Rural Services Network – weekly email digest (iii) Rural Opportunities Bulletin (iv) ORCC News Bulletin – November (v) OALC update for members - November	
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219	To receive news items or up-dates from the Chair	Action
	Mr Gray reported on the meeting of the Pre-School group who are doing ongoing work to provide more facilities for pre-school children in the village.	

220	To receive Councillors' Incident Reports and Items for future Agenda	Action
	There were no incident reports from members.	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05pm