

**Minutes of the Cheverell Magna Annual Parish Meeting held on
Monday 17th April 2023
at 7:30pm**

Present: Cllrs Burgess, Gray, Hayward, Jones, Stevens (Chairman), Thomson.
Cllr Muns (Wiltshire Council)

17 members of the public

Officers: Jacqui Abbott

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Des Read, Victoria Park Residents Association

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held Monday 19th April 2021 were approved.

3 Chairman's Report

The annual report was circulated to all in attendance and the Chairman outlined that the Parish Council undertook projects of benefit to the community. A big thank you went out to his fellow Councillors who give a lot to the village and parish. Alongside formal Council responsibilities, we have regular maintenance to undertake, such as maintaining the grounds, the play area and managing trees. All Councillors were involved in supporting the projects of the Council and undertaking a variety of tasks to support the Council and the village as a whole. It has been a successful year with many projects completed. A new clerk has been appointed.

4 Report from Victoria Park Residents Association

A report was circulated on behalf of Des Read, Victoria Park Residents Association. Mr Read reported that during 2022 up to the present the Pre-adoption works leading to adoption by Wiltshire Council have again been subject to ongoing postponements. The situation between the Contractor and the Environment Agency developed into another set of delays due to additional surveys requiring a redesign of the drainage /water systems. Information received by the VPRA is contradictory as each organisation states it is the other's fault. This aspect and many other factors have led VPRA into a carefully prepared publicity drive to highlight the issues. This included agreed press release following onsite meeting with residents by our MP, local Cllr, PC Chair, local interviews with press and a planned visit to Victoria Park by ITV West Country on the 21st April. It is hoped that with the public exposure we can get all agencies around a table and arrive at a clear consensus for completion of works and adoption. All in all it is a frustrating time for the residents.

5 Report from the New Pavilion Trust

John Brace from the New Pavilion Trust provided a report to the Annual Parish meeting. The Trust was created through a long, charitable lease with the Parish Council which was coming to an end in 2024. There were six trustees including Parish Council members. A key aim of the trust was to maximise use of the pavilion through publicity and marketing. There had been good usage of the pavilion over the last couple of years with a range of maintenance undertaken. A new floor, skirting and decoration had been completed in addition to repairs to heating. A new fridge had been bought and improvements to storage. Hire costs were £8 per hour with a minimum of 2 hours required. Groups using the hall included ballet, keep fit, fairs, dog training, film nights and parties. Even weddings have taken place! There had been a successful jubilee event which had been a fabulous community effort. There is a social club which showed films which needed to be a "members" club and word of mouth due to licensing. Pop up pubs had raised £750 for Ukraine. A big thank you to Stephanie who undertakes the bookings and all the trustees and the community who all work to make the pavilion a success.

6 Report from Wiltshire Council

To hear from Wiltshire Council, Cllr Dominic Muns. Issues around the parish continue to centre around Highways. There is a continued issue with HGVs and light goods vehicles using the High Street. Highways issues could be taken to the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Scheme (LHFIG) if raised with and supported by the Parish Council. LHFIG holds a budget which can be used for local highways projects as long as the Parish Council agrees as the Parish Council has to match fund each project. Work is continuing to make sure that safety at the "Black Dog" junction is improved and improve visibility for traffic coming from Worton or Market Lavington. Better road markings and signing were required. However, a "donation" would be required from the landowner. The speed limit of 50mph is currently supported by the contractors, Atkins, and Wiltshire Police so this is difficult to change. So more focus will be on the sight lines going forward.

7 Reports from local groups and organisations

The meeting heard from the Village Hall committee. The hall had been in use since the 1950s and was a real community asset. Each Friday there is a Whist Drive and there is yoga on a Tuesday morning. There is a friendship club on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. Anyone can attend and there is tea and cake at 3pm. Members of the community are very long standing. There is capacity for parishioners to use the hall more frequently.

Debbie Brace gave a report from the Gardening Club. This was established 18 years ago and was a top priority from a consultation event. There had been information sessions from "Pollinator man" and a visit to Great Cheverell House in May. A plant sale would be held in May with tea, coffee and cake. Debbie pointed out that there are well known mental and physical health benefits to gardening and being outdoors. Further outings included a trip to Superior Plants in Market Lavington. Every second Tuesday of every month the club meets in the village hall at 7pm for 7.30pm. The cost is £10 or £18 for a

couple. The club would be delighted to have more members and further help with publicising the club.

Cllr Rob Hayward gave feedback regarding the Soap Box Derby. It is hoped that the event will take place in August again. It is a fun event which raises funds for charity. Marshalls would be required along with participants. There had been a Soap Box Santa on December 23rd with singing and beer drinking! A lot of fun had been had by many people in the village getting ready for Christmas.

8 Forum

Parishioners took the floor to raise questions with the Parish Council.

A query was raised regarding the drains around Green Lane. It was not always clear whose responsibility it was to clear the drains. Often it was Wiltshire Council but sometimes riparian owners. It would be useful to map the drains in the village so owners could be identified. Cllr Gray said he would be able to do this. Wessex water had met with the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council with a walk around the village to identify issues and responsibilities.

It was agreed that News & Views was a very useful publication. It would be good to see more events advertised on the Parish Council website along with an up to date list of clubs and organisation activities.

Parishioners raised the issue of a war memorial and the possible site along with materials used. It was agreed that this would come to the Parish Council and for consultation when appropriate.

Buses were an ongoing issue and there was concern about the lack of buses available in the village. Cllr Muns said he would take this back to Passenger Transport.

Green Lane – there had been grass clippings thrown over the fence which was not allowed.

The Chairman thanked all for their enthusiasm and commitment and said that issues raised would form part of Parish Council agendas over the next year. All were invited to contribute to Parish Council meetings and to attend as they are very much open to everyone.

Paul thanked the Locum Clerk, Heather Abernethie, for all her help and support over the last few months as this would be her last meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.