



CHINEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Andy Clarke and Steve Oakley and from Borough Cllr. Laura Edwards.

2. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13 January 2020.

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13 January 2020 were signed as a correct record.

3. To receive declarations of interest relevant to items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were received.

4. Public session.

Cllr. Thornton welcomed the three members of the public to the meeting and invited them to address Councillors.

A resident advised that she had attended the meeting to express her concerns about the possibility of a community library. She confirmed that she would be opposed to a community library where funding/support had been withdrawn by Hampshire County Council. She mentioned that all the costs of running a library would be borne by the “community” and there would be no access to the Library Service. She also mentioned the huge catchment area for the Chineham library with that number growing with the proposed local developments. She suggested that the payment of Council Tax should cover a library service and that the redevelopment of the Chineham District Centre could provide an exciting opportunity for the library to develop e.g. links with the proposed health centre, a possible Post Office. She suggested that everyone should be fighting for the library to stay open.

Cllr. Thornton thanked her for attending the meeting and expressing her views.

Chairman

Cllr. Jenny Vaux (Chair of Sherfield Park Parish Council) advised members that she had been selected to stand in the Borough Council Elections in May as a Ward Councillor for Chineham. Cllr. Vaux also advised members that the Borough Council is providing residents with recycling bags and that she intends to publicise this via the local social media page. There is also a leaflet produced by the Borough Council to assist those living in flats who use communal bins about what can and can't be recycled.

Rev'd. Jonathan Clark introduced himself to members as the Vicar at Christ Church and thanked them for all of their work. He confirmed that he is there for the whole community and to let him know if there are any issues that the Church can assist with. He advised members that Christ Church is an eco-church and that if Cllr. Vaux could provide him with some of the recycling bags then he would be happy to act as a distribution point. He confirmed that he had passed a number of issues to the Clerk re: footpaths which had already been reported to the Borough Council and that he had seen from the Parish Council's minutes that there had already been discussions about verges and encouraging biodiversity. The other issue that had been raised by members of the Church was the possibility of modern slavery taking place in a local business. The Asst. Clerk confirmed that she had found a link from the Borough Council website to the Modern Slavery Partnership where concerns could be logged. Rev'd. Clark advised members that there were two events planned for 2020: a community BBQ which Parish Cllrs. would be invited to and a community event before Christmas (instead of the Christmas Tree Festival) which would involve a showcase of local groups/organisations with an opportunity to drop off items for local food banks.

Cllr. Thornton thanked Rev'd. Clark for attending the meeting.

ACTION POINT: CLERK TO FORWARD LINK TO REV'D. CLARK

5. To receive reports from:

Borough Councillor Laura Edwards

Cllr. Edwards sent the following report:

Thames Water STW

Thames Water have confirmed the recent odour is due to storage issues with processed and dried out waste (cake). They are working hard to resolve the issue and are sorry to all residents affected. If you would like to contact Thames Water with an enquiry or to report an odour issue please email them at: customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk or call them on 0800 316 9800 their lines are always open.

Shopping centre stones

The installation of stones along the edges of the paths at the Chineham was done following a decision made the centre owners Tellon Capital. They issued a statement and an extract is below:

'The decision to install pebbles in the two undercover areas of the centre was taken to combat a professional begging scheme that has targeted Chineham District Centre. Such action has also been requested by numerous shoppers and businesses, who feel intimidated by the presence of these professional beggars they go about their daily business. We have been working with the police on this matter.'

If you are concerned about someone that may be homeless, we would urge you to contact Streetlink on 0300 500 0914 or visit www.streetlink.org.uk to help them access the support that they need.'

Shopping centre plans

The planning application should hopefully be heard in the next couple of months by the Development Control Committee at the council offices.

Library

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to attend the drop in at Chineham Library last month. There was a great turn out and at one stage there was a one in one out policy. Please, please, please respond to the consultation if you haven't had the chance to do so. Every response makes a difference and the total number of responses are looked at rather than the number of household responses – everyone in your household should have their say. To take part in the consultation online go to: www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation Or you can fill in a hard copy at the library. The consultation closes on the 18 March. The Friends of Chineham Library have run a fantastic campaign and I would like to personally thank them for their hard work.

Borough Councillor Paul Miller

Cllr. Miller advised members that he would be attending a meeting with the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and expects the move of the Chineham Medical Practice to new facilities in the Chineham District Centre to be discussed. Cllr. Miller also advised members that there have been changes to the Polling Districts within Chineham (the Ward hasn't changed). As there are now four districts, the Polling Stations will be at the Village Hall, Christ Church and the Sherfield Park Community Centre. Residents will need to check their Polling cards to see which Polling Station they should attend.

County and Borough Councillor Elaine Still

No report received.

RRW

The report was received and noted (Appendix A).

CVHMC

Cllr. Fryer advised that the CVHMC and the Village Club are intending to hold a VE Day community event on 8 May 2020 at the Village Hall playing fields. He also advised that the CVHMC AGM is on 24 February and that two new Trustees are required.

6. To agree a response to the Hampshire Library Service Public Consultation (deadline for responses 18 March 2020).

Cllrs. acknowledged that they have all received and read the correspondence from the Friends of Chineham Library and the Clerk confirmed that this correspondence would be attached as an appendix (B) to the minutes of the meeting. Following a discussion, it was acknowledged by Cllrs. that the first and best option is for the Chineham Library to remain open as part of the Hampshire Library Service. Cllr. Miller advised that he had been in contact with Maria Miller MP. He queried why Chineham Library as a Tier two library was on the list for possible closure (the resident who spoke during the public session advised members that she had been told at the consultation event that it was because of the high running costs of Chineham Library and Cllr. Adams confirmed that she had also been told this). Cllr. Miller suggested that a business plan is required for the Chineham Library to make the most of its services and

that if the library remained open with reduced opening hours, then the community would be required to fill in the gaps. He also suggested that if Hampshire County Council (HCC) decide to close the Chineham Library then the “community” would be left at short notice trying to do something about it. Cllr. Miller advised that the freehold building for the library could be gifted to a community organisation. Cllr. Thornton acknowledged that whilst the consultation deadline was 18 March, a decision on the Hampshire Library Service was expected in summer 2020. He also acknowledged that the preferred option (that Chineham Library remain open) may not be the option that the community end up with but that in his opinion it was too premature for anyone to make a formal expression of interest regarding community libraries. Cllr. Fryer referred to the correspondence from the Friends of Chineham Library and their concern that once you move from the statutory provision of a library by HCC to an independent community library, all contact with HCC has been lost and that the future of the library could be uncertain. Cllr. Thornton acknowledged the offer by the Friends of Chineham Library for a meeting with Parish Council representatives to discuss the matter further and suggested that he as Chairman and the Clerk should take up this offer. Once this meeting had taken place, he suggested that a draft response to the Consultation questions could be worked on and circulated amongst Cllrs. and that a final response would be agreed at the March Parish Council Meeting (it was acknowledged that this meeting was before the deadline for responses to the Consultation). Cllr. Adams suggested that an initial response to the Consultation should be agreed upon at tonight’s meeting. Cllr. Adams proposed and Cllr. Miller seconded a motion and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council is completely opposed to the proposal to close the Chineham Library. It was acknowledged that the detail of the Parish Council’s response to the Consultation questions would be agreed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

ACTION POINT: CLERK TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS TO SET UP A MEETING

7. **To discuss the allocation of S.106 monies available for the Chineham Ward with regard to the replacement/refurbishment of community facilities.**

Cllr. Miller advised members that he is leading a “task and finish” group at the Borough Council on S.106 monies. He confirmed that whilst it is the Ward Cllrs. who make the final recommendation on projects, it is Parish Councils and other Community Organisations who make the initial requests. He advised members that there is just over £200,000 in S.106 monies for the “replacement/refurbishment of community facilities” in the Chineham Ward. The Clerk advised that these monies should be spent on-site or within the vicinity of the site (of the development) for the running, maintaining and improvement of community facilities e.g. capital infrastructure improvements such as extensions, improved access etc. A community facility is a building that has a provision for community use. Cllr. Miller suggested that such buildings within the Chineham Ward would include: the Chineham Village Hall, the Scout Hut, Christ Church and the Four Lanes Community Centre. He advised that specific projects with costings would be required for any projects. He acknowledged that he already knew that the Four Lanes Community Centre wanted to undertake a project on replacing their toilet facilities. Rev’d. Clark advised members that Christ Church would also be able to provide details of a suitable project. It was suggested that the Parish Council could play a role in contacting the various community buildings to request the details of any suitable projects. Cllr. Fryer suggested that a good community project would be the provision of lighting through the Binfield’s Woods but it was suggested that this probably wouldn’t qualify under this category of funding.

ACTION POINT: CLERK TO CONTACT THE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS/CLLR. MILLER TO FIND OUT FROM BDBC OFFICERS IF THERE IS A DEADLINE FOR THE S.106 MONIES TO BE USED & TO CONFIRM WHETHER LIGHTING IN BINFIELD'S WOODS WOULD QUALIFY

8. To note the current financial situation.

The current financial situation was noted (Appendix C).

9. To authorise any requests for payment.

Cllr. Miller proposed and Cllr. Fuller seconded the motion and it was unanimously agreed that the items for payment shown on the list below be authorised for payment, such sums to be debited to the account of the Parish Council.

Payment Requests February 2020		
FROM	ITEM	AMOUNT £
Staff	Expenses – mileage/December & January	£9.18
Staff	Expenses – mileage/December & January	£2.39
Staff	Expenses – postage/Allotment site	£3.80
DM Payroll Services Ltd	Payroll services – 2 nd half of year	£61.50
Aviva	Employer Pension Charge	£33.00
Aviva	Pension contributions – January	£118.49
HMRC	Tax/NI - January	£84.09
Staff	Total salary costs for 3 members of staff	£1788.94

10. To review the Parish Council's Asset Register for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Cllr. Fryer advised members that following a recommendation from the Internal Auditor, Cllrs. had agreed in June 2019 to change the format of the Parish Council's Asset Register. This would include deleting all assets with a value of less than £250 and all assets over five years old. Cllr. Fryer confirmed that he and the Clerk had done a test run on the Register using these criteria and that virtually all items would be removed. As this didn't accurately reflect the assets of the Parish Council, he suggested that the Register should be kept in its original format. Following a discussion, Cllr. Fryer proposed and Cllr. Adams seconded a motion and it was unanimously agreed to keep the Parish Council's Asset Register in the same format.

11. To note the minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on 30 January 2020.

The minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on 30 January 2020 were noted.

12. To receive an update from the Chair of the Recreation Committee.

Cllr. Fuller advised the following:

Sign at the Community Orchard: Cllr. Fryer had queried with the Clerk about the cost of the two Hampshire County Council (HCC) licences that the Parish Council need to be able to install the sign and suggested we should query with Cllr. Still whether we could get a discount being a Parish Council (we need to apply for a Section 50A licence as the 'owner' of the sign and the contractor must apply for a Section 50B to install it - both licences are £430 each). Cllr. Still has checked with HCC on our behalf and their response was that they do not offer a discount. Cllr. Fuller referred to the grant of £1000 from Cllr. Still towards the cost of the sign and the £1000 set aside from the Parish Council budget. She advised that the costs may go over slightly and so it may be necessary to dip into the budget set aside for other Recreation projects.

Moat Park - Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) application: Following on from the meeting with the Borough Council Officer, it has been agreed that the Parish Council will conduct an online survey using Surveymonkey to gauge the support of local residents for the concept of enhancing the moat park and improving access to it. This is needed to support the Parish Council's LIF grant application to replace the two bridges. The Asst. Clerk is currently preparing the survey (and has asked for feedback from the Recreation Committee members). Cllr. Fuller advised that she would let the Asst. Clerk have her feedback as soon as possible.

Hanmore Road play area: Cllr. Fuller advised members that the new play park is looking good and that once a completion date is known, the Parish Council should organise an "official opening."

13. To agree to the recommendation from the Recreation Committee that the current wording of the allotment rules remains unchanged.

Cllr. Fuller proposed and Cllr. Adams seconded a motion and it was unanimously agreed that the current wording of the allotment rules remains unchanged.

14. To agree to the recommendation from the Recreation Committee that the rental charges for plots at the allotment site remain unchanged for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Cllr. Fuller proposed and Cllr. Adams seconded a motion and it was unanimously agreed that the rental charges for plots at the allotment site remain unchanged for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

15. To agree to the recommendation from the Recreation Committee to maintain the services of the allotment contractor for 2020.

Cllr. Fuller proposed and Cllr. Adams seconded a motion and it was unanimously agreed that the services of the allotment contractor should be maintained for 2020.

16. To receive an update from the Chair of the Planning Committee.

Cllr. Thornton advised members that the amended plans for the redevelopment of the Chineham District Centre were available and that the changes had alleviated the Parish Council's concerns over bus stops

within the Centre. He advised that the Parish Council still has concerns about the proposed removal of trees in Binfield's Wood and that he hopes that the Borough Council's Tree Officers will get involved. He referred members to the Planning Committee Meeting's minutes from tonight's meeting for more details.

17. To discuss the preparations for the 2020 Annual Parish Assembly.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the 2020 Annual Parish Assembly should be scheduled for Thursday 14th May. Cllr. Thornton reminded members that it had been previously suggested that a representative from Tellon Capital could be invited to inform residents about the transition of the redevelopment of the Chineham District Centre. Cllr. Miller also suggested that Dr. Cooper from the Chineham Medical Practice could be invited to discuss the provision of medical facilities within the new Centre. It was suggested that it should just be one speaker as the Parish Council will also have to present its own reports e.g. Chairman and Finance reports.

ACTION POINT: CLERK TO CONFIRM WITH BOOKING SECRETARY/CLLR. MILLER TO INVITE DR. COOPER

18. To confirm the date of the next meeting of Chineham Parish Council – 9 March 2020.

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on 9 March 2020 at 7.45pm.

(The three members of the public left the meeting).

19. To discuss a request for staff annual leave.

The entry in the minutes relating to this agenda item is confidential.

20. To complete a cancellation of a Standing Order relating to the payment of staff salaries.

The entry in the minutes relating to this agenda item is confidential.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Appendix A**January 2020 RRW monthly summary**

- Trolleys: 20 (10) (reported to Trolleywise).
- Litter: post-Christmas bins require emptying especially along the Brook pathway.
- Guinea Court roundabout: burst cement bag on road (reported to HCC).
- Various road repairs: Clere Gardens/loose kerb stone on speed hump, Thornhill Way/pothole at entrance to Stockbridge Close/pothole at entrance of Village Hall (reported to HCC).
- Fitness Trail: missing “ski stepper” close to Chineham Arms (queried with BDBC whether it’s been removed for servicing or stolen/update: this has been removed by BDBC for repair).
- Pruning: this has been done along Thornhill Way.
- Flooding: on Thornhill Way close to the Skate Park (reported to HCC).
- Fly-tipping: alongside the play area on Tollhouse Meadow (reported to BDBC Street Cleaning Team/update: 2m long plastic mesh grill has now been removed).
- Graffiti: on benches through Binfields Woods (reported to BDBC graffiti reporting service).
- Fennel Close: one of the road name signs is missing at the entrance to the Close (reported to BDBC Customer Services).
- Litter bin: overflowing at Farm View Drive close to moat (reported to BDBC Street Cleaning Team).
- Noticeboards: these have been updated as requested including notices about the Library consultation.

Appendix B

Dear Members of Chineham Parish Council,

We understand you are planning to meet on the 10th February to formulate a response to the proposed closure of Chineham Library. The Friends of Chineham Library would like this letter to be read at that meeting.

We have learnt from Councillor Paul Miller that he supports the idea of a community library that is not funded by Hampshire County Council. We understand he is hoping to work with you to form a community-funded group to take on the library in the event of the withdrawal of funding. Whilst this sounds promising on the surface, it is simply the first step towards closure. As the House of Commons Select Committee on Library Closures noted, this is simply a case of allowing libraries to 'wither on the vine'. Whilst we understand that the decision regarding closures does not lie with you, but rather with Hampshire County Council, we wish to make it clear that we do not support the idea of a community library that is not funded by Hampshire County Council. If Hampshire County Council chooses to either close Chineham Library, or hand it over to an alternative organisation without sustainable council funding, thereby falling short of their statutory obligations, we will be seeking judicial review of their decision based on a number of points of law.

If you choose to coordinate the formation of a community body to take on the library in the event of its closure, you would be inviting Hampshire County Council to go ahead with their plans to withdraw funding. You would inadvertently be handing them the justification they are looking for to withdraw that funding. The duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service currently lies with Hampshire County Council. Whilst the duty lies with them, we continue to be guaranteed, by statute, the provision of a much-needed service. **If they are able to offload the library to a third party, they will effectively absolve themselves of their statutory duty through the back door.** A library that no longer forms part of Hampshire Library Service, could disappear at the whim of its supporters with no avenue for challenge; it could fall foul of poor organisation, waning funds, political interests, pressure from private organisations, or the availability of willing volunteers to essentially run a business with no support. Whilst a non-funded community library might work in the very short-term, **it is a model which has not been rigorously tested and which existing community libraries say will not work.** Furthermore, it erroneously removes the protection of the council's established statutory duty.

We have a well-used library, with great potential to benefit from community input. We have a high proportion of children in the area who continue to rely on the library, along with many other groups of individuals who value it. It is so vital to the well-being of our vast community, that its existence must continue to be protected by law.

If you make Hampshire County Council aware that you are planning to form a group to take the library on, you are putting its future at risk. Instead, we ask that you join us in pushing back against this proposal, and alternatively ask them to provide greater detail on their expenditure so that we can help them to run their existing libraries more efficiently.

We are keen to meet with you to discuss this matter further. We have conducted research into, and have contacts with, existing community libraries who are facing a withdrawal of support and would be happy to share our findings.

Kind Regards,

The Friends of Chineham Library

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Chairman

Appendix C

Balance at 1 January 2020			£144,603.62
Interest			£28.11
			<u>£144,631.73</u>
DD Aviva	Employer pension charge		£33.00
103348 HMRC	Tax/NI - January		£19.16
103349 Staff	Salary - January		£70.80
DD Aviva	Pension contributions - January		£118.49
SO Staff	Salary - January		£814.12
SO Staff	Salary - January		£879.03
SO Staff	Salary - January		£107.09
			<u>£2,041.69</u>
Balance at 31 January 2020			<u>£142,590.04</u>
Business Money Manager A/C			£137,582.87
Community A/C			£5,007.17

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Chairman