



Chew Stoke Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

Present: Cllrs Steven Read (Chair), Nicola Ainger, Nick Baker, Ali Cunningham,
and Alex Cooke.

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Minutes: 2024/02

1. **Apologies noted and accepted:** Cllrs Carol Dyer, James Edgerton and Steve Hicks.
Ward Councillor Dave Harding
2. **Declarations of interest** – none declared.
3. **Public participation** – one member of the public in attendance. He spoke later in the meeting about the tree planting plans in Rectory Field.
4. **To accept the minutes of the meetings held on 11th January 2024,** unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
5. **Ward Councillors report:** *not present*
6. **Planning applications:** *none*
7. **Matters requiring a decision:**
 - i) The lease agreement for the village hall has now completed, the Parish Council is now the Custodian Trustee of Chew Stoke Village Hall. The legal bill is to be paid from existing CIL funds and the VAT from general funds which will be reclaimed after year end. A new bookings app/facility to be agreed, this is in hand and the use of a new website called 'hallmaster' has been proposed to the hall committee, which includes a 90-day trial. Cllr Cooke has offered to write a summary document using the lease agreement to clarify the ongoing responsibilities of the parish council and hall committee. To add the hall as a standing item at future parish council meetings.
 - ii) Cllr Baker is hoping to gain advice from Bristol and Avon River Trust (BART) advice to date is that the green sedge weed is of little environmental value. To arrange for a working party to help to clear the weeds out. Cllr Read to ask resident for quote to dig out the pond.
 - iii) Rectory Field tree planting – A representative from Chew Valley Plants Trees attended the meeting, the Woodland Trust will donate 420 trees for Cook's Meadow

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and Rectory Field (this number includes whips for hedging in the bottom corner of RF). Rep has met with children from Chew Stoke Church School to gain views of younger members of the community, and they are to meet on site shortly. Agreed to put posts in the ground to plan trees positions, to advertise this on the Telegraph for feedback. To consult neighbouring residents again to ensure agreement with plans. To have further plans at final stage prior to next PC meeting, with a view to planting taking place by end of March.

- iv) The Parish Council remains keen to run a 'Village in Bloom' this summer, Cllr Ainger has spoken to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Entry is free for the first year. Next step is to arrange a meeting for residents to gauge support for the idea, (hopefully 10-11th or 24-25th Feb tbc) to advertise this via the Telegraph and Parish Magazine. Commitment and support are imperative and cannot be run by the parish council alone. A Chew Magna resident has offered assistance. To also liaise with the WI, schools, scouts etc to work collaboratively on the project.
- v) The Parish Council has been sent details by B&NES requesting the documentation of a Nature Recovery Plan, agreed to research this further and bring to next meeting for a decision.
- vi) Cllr Read and Clerk met with the Deputy Head and a Parent Governor of the Primary School, had a very constructive meeting. Discussed issues raised by residents local to the school about parking and obstructions etc, advised that the school regularly send out information and reminders to parents about safe parking and road usage. Parents coming from the Regil direction are asked not to drive past the school but to park considerately around Home Orchard. Parents driving to school from the other directions are encouraged to park in Bilbie road where it is much safer and still a short walk via the footpath to School Lane. Also discussed the speeding and dangers on the main routes through the village, the school agreed to run another competition to design additional road signs for Bristol and Walley Court Roads. The parish council to discuss agreeing to fund the signs. Also discussed safety issues when parents and children crossing the roundabout near Bristol Rd/Chew Lane, to continue discussion about any safety issues that could be introduced at this location. The PC is keen to install Community Speedwatch cameras on main routes in the village, but this project requires signing off by A&S Police which it is not able to complete at present. To continue constructive dialogue between the school and parish council.
- vii) Two quotes for essential tree work were discussed and compared, and CSPC agreed to ask Neil Green to undertake the work, being the cheaper option, and subject to ensuring suitable insurance and risk assessments in place. A resident has also asked CSPC to repair the low single rail fence in the edge of Rectory Field at Quarry Hay to be repaired, Cllr Baker agreed to discuss with landowner.

8. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:
 - SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (January)
 - Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (January)
- ii) To agree to transfer the monies temporarily held in a separate parish council bank account for the village hall to the new account set up for the village hall, and close

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the account. As the PC is a Custodian Trustee of the hall, the hall accounts must be separate from the PC.

iii) The following online payments agreed:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
19.01.24	HP Ink (printing)	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£5.00
25.01.24	Transfer village hall fundraising money to new village hall bank account	Chew Stoke Village Hall			£4768.48
27.01.24	Defibrillator Accessory Kit (not yet purchased) missing from Stoke Inn defib cabinet	SJ Streatfeild-James	£10.00	£2.00	£12.00
27.01.24	Legal fees for hall lease agreement	Bennetts Solicitors	£4450	£890	£5375

9. **Matters of report:**

- i) The Parish Council is now responsible for the Village Hall, the lease was completed on Tuesday 23rd January.
- ii) To note that a consultation period on the new Local Plan is due to be held in Feb-March 2024. Noted that although Chew Stoke has a potential designation of 23 new houses for up to 2042, the village is within the greenbelt so only infill is permitted, this would make 23 new houses very unlikely and difficult to accommodate.
- iii) To note the consultation period for a 40mph speed limit change to Pagans Hill is now open for 21 days, Clerk to respond to B&NES to support this.
- iv) Update on work requested on Fixmystreet: the weeds on the Packhorse Bridge have been removed but brambles remain beyond the bridge; the silt on the road remains, B&NES have looked at the narrow section of Stoke Hill and questioned best course of action. Clerk to contact landowner to establish boundary, overhead trees are also in need of assessment and maintenance.
- v) To note that there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, this is being advertised. Agreed to ask for information to be put in school newsletter, and on the Facebook Telegraph. Clerk to create new poster.
- vi) Update on the shop rental – new tenants are due to move in shortly.
- vii) Update on Westaway land – new hedge whips for the boundary of Cook’s Meadow are being donated by Avon Wildlife Trust, to arrange team to plant them.
- viii) Update on the Recreational Trail, - CSPC to monitor work to drain that is blocked at junction of the trail and Woodford Lane.
- ix) Update from PCAA meeting on 25th January – the PCAA have sought the views of member parish councils regarding the planning application to remove Bristol Airport from the Greenbelt, they intend to object to this, CSPC supports this objection. PC’s have been asked to lobby their District Councillors to also object, Clerk to email Cllr.

Meeting ended at 9.16pm.

Next meeting Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke

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Chew Stoke Parish Council- minutes of meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2024

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