



# Chew Stoke Parish Council

Tel: 07916 785348 [www.chewstoke.org.uk](http://www.chewstoke.org.uk) Email: [clerk@chewstoke.org.uk](mailto:clerk@chewstoke.org.uk)

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

**Present:** Cllrs Steven Read (Chair), Nicola Ainger, Nick Baker and Alex Cooke.  
Ward Councillor Dave Harding

**Clerk:** Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

### Minutes: 2024/03

1. **Apologies noted and accepted:** Cllrs Ali Cunningham, Carol Dyer and James Edgerton.
2. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Cooke declared an interest in planning application 24/00385/VAR.
3. **Public participation** – 4 members of the public in attendance. One attended to help discussions regarding the CIL application, one to update the PC on tree planting activities and Beat Officer Ross Cudd also attended.
4. **To accept the minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024,** unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
5. **Ward Councillors report:** B&NES budget for 24-25 has been agreed, this includes a £25m funding deficit which will impact social care, special educational needs and SEN transport.  
Clean & Green weeks have ceased as part of a cost-cutting exercise and will be managed in-house again. Residents are encouraged to report issues via Fixmystreet. B&NES have published information to Parish Councils about writing Nature Action Plans. Stuart Gardiner is available at B&NES to help. Confirmed the NAP's are voluntary, CSPC agreed that in entering Village in Bloom much of the activity would be undertaken, to consider documenting this at a later date, and to focus on improving the bio-diversity practically at present.  
The deadline to respond to the Local Plan consultation is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. A meeting for CV residents has been arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm in Compton Martin Village Hall. (This has been advertised on the village Telegraph Facebook page).

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Date:

1

## **6. Planning applications:**

- i) [24/00385/VAR](#) **Application Address:** Lakeside Barn, Stoke Hill, Chew Stoke, BS40 8XJ  
**Proposal:** Variation of condition 4 (Plans List) of application 23/01171/FUL (Extension of roof and erection of dormer windows at Lakeside Barn). *This variation requests a change from render to weatherboarding on the dormers and rear gable ends. CSPC believe this finish is preferable to render and agreed unanimously to support this application.*

## **7. Matters requiring a decision:**

- i) The PC was updated on the next plans for Rectory Field tree planting by Ben Moss (BM) from Chew Valley Plants Trees. BM had a very helpful meeting on site with Matt Bennett (Tree Arboriculturalist) and agreed to postpone plans to plant an orchard in the top corner until discussed further, perhaps planting it where the wild flower meadow has previously been situated. Agreed not to plant this this spring, but to consider an old apple orchard. Also discussed the hedging plans at the bottom of the field near Bristol Road, agreed that thick hedging can be off-putting (security and visibility) so to plant clumps of bushes instead. Hedging to be planted further up the post and rail fencing as planned this weekend. To place posts in ground to show where specimen trees to be planted, to continue discussions with residents. The hedging in Cooks Meadow to be planted this Sunday. Trees to be supplied by the Woodland Trust.
- ii) Discussed the RHS 'Village in Bloom'. A well-attended meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, reps from the RHS came to discuss with residents. CSPC needs to enter by 31<sup>st</sup> March, this is free. Aim to improve the environment within the parish boundaries. Agreed to set up fortnightly working parties, to contact key groups in the area. A portfolio needs to be created to show the village during all seasons of the year. A resident has agreed to create social media content for the project. Discussed applying for funding from the Ward Councillors Fund for equipment. To approach Bristol Wood Recycling to enquire about wooden planters. To agree locations at next meeting.
- iii) B&NES have recently sent parish councils information about creating Nature Action Plans. Advised that these are not compulsory, however CSPC is currently undertaking a significant number of practical steps to improve the biodiversity and ecology of the parish, so agreed to continue this and look to form some documentation of this at a later stage.
- iv) CSPC has been advised that the footbridge in Rectory Field is slippery, agreed to purchase anti-slip strips to every other wooden slat to prevent slipping. Quote for materials would be £141.36 for every other slat. Clerk to order.
- v) A CIL application was received from the CV Sustainability Transport Group for funding for bike hangers, which will be situated at Chew Medical Practice. The group have been successful in winning funding for a daily commuter bus service to Bristol. The group were thanked for their hard work in acquiring this. Following a discussion, councillors agreed that whilst there is already a bike rack for up to 8 bikes at the medical practice, and commuters have been offered the use of these, to monitor their usage prior to agreeing to fund additional racks. Funding for cycle training and bike maintenance could be made available if there is evidence that Chew Stoke

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2

residents sign up to this offer. Noted that there is a meeting for all CV residents on 16<sup>th</sup> March in Bishop Sutton Village Hall where further information about the new service will be available.

- vi) Recent flooding in the Chew Valley and specifically Chew Stoke has meant that the Primary School has had to close on 6 occasions in 2024 already. Cllr Read asked the councillors to consider the feasibility of using 2 footpaths that run to School Lane (one from Stoke Hill near Stoke Hill House and the other from Church Lane to Mill Lane). These could potentially be used to walk to school. Parking at the far end of these routes was discussed, and the possible need to make the gated areas less muddy. Agreed to continue discussion and to contact the school to discuss with them. Cllr Baker to also raise with B&NES Footpath Officer when they meet shortly.

**8. Finance:**

- i) To note standing orders:  
 SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (February)  
 Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (February)
- ii) To acknowledge receipt of land rent - J Baker £650.00

iii) The following online payments were agreed:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
19.02.24	HP Ink (printing)	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£5.00
27.01.24	Defibrillator Accessory Kit	SJ Streatfeild-James	£10.00	£3.19	£19.14
22.02.24	New sign for Village Hall (no invoice yet)	Minuteman	60.00	12.00	72.00

**9. Matters of report:**

- i) Cllr Hicks has resigned from CSPC which creates a second vacancy. He was thanked by the council for all his hard work and help. The Returning Officer has been informed, and a notice posted on the website and noticeboards. Several residents have expressed an interest in filling the 2 vacancies, which could be filled at the next meeting in April.
- ii) Cllr Read attended the recent Village Hall Committee meeting. Noted that some regular bookings have stopped, so emphasis now on promoting and improving the hall. Considering repainting the hall, updating the curtains and re-sanding and polishing the floor if finances permit. Committee to apply for charitable status. A new booking app from Hallmaster is being tested during a 3 month trial.
- iii) To note that a consultation period on the new Local Plan is now open and runs until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Cllrs Baker and Ainger attended a briefing session. This Plan is likely to have a minimal effect to Chew Stoke which is within the Greenbelt. A draft response in the form of a questionnaire to be brought back to the PC April meeting for agreement prior to submission to B&NES by 8<sup>th</sup> April. Keen to highlight farming and diversification needs in our response. The village has one HELAA site listed (sites put forward by landowners as potential sites for development), this is on Chew Lane

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Date:

3

opposite Dairy Way. This is however outside the village development boundary, if it was agreed that further housing would be beneficial to the parish, eg smaller affordable homes, this could be put forward by the parish to B&NES for consideration in the future.

- iv) No further update on the shop rental. The parish council is keen to make contact with the new tenants, asked them to contact us.
- v) Update on Westaway land- new hedging noted in earlier item.
- vi) The Recreational Trail- the junction with Woodford Lane and the trail continues to flood and becomes impassable as the drain is constantly blocked. Cllr Baker is trying to resolve with Bristol Water and B&NES. To propose a boardwalk above the muddy area.
- vii) Update from Chew Valley Forum Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February – clerk attended, there was a discussion about flooding in the valley and plans to create a working group with reps from each village to disseminate info about shut roads etc. Also, interesting and helpful talks presented from Bristol and Avon River Trust (BART), Chew Valley Nature Recovery Network and an update on the valley bus services.
- viii) To note that the land below Dairy Way, owned and managed by Greenbelt has been put up for auction in Feb, but there has been no sale to date. CSPC has also contacted them to ask them to clear the path and cut back brambles, and take action to resolve the slippery footbridge.
- ix) Ross Cudd discussed the latest 3 monthly police report, a total of 3 crimes in the area were reported. Noted that recent reports of a man on a bike acting suspiciously and checking cars could not be acted on as this was not reported to the police at the time. Residents advised to dial 999 if they see a crime about to be committed. Beat Surgeries have been stopped due to low turnout. Advised to try attending different groups in the village, eg Soup Lunches.  
Parking on pavements has generally improved, the rugby club sent out a notice to players and members. Some pavement parking outside The Stoke Inn continues at times. Police to continue to monitor and act where necessary. To ask the police speed camera to be situated on Bristol Road if possible, to monitor speeding through the centre of the village which is excessive.
- x) CSPC are in contact with B&NES and the owners of land bordering Stoke Hill pavement to establish responsibility for maintenance of the bank and trees.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Next meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

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Date:

4