



Chew Stoke Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th October 2023 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Chew Stoke.

Present: Cllrs Steven Read, Nicola Ainger, Nick Baker, Alex Cooke, Ali Cunningham and Carol Dyer.

Ward Councillor Dave Harding

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Minutes: 2023/10

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs James Edgerton and Steve Hicks
- 2. Public participation** – two members of the public attended the meeting to discuss tree planting options in the village. One resident represented the WI and discussed planting a tree in Rectory Field to commemorate the WI Centenary.
- 3. Declarations of interest** – Cllr Read declared an interest in item 6i.
- 4. To accept the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2023**, unanimously agreed. A copy was given to the Chair to sign and returned to the Clerk.
- 5. Ward Councillors report:** Cllr Harding informed CPSC about plans to improve the A4 Bristol to Bath road at a cost of £5m.
B&NES will have the same budget for Highways as previous years.
A Bus Consultation meeting was held in Bishop Sutton last month, hosted by the WECA Mayor. Experience of the WESTlink on demand bus service remains poor for the most part, although it was noted that the app has been updated and hopefully improvements will be seen. A non-political petition has been circulated to residents of the Chew and Somer Valley to ask for a regular bus service to be reinstated. The ability to apply for a Community Asset Transfer is open, but agreed there is nothing managed by B&NES currently in Chew Stoke.
Chew Lane is to be resurfaced at half-term, w/c 23rd October.
The next Clean & Green week in the Chew Valley is the w/c 23rd October.
Cllr Harding gave further information about Autospeedwatch, and the ability to apply for a grant for these specific speed cameras. Costs start at £500 per camera, (£750 with solar panel and battery) and there would be ongoing costs after the first year. Agreed for the Clerk to discuss with Bishop Sutton Parish Council and hear about their experience of the cameras before proceeding.

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6. Planning applications:

i) Application Reference: 23/03616/FUL

Application address: Chew Cottage, Pilgrims Way, Chew Stoke BS40 8UD

Description of Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension. *Agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting as information only received on 29th September.*

7. Matters requiring a decision:

- i) A request for a donation of £500 had been received by CPSC to help towards the running costs of the Parish Magazine. Noted that the Parish Council had not made an annual donation of £75 for the last 3 years, so agreed to a one-off donation of £250, and to review an ongoing annual contribution.
- ii) Information about celebrating the 80th anniversary of D-Day had been circulated to the Parish Council. Agreed the PC does not have the time or resources to arrange an event, but would pass on information to the Village Hall Committee should they want to make use of the date for a fundraising event.
- iii) There has been evidence of airport users parking in the village and hiring a taxi to the airport. Parking in the village is already limited. To continue to monitor situation and report incidents to the Parish Council.
- iv) Parking issues in the village. On the 30th Sept the parking along Chew Lane was dangerous and excessive, partly due to a combination of an event at Chew Valley School and a home rugby match. The danger arises from cars parking on the pavement. Residents and visitors are again requested not to obstruct the pavement but to park only on the road. Members of the Parish Council and the Primary School are to meet to discuss ongoing concerns regarding parking near the school.
- v) Noted that the grass in Bilbie Road Playpark and Rectory Field had not been cut for possibly 5 weeks, and other groundskeeping work was behind schedule. Agreed that groundsman should refer to agreed work schedule for the work to be completed in the next month, together with a report on progress of actual work done in the month gone. The report should be received by the Clerk at least a week before each monthly parish council meeting so that an update can be given at each meeting. Agreed Cllr Baker to discuss with groundsman, and to ask that the Parish Council be informed of any change in staffing.
- vi) Discussed previously agreed plans to improve Rectory Field by increasing the biodiversity and enhancing the area. The plan is to increase the number of trees and create an orchard in the top corner beyond the football square. Extending the copses has already taken place, with mown paths created in summer. Agreed to a plan to plant a small number of specimen trees in the lower open area, and an orchard in the top corner, (suggested mulberry due to their low height, the PC is aware of the need to maintain view and light to nearby houses). Ben Moss from Chew Valley Plants Trees (CVPT) spoke to the PC, they would be keen to assist in this project, and would be able to source and pay for trees through sponsorship raised for CVPT. CVPT keen to work with community and have residents input on ideas, agreed that Ben would provide a date in November for a site visit and for the date to be publicised via the Telegraph and Parish Magazine to invite residents to come to the site visit and contribute ideas. Agreed that the WI tree would be one of the specimen trees,

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CVPT to suggest some options and discuss with them. Agreed not to plant any specimen trees just below the sports field, as it could impact visibility for parents visiting the field with children.

8. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:
SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (September)
Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (September)
- ii) The bank statements and cashbook were checked and reconciled for the second quarter of the financial year.
- iii) To note receipt of second precept instalment of £11,000 has been received.
- iv) The budget summary for April -September 2023 was reviewed. Budget and expenditure as predicted for first 6 months of the year.
- v) The following online payments were agreed:

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
21.09.23	HP Ink (printing)	SJ Streatfeild-James	£4.17	£0.83	£5.00
25.09.23	Hall hire	PCC	-	-	£75.00
25.09.23	Computer annual antivirus software	SJ Streatfeild-James/Norton	£20.82	£4.17	£24.99

9. Matters of report:

- i) To note that the Trust Deed for the Village Hall has been signed and returned to the solicitors. Awaiting the engrossment lease which needs to be signed before the parish council can take on the lease.
- ii) Update on the shop rental – the shop is marked as now let on the letting agent’s website.
- iii) Update on Rectory Field – as discussed above.
- iv) Update on the Recreational Trail – no update to report.

10. Correspondence:

- i) Information has been received about a wind turbine initiative. Initial details have been shared with councillors, but the venture asks for a financial investment and involves work in India. Agreed that this is not within the remit of the parish council.
- ii) A resident contacted the Parish Council about a parcel of land being nominated as a Local Green Space for consideration as part of the New Local Plan. The Clerk will contact B&NES to request removal of the nomination as a Local Green Space, Chair to contact the landowner with an update.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Next meeting Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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