

Chew Stoke Parish Council

Tel: 07778 317768 www.chewstoke.org.uk Email: clerk@chewstoke.org.uk

Present: Cllrs Dick Raffety (Chairman), Nick Baker, Steven Read, Ali Cunningham, Steve Hicks, Carol Dyer, James Edgerton

Clerk: Ward Cllr Karen Warrington.
Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Minutes 2021/04

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Cunningham reminded the Council that she and Cllr Raffety had previously declared an interest in the Village Hall project. To be minuted at each meeting ongoing if item is on the agenda.

3. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on items on the agenda:

Nicola Ainger attended the meeting, having expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the council. Cllr Raffety proposed and Cllr Cunningham seconded the vote, unanimously agreed to co-option. The Council welcomed Nicola. Nicola will sign the Declaration of Acceptance forms and Declaration of Interests and return to the Clerk ASAP.

4. To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2021 – all agreed.

5. Ward Councillors report:

- i) The police should be increasing speed camera surveillance in the village in the spring, to inform Cllr Warrington if they are not seen.
- ii) Highways England have given money for Highways to B&NES, (approx. £1m) for services such as filling potholes.
- iii) The Leader of B&NES, Cllr Romero has resigned today. Election for successor due to be at the end of May.

6. Planning applications:

i) Application Type: Full Application

Chaucer House 1 The Cedars Chew Stoke Bristol BS40 8TR

Description of Proposal: Erection of single storey porch to form a new entrance to the property.

Demolition of existing garage / carport and erection of new garage, laundry and study room area. Reference Number: 21/01178/FUL *defer to next month*

Finance:

The Parish Council bank account has now been moved to Unity Trust.

Signed by:..... Date:.....

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To acknowledge receipt of:
CIL payment for £2132.69

To note standing orders:
Annual membership of Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) £50
SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (Feb)
Hugo King – ground maintenance salary (Feb)

To agree cheque/online payments:
ALCA/NALC annual subscription £221.46
SJ Streatfeild-James - £14.39 Zoom subscription and HP Ink £3.49
Back payment salary owing C Parkman £1165.64
HMRC payment £408.68 for C Parkman salary

7. Matters requiring a decision:

- i) To consider and co-opt a new councillor to fill current vacancy - co-opted at the beginning of the meeting.
- ii) To receive update and decide next plans regarding the Village Hall lease - Cllr Raffety proposed that the council will need to formally vote on whether or not to take over the lease for the Village Hall. He will ask the solicitors for the updated draft agreement for Cllrs to read. A new Management Committee will need to be in situ. A new bank account will need to be set up. Cllr Raffety to set up urgent meeting with potential committee, noted that halls are potentially able to reopen on May 17th. Clerk to advertise for help in being on the committee, one parishioner has already expressed interest. Cllr Cunningham to send accounts for hall to Cllrs to see, via Clerk for dissemination.
- iii) To receive an update about the grant application for Westaway field project – an email has been received from Bath & West Community Energy to say that the application for a grant for a feasibility study into the option of a solar farm on the site has been successful. Awaiting further information about the timescale of the study. A meeting with the Parish Council now required to organise the study.
- iv) Update from the CV Climate & Nature Emergency Working Group – Cllr Baker and a resident are representing the village. 4 sub groups have now been set up and Cllr Baker is working with the renewal energy team, and in discussion with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) about renewable opportunities in the valley and B&NES planning team about consents in the valley. Plan for ideas to be fed back to the main group in 6 months. There are pros and cons of solar and wind farms in the valley, a recent proposal (58 hectares) has gathered some negative comments, such as the effect on the landscape and taking away farmland, but there is a need to balance all the views and inform communities so that they understand all the rationale. Cllr Raffety attended the Parish Liaison Meeting recently which included a discussion on sustainable development plans. Also informed about a Ward Empowerment

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Fund which the Ward Councillors have £1K to distribute to the parishes, this year the amount is £250 per parish. To be spent on a community project. The Clean Air Zone plan is now active in Bath.

- v) To receive an update from the Parish Councils Airport Association meeting- the PCAA is working hard in preparation for the Public Inquiry which is due to start on 15th July, and last about 40 days. The PCAA is a key representative, now representing 18 parishes locally, so over 50K residents. They have a significant influence and voice. The Parish Councils have made statements in support.
- vi) To discuss and decide on options for designated PC emails for councillors – Cllr Read gave an update on his experience of trialling a parish council email, which he has found very straightforward, he appreciates the rationale for keeping parish council correspondence separate from personal email, (from a freedom of information stance) and likes the delineation. It is easy to use, there is an app or you can open a webpage. Following further discussion the Councillors voted to sign up to parish council email addresses – proposed by Cllr Cunningham and seconded by Cllr Dyer. Clerk to set up new addresses.
- vii) To receive updates on the Westaway field and Rectory field projects – Cllr Baker has advertised for help in upgrading the Rectory Field, 8 people have come forward. Cllr Baker has also been liaising with the Primary School Headmaster. The school are already making good use of the field which is very positive, Clerk to check with insurance company about using the field for a Forest School. Plans to involve the children with ideas and assisting with the field. There isn't yet a working group for the Westaway fields, but there is plenty of interest.
- viii) To review and agree updated financial regulations following the move to online banking – the financial regulations have been updated now that the new account is online, Cllr Read proposed to accept the updated regulations, seconded by Cllr Raffety, unanimously agreed.
- ix) To review and agree updated risk assessment – Cllr Raffety proposed to accept the updated Risk Assessment, seconded by Cllr Baker, unanimously agreed.
- x) To receive update regarding the village shop – Cllr Raffety has contacted Anita Gamlen, who oversaw the development to ask about the door that doesn't follow consented permission. To await response.
- xi) Chew Valley Recreational Trail – Cllr Hicks expressed concerns about the new track that is designated 'dual purpose', but that may be taken over by fast road cyclists. His view was noted and Cllr Warrington will feed this back. Others believed the path wouldn't be used by the faster cyclists/groups, that they would stick to the roads, the new path is not a circular route and will hopefully be used by walkers and children cycling or amateur cyclists.
- xii) Rural Landscape consultation – Cllr Read attended a recent meeting/workshop, project is looking at cataloguing and characterising the local landscape, and seeking views of Parish Councils. Parish Councils have been asked to state what particular landscape features are important to their

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area. The area around Chew Stoke is 'rolling valley farmland'. Also asked to comment on what we perceive might change, for good or bad. Cllr Read has added a comment to the 'map'. Deadline is 6th April, if other Cllrs have comments to make, to consult the other Cllrs first, then to submit on behalf of Chew Stoke PC.

Matters to report:

Dates of Annual Meeting of the Parish Thursday May 6th at 7pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.15pm.

Next meeting: Thursday 6th May at 7.30pm via zoom