

LITTLE CHEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Cheverell Parish Council Held at Little Cheverell Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 6p.m.

Please note this is not a Council meeting; it is a meeting of the parish electors.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies** - Cllr Phillips welcomed everyone. Apologies from Cllr Thompson.
- 2. Approval of minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on the 7th May 2024.** The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.
- 3. Chairmans Update**

Who Are we?

Your Parish Councillors are Mike Phillips, Clive Broe, Nicky Broe, Benji Thompson and Lucy Thorne.

I would like to start by thanking Drew Spearey for his service to the Parish Council over many years, Drew has now stepped down and I wish him all the best for his ongoing personal projects. We also welcomed Lucy Thorne to the Parish Council quite recently, Lucy will bring a fresh perspective to our thinking and better focus on Westbury Road.

What are we doing?

For the last year we have tried to focus on projects that we can deliver, i.e. those we can afford, one such project was the installation of the Westbury Road Village gates, we are very fortunate to have Henry Liebling who has designed, built and installed the gates, this saved the Council money but more importantly enabled rapid delivery of the gates which I believe are a great move in the right direction to slow cars on Westbury Road as they enter the Village. Thanks Henry.

Other projects delivered as planned were, the re-painting of the Phone Box on Low Road housing the Defibrillator, Clearance and repair of the Sheep wash pool behind the village Hall and clearance of the overgrown Millenium Green.

The last two mentioned projects were needed because there has not been a maintenance plan in place and in the past there was a heavy reliance on volunteers which is not sustainable. The Parish Council will move to a contractor-based maintenance plan for public spaces, this however requires funding from our Parish precept so you have seen and, should expect a steady increase in precept to allow for this vital maintenance to take place.

Budget

Our budget for the last year was £6,370 and our expenditure was £6,377, the coming year's precept amounts to £8,582 which allows us to deliver more of our desired projects and maintenance plans and to assist the Village Hall with running costs. The Parish Council has a sensible reserve in the bank and has no loans or other debt.

Planned Maintenance

We plan to have in place a basic maintenance plan for keeping footpaths useable and public spaces accessible. Of course, more maintenance means more cost, means more precept required. I welcome the opinion of our electorate on this matter.

Village Hall

Another area of focus has been the Village Hall which was on its last legs both physically and financially with outgoings exceeding income and many maintenance issues. Working together with the Village Hall Committee we have improved the hall and dealt with some maintenance issues, in particular, the heating. The hall was not useable in the winter months and was deteriorating rapidly due to the cold and damp, the new system was paid for by a 100% grant from SSEN and has hugely improved the hall and allows us to better utilise it even in cold weather.

We are waiting for BT to connect the hall to the outside world with a fibre optic cable, then we will also have free public WiFi to add to the offer.

The Committee has modernised payments with a card facility and now has a full premises licence for Alcohol and entertainment, this alone will enable more spontaneity and flexibility in planning events, and we hope the improved offer will attract more people especially from neighbouring villages. The Hall's finances now look a lot stronger, with ring-fenced reserves ready to use to obtain match funded grants for the improvements planned. The next round of projects includes replacing external woodwork and upgrading and re-configuration of the kitchen, new curtains and some improvements to the grounds and access arrangements.

Planning Applications

Other important functions of the Parish Council include planning matters. The Parish Council will decide to support or object to a planning application independently in our meetings, but we need your input to make the right decision. A classic example was the application for a Children's home recently where it was clear that opinion was against the plans, we were then able to research the planning framework to find the right arguments to cite when commenting on the application which was then refused.

Roads

The Parish Council is not responsible for roads or pavements and encourages you to report matters to Wiltshire Council via the "My Wiltshire" reporting app or website, but having said

that we do have a voice, so if you make us aware of any long standing issues, we will be happy to support. We can request the Parish Steward attends to minor problems such as small potholes, overgrown verges and drainage problems, please let the Parish Council know about any such issues.

Website

Our website has recently moved to a .GOV address www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk which makes it secure. The website is still under-used, so I encourage you to explore. You can now view old photos of the village in the history section, you can read village news and see upcoming events and view a live calendar of events, which you can subscribe to. You can now buy tickets for events at the village hall using the secure online payment system powered by Square. Please do explore the site and sign up for alerts, news and events to receive an automatic email from us keeping you informed. You can also view the Parish council meeting dates, agendas and archived minutes and link through to planning applications.

Whats App Group

If you are not in the village WA group, please do join, it's a great way to stay in the community loop.

4. Community Forum

Resident asked for an update on the boundary issue. Cllr Phillips replied he is currently waiting on the Highways Engineer to get back to him. The Parish Council have obtained maps from both the Land Registry and Highways. There is clearly a slice of land which does not belong to either and the Parish Council need to persuade Wiltshire Council that it is their responsibility to look after it.

Resident asked for an update on the Westbury Road issue with flooding when we get heavy rain. Cllr Phillips said that the gully has been dug out which will hopefully make a difference. Other gullies are currently full of sand and they will be on the list when we are offered our next gully clearing service by Wiltshire Council.

Resident is concerned that information provided by the Parish Council doesn't always reach the older generation. Cllr Phillips replied that the Parish Council does include a physical article in the Parish News and Views every month. The diary of events also gets included in that. Information is also put onto the village notice board and there is a village What's App group as well.

Resident is new to the village and has just put in a planning application for Dina's Cottage. He would welcome anyone who has questions or would like to discuss the application to

please knock on the door. Cllr Phillips thanked him for coming and invited him to come along to the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Thursday the 15th May and will see the application discussed by the Parish Council.

Resident asked if there is anything that can be done to stop people leaving their rubbish on the road. Cllr Phillips advised reporting it on the My Wilts app. Wiltshire Council take fly tipping seriously and will prosecute if they have proof of the offender. Clerk to put having a village clean up on the next agenda.

Resident mentioned all the dead trees and debris along the banks of the road. Is there anything that can be done to clear these areas. Cllr Phillips said unfortunately Wiltshire Council are not interested in preventative action so there is little we can do.

Meeting closed at 18.35