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**Chitterne Parish Council**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Meeting on** **Monday 7th July 2025**

**Chitterne Village Hall, 7pm**

**Present:** Chairman, CllrHorsfall, Cllr Bell, Cllr Ricketts (acting clerk).

**In attendance:** Sir Nick Parker, Tim Tyler, Virginia Neale.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr. Hendrickse, Cllr Hulton, attending via zoom.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 28th April and 16th May** (Electors Meeting and Annual General meeting) **2025.** Were approved as a correct record.

**3. Dispensations**

There were no dispensations.

**4. To receive declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Chairman’s announcements**

**There were no Chairman’s announcements**

**6. Councillor Vacancies**

Currently two councillor vacancies, Cllr Graham Potter has resigned for personal reasons. Sir Nick Parker was co-opted as councillor.

**7. Clerk vacancy**

Councillor Barry Ricketts currently assisting, with Mr John Terry acting as Responsible Financial Officer. A vacancy still exists for a professional Clerk.

**8. Allocation of Responsibilities:**

Clerk (acting) Barry Ricketts**.** Responsible Financial Officer John Terry Allotments, Village Hall Liaison Councillor Ricketts Traffic & LHFIG Councillors Bell and Hendrickse [chitterne.com](http://chitterne.com) Councillor Hendrickse Playing field, MOD liaison, Play equipment & Parish Steward. Councillor Horsfall Wiltshire Police liaison & Neighbourhood watch Mr Tim Tyler has volunteered, Flood Warden & Chitterne Brook Mr Kevin Foster has volunteered General maintenance Brian Lee and Kevin Foster SIDs Tom O’Driscoll Defibrillator Kato O’Driscoll ChitChat editor Barry Ricketts Tree Warden Aileen Fenlon

Due to Cllr Hulton shortly leaving the village, the post of Flood Warden will become vacant. Wiltshire Police liaison & Neighbourhood watch is also vacant, as shown above, Mr Foster have and Mr Tyler volunteered, and their appointments were approved.

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9**. Planning applications PL/2025/04474 -** Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area WHITE HART HOUSE, CHITTERNE, WARMINSTER, BA12 0LL T1 Ash - Fell. Mr. Knyvett Application approved.

**10. Correspondence:**

To approve: Gill Hermes reply drafted by Clerk was amended and approved.   
  
Email re traffic from Gillian Nolan to Wiltshire Council (attached) was discussed. Virginia Neale reported on the continuing danger to residents walking and riding through the village from speeding cars and overweight lorries. Gillian Nolan’s letter to the Wiltshire Council produced the usual response: that nothing would be done for villages which did not have a Speedwatch team, and anyway, there was no alternative route for vehicles when the A303 was blocked or congested. A detailed discussion ensued and it was agreed that we need a higher profile if any progress is to be made. Tim Tyler agreed to look into the formation of another Speedwatch team; Clerk will contact the Parish Clerk in Shrewton to see whether a joint approach can be taken; Virginia Neale will continue to try and get some positive response from Andrew Murrison MP.

**11. Banking, assets & finances:**

Treasurer’s account, P&L and Balance sheet updated by RFO to 7th July 2025.

Bank balance at 1st July 2025 - £11,690.19

Payments &Receipts: see attached financial summary/

**13. Parish Accounts:**

Approval and signing of Parish Accounts to 30th June 2025.

**14. Reports from Councillors:**

**(**Updated reports to be included in the Minutes)

**Cllr Horsfall:**

Chitterne Brook:

MOD have continued to shy away from any responsibility for ditches from Middle Barn to Townsend citing Wiltshire Council’s responsibility.

Wiltshire Council have now checked their mapping and confirm their only responsibility is for the carriageway. The ditches are the responsibility of the adjacent land owner - MOD.

Parish Steward:

Has been attending to a few potholes, clearing in and around gullies and dealing with weeds at the 2roadside and along pavements.

Wiltshire Council:

Request has been made to make Road sweeper available and to attend to verges on the approach roads into Chitterne and to carry out other minor works / repairs.

Trees:

Further work to trees on the playing field and other areas will be carried out for two days during August.

MOD have been asked to attend to their trees along the Cut.

Playing field and footpaths:

Brian Lee continues to maintain the playing field and to attend to the footpaths. He will also be carrying out necessary tidying up work in the Cut and in the Chalk pit on Back Lane.

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**Cllr Ricketts:** The EWCO application has been submitted and acknowledged by the Forestry Commission who have replied, requesting further information, Tree Warden Aileen Fenlon and Clerk to progress. If successful we shall be spending around £7,500 to purchase trees and ancillary supplies during September. This outlay will be re-imbursed via the Rural Payments Scheme. Clerk to obtain timings for the receipt of funds to avoid any pressure on village finances., Meanwhile the clearance of the paddocks and the preparation of new allotments continues. We expect to deliver the Heras fencing to Wilton Round Table next week, and should receive £500 from them.

Cllr Bell: Traffic

a) **LHFIG Meeting**  (**Local highway and footway improvement group)**

The permanent Horse & Pedestrian signs have now been erected at both ends of the village on the B390. The temporary signs have remained, as an extra reminder to the traffic, to slow down for horses in the road. We also have a new pedestrian sign by the Village Hall/Play area, to help reduce the traffic speeds and warn drivers of pedestrians crossing the road.

b**) YSI Devices**

YSI has been moved to its other location, to help ensure an element of surprise. Tom O’Driscoll continues to monitor the devices.

c**) Police Speed Watch**

There has been much correspondence with the local police team regarding speeding traffic etc. Once again, the police are adamant that in order for there to be any further assistance, we need to create a new Community Speed Watch group in the village, in order to collate relevant data which will help with the traffic monitoring. They assure us that when this happens, there will be support for the group. Volunteers from the village are needed and encourage to come forward.

d) **Roadside Maintenance**

Villagers are reminded that any general roadside maintenance issues can be reported directly on the Wiltshire Council MyWiltsapp or via the Wiltshire Council website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting)

**15. Any Other Business**

Sports Field Sheds. Current arrangements are unsatisfactory and insecure, a proposal for joint action by Council and Cricket Club, to purchase a 20’ shipping container to store the equipment of the village and the Cricket Club was discussed and approved, on condition that the Clerk is able to obtain Area Board funding to assist with the cost.

Play Equipment Inspections and Maintenance. Sovereign have proven unreliable and no better than our previous arrangement with RoSPA. An alternative proposal for appropriate inspection and maintenance was presented; Clerk to progress and report back.

1**6. Dates of next meeting and subsequent meetings in 2025:**

Next meeting Monday,15 September 2025. Monday, 8 November 2025.