

CHESHAM BOIS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at The Parish Centre, Glebe Way, Chesham Bois at 8.00pm on Monday 22nd April 2024

Councillor Lesley Winrow, Chairman of Chesham Bois Parish Council, presided. There were approximately 23 persons present which included Buckinghamshire Councillors, a number of Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the attendees.

2. Report from the Chair on the Activities of the Parish Council

The Annual Report was circulated. The Parish Council had an income of £132k (prior year £152k) and spent £144k. The largest items of expenditure (81%) related to part time staff and office related items and the common and woodlands. Reserves to cover long term liabilities and unexpected events are strong and meet recommended guidelines.

The Council website will be migrated to a .gov.uk domain during the next few months.

This year, the Parish Council had to determine its response to a second application (PL/22/4074/FA) to build across the site of the parish centre, rectory, and adjoining glebe land as both a statutory consultee and owner of adjacent land. The application was refused again on 9/1/24. It was noted that the future of this parish centre remains uncertain.

The Parish Council has invested in several Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) to monitor the volume and speed of local traffic. Between 1/4/23 and 31/3/24 the device on North Road recorded a total of almost 160,000 vehicles travelling towards the centre of Chesham Bois. The majority of these vehicles observed the 30 mph limit. 2,962 vehicles exceeded the limit.

This year will be the 100th anniversary of the Burial Ground. Work carried out during the year included the redecoration of the chapel, replacing electric heaters and lights, regular ground and buildings maintenance, required health and safety survey of trees, mandatory survey to make safe unstable headstones and the Council hosted an English Heritage Open Day event in September 2023.

3. Questions/comments from Local Electors

A resident asked for confirmation as to when the Coronation Commemorative Tree would be planted. An oak tree has been purchased together with a tree guard. The weather has made the site too wet for the planting to take place. Another site may be considered.

A resident questioned whether the Forestry Commission or other organisations will be carrying out work in the woodlands. The Council have trees regularly inspected by an arboriculturist every 18 months. Fallen trees within the woodland are usually left for habitat. The Council do not have a rewilding policy.

Chesham Bois Protect thanked the Parish Council for their excellent support given regarding the objection to the St Leonards Church Planning Application to redevelop the Parish Centre and confirmed the support of the Council was much appreciated.

A resident raised the question as to whether Chesham Bois Scouts can use the newly refurbished Jubilee Hall in Amersham. It was confirmed that Chesham Bois and Amersham Scouts are two different districts and operate independently.

A resident wished it to be noted that Margaret Axter, former Councillor and Chair of Chesham Bois Parish Council had passed away in April 2024.

- 4. Presentation by Sargeant Roy Evans from Chesham Police Station**
- 5. Presentation by Nick Gammage, Trustee of the Amersham Museum**
- 6. Presentation by Tom Beeston, the Chiltern Society**

Interesting and informative talks were given by all the speakers.

The meeting formally closed at 9.50pm