

## CHINNOR PARISH COUNCIL

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Ashdown, Dixon, Edwards, Gray, **Mackenzie**, Sarai, Webb and Wright.

Also present District Councillors Ed Sadler & Ali Gordon-Creed

Minutes of the **Full Council** held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Main Function Room, Community Pavilion, Station Road

1. **Apologies for absence:** Received and accepted from Cllr. Portnall
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Nothing declared
3. **Public Questions** – 3 members of public present. A member from Friends of the Earth spoke about their request to plant shrubs and wildflowers at the playing fields.

Member of public requested an explanation as to why item 10 on the agenda excludes the public given that the discussion is about community assets.

Member of public urged the council not to approve a resolution (Item 8.1) proposed by the Amenities Committee (AC) regarding CAGA (the allotments) and instead have the full council take control of the matter. They argue that the AC has not provided transparency, accountability, or clear actions to prevent a repeat of issues that arose at the CAGA AGM.

The Member of public's key concerns include:

- Their view that there was a lack of communication on how the AC plans to prevent similar incidents.
- Their concern that there has been no Parish Council public statement condemning the AGM incident despite previous assurances.
- Their view that there has been no transparency regarding an investigation that they believe was conducted.
- Their perception that there is a slow response to reviewing the CAGA occupancy agreement, with any potential proposed changes not taking effect until 2026.
- Their belief that the AC has repeatedly refused to discuss CAGA issues in public meetings, limiting community engagement.
- Their perception that the AC is avoiding scrutiny and attempting to suppress discussion.

The speaker emphasised the need for transparency and genuine public participation, calling for the full council to take responsibility rather than leaving the matter solely in the hands of the AC

4. **County and District Council Reports**  
No County Council Report Received. District Council Report distributed and available on the website. Cllr Gordon-Creed spoke about the devolution suggestion that had been emailed to all members. Cllr. Gordon-Creed is pushing for public consultation. 26<sup>th</sup> April – Community Energy presentation at the Village Hall.
5. **Minutes of the last meeting:**  
**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved and signed by the chair
6. **Co-option**

To elect a Co-opted member onto the Council to serve for the remaining term of office until May 2027. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that as the candidate was not present this matter would be deferred until the next meeting.

7. **Minutes of Committees:** the Minutes of the following meetings were noted
- a) Amenities & Environment 03.03.25
  - b) Planning Committee 10.03.25
  - c) Finance & Policy Committee 17.03.25

8. **Proposals/Reports from Committees & Councillors**

8.1 Resolution from the Amenities and Environment Committee: Following a discussion and taking into consideration the comments made by member of public as summarised at item 3. **IT WAS RESOLVED THAT** CPC supports the new CAGA committee in its stated aims and objectives.

The matter of the incident at the CAGA AGM has been resolved by CAGA apologizing to the complainant. CPC considers the matter closed and no further correspondence will be entered into regarding it.

It was noted that official complaints had been made against 3 councillors to the SODC monitoring office regarding this complaint, the monitoring officer duly investigated and rejected the complaints with no further action

8.2 Update on Skatepark proposals presented by Cllr Gray. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that Maverick is the contractor of choice for the value of £220k and is awarded subject to planning approval being obtained. It was noted that a public Consultation Platform will be launched.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that if acceptable by SODC /Persimmon that the public arts money available is considered for the skatepark project to give the design an iconic and distinctive artistic flair.

8.3 The quotes for works at St Andrews Play Area: **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the work is awarded to PCJ

8.4 To consider and agree quotes for the tree works at White's Field **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the work is awarded to Village Trees

8.5 Community Land Trust to consider and agree next steps. Cllr Dixon reported that a meeting is being arranged to formally register the group **IT WAS RESOLVED** that The Clerk should write to Neighbouring residents and inform them that CPC will be maintaining the plot of land that has been recently fenced at Greenwood Meadow. Signage to be erected at the site to state that CPC will be maintaining the land.

Cllr Dixon to liaise with the clerk concerning compulsory purchasing land for building.

8.6 Public Transport Representation report from Cllr Dixon noted.

8.7 It was noted that the Housing Needs Survey has been completed, and the draft Report is now available.

9. **Clerk's Report:**

9.1 SODC Drainage engineer and OCC Highways Station Road near the railway bridge. Work commenced to clear the drains on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The drainage engineer has noted some issue with some manhole chamber ironworks and will be reattending asap to complete the work and may also include further surveying of the drainage network. To note that following the rainfall on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 flooding was present and has been reported to the drainage engineer.

9.2 OCC Priority Action Flood Projects 2025/26 following correspondence with chair of Sydenham PC: **IT WAS RESOLVED** that an application is submitted to undertake the work on the B4445 to alleviate the severe flooding on the Thame Road to Towersey junction.

Clarification of ownership and future maintenance responsibility is required  
9.3 Friends of the Earth request permission to plant low shrubs and wildflowers on the area of grass near to the pathway that exits onto Lower Road. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that only wild flowers would be suitable at this time. IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Ashdown will meet FoE representative at the site to determine exact location of underground services and suitability for further planting schemes.

9.4 It was confirmed that a local person has been appointed to undertake the gardening commitments for the spring season.

9.5 The Meeting Dates for 2025/26 were agreed and will be put to the Annual meeting for final approval

9.6 To consider approval of Financial Regulations Policy **IT WAS RESOLVED** that this remains under review for further scrutiny and will be put to a working group for clarification.

**Exclusion of the Public IT WAS RESOLVED that** under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **10. Community Asset**

Report following a meeting held with Community Pavilion trustees on 27<sup>th</sup> February was discussed.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Deputy Clerk will continue to prepare a business consultation in order that further actions can be considered.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Chair.....Date.....