

CHAPEL AND HILL CHORLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council held on 17 November 2021

Present:

Parish Councillors: Tom Davey, Tom Davies, Mark Humphries, Richard Oppenheimer (Chairman)
1 member of the public was present.

097.11/21 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Amy Davis and Richard Montague, Borough Councillor Graham Hutton and County Councillor Paul Northcott.

098.11/21 To consider any applications for co-option or resignations

A notice of vacancy has been posted on the parish noticeboards.

099.11/21 To receive Councillors' declarations of pecuniary interest in items on the agenda

No interests were declared.

100.11/21 To consider approving and signing the Minutes of the last Regular Meeting

The chairman signed the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 13 October 2021.

101.11/21 Public participation (open forum)

There were no Public Participation items.

102.11/21 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Borough councillor: Reported by email that there was nothing to report.

County councillor: No report was received.

103.11/21 Correspondence received

An email inquiry had been received from Philip Martin asking about locations of defibrillators in the parish. A response was sent re the defibrillator on Chapel Chorlton green.

104.11/21 Financial matters

Financial report: A final invoice for mowing from Glendales, making total for year of £731.70 gross for 6 cuts on the green. An invoice for the SID has not yet been received.

Current balance, taking account of the coming payment for the SID, is £5087.

A VAT claim for £799.64 will be submitted this month.

Initial discussion on budgeting for 2022–2023: The precept for the current year is £6187. There was a discussion regarding the level of reserve and whether funds need to be held in reserve in the event that a by-election occurs. It was noted that no by-election would occur during the remainder of the current fiscal year because the regular elections would be held in less than 6 months. The question of election charges will be put to NuLBC officers.

105.11/21 Parish appearance

Draft parish maintenance and mowing strategy and Draft parish improvement plan:

Glendales did 6 cuts on the green in 2021, and will no longer be mowing for the parish council. The council will look for a new, local contractor. It was noted that it is a contractual requirement for contractors working on the roadside to have £5m of public liability insurance. The grass areas in the parish needing maintenance need to be mapped out and a plan for frequency of mowing the different areas drawn up.

Tree planting and wildflowers planting: The last tree planting by the parish council was in the 1970s. Suitable locations for planting need to be identified, and agreement sought from landowners.

Letterbox in Hill Chorlton: A new letterbox has now been installed. No explanation had been received from Royal Mail regarding its location.

106.11/21 Highways matters

Traffic figures: The SIDs in Hill Chorlton are having a marked effect in reducing vehicle speeds in both directions. The repositioning of the westbound SID has also been effective. Data on times of day when speeding occurs on a regular basis has been sent to the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership.

Update on village signs for Stableford and Hill Chorlton: A reminder had been sent to Rob Steele at SCC. He is waiting to be informed who at SCC is now responsible for approving village signs.

107.11/21 Planning

21/00949/FUL, Change of use of land at Hill Chorlton Farm: CHCPC has submitted a response. The Footpaths Office has requested further information.

Local Plan and Strategic Options public consultation, 1 November–12 December: The document will be recirculated and areas of particular concern for a response will be highlighted. An additional meeting may be needed prior to the next regular meeting in order to discuss the response.

21/01041/OUT, Baldwins Gate Farm, 200 dwellings: There was some discussion of the impact that the proposed development and alteration to the Woodside/A53 junction would have on the parish. The parish council will draft a response on the basis of Neighbourhood Plan policies, and will check with Whitmore Parish Council whether it will be asking for an extension of the time to respond.

108.11/21 Public engagement

Date for next newsletter: It was agreed to distribute a newsletter in the new year. Positive feedback has been received from residents.

Update on website: There has been further contact with SCC on this matter. SCC will go ahead with setting up email addresses for councillors and establishing a hosted website with domain name www.chapelhillchorlton.org.uk.

109.11/21 Discussion on Climate Emergency statement and proposed policy

A draft Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency had been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Tom Davey and seconded by Tom Davies that the Declaration be adopted. Unanimously approved. The text is appended to these minutes.

110.11/21 Councillor training

Dates of upcoming training sessions will be circulated.

111.11/21 Urgent business

There was no urgent business.

112.11/21 To confirm the date of the next meeting as 8 December 2021

The Meeting closed at 9.01pm.

Signed

CHAIR

Minutes 17 November 2021

Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council

Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency

17 November 2021

On 9 August 2021 the Secretary General of the United Nations described the Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, as “a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable.”

Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council accepts the scientific findings that the rapid heating of the Earth’s atmosphere is the result of historical and continuing release of fossil carbon since the Industrial Revolution and that the growing number of extreme weather events resulting in loss of life and destruction and loss of land and property is driven by global heating.

Further, Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council accepts that the ecological and biodiversity crisis resulting in the decline and loss of species is driven by global heating and other human actions that result in the pollution and destruction of habitats.

The climate and ecological crises together threaten to make parts of the planet uninhabitable; to force mass migration of human and other populations to remaining habitable areas; to cause loss of life among both humans and other species; to cause extinction of species, including insects that are the foundational support for other species on the planet and their food supplies; and to reduce the area of fertile and cultivable land available for food production.

Chapel and Hill Chorlton Parish Council therefore resolves to declare a climate and ecological emergency. Accordingly, in its decision making, in performance of its statutory powers and duties, and in all its other actions it will take into consideration the potential climate and/or ecological mitigations or impacts of those decisions or actions; and it will provide or pass on appropriate information or advice to residents.