

Cheverell Magna Parish Council

The Council last met on 8 January, and will meet again on 5 February and 12 March – 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Witchcombe Close. All interested parties are always welcome to attend. The Minutes of the last meeting (in December) are available to see on the website, the Notice Board outside the shop, and Victoria Park.

At the January meeting, the Council co-opted Pete Cadwgan of The Green to the vacant Councillor slot. Welcome, Pete ! We'll find a specific responsibility for you soon

The Council continues to focus on the protection and maintenance of the village, in particular traffic issues (where we are in discussion with Erlestoke PC over the shared use of Speed Indication Devices), street lights, potholes and footpaths (especially the ongoing dog fouling issue). Many of these issues require rectification by Wiltshire Council, with whom we enjoy a good working relationship (the recent clearance of the fallen tree in the drainage ditch from Green Lane to Weavers Mead being a case in point). The Council also supports local charities and events, such as the forthcoming Summer Fayre at Holy Trinity School at the end of June, and the Soap Box Derby in August.

The Council also regularly reviews the condition of the Playground next to the Pavilion, and the facilities provided. It has recently decided to buy two metal benches for parents supervising their children, and is also considering specific picnic tables. Consideration is also being given to planting a hedge along Witchcombe Lane to protect the western edge of the playing field.

The condition of Victoria Park is an ongoing concern. Regular updates are received from Wiltshire Council and the Victoria Park Residents Association (VPRA) about the pressure being put on the Ministry of Justice (as its on Prison land) to undertake remedial work to the roads, which are in very poor condition. The Council is particularly concerned about the number of failed street lights.

The Council has just received a significant piece of work by Councillor Andy Alexander on an Emergency Plan for the village. This will cover those unwanted occurrences such as flooding and traffic accidents, and even worse things such as a rail crash or a military accident. It's a good thing to plan for such things, however unlikely. Further work will be undertaken on this.

And, finally, the Council has agreed its budget for the next financial year, and the resulting 2018/19 Precept. It is, unfortunately, increasing, but only due to the need to undertake the 5-yearly tree survey for the protection of residents. A 4.67% increase has been agreed, which sounds horrendous until you realise that it's only a £545 increase over last year, which is an increase of £1.79 for a whole year for the average Band D property. Still a lot less than a pint in The Bell !

Chris Hall, Parish Clerk

Phone: 01380 816983

Email: parishcouncil@greatcheverell.org