



Chipperfield Parish Council,
The Village Hall
The Common, Chipperfield
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**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
9th MAY 2023 7 PM THE VILLAGE HALL
THE COMMON CHIPPERFIELD WD4 9BS**

Present: Cllr Kevan Cassidy (Chair), Cllr Eamonn Flynn (Deputy Chair), Cllr Geoff Bryant (Chair Planning Committee), Cllr Tony McGuinness, Cllr Carly-Anne Heaphy, Cllr Luke Hinton, and Cllr Foxall

Usha Kilich Proper Officer (Parish Clerk)
Vasos Panayi (Parish Warden)

County Councillor Richard Roberts

Members of the public (13)

1. Chairman's Introduction Cllr Cassidy

To work together to improve the Quality of Life for all people of the Parish.
Manage the council's assets and finances effectively to achieve best value.
Provide council's views on relevant consultations, including input to all planning applications.
To develop a strategy for the long-term development of the Parish

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2022.

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2022.

RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr Hinton. Unanimously agreed.

3. Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year 2022- 2023

Financial Report (unaudited) 2022/23						
Previous Year 2021/2022				Current Year 2022/2023		
Income	Expenditure	Variance		Income	Expenditure	Variance
£48,586.00	£45,409.00	£3,177.00	Precept	£49,586.00	£44,152.00	£5,434.00
£8,394.00	£8,638.00	-£244.00	Concurrent	£8,394.00	£6,915.00	£1,479.00
£6,969.00	£9,001.00	-£2,032.00	Warden	£7,281.00	£9,427.00	-£2,146.00

£42,800.00	£9,358.00	£33,442.00	CiL	£9,861.00	£9,000.00	£861.00
£7,548.00	£4,608.00	£2,940.00	Other	£10,756.00	£17,894.00	-£7,138.00
£114,297.00	£77,014.00	£37,283.00	Operating Total	£85,878.00	£87,388.00	-£1,510.00
Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL)						
£42,800.00				Cil Income		£9,861.00
-£9,358.00				Cil Expenditure		-£9,000.00
£33,442.00				Balance		£861.00

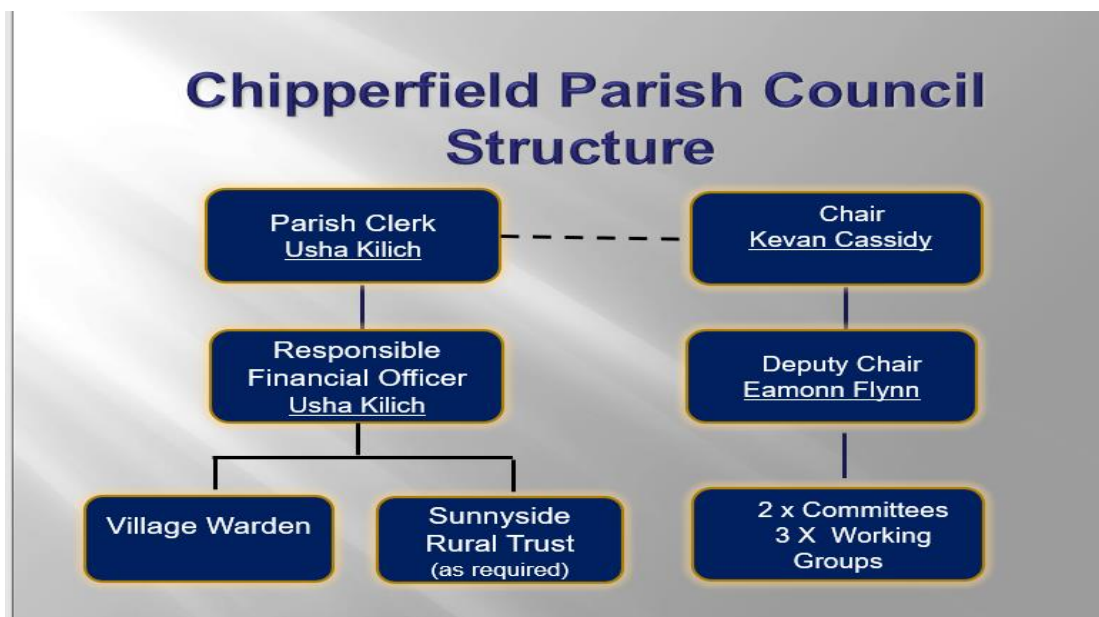
4. Grants Awarded

We continued to maintain our policy of awarding grants aimed at the development of youth and amenities in the village and this year have awarded the following grants:

Grants to support initiatives and encourage the youth of our village and those of benefit to the whole community:

Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Assist funding of project to improve frontage of club facility.	£500.00
Chipperfield Corinthians Youth Football Club	Replacement of roof for the pitch store cupboard and partial painting of the club house.	£500.00
St Pauls Church	Maintenance of the churchyard.	£800.00
Friends of St Pauls School	Purchase of new iPad	£1,200.00
British Legion *	Poppy appeal wreath	£100.00
Chipperfield Tennis Club	To provide floodlighting for the tennis court	£1,200.00
	Total	£4,300.00

5. Council Structure and Area of Responsibility



Your Councillors

Kevan Cassidy	Chair
Eamonn Flynn	Deputy Chair
Geoff Bryant	Chair Planning Committee
Tony McGuinness	
Carly-Anne Heaphy	
Luke Hinton	
Wendy Bathurst	

Council Changes: Sadly, **Jooles Miller** has decided to stand down, but we are pleased to announce that at next council we will be welcoming to council **Paul Foxall**

6. Council Timetable

- **Full Council meet on a 6-week cycle.**
Agendas are published in the week prior to the meeting.
Finance and General Purposes working group (F&GP) usually meet one week prior to each full council meeting to review and prepare suggestions or action for the following Council meeting to discuss.
- **The Planning Committee meet every 3 weeks to coincide with DBC's planning timetable.**
Agenda are published in the week prior to the meeting.

Both Full Council and Planning Committee meetings are open to the public. A full timetable of CPC meetings is on the parish web page.

- **Other working Groups** meet on the ad hoc basis depending upon their workload.

7. Chairmans Report

- A special thanks to Usha Kilich (Parish Clerk).
 - Usha has kept the council on track and serves as a conduit for the villagers to raise issue with CPC or DBC.
- A big thankyou to our new Parish Warden Vassos Panayi (Vas)
 - Vas continues to keep the village clean and tidy, clearing the bins, checking for litter, and maintaining the allotments.
- Thank you to Peter Sadler who has retired as our Parish Warden
- Thank you to all who support the various activities that aid the community.
- Thank you to my fellow councillors.

Councillors give their time voluntarily to help in the function of CPC.

Council

- Council elections were held on 4th May 2023 and the Parish Council will have its annual meeting on the 16th to confirm officers and committee members.
- This year Cllr Anthony Sutcliffe stood down and was replaced by Wendy Bathurst (Co-option) who we are most happy to welcome back to Council, Wendy brings with her expert knowledge of the village and all things green.
- Cllr Jooles Miller decided not to stand at the recent election.
- We thank Cllrs Sutcliffe and Miller for their work and contributions whilst on Council.
- Paul Foxall stood at the recent election and will join Council on the 16th.

Council has enjoyed the support and advice we have had from our Borough and County Councillors who take time to attend our council meetings whenever possible.

We would like to thank all the villagers who so selflessly give up their time to support others whether it is sport, education, general volunteering, or social care.

8. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)

Local team of villagers and councilors to formulate a response and engage with DBC to arrive at an outcome more favourable to the village.

DBC has designated Chipperfield as a SANG, along with Bunkers Park and Gadebridge.

A mitigation measure aimed at protecting Ashridge Commons and Woods SSSI and Tring Woodlands SSSI

DBC's target is 16,000 new homes in Dacorum between 2020-2038.

- Natural England imposed a moratorium prohibiting the approval of any new homes in Dacorum until Natural England is assured that there is additional recreational space to accommodate the increased population.

The current strategy could result in increased access to the village with....

- no workable proposal for car parking requirements,
- a proliferation of signage in and around Chipperfield Woods and the village,
- some form of visitor welcome center in the Cricket Club car park.
- no apparent strategy to prevent Chipperfield Woods and Common being degraded.
- DBC failed to consult prior to issuing the Chipperfield Common SANG Management Plan.

On a possible positive note

- Potential (not clarified) for some positive management of the woods and the ponds and there is discussion over some extension of the Easy Access Route (EAR).

The working group has prepared a response document sent to DBC.

The council has agreed and initiated several actions across the village.

- We will re-site the disabled parking bay notices in the church carpark. have been installed.
- Defibrillators installed at Two Brewers and now behind the Post Office. Call 999 first and they will direct you to the nearest working Defib. (Other defibs in the village are not all available 24/7).

The Apostle's Pond requires attention and a wildlife/ eco survey has been commissioned in quarter two of 2022 to establish the correct way to deal with the invasive weeds whilst protecting the indigenous species and clear the detritus from the pond.

Yet DBC have not responded or come up with a workable maintenance solution.

Coronation

Thanks to the organising team who prepared the village festivities around the coronation.

CPC commend the group for their effort in organising this activity for the benefit of the village.

9. Committees and Working Groups

Planning Committee Geoff Bryant-Chair

Planning Applications are determined by the local planning authority which in our case is Dacorum Borough Council.

- Planning authorities are obliged to consult with parish and town councils and to take their views and opinions into account during the determination process. CPC has no power in the final decision.

- DBC operate under a set of national planning rules which are amended frequently such that the planning rules today are quite different from those of 10+ years ago. Indeed, they are different to 1 year ago.
- DBC have staffing issues with unfilled vacancies in the Planning department for many months now which impacts on the planning process negatively.
- The results of the Housing Needs Survey to ascertain the need for additional affordable dwellings was published in 2021. Potential sites are now to be evaluated for practicality and viability.

We endeavour to encourage engagement by applicants with CPC prior to application (a pre-app)

- This allows CPC to suggest amendments to help speed the progress of a proposed scheme through the subsequent formal planning process and consider the “street scene” it will create.
- Developers mostly respond positively to this.

25 applications were determined in Chipperfield (excluding works to trees):

- Grant of Planning Application 21
- Refusal of Planning Application 4

CPC continues to seek improved outcomes for the benefit of the community wherever possible by encouraging modification to proposed schemes were deemed appropriate.

The support of our ward borough councillors is appreciated.

- CPC continue to push for 1 parking space per bedroom subject to minimum of 2 spaces.
- CPC’s opinion is that DBC’s parking policy, as defined in their district plan, is totally inadequate for a car-dependent community like Chipperfield.
- 9 new dwellings granted on the former nursery site in Stoney Lane, Tower Hill are nearing completion as are the 6 cottages in the Royal Oak/Osteria carpark.

Finance and General Purposes

F&GP working group meet to discuss, suggest, and control spending of the council to ensure compliance with the council approved annual budget. As a working group all F&GP suggestions are only acted upon once there is full CPC agreement at our regular public meetings

- The accounts for year 2022/23 have just been audited and we await formal approval from the auditors.
- With the increased workload and a further reduction of funding from Dacorum we are focussed on making further savings and improving internal system efficiency.
- There has been an increase in the village precept to compensate for some of the reduced funding from DBC and the increased cost of running the council office.

Highways Working Group

The Highways are not the responsibility of CPC so all issues must be referred to the Herts Highways

There is a programme of resurfacing throughout the parish. However, the surfaces are starting to show signs of wear again, with potholes ever present. Please report any potholes to the Dacorum website, as soon as you see them. Sufficient reporting will ensure they are dealt with as soon as possible.

The village has experienced parking on the pavements and verges, which is dangerous for pedestrians and buggy users, and destroys the grass in wet weather. This is particularly

prevalent on the The Street, the Croft Estate and Langley Rd. We have written to residents and placed letters on offending cars. This reduces the problem for periods of time. But inevitably, the problem returns.

- It is important that any road issues are reported to Dacorum via their website <https://webapps.dacorum.gov.uk/search/?q=fault%20reporting>

Open Space Working Group

The increase in visitors using the Common and surrounding areas for activities such as walking, running, bike riding, dog walking and horse riding has had an impact on our footpaths, green spaces, and sadly we have seen an increase in dog fouling and litter as well as horses not using the designated or permitted bridle ways.

It is DBC's responsibility to maintain these and we continue to push for active management.

Fortunately, Friends of Chipperfield Common (FofCC) continue doing work on the Common, mostly cutting invasive plants and thinning growth.

More active volunteers are needed as presently only 4 or 5 active members turn up for work parties.

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are willing to join in with the efforts of FofCC.

The ponds on the Common remain a cause for concern, especially The Apostles Pond which is rapidly becoming overgrown with invasive weeds and reeds. Unfortunately, people continue to throw wood into it making it too dangerous for FofCC to go into the water.

CPC are STILL waiting for DBCs proposal as to how to manage the pond issues.

Refurbishment of the Croft Estate play area and the refreshing the play area behind the Chipperfield Boot have been approved at DBC and planned to occur in the not-too-distant future.

We should all be proud that Chipperfield has kept its Green Flag and we have now held this honour continuously since 2008. Chipperfield is one of the five that were awarded in Dacorum.

Thank you to everyone who helps us retain this award.

We will continue to work with Luke Johnson at Dacorum and local groups, (Friends of Chipperfield Common) on any key issues.

However, we need to remain diligent in protecting our environment and taking our litter home especially if the bins are full.

Green Flag Status we have now had the green flag continuously since 2008.



Youth and Education Working Group

The main news to come from St Paul's School was that the Head Teacher, Caroline Moore, announced that she will be standing down at the end of the Summer Term. Miss Moore has been an asset to the school for many years.

We would like to thank her for the years of dedication offered to all the children that have attended St Paul's. We wish her all our very best and look forward to welcoming a new Head Teacher next school year and we wish him every success.

We are grateful to the Friends of St Pauls who have continued to support the school with great fund-raising events.

We would like to say thank you for all the hard work of the staff at the school.

Chipperfield Pre School - continue to do a fabulous job, providing wrap around care for our children, with strong links to the school.

Police and Neighbourhood Scheme

Chipperfield has always been deemed a low crime village by the police. Over the Pandemic, the crime levels dipped further. Thankfully, over the past year incidents have remained at this level.

- PC Dan Stevens attended a recent CPC meeting to introduce himself and outline the current strategies. However, he is also tasked with covering Kings Langley, Bovingdon, Flaunden and Sarratt. For a single officer, this is a large beat to cover. CPC and local councillors are currently lobbying for a PCSO to support him.
- Dan has pitched the idea of group meetings with representatives of the villages. CPC supports this, and this is a work in progress.

Allotments

- All allotments are all allocated, and we still have a short waiting list.
- We have engaged Sunnyside Rural Trust to perform general maintenance tasks in the common areas and contract out the larger scale work. We continue to attempt to run the allotments on a cost neutral basis. Any issues should be reported direct to the Parish Clerk or the Parish Warden (Vas).
- There is an active allotment WhatsApp group to aid good communication.

Q&A

- A member asked what the possibilities were of having affordable housing – Cllr Cassidy stated there were no concrete plans and the key issue was finding “cheap” or “free” land in the village. It would be easiest if DBC or CPC had some asset to give but there is little owned by either. There has been investigations by CPC and DBC and we hope there may be something soon.
- A member asked if parking was considered in the SANG report – Cllr Cassidy informed members that parking was a major concern in the SANG proposal and that CPC were not consulted in the development of the SANG proposal. Clearly it is a possibility but we are not aware of any potential and acceptable sites to increase parking.
- A member wanted to know if CPC are aware of the waste transfer taking place on daily basis from the Martlets. This takes place every other evening.

The 2023 Chipperfield Outstanding Service

The award went to Simon Markin – Simon is probably unknown to most but voluntarily tidies and collects the rubbish around Chipperfield. A silent hero helping without being asked to maintain our village.