



Chipperfield Parish Council,
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CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 10TH MAY 2022 7 PM PARISH ROOMS 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 Jooles Miller, Cllr Luke Hinton

Usha Kilich Proper Officer (Parish Clerk)
Pete Sadler (Parish Warden)

County Councillor Richard Roberts
Dacorum Borough Councillor Gbola Adeleke

Members of the public (3)

Apologies: Cllr Anthony Sutcliffe

1. Chairman's Introduction Cllr Cassidy

Cllr. Cassidy started the meeting by describing the safety and toilet arrangements then outlining the Council's aims and objectives as listed on the CPC web page before introducing Dacorum Borough Councillor, Cllr Gbola Adeleke. Cllr Adeleke has been an elected councillor on DBC from 01/05/2003 - 04/05/2023. He like Cllr Graham Barrett and Cllr Stewart Riddick represent our ward at DBC. Cllr Adeleke sits on various DBC committees (Appeals Panel, Council Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny, Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny (Vice Chairman) and Joint Negotiating).

2. Guest Speaker Cllr Adeleke

Cllr Adeleke gave a speech on Covid and the implications it has had on our community.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2021.

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2021. **RESOLVED**, proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr Miller. **Unanimously agreed.**

4. Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year 2021- 2022

	Income	Expenditure	Variance
Precept	£48,586.00	£45,409.00	£3,177.00
Concurrent	£8,394.00	£8,638.00	-£244.00
Warden	£6,969.00	£9,001.00	-£2,032.00
Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL)	£42,800.00	£9,358.00	£33,442.00
Other	£7,548.00	£4,608.00	£2,940.00
<u>Operating Total</u>	£114,297.00	£77,014.00	£37,283.00

Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL)	
Cil Income	£42,800.00
Cil Expenditure	-£9,358.00
Balance	£33,442.00

The accounts have been audited but at the time of the APM the report had not been received. (Post APM note audit successful and approved).

5. Presentation of grant cheques to local organisations

CPC continue 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:

- Friends of St Pauls School (Fencing) £2000
- Youth Football Club £4000
- Cricket Club (Sight Screen) £750

and those of benefit to the whole community:

- Chipperfield Events Committee (Queen's 70th) £2000
- The Village Hall £1100
- St Pauls Church (Graveyard Maintenance) £1250
- British Legion £100

6. Council Structure and areas of responsibility

Cllr Cassidy presented a report of Council activity over the last year and went on to outline the current structure of Chipperfield Parish Council discussing the roles and makeup of the committees and working groups.

Cllr Cassidy described the challenges faced by CPC mainly due to Covid restrictions and its effect on working practices.

Cllr Cassidy on behalf of CPC extended thanks to Usha Kilich (the Parish Clerk) who has seen us through the pandemic, working from home and all the additional challenges that Covid has thrown up to keep the council on track and serve as a conduit for the villagers to raise the issue with CPC or DBC and a big thank you to Peter Sadler our Parish Warden as he continues to keep the village clean and tidy.

Cllr Cassidy also extended a thank you to all who support the various activities that aid the community with a personal thank you to the support of his fellow councillors who give their time voluntarily to help in the function of CPC.

Cllr Cassidy reported that the council has agreed and initiated a number of actions across the village.

- New posts for the car park area around the church and along with The Common to Queen Street.
- The disabled parking bay notices and reflectors on the posts in the church carpark have been installed.
- A new fingerpost near the church.
- The “Welcome to Chipperfield” sign on Dunny Lane has been replaced.
- New waste/poo bins installed on the common
 - Addition of a bin at the far end of the cricket pitch.
 - The new bins are larger in capacity and have joint use (litter and dog waste).
- Village Clock upgrade and maintenance.
- We have ordered another Defibrillator for the village
 - awaiting delivery and installation

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 clearing the detritus from the pond. This survey will enable the scheme to be costed and thereafter funding will be required along with DBC approval to execute this plan.

Broadband

There is no definitive news to report on the village broadband

Potential New projects.

Recently we posted on our Face Book and published in Chip News seeking your opinions about the village and its amenities.

We would like to establish –

- what you love about living (or visiting) the village,
- what could be improved,

- what is missing or what else would you like to see in Chipperfield.

We intend to collate and prioritise the responses received in order to seek relevant funding if necessary and set up some working groups with willing volunteers to see how these ideas could be delivered.

Thank you in anticipation. Please send your responses by email, if possible, to the Parish Clerk.

Queen's 70th Anniversary Celebrations

- There is a group headed by Phil Wayne within the village preparing the village festivities around the Queen's Anniversary. Details are available in Chip News.
- CPC commend the group for their effort in organising this activity for the benefit of the village.
- CPC are looking to plant some additional trees under the "Queen's Green Canopy Scheme" to leave a lasting legacy on or around the common.

Council Structure and Areas of Responsibility

- Kevan Cassidy Chair
- Eamonn Flynn Deputy Chair
- Geoff Bryant Chair Planning Committee
- Tony McGuinness
- Carly-Anne Heaphy
- Jooles Miller
- Luke Hinton
- Anthony Sutcliffe
- Usha Kilich Proper Officer
- Pete Sadler Parish Warden

Committees and Working Groups

Planning

Geoff Bryant (Chair), Eamonn Flynn (Deputy Chair), Kevan Cassidy, Anthony Sutcliffe, Tony McGuinness, Luke Hinton

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.
- 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.
- Covid reduced the quantity of planning applications received by DBC but then the number increased towards the end of 2020 and has remained at a high level throughout 2021 and into 2022.
- DBC have staffing issues with unfilled vacancies in the Planning department for many months now which impacts on the planning process negatively.
- In Chipperfield the number of planning applications has reduced compared to recent years.

- The results of the Housing Needs Survey to ascertain the need for additional affordable dwellings was published in 2021. The next step is for the potential sites suggested by residents in the survey to be evaluated for practicality and viability.

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

- This affords CPC the opportunity to suggest amendments to help speed the progress of a proposed scheme through the subsequent formal planning process.
- Most developers respond positively to such engagement which has proved fruitful with the recent larger schemes in the village.

32 applications were determined in Chipperfield:

Grant in respect of works to trees **9**

Grant of Planning Application **18**

Refusal of Planning Application **5**

The most difficult subject is that of parking provision. Dacorum's parking policy, as defined in their district plan, is totally inadequate for a car-dependent community like Chipperfield. We continue to push for 1 parking space per bedroom subject to minimum of 2 spaces.

There are no planning appeals presently in progress.

We are trying to keep the village up to date with a monthly listing of Chipperfield related planning applications & planning decisions in in Chip News. Hopefully this is helpful.

Personnel Committee

Jooles Miller (Chair), Eamonn Flynn (Deputy Chair), Kevan Cassidy

Finance and General Purpose Working Group

Kevan Cassidy (Lead), Eamonn Flynn, Tony McGuinness, Anthony Sutcliffe

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

We have moved to a fully online banking system that has reduced significantly the time involved in the monthly accounting process.

There has been an increase in the village precept of 2% to compensate for some of the reduced funding from DBC

Highways Working Group

- Tony McGuinness (Lead), Eamonn Flynn, Kevan Cassidy

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

Individuals can inform them directly or through the Parish Clerk.

There is a “pot hole” reporting mechanism on the internet

Over the past two years, Herts Highways have carried out extensive resurfacing works to all the arterial routes in the village. As a result, the roads within the Parish are probably in the best condition than they have been for some years.

However, there remains frustration with the co-ordination of services works, where recently surfaced roads have needed to be dug up. Also multiple closures over short periods of time for different service works, in particular The Street.

We have attempted to address the issue with the Dunny Lane/Chapel Croft crossroads, which is our only accident black spot.

The main problem is motorists, unfamiliar with the junction, entering from Chapel Croft, and not stopping.

Upon our request, Herts Highways carried out a risk assessment on the junction.

This included an extensive survey of vehicle speeds entering the crossroads recorded on different days and times.

The conclusion was that speed is no longer an issue, no doubt assisted by the Speed Indication Device (SID), slowing vehicles entering from Tower Hill. Other options, such as a roundabout, traffic lights and rumble strips were deemed unsuitable for the location. Bearing in mind the comprehensive warning signage at the problem entrance, further signage would not be of assistance.

CPC were successful in securing a grant Road Safety Fund to place a further SID (Speed Indicator Device) at the entrance to The Common from Bucks Hill, which is now in place and assisting in slowing vehicles from that direction.

Councillors met on site with residents from Langley Road, who were concerned with traffic speeds and overgrown pathways. The request was support to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. On the advice of Dacorum, the residents submitted a petition to Herts Highways, covering several points. However, their policy is against reducing speed limits in locations which can't be enforced by the police. The pathways have been cleared though, making the experience better for pedestrians.

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

Open Spaces Working Group

- Luke Hinton, Carly-Anne Heaphy

As we are all aware Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club have undertaken the huge and essential task of replacing the outfield area of the ground.

The works began in late August 2021, this work involved fencing off the whole area to protect the new grass for the whole autumn and winter.

Both CPC and CCCC would like to express gratitude for the understanding from the community for this disruption.

The fencing is now removed, however, there remain a few bare patches and drainage routes which will be treated in the near future.

Thankfully Cricket has now made a welcome return to the Common on what is now a very lush looking pitch.

We hope to see many more years of cricket on the common.

The fall-out of the pandemic has resulted lot more visitors using the Common and surrounding areas for activities such as walking, running, bike riding, dog walking and horse riding.

This has 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 bridal ways.

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.

- The Green Clean and Safe team, continued to keep on top of the waste bins and when we alerted them, they quickly came to address any concerns.
- It is also worth noting, that we are lucky to have several villagers who regularly pick up litter, and this makes a huge difference to helping keep the litter down. So, thank you for your support.
- Peter Sadler also keeps on top of the litter, and if anyone sees an area of concern; please inform the Clerk, and we will work to resolve any issues quickly.
- Peter has been helped by the Sunshine Rural Trust who assist in general matters around the allotments and common.

Chipperfield has kept its Green Flag award for 2021 and we have held this honour continuously since 2008. Chipperfield is one of the five that were awarded in Dacorum.

The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards professionally managed parks and green spaces.

Thank you to everyone who helps us retain this award.

Youth & Education Working Group

St Paul's school is now returning to normality after the restrictions in place due to Covid.

- It is now possible to be able to welcome parents back into the school.
- Friends of St Paul's continue to work hard to raise funds for the school, and some of the recent fund raisers have included, The Pantomime, working with the Chipperfield Theatre group. The Easter egg hunt on the school playground, where lots of families from the village attended and said how wonderful it was to be able to hold these events again.
- CPC are extremely grateful to have a wonderful team at school and thank everyone for their continued hard work and support.
- Chipperfield preschool continues to provide wrap around care for the pupils at St Paul's, with breakfast clubs and after school activities. In addition providing a thriving preschool setting for the younger ones.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

The police recognise Chipperfield to be a low crime village. However, this will be of little comfort to victims of crime.

It's not surprising that in the unprecedented past two years, crime levels have dropped even further, in particular burglaries. Opportunities have been restricted by lockdown and working from home. Overall, theft from motor vehicles featured the most, with a recent spate of registration number thefts.

Chipperfield	2020	2021
Burglary from Dwellings	2	1
Burglary Other	4	0
Theft of Motor Vehicles	0	0
Theft from Motor Vehicles	2	6
Criminal Damage	8	3
Drugs	3	2
Street Assault	0	
Others	33	4
Total	52	16

Drugs:

We experienced an increased level of drug dealing, particularly in The Common car park at night. This was unpleasant for the residents facing the location, and involved a level of intimidation from the perpetrators when challenged. We interacted with the residents to give an early warning to the police when these activities were occurring. As this was happening at the south end of the car park, under tree cover, Dacorum posted off those parking spaces, so any dealings would be in the open. This policy had a mixed reception by residents, but the combination of both solved the issue, or maybe moved it somewhere else.

Our Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page and WhatsApp group have been quiet for the above reasons. Let's hope it remains so. You can join the message group through the Facebook page, which shares real time information as to activities that you should be aware of.

Carparks

- Dacorum BC has now resurfaced the pot holed Queen Street carpark.
- The Common car park has had some wooden posts installed by Dacorum to stop some antisocial behaviour.
- The Common car park remains in desperate need of repair, and we will continue to flag the issue to Dacorum.

Wooden posts to protect the grass verges have been put in place at various locations. We continue to work on this project to maintain the grass verges.

Allotments

The demand for our allotments remains high especially since the start of the pandemic. There continues to be a waiting list for a plot.

The existing and new plot holders have really transformed their plots.

There is an allotment WhatsApp group to help with communication and offering advice to newer plot holders.

As always, Peter Sadler is helping oversee the allotments and we have engaged the Sunnyside Rural Trust on an *ad hoc* basis to help maintain the public areas around the allotments.

The rent was increased to £23 for half plot and £46 for full plot to cover additional costs and reflect inflation and we will now ask new allotment plot holders to leave an increased deposit of £75 to reflect the costs of cleaning up vacant sites.

Communications

CPC has recognised that communications with Parishioners did not necessarily reach all of the community. Historically, communication has mainly been via the village noticeboards and Chipperfield News. We continue to use these media but to reach a wider audience other platforms are being investigated.

There have been updates and improvements to the Parish Council website to be in compliance with data protection and accessibility rules.

In February 2021 the official CPC Facebook page was launched

(<https://www.facebook.com/ChipperfieldParishCouncil>)

The CPC FB page has provided residents and visitors with a chance to be updated with important issues or news in a 'real-time' forum, as well as a feature where we have introduced the Parish Councillors. Communication with the community will be an ongoing project and CPC would be pleased to hear from you about how you feel things can be improved.

7. To announce the winner of the 2022 Chipperfield Outstanding Service Award

This was deferred to the annual parish council meeting 17th May.

8. To present Mr H Laverack a gift for his contribution to Chipperfield Parish Council as a former Chairman

This presentation is postponed to later date yet to be decided as Mr Laverack was unable to attend.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Refreshments available.

Cllr Kevan Cassidy