

CHELWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15th JUNE 2021 AT BURNTS FARM, CHELWOOD COMMENCING AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Julie Glynn, Pat Harrison, Geoff Joyner, Nicki Cripps, Peter Jones; also in attendance ward councillor Cllr Sally Davis and Alan Butcher (Clerk)

21/06E/1 - Apologies for absence. None received.

21/06E/2 - Declarations of Interest: No declarations were made.

21/06E/3 - Public Participation:

The Chairman will adjourn the meeting for public participation. Some 16 members of the public were present. She outlined the reasons for the meeting and gave a resume of the current Local Plan as it affected Chelwood. Cllr Davis noted that the update to the Local Plan of which the proposed infill boundaries are part covers the whole of B&NES and the changes affecting green belt villages are a small part of the process.

Members of the public expressed concern about the proposed infill boundary noting that the current planning restrictions had been effective over recent years. Concern was also expressed about the comments made about the closure of the church which had yet to be formalised. A number of those present were concerned about any change to the status of Chelwood as a village.

Cllr Davis explained the process of this informal consultation and noted that the response would give “a steer” to planners formulating the update. She also noted that a new Local Plan consultation would begin in 2022.

The chairman summarised the responses noting that no one at the meeting appeared to be in favour of the proposed infill boundary and that concern had been expressed about the possible change in status of the village due to the situation with the church.

21/06E/4 - Confirmation of the Minutes of previous meetings:

- i) Confirmation of previous meeting minutes to be postponed until the next scheduled meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

21/06E/5 - Parish Council Matters.

- i) To agree a response to B&NES Local Plan update with particular reference to the proposal for the addition of an Infill Boundary for Chelwood. After discussion, the following response was agreed:
“Chelwood Parish Council has consulted with villagers about the suggested Infill Boundary for Chelwood put forward as part of the Local Plan update. The Parish Council has agreed their response following the consultation with villagers.

Draft minutes subject to acceptance at the next meeting

During the informal online discussion on 10th June, it was noted that St Leonards Church was closed. In fact, although the vicar has obtained special permission to shut the church, this is the first step in a long consultation about the future of the church which may end with closure or the church being returned to use. This process may take some time and therefore the church cannot currently be classed as closed.

Villagers were concerned that, in some way, the status of Chelwood as “a village” could be adversely affected by the loss of the church and wished the Parish Council to point out that Chelwood has a thriving community centred around a newly refurbished village hall.

With regard to the proposed Infill Boundary, villagers were not in favour of the proposed Infill Boundary and the Parish Council agreed unanimously to object to the imposition of the boundary commenting that the possible gain of one or two dwellings for the purposes of inflating the required five year housing supply was inappropriate in a small village like Chelwood.”

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**Alan Butcher,
Parish Clerk,
24th June 2021
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