

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 11th AUGUST 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5PW.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman
Cllr. C. Barlow
Cllr. D. Butcher
Cllr. M. Goff

Cllr. J. Jeffries
Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. S. Dungay
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk

Four members of the public.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. P. Graveson, Cllr. D. Frost, Cllr. R. Doyle CCC.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 14th July 2009 (previously circulated).

Proposed by: Cllr. Jeffries and Seconded by: Cllr. Goff.

Resolution carried unanimously.

(3) COUNCIL: a) Declaration of any member's interest in agenda items.

No interest by a member was noted in any specific agenda item.

b) Any change in declaration of member's interest.

No changes in member's interests were noted.

(4) MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that he had written to Southern Water regarding the poor state of the pumping station on the Memorial playing field, and that they had agreed to send a team to visit the site and assess the state of the facility and undertake repairs/painting of the fencing and generally clear up the site.

Cllr. Dawes noted that she had contacted Veronica Litten regarding last months 'Explore Kent' request regarding guided walks in the area, but was informed that she was not interested in getting involved in the project.

(5) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE

(A folder of correspondence was available for all Councillors to view the correspondence and make comment on).

The following issues were raised for discussion:

- Item 1: Kent Police – Policing Kent – Newsletter. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 2: Ashford Borough Council – Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) Regulation 27 – Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2008. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 3: CCC – Agenda – Joint Meeting of the Rural Area (North) Member Panel and the Rural Area (South) Member Panel – Monday 27th July 2009. (Concurrent Funding Review). The Clerk outlined to all members details of the CCC review of the Concurrent Funding function, noting the decisions of the CCC Executive. The recommendations were noted to all members and it was stated that the issues will be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. A joint working party looking at the possibility of efficiency savings is also being launched by CCC to review the system and Cllr. Dawes and the Clerk will be representing the Parish Council at a meeting on the 6th September 2009. The main issue is that the reduction in any Concurrent Funding function made by CCC will have to be made-up on the annual parish Precept claim, which is basically ‘double taxation’.
- Item 4: AWCIRK – 85th Annual Meeting – Tuesday 1st September 2009. Details were noted to all members.
- Item 5: CCC – Minutes of Street Monitors Meeting – 9th June 2009. A copy of the minutes was available for all members to read.
- Item. 6: AWCIRK – Rural News – July 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 7: Eastern & Coastal Kent NHS – Annual Report 2008/2009. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 8: KCC – KCC Community Wardens Alcohol Awareness Road Show. Details were noted to all members.
- The Clerk read out an e-mail from a local student who attends Chaucer Technology School requesting financial support for a trip to Kenya with Camps International during the Summer holidays of 2010. Details of the trip and activities to be undertaken were given and the opportunity to help the local community in building schools, wildlife and marine conservation programmes were noted to all members. After discussion a resolution was proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Jeffries to donate £50.00 towards the costs involved.

- The Clerk also noted an e-mail from the Chartham Fete Committee requesting that they can display a poster on the village hall car park fence to advertise the event in September 2009. They also requested that the public toilets on the Memorial playing field are left open for the event. Both requests were agreed by all members.

(6) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS & MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Finance and General Purposes Committee:

A resolution that orders for payment as shown in attached schedules was agreed unanimously. They were signed by Cllr. Dawes and Cllr. Butcher.

The Clerk noted that the 2008/2009 Parish Council Accounts are still with the Audit Commission for formal agreement and 'sign-off'.

The Clerk noted that the new Parish Council Insurance policy with Zurich Municipal had been agreed and was due for payment. It was confirmed that the new policy was £7,531 and was cheaper than last year by some £600 mainly due to the sale of the cemetery lodge, and a 5% three year discount option which we had decided to take up.

(b) Planning.

A parishioner spoke regarding a proposed planning application at Sand Down, Gravel Hill, Chartham Hatch, objecting to the proposed erection of three new houses at the site. Objections were noted to the project and the wholesale destruction of many trees at the site. The tree survey also states that some of the trees that are left would have to be removed. There would be extra traffic from the houses, exiting onto an already busy road. Certain houses in the area would also have their privacy compromised by the building of the new houses with dormer windows overlooking nearby properties. It was also stated that the demolition of the bungalow and erection of three houses is against the principles of the Chartham Parish Design Statement.

The Clerk reported that there were two new Planning Applications to be dealt with at the meeting:

CA/09/01106/FUL – Proposal: Demolition of dwelling and erection of 3 dwellings and detached double garage: **Location:** Sand Down, Gravel Hill, Chartham Hatch, Nr Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7NJ: **PC Views:** A site visit was arranged for Tuesday 18th August 2009.

CA/09/01018/FUL – Proposal: Erection of detached annexe, replacement rear extension and dormer window to rear of dwelling: **Location:** Pegasus, 9 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7RZ: **PC Views:** No Objections.

The Clerk noted that we are still awaiting a response from the CCC Enforcement Officer regarding the ongoing issues at Bigberry Farm.

The Clerk noted that he is due to meet on Thursday 13th August 2009 with KCC Cllr. John Simmonds, Cllr. Dawes and Steve Davies, Planning Officer from CCC Development Control to discuss various issues relating to the St. Augustine's site, including the adoption of roads, street lighting and the maintenance of the site.

The Clerk outlined an e-mail from Ludek Majer, Development Control Manager at CCC regarding a proposed development at Horton Farm, confirming that CCC could not support the current residential proposals.

It was also reported that a letter had been sent to CCC Enforcement Team regarding an 'untidy' site at Howfield Lane, Chartham Hatch, asking them to investigate why the site is in such a poor state.

The Clerk read out two '**Granted**' Planning Applications.

CA/09/00606/FUL – South Mystole House, Mystole Park, Mystole Road, Chartham, CT4 7DB.

CA/09/00826/FUL – 5 New Town Street, Chartham, CT4 7LT

The Clerk read out one '**Refused**' Planning Application.

CA/09/00811/FUL – Land rear of 12-14 Godfrey Gardens, Chartham, CT4 7TT.

Cllr. Dawes reported on a meeting that she and the Clerk attended with Jim McEwen, Head of Enforcement at CCC. Cllr. Dawes reported on several local issues that were raised and the difficulties faced by the Enforcement Team in deciding the outcome of cases and the often lengthy timescales involved in the enforcement process.

Two complaints were received noting that two caravans were on a site at Chartham Hatch that appears to have people living in them. The matter will be reported to the CCC Enforcement Team.

The Clerk also reported on a request from Lee Evans Architects for members of the Parish council Planning Committee to attend a site meeting at Shalmsford Farm in the next few weeks, to discuss proposals for the site.

(c) Cemetery.

The Clerk reported that the sale of the Cemetery Lodge is still progressing. It was noted that the buyers have asked for confirmation on several issues relating to the Lodge and that the Clerk was liaising with Robinson Solicitors to reply to the questions.

The Clerk noted that he had met with the new buyers and that they were looking forward to moving into the property as soon as possible. They had agreed to the new fencing and gate along the side of the property and the removal of the two sheds adjacent to the property. The sheds will be removed to the top of the cemetery grounds for the grave-digger to use.

The Clerk is also still progressing the tarmacing of the cemetery car park, but needs to liaise with Cllr. Thompson to approve the award of the contract.

It was reported that the Clerk will notify the appropriate suppliers of electricity, gas, water and telephone of the sale of the Lodge when we have a firm completion date, and will then have the appropriate meters read.

It was also stated that the Burglar Alarm and telephone answering machine will be removed from the Lodge, and that the Chapel will now have to have a separate alarm system. The Clerk is taking this matter forward with Adrian Williams.

(d) Countryside.

The Clerk noted that he had been trying to trace the owner of the field at the rear of Stour Road/Close which has become overgrown again and has large amounts of ragwort growing in the field. Enquiries have been made to local land owners, yet we are still no closer to finding the owner.

Cllr. Butcher reported on a recent meeting organised by Kent Downs AONB that he attended at Godmersham Park. He outlined the basis of the meeting and the objectives of the Kent Downs AONB to keep the area in good order. He noted that there were various organised walks and trips around the estate, gardens and the nearby Kings Wood, plus a chance to visit the estate museum.

Cllr. Butcher reported on the broken footpath post at the rear of the Royal British Legion which has still not been reinstated. He will take the matter forward.

Cllr. Dawes reported that she had contacted Tony Gowers from the North Downs Way regarding the weeds on the pathway from Bigbury Road to Howfield Lane. He will look into the matter.

Cllr. Dungay reported that the footpath CB465 by the side of the Primary School is still overgrown and requires clearing. This issue has already been reported to the PROW team, but Cllr. Dawes will contact them again about the matter.

The next footpath walk will be on Sunday 13th September 2009 at 2.30 pm from opposite the Royal British Legion hall. Bernard Wilson will be leading the walk and can be contacted on 01227 731626.

(e) Amenities.

Cllr. Dungay reported damage to the shingle tiles on the roof of the bus shelter at the top of Arnold Road. The Police had reported the problem to the Clerk on Thursday last week and noted that it was caused by a drunken youth who has subsequently been given a fixed penalty notice fine. The Clerk is arranging repairs with Alan Groombridge and will then try and arrange with the Police and the Parish Council Solicitors to reclaim the costs from the youth through a 'Civil Court' action.

It was reported that the new notice-board for the St. Mary's churchyard wall and the Chairman's notice-board are still with the sign-writer for amendment and updating.

The Clerk noted a letter from Chris Anderson on behalf of Chartham Hatch Village Hall Committee, requesting a donation towards the refurbishment of a new kitchen at the hall. The Amenities Committee had agreed at its recent meeting to recommend that we donate £500 towards the project. This was agreed by all members.

It was reported that the cost of trying to tarmac a MUGA Basketball/Goal court was currently prohibitive and that several grant applications will have to be completed to fund the project. The Clerk is investigating various grant providers, including CCC, KCC, and Collyer-Ferguson.

It was also noted that the building of a BMX track at Littlebourne has just commenced and that the Clerk is currently liaising with the Chairman of Littlebourne Parish Council regarding the costs and design of the project. A visit will be made to the site on its completion to view the project.

Cllr. Dungay requested that we ask CCC to provide a litter bin on the grass area somewhere between Bakers Lane and Arnold Road. The Clerk will contact CCC Street-scene to try and arrange its installation.

Cllr. Dungay reported that the gates on the Memorial playing field play area do not close properly. The Clerk will contact Campbell's Fencing to arrange repairs.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee.

It was noted that there is an event at No Man's Orchard this Sunday 16th August 2009 between 11.00 am & 4.00 pm, called 'Hillfort & Horses' organised by the Kent Wildlife Trust. There will be Shire horses, craft stalls, walks to the iron age Hillfort and refreshments will be also be available.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion.

The Clerk reported that Sports Pavilion build is progressing on target with the roof trusses due to be erected this Friday.

It was a shame to report some mindless vandalism at the site, where some youths have kicked or pushed over part of the block walls of the pavilion during the evenings.

It was also reported that over 30 bags of cement were stolen from the site during the night. Both incidents have been reported to the Police who will be making extra patrols in the evening.

(b) Play Areas.

The Clerk reported the damage to the swings at the 'junior' play area at St. Augustine's, with rot being detected on the main swing crossbeam. The crossbeam has been removed on Health & Safety grounds and the Clerk has written to RSS asking them to visit the site and inspect the damaged beam and check the rest of the play equipment for signs of rot.

The signs at the junior and senior play areas have been reinstated after recent vandalism and both have been cleaned of graffiti.

Graffiti has also been removed from the Chartham Hatch play area by the KCC Community Warden.

(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

The Clerk noted that Berkeley Construction had now agreed to repairs to the patio door leading to the Memorial playing field, being undertaken by Herts Door & Window Company. The quotation for the repairs is approximately £1,500 and after the new door frame has been made which will take about 6 to 8 weeks, the repairs will take two days to

complete. Cllr. Barlow questioned whether we could ask the Company to provide some type of 'stopper' that will stop the door swinging open in the wind.

The Clerk noted that the Village Hall Trust Deed was still to be signed, but until the make-up of the VHMC is confirmed with new members coming onto the committee, the deed will remain unsigned as the members and organisations represented will have to be changed. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Barlow will visit Robinson Solicitors next week to take the matter forward.

The Clerk questioned whether the VHMC had yet decided on the request from the Mother & Toddler group and the Youth Club to provide a notice-board for each group in the village hall. It was stated that the VHMC had decided to erect a notice-board in the hall lobby for use by all village organisations.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

The Clerk noted a letter from Kent Highway Services regarding major reconstruction works to Stile Bridge at Pickleden Lane, Chilham, which will commence on the 17th August 2009 and could last until August 2010?

The Clerk noted that the bollards on the crossroads at Chartham Hatch have not been replaced as a Kent Highway Team are currently investigating the possibility of erecting stronger crash barriers to protect the drainage system. We will be advised of their decision in due course.

Cllr. Dawes noted that the bus services around the village have been noted as a problem whilst the resurfacing works take place at Shalmsford Street. Stagecoach have issued a notice to households in the village noting that buses to Canterbury should operate between Chilham and Thanington via the A28 calling at Chartham, turning where buses should leave 9 minutes earlier than the Chartham Rail Station time. At Milton Bridge buses due to serve Beech Avenue or The Local should turn right and operate to Beech Avenue and then return to Milton Bridge, and as normal to Canterbury. Buses to Ashford should operate as normal to Milton Bridge and then those due to serve Beech Avenue or The Local should bear left and operate to Beech Avenue, leaving there 8 minutes before the advertised time and then return to Milton Bridge and then via the A28 to Shalmsford Bridge and normal route.

Cllr. A. Frost noted a pot-hole at the junction of Rattington Street/Cockering Road. The Clerk will report it to Kent Highway Services.

Cllr. Dungay noted that the pavement at Rattington Street was in such a poor condition in some places that it is not wide enough to take a pushchair. The Clerk will talk to Richard Dixon at Kent Highway Services as it is a Health & Safety issue.

(b) Police Liaison:

The Clerk read out a report from KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth:

- The new pavilion has had some brickwork kicked or pushed over during a night last week. They are local youths at St. Augustine's. This is a building site and the blocks could cause serious harm.

- They also had 30 bags of cement stolen from the site all of which has been reported to the Police. A blue & silver 4x 4 pick-up may be involved.
- No bogus callers reported this month.
- Graffiti has reduced but if you see any report it to the Clerk or the KCC Community Warden.
- It is good to see lots of children enjoying the facilities around the village.
- Nuisance cars have reduced along with our nuisance motor-bikes.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 8th September 2009** at 7.30 pm at The Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7HX.

(11) CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.04 p.m.

Chairman.....Date.....