

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 14th JULY 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5PW.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman
Cllr. C. Barlow
Cllr. P. Graveson
Cllr. S. Dungay
Cllr. M. Goff

Cllr. J. Jeffries
Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. D. Butcher
Cllr. D. Weatherall
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Thompson – Vice-Chairman, Cllr. D. Frost.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 9th June 2009 (previously circulated).

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

Resolution carried unanimously.

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

Cllr. A. Frost declared an interest in planning application CA/09/00811/FUL.

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

No changes in member's interests were noted.

(4) MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Goff raised several issues of concern from a parishioner regarding the village hall, the proposed new cycle-path, the sewage plant on the Memorial playing field, speeding, and car parking. The issues were discussed at length and the Clerk will reply to the parishioner.

Cllr. Dawes noted the matter of the riverside bridge at Horton Manor which is in poor condition and should not be used. It was noted that the bridge is private property and is owned by the person who owns the farm.

(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: CCC – Agenda – Joint Meeting of the Rural Area (North) Member Panel and the Rural Area (South) Member Panel – Tuesday 16th June 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 2: CCC – Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 23rd June 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 3: CCC – Development Control Committee – List of Planning Applications – Tuesday 23rd June 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 4: Government Office for the South East – Formal submission of partial review to the South East RSS in relation to: Somewhere to Live: Planning for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show-people in the South East. Details were available for all members to view.
- Item 5: CCC – Canterbury City Council Environment Policy. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 6: CCC – Agenda – Standards Committee – Wednesday 1st July 2009. A copy was available for all members to view.
- Item 7: Kent Police – Policing Kent 2009/12. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 8: Kent Downs AONB – Countryside Day Friday 31st July 2009. Details were noted to all members and either Cllr. Graveson or Cllr. Butcher will attend the event.
- Item 9: Folkestone & Dover Water Services Ltd – Change of Name to Veola Water. Details were noted to all members.
- Item 10: Southern Water – South East Water Resources Update. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 11: AWCIRK - Oast to Coast Magazine - Summer 2009. A copy was available for all members to read. Cllr. Dawes noted various issues to members and Cllr. Dungay took the document for perusal.
- Item 12: KCC – Explore Kent. Details were available for all members to read. Cllr. Dawes stated that she would contact Veronica Litten regarding the local guided walks.
- Item 13: RAGS – Meeting Minutes - June 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.

(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. Jeffries.

The Clerk reported that Joseph Newman Estate Agents had undertaken the valuations on the Parish Council properties, and that these had shown a reduction in value from the

previous year. The only property that has increased in value was No Man's Orchard. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council Fixed Asset Register has been updated and that the new figures have been notified to Zurich Municipal to adjust our Insurance policy accordingly.

It was reported that the 2008/2009 Parish Council Accounts had been forwarded to the Audit Commission for formal agreement and 'sign-off'.

The Clerk confirmed that he had received payment from HM Revenue & Customs for the last quarters VAT claim.

(b) Planning.

The Clerk reported that there were no new Planning Applications to be dealt with at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that five other Planning Applications were dealt with at a Planning sub-committee meeting held on the 2nd July 2009.

CA/09/00826/FUL – Proposal: Two-storey extension to side of dwelling: **Location:** 5 New Town Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7LT: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/00857/FUL – Proposal: Conservatory to south west elevation of dwelling: **Location:** Court Lodge, Parish Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LD: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/00858/LB – Proposal: Conservatory to south west elevation of dwelling: **Location:** Court Lodge, Parish Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LD: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/00606/FUL – Proposal: Erection of detached workshop/store and replacement detached garage: **Location:** South Mystole House, Mystole Park, Mystole Road, Chartham, CT4 7DB: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/00811/FUL – Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling with associated parking. (Revised Scheme): **Location:** Land rear of 12-14 Godfrey Gardens, Chartham, CT4 7TT: **PC Views:** As with the previous scheme we have concerns with the amount of parking spaces provided for the site and do not believe that 4 car parking spaces is adequate for the proposal.

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

CA/09/00692/FUL – Lindi, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7NA.

CA/09/00661/FUL – 6 Candler's Way, Chartham, CT4 7TU.

CA/09/00566/FUL – 3 Denstead Cottages, Denstead Lane, Chartham, CT4 7NL.

CA/09/00209/FUL – Land on north bank of River Stour, between Station Road, Chartham and Whitehall Road, Canterbury.

CA/09/00800/FUL – Burnt House Farm, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7HU.

The Clerk reported a 'Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area – at the access Road to Deanery Farm, Bolts Hill, Chartham – Remove some of the lower branches from a Willow tree, overhanging the access road. There is no intention to serve a Tree Preservation Order to control this work.

The Clerk noted a letter from a parishioner sent to CCC regarding concerns about the destruction of a great number of trees at 'Sand Down', Denstead Lane, Chartham Hatch.

The Clerk noted a request from EDF Energy to remove post & wires from opposite Rose Cottage in Bolts Hill. It was noted that separate work is also being undertaken on the other side of the railway line.

It was confirmed that the request to 'Locally List' the Water Tower at St. Augustine's has been agreed by the CCC Executive.

It was stated that the Clerk and Cllr. Dawes will be meeting next week with Jim McEwen the Head of Enforcement at CCC to discuss various local enforcement issues.

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

(c) Cemetery.

The Clerk noted a request from a Mr. Choi to erect a Memorial bench in the cemetery grounds in memory of his late wife. There were 'No Objections' from any members. The Clerk will advise Mr Choi accordingly.

The Clerk reported that the sale of the Cemetery Lodge is still progressing. It was noted that the buyers have been away on holiday until this week so we may receive some more news next week.

The Clerk reported that the buyers do not want the two sheds adjacent to the property, previously used by Ian Bingham for storage of the tractor mower and strimmers etc. The Clerk is arranging to move the two sheds to the top of the cemetery near the chalk dump to store the grave-diggers equipment. The sheds will be painted dark green and will be screened by the hedge near the chalk dump.

It was noted that Campbell's Fencing will install two new fence panels when the sheds are removed to reinstate the boundary line to the property.

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 have the appropriate meters read.

It was stated that the Burglar Alarm and telephone answering machine will be removed from the Lodge, unless the new buyers wish to keep the alarm system. The Burglar Alarm for the Chapel will now have to be separate once the Lodge is 'sold' and the Clerk will take this matter forward with Adrian Williams.

The Clerk noted that the paint on the rear wall of the Chapel has 'blown', possibly due to long-standing damp and requires brushing down and repainting. It was agreed that we should ask Graham Hoare to undertake the required repairs.

The car park tarmacing is to be taken forward now we have received further quotations from Ovenden's. It was noted that we have money from KCC and CCC grants as well as money put aside from the Precept. The Clerk is also taking forward the matter of searching for new funding providers to help with the cost of installing new paths and a roadway in the cemetery extension.

Cllr. Barlow noted a couple of problems relating to cemetery issues, in particular a request to sell back a burial plot. The Clerk is to ask CCC and Sturry Parish Council for further advice.

(d) Countryside.

The Clerk noted a request from a parishioner to install a 'dog and litter' warning sign as well as a dog bin at the gate across the field at the rear of the Royal British Legion. It was noted that the PROW Office have no objections, but they advised that we should contact CCC regarding the location of the dog bin.

Cllr. Dungay noted that the broken footpath post at Bolts Hill that was going to be reported by PCSO Chris Chapman, has still not been reinstated. Cllr. Dawes and Cllr. Butcher will take the issue forward.

Cllr. Dawes reported that footpath CB465 which runs along the side of the Primary School has become very overgrown. The PROW unit will investigate and put it on their list for regular clearing.

Cllr. Dawes reported that Bridleway CB358A was very muddy on its boundary with Iffin Lane. This has been reported and rectified by the PROW unit.

It was reported that the pathway from Bigbury Road to Howfield Lane is currently very overgrown. It will be reported to the North Downs Way organisation whose responsibility it is to clear.

It was also noted that there had been complaints regarding weeds along the fence boundary outside Folly Cottage at Howfield Lane. This is down to Kent Highway Services to clear, but the site will be investigated and if it is found to be in poor condition Alan Groombridge will be asked to clear it.

There will be no footpath walk in August 2009.

(e) Amenities.

The Clerk reported that three new salt/grit bins have now been installed at Chartham Hatch, Pomfret Road and in the village hall car park. Cllr. Goff noted a request to install another salt/grit bin at the entrance to Bakers Wood.

It was reported that two new litter bins have now been installed in the children's play area on the Memorial playing field and outside the shop on the Memorial playing field.

The Clerk noted that he will now order a further litter bin for the 'The Green', which was damaged recently.

The Clerk noted that he is due to visit Roger Casement Signs at Herne Bay shortly, to order various signs for the cemetery grounds, village hall, play areas and sports pavilion.

The Clerk reported that quotations for the proposed MUGA basketball/goal court at the Memorial playing field have been received and that he was currently investigating further grant applications to take the project forward.

Cllr. Dungay requested that the toilets are left open at the weekends. The Clerk will ask the current cleaner if she will open and lock the toilets at the weekend, and if not Cllr. Dungay volunteered her services.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee.

The next meeting of the No Man's Orchard Management Committee is on the 22nd July 2009.

The Clerk reported that the NMO Management Committee accounts for 2008/2009 have now been formally 'signed-off' by the Audit Commission.

The Clerk also confirmed that the VAT Claim of £583.08 for the 2008/2009 year had also been paid by HM Revenue & Customs.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion.

The Clerk reported that the building of the new Sports Pavilion is progressing on target with no major issues raised to date. Regular meetings are being held to discuss the build progress as well as other internal issues such as tiling and seating preferences and these have been taken forward by the Architect.

A plan of the new football pitches has been drawn up recently and this will enable the maintenance work such as mowing, rolling and weed-killing to progress.

A further planning application is being considered to extend the meeting room as there are funds available from the Football Foundation grant to fund this extension.

(b) Play Areas.

The Clerk noted that the Angling Society had not yet erected the signs around the lakes to deter 'Children playing near water', as agreed when the Parish Council removed the stile at the Shalmsford Street recreation ground. The Clerk has contacted the Angling Club Secretary but to date had not received a reply. Cllr. Butcher will take the matter forward.

The Clerk reported that the play area signs at the Senior and Junior play areas at St. Augustine's have been cleaned and repaired and will be reinstated this week.

The Clerk reported a problem with one of the swing sets at the junior play area at St. Augustine's. The cross beam holding two swings are rotten in a couple of places and the bolts holding the swings have become loose. The swings have been dismantled and the cross beam removed. The Clerk will check the manufacturers warranty on the play equipment and arrange suitable repairs as soon as possible.

Cllr. Dawes reported a 'Brass on the Grass' event at Chartham Hatch recreational ground on Saturday 18th July 2009 from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm.

(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

The Clerk noted a request from the Canterbury & District Early Years 'Mother & Toddler Group' to erect a notice-board in the village hall. The e-mail was passed to Cllr. Dungay to take forward at the next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr. Weatherall will also forward a similar request to the VHMC on behalf of the Youth Club.

The Clerk confirmed that Clague Architects have written twice recently to Berkeley Construction to try and address the last outstanding issue of the broken door frame on the patio door leading out to the Memorial playing field. A letter was sent on the 3rd July and we are waiting to see if Berkeley Construction will return to complete the repairs or whether we go ahead and use the Rational window fitters to undertake the repairs and then deduct the costs from the 'retention funds' held.

The Clerk confirmed that the new Parish Council notice-board and the Chairman's notice-board have been taken over to the sign-writer at Whitstable for painting and notation. The new Parish Council notice-board will be erected on the churchyard wall to replace the old damaged one.

It was questioned when the new loft hatch and ladder will be installed. The Clerk confirmed that the work will be undertaken in the next two weeks.

Cllr. Dungay asked on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee whether concrete gravel-boards could be erected around the fence line on the patio area at the rear of the hall. The idea was rejected and it was agreed to continue asking Alan Groombridge to weed-kill around the bottom of the fence.

A request was made by the 'Mother & Toddler Group' to use the Memorial playing field between the 28th July 2009 and the 11th August 2009, for various games and activities. There were 'no objections' as long as the group has its own insurance in place.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

The Clerk noted that he had spoken to Richard Dixon at Kent Highway Services about the continuing problem of broken bollards at the Chartham Hatch crossroads. A Kent Highway Service's team will visit the area and look at erecting stronger crash barriers to protect the drainage system. We will be advised of their decision in due course.

The Clerk noted the news of the resurfacing of Shalmsford in August 2009, which is due to take 8 days and will result in road closures and diversions around the village.

The Clerk will contact KCC Cllr. John Simmonds regarding the proposed works at St. Augustine's that should have been undertaken by the developers Taylor Wimpey by the end of June 2009.

(b) Police Liaison:

The Clerk read out a report from Kent Police PC 8351 Paul Gibson, noting various issues around the CCC parishes. Problems noted included organised raves, stolen trailers and ride-on tractor mowers, identity fraud and multi-agency operations involving the DVLA and CCC.

It was reported that the Clerk and Cllr. Dawes are due to visit Nackington Police Station next week to see the PCSO Supervisor Dave Garland, regarding the recent Kent Police leaflet that was posted to many households recently, as some of the information quoted was incorrect.

The Clerk read out a report from the KCC Warden as follows:

- More Trading Standard alerts with reference to bogus callers, and also duster sellers. Don't let them in, call the KCC Warden on 07969 583918. There was one caller last week and he was very confrontational.
- White Ford Fiesta registrations P847 YUM, there were two occupants seen in Bakers Wood sucking gas from balloons and generally being a nuisance. They are not local but spend a lot of time in Rentain Road sitting in the car. If you see them contact PCSO Chris Chapman or the KCC Warden.
- Various complaints have been received from parishioners ranging from overgrown hedges to boy racers. Using your car in an anti-social way could lead to a Section 59 charge.
- Graffiti is still being tackled but the current situation is not bad.
- Pot-holes in Shalmsford Street have been filled by Kent Highway Services.
- Remember to ask for ID from anyone claiming to be from the Gas, Electricity, Water or any other service. If they are genuine they won't mind you asking.
- Summer holidays are looming so there will be more children around the village, along with families on holiday. Please be vigilant if your neighbour is away. If you think anything is suspicious call the Police.
- The Clerk reported that our KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth, is due to go to a Buckingham House garden party on the 21st July 2009 after being nominated for all his hard work in and around the parish.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 11th August 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 08.57 p.m.

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