

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5PW.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman	Cllr. J. Jeffries
Cllr. C. Barlow	Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. P. Graveson	Cllr. D. Butcher
Cllr. D. Frost	Cllr. D. Weatherall
Cllr. D. Thompson – Vice-Chairman	Cllr. R. Doyle CCC
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk	

PCSO Chris Chapman.

One member of the public.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. M. Goff, Cllr. S. Dungay

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 12th May 2009 (previously circulated).

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

Resolution carried unanimously.

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

Cllr. Dawes reported an interest in Item 8 on the 'Correspondence' file.

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

No changes in member's interests were noted.

(4) MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk noted that he had asked Alan Groombridge to remove the stile at the Shalmsford Street recreation ground as per the agreement reached at the last Parish Council meeting.

(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 – Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 26th May 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.

Item 2: CCC – Development Control Committee – List of Planning Applications – Tuesday 26th May 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.

Item 3: Kent Voice – Protect Kent – Spring 2009. A copy was available for all members to read. Cllr. Jeffries took the document for perusal.

Item 4: Clancydocwra – Letter of thanks – Chilham Potable Water Main. Cllr. Dawes read out the ‘letter of thanks’ from Clancydocwra.

Item 5: North Downs Way – National Trail – New signage for the North Downs Way National Trail. Cllr. Dawes noted details of the project to erect new signage on the North Downs Way.

Item 6: AWCIRK – Rural News. A copy was available for all members to read.

Item 7: KCC – Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Adoption of revised Kent Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. Details were noted to all members.

Item 8: Letter from Chartham Hatch Village Hall Society – Requesting a Donation. Cllr. Dawes read out a letter requesting a donation to help towards the refurbishment of the kitchen at Chartham Hatch village hall. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the request should be taken to the next ‘Amenities’ Committee meeting for a decision to be made. It was also noted that Chartham Hatch Village Hall Society should investigate grant applications of their own with organisations such as ‘Awards for All’ and ‘Collyer-Ferguson’.

Item 9: Kent Downs AONB – Village Signing. Cllr. Dawes read out the letter and discussion took place on the proposals made to provide alternative village signing to indicate ‘that your village is located within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’. It was agreed that the village could benefit from the erection of three or four signs in the parish dependent on where Kent Downs AONB would agree to the signs being located.

Item 10: Kent Air Ambulance Trust – Textile Bank Initiative. Cllr. Dawes noted details of the proposal to site ‘Textile Banks’ to help raise vital funds for the Kent Air Ambulance. A location was requested with suitable vehicle access and it was noted that the project would ‘not cost the parish a penny to show its support’. Concerns were noted regarding the possibility of the fires being started with such a large amount of textiles being stored. It was agreed that the Clerk would check with the Trust to find out the size of the containers and check for possible locations.

Item 11: Southern Water – Performance Report 2008/2009. A copy was available for all members to read.

Item 12: KCC – Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate – Statement of Community Involvement scoping consultation. Details were noted to all members and the Clerk and Cllr. Dawes will liaise to complete the questionnaire.

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

(a) **Finance and General Purposes.**

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

The Clerk reported that he had asked Jo Newman Estate Agents to undertake the valuation of all the Parish Council properties. Once new figures are received the Clerk will update the Parish Council Fixed Asset Register and forward details to our insurers Zurich Municipal. It was noted that due to the current housing market 'slump' the valuations would probably be lower than last year, but this might lead to a reduction in our insurance premium.

It was reported that at the recent Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting a resolution was passed to agree that the 2008/2009 Accounts were in order and could be forwarded to the Audit Commission for formal agreement and 'sign-off'.

The Clerk noted that a couple of issues relating to the accounts will be discussed further at the next Finance & General Purposes meeting, along with recommendations for the Clerks pension scheme.

Cllr. Barlow also noted that a new formal monitoring system of the Clerks expenses would be put in place as per our Financial Regulations and that Cllr. Dawes would now 'sign-off' all claims on a monthly basis.

(b) **Planning.**

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

The Clerk reported that four other planning applications were dealt with at a planning sub-committee meeting held on the 3rd June 2009.

CA/04/1246/R (vi) – Proposal: Restoration delayed until 31st December 2011: **Location:** Concrete Batching Plant, Milton Quarry, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7PH. **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/TEMP/0017 – Proposal: New slip road linking from the existing A28 Thanington Road to the existing A2 dual carriageway. The scheme will provide access onto the A2 London Bound from the Wincheap and Thanington Area. Demolition of former Community centre building, relocation of existing BMX track formalisation of parking spaces for existing community Centre building: **Location:** A28 Thanington Road, and A2 Canterbury By-Pass, Thanington Without, Canterbury, Kent: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/00692/FUL – Proposal: Two-storey extension to side of dwelling: **Location:** Lindi, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7NA. **PC Views:** No Objections as long as there is adequate car parking on the site for at least 2 cars,

CA/09/00661/FUL – Proposal: Single-storey extensions to side and rear of dwelling: **Location:** 6 Clanders Way, Chartham, CT4 7TU: **PC Views:** No Objections.

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

CA/09/00437/FUL – 73 Rentain Road, Chartham, CT4 7JJ.

CA/09/00559/FUL – 27 Magnolia Drive, Chartham, CT4 7TG.

The Clerk noted that he had spoken to the CCC Enforcement Officer regarding the ongoing issues at Bigberry Farm, and that he was informed that the case Officer is to meet with the Head of Enforcement this week to try and resolve all local concerns raised.

Cllr. Dawes noted that she would like the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Head of Enforcement at CCC to discuss various enforcement issues that seem to occur on a regular basis.

(c) Cemetery.

The Clerk reported that the sale of the Cemetery Lodge is progressing through our and the buyers Solicitors. It was noted that the buyers are away on holiday from late June until the 10th July 2009, but that their Solicitors have been given authority to sign contracts on their behalf if the sale can go through during this period.

The Clerk reported that he had now received the funds of £4,847 from the two grants applied for, for the resurfacing of the cemetery car park. It was noted that the Clerk had met with a further contractor last week to discuss quotations for tarmacing the car park and installing a new roadway and pathways at the cemetery extension.

It was reported that the Clerk and Cllr. Jeffries are still updating the cemetery grave plans to computer format and completing the review of 'Dangerous Memorials'.

Cllr. Jeffries questioned whether there should be toilets available to the public at the cemetery. It was noted that 'signs' will be erected at the grounds noting the location of the nearest toilets at the Memorial playing field.

(d) Countryside.

The Clerk noted a request from BTCV for a contribution towards the running of the Kent Tree Warden scheme at £100 per tree and pond warden. After discussion it was agreed to pay for the services of two tree wardens for the last year. A resolution to pay £200 for the two wardens was proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Jeffries. It was also agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to BTCV informing them of how we arrived at our decision.

Cllr. Butcher reported that the footpaths across the fields at the back of Thruxted lane have now been cut.

Cllr. Dawes reported that By-way CB449 from Primrose Hill to Denstead Lane was impassable in places. The issue has been reported to the PROW Officer who has stated that he will investigate the problem.

The next footpath walk is on Sunday 14th June 2009 at 2.30 pm from outside the Royal British Legion. Jenny Harries will be leading the walk and can be contacted on 731395.

It was also noted that there is a Youth Club walk on Sunday 14th June 2009 at 11.00 am from the village hall.

(e) Amenities.

The Clerk noted that he had ordered a further litter bin for the play area on the Memorial playing field and another for 'The Green', which is broken.

The Clerk reported that he had asked Alan Groombridge to erect four new salt/grit bins at Chartham Hatch, Pomfret Road and in the village hall car park.

The Clerk reported that discussion had taken place about the proposed MUGA basketball/goal court at the Memorial playing field and that he was currently investigating the cost of tarmacing the court.

It was reported that the play area signs at St. Augustine's have been vandalised and they have been taken away for repair and cleaning.

The Clerk noted that he had ordered some new signs for the village hall, to confirm 'wheelchair' exits from the hall in the case of a fire.

It was reported that the new notice-board for the St. Mary's churchyard wall is nearly finished, and that it just requires painting and 'sign-writing'. The notice-board will be painted green with gold lettering.

It was also noted that the Chairman's notice-board will be looked at by the 'sign-writer' with a view to have the names of the Chairman noted in full instead of just their initials.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee.

The next meeting of the No Man's Orchard Management Committee is on the 17th June 2009.

The Clerk reported that the NMO Management Committee accounts for 2008/2009 have now been completed and forwarded to the Audit Commission for formal 'sign-off'.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion.

The Clerk reported that the building of the new Sports Pavilion commenced on the 1st June 2009. The site has been cleared and the footings are being dug this week. The build time is approximately 28 weeks.

It was noted that there is a Kentish Gazette photo call at the site on Saturday 13th June 2009.

(b) Play Areas.

The Clerk noted that the transfer of the strip of land adjacent to the Chartham Hatch recreation ground to the Parish Council has been completed and the registration of the land had been completed by the Land Registry Office.

The Clerk reported that a parishioner had had requested that a further goal-post is erected at the Shalmsford Street recreation ground as there is only one goal-post in place at present. The other goal was removed last year due to Health & Safety issues. The Clerk will investigate the cost of a new goal-post and may be able to get a good deal through the Football Foundation.

(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

The Clerk noted a meeting yesterday with Rationel fitters and James Ford from Clague Architects to discuss and view the outstanding issues relating to the patio doors. Repairs were undertaken to the patio doors leading to the patio area at the rear of the hall. However, it was noted that the wooden frame is broken on the doors leading from the lounge to the Memorial playing field and that one of the hinges had been put on upside down and incorrect short screws used. The Architect will write to Berkeley Construction informing them of the issues found and stating that we would like Rationel to undertake the repairs.

Cllr. Barlow stated that the Village Hall Management Committee would like a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss further issues relating to the hall.

Cllr. Barlow also noted that new signage will be erected on the side of the village hall and confirmed that Steve Davies at CCC Planning Department had been contacted and that planning permission was not required.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

The Clerk noted that there were no new Highway issues to discuss.

(b) Police Liaison:

The Clerk noted that he attended the Police Parish Forum on Saturday 6th June 2009 at Nackington Police Station. The agenda was varied with a number of issues discussed including road safety initiatives with Police mounting road side checks to deter metal thefts, rogue traders, waste transport licences, and benefit fraud checks. The Police are undertaking speed gun checks in a number of locations throughout the Canterbury area and they are also looking at people using mobile phones and cars with 'tinted' glass to see if the glass meets the strict regulations laid down.

School 'Road Safety' initiatives have been undertaken at Sturry, Littlebourne and Hersden School's and it was thought that this could be something that could be arranged at Chartham Primary School. The KCC Warden will be contacted to take this project forward.

The problem of dog-fouling was also discussed and it was stated that this is something that Kent Police hoped that PCSO's could eventually issue.

The Clerk also reported on the initiative by guest speaker Kirsty Heath who is proposing to get more young people involved with Parish Councils and to attend meetings. The Clerk noted that he would enclose a copy of her proposals in every members post.

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

There were more Trading Standard alerts with reference to bogus callers, and also duster sellers. Don't let them in, call Tom 07969 583918.

A lorry hit a wall at Chartham Hatch, the owner of the property obtained the lorry details and Kent Police is dealing with the issue.

There has been a spate of plants in pots being stolen from door steps, if you're a victim of this call 01622 690690 or Canterbury 01227 762055.

A nuisance quad bike black in colour coming from Highland Road, the house is known, and if spotted please call Kent Police.

Also, a nuisance motorbike from Rentain Road, black with red exhaust covers, again call Kent Police.

The problem of parking outside the school has arisen again. Please remember these are your children at the school, so park responsibly and try walking the short distance to the school. Some of the parking and attitudes from some parents beggars belief.

The Youth Club is still gaining in numbers, which is a credit to the villagers and helpers.

Horton Manor bridge along the river path is in a dangerous state of repair, I would recommend that people stay off the bridge for their own safety.

Chris Chapman the new Police Community Support Officer for Chartham made the following report.

The PCSO stated that there had been a couple of incidents of vehicle crime at Chestnut Close, where tyres were slashed and a corrosive substance was thrown at a car. The Police are continuing their investigations.

It was noted that the riverside bridge at Horton Manor is in poor condition and should not be used. The bridge is private property owned by the people who own the farm. This statement was contested and further enquiries as to who owns the bridge will be undertaken.

It was reported that there had been a number of plant thefts from driveways as well as trees stolen from the Memorial field. If anyone has any information please call the PCSO on 0777 2226034.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 14th July 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 08.46 p.m.

Chairman.....**Date**.....