

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5HX.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman
Cllr. C. Barlow
Cllr. P. Graveson
Cllr. D. Butcher
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk

Cllr. J. Jeffries
Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. S. Dungay
CCC Cllr. R. Doyle

KCC Community Warden - Tom Tucker-Smyth, Police Community Support Officer - Chris Chapman.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Thompson, Cllr. D. Weatherall, Cllr. M. Goff.

The Clerk noted with regret the resignation of Cllr. D. Frost from the Parish Council. The Clerk will notify CCC of the situation and will write to Cllr. Frost on behalf of the council thanking him for his service to the parish.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 8th September 2009 (previously circulated).

Proposed by: Cllr. Jeffries and Seconded by: Cllr. A. Frost.

Resolution carried unanimously.

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

No interest was noted by any member 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

No issues were raised.

(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 15th September 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 2: Ashford Borough Council – Planning & Development Services – Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – Comments were requested by 26th October 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 3: Over 60's Community Service (Northgate Ward & Canterbury District) – Chartham Parish Report 2009. Cllr. Dawes noted specific local issues that were raised in the report to all members. It was agreed that Cllr. Dawes and the Clerk would respond to the report and the KCC Community Warden would also put together an article for the Parish Magazine regarding 'Winter Watch'.
- Item 4: CCC – Joint Meeting of the Rural Area (North) Member Panel and the Rural Area (South) Member Panel – Monday 28th September 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 5: KCC – New Public Rights of Way Officer – Canterbury District. Details of the appointment of Louise Adams were noted to all members.
- Item 6: Street Monitors Meeting – Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 7: KCC – Kent Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Consultation on the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 8: Eastern & Coastal Kent NHS – Annual Report 2008/2009. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 9: KCC – Mobile Library Service. Cllr. Dawes outlined details of the service available, noting that from April 2010 the mobile libraries would be run by only one member of staff instead of two. It was also suggested that the current times and location of the mobile library visiting the parish should be noted in the Parish Magazine.
- Item 10: CCC – Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 13th October 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 11: CCC – Standards Committee – Agenda – Wednesday 14th October 2009. A copy was available for all members to read.
- The Clerk noted an e-mail from Sandra Cook on behalf of the Farmers Market/Craft Fair asking if they can use the village hall car park on the 5th December 2009 to park a 'charity organ' to help raise money for the Pilgrims Hospice. The request was agreed by the Parish Council.
- A request was also made to advertise an American Supper on behalf of the Youth Club on the 24th October 2009 and for a Wine & Wisdom Evening on the 5th December 2009 on the village hall fencing. The requests were agreed by the Parish Council.

- A further request was also made to use the Memorial playing field on Sunday 5th September 2010 by the Chartham Fete Committee. The Request was agreed by the Parish Council.
- The Clerk noted a letter from South East Water regarding the 'Howfield to Chilham new water main to secure supplies for Ashford'. It was noted that the sending of this letter to every member of the Parish Council was a complete waste of money, especially as South East Water is a public utility. It was suggested that the Clerk writes to South East Water informing them that one letter sent to the Clerk was quite sufficient.

(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 have now been returned, formally 'signed-off' by the Audit Commission.

The Clerk reported that members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee had met last evening to discuss the 2010/2011 Concurrent Funding application to be submitted to CCC. It was agreed that we would submit an application for £41,445.70 to CCC to cover the maintenance and upkeep of recreation grounds and open spaces, closed burial grounds and cemeteries, bus shelters and the village hall. The figure is less than last year's due to CCC capping the number of grass cuts to 22, this is to ensure that all parishes are in-line with the number of cuts undertaken by SERCO.

(b) Planning:

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

CA/09/01449/FUL – Proposal: Vehicle crossover: **Location:** Bywood, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7NA: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/01255/FUL – Proposal: Erection of storage shelter: **Location:** Burnt House Farm, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7HU: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/01377/FUL – Proposal: Conversion and extension of Nursing Home to provide 2 flats and accommodation for supported independent living: **Location:** Tarn Lodge, 37-39 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7RS: **PC Views:** No Objections.

The Clerk reported that one other Planning Application was dealt with at a planning sub-committee meeting on the 7th October 2009.

CA/09/01364/FUL – Proposal: Conservatory to rear of dwelling: **Location:** 173 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7QP: **PC Views:** No Objections.

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

CA/09/01162/FUL – Howfield Farm, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7HQ.

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

CA/09/00858/FUL – Court Lodge, Parish Road, Chartham, CT4 7LD.

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

CA/09/01106/FUL – Sand Down, Gravel Hill, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7NJ.

The Clerk reported that the CCC Enforcement Team is still looking into the issue of the erection of a dwelling at Bigberry Farm without planning permission.

(c) Cemetery:

The Clerk reported that the sale of the Cemetery Lodge is still progressing slowly as the Solicitors now have to register the driveway and grounds of the cemetery as the original cemetery deeds cannot be traced. Robinsons have had to apply to HM Land Registry to register the driveway and grounds which is a time consuming and complicated process.

It was noted that the sheds near the lodge have now been moved to the top of the cemetery grounds for use by the grave-digger.

The Clerk is awaiting funds from the sports club before approaching Ovenden's to tarmac the cemetery car park.

The Clerk is also investigating different funding opportunities for the tarmacing and the installation of a new roadway and pathways at the cemetery extension.

(d) Countryside:

The Clerk noted an e-mail from Chris Wallis at CCC Streetscene regarding 'Dog Control Orders' which had already been circulated to all members. It was suggested that we could do with two new dog bins at the Senior Play area recreation grounds and a further dog bin on the cricket pitch near the new sports pavilion at St. Augustine's.

The Clerk noted an e-mail from Cllr. Graveson which he had received from a parishioner complaining about the stile at the side of the Primary School, noting that she was not able to lift her dog over it. The matter is something which is out of the control of the Parish Council as we have no jurisdiction over the ownership of the stile.

Cllr. Butcher noted that he had sent various forms to the PROW Office asking for various jobs to be undertaken around the parish.

Cllr. Barlow questioned whether there was any progress on the removal of the stile near 'The Firs' at Ashford Road. Cllr. Dawes will contact Louise Adams at the PROW Office to ascertain the current position.

Cllr. Dawes noted that Tony Gowers is investigating who is responsible for the maintenance of the footpath from Bigberry Road to Howfield Lane.

The next footpath walk will be on Sunday 15th November 2009 at 2.00 pm from opposite the Royal British Legion Hall. Pat and Tony White will be leading the walk and can be contacted on 01227 730432.

(e) Amenities:

Cllr. Dungay noted that the proposed MUGA basketball & goal facility had been put on hold due to the exorbitant cost and the timescales to obtain grants for the project. It was noted that we may now progress the installation of a single basketball/goal which could be the subject of a grant application to Collyer-Ferguson (AWCIRK) by the Youth Club or Sports Club. This will be taken forward by the Clerk.

It was noted that the toilets on the Memorial playing field are now shut at weekends, with Cllr. Dungay volunteering to open them up next spring when the evening and mornings become light again.

It was reported that the salt bins at St. Augustine's are empty. The Clerk noted that it is still the responsibility of Taylor Wimpey to fill the bins until the roads are adopted by Kent County Council. The Clerk will check with KHS what the current position is this year for all the parishes that have salt/grit bins to fill before the winter.

The issue of installing disabled play equipment on the Memorial playing field was discussed at a recent Amenities Committee meeting and it was agreed that we should investigate the matter further, but that any new equipment would be subject to favourable grant applications as the equipment is expensive, being in the region of £9,500 for a roundabout.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee:

The Clerk reported that a NMO meeting took place recently and that most of the discussion centred on the 'dead trees' in the orchard and the committees plans to replace them with new trees next year.

It is hoped that a NMO newsletter will be produced shortly noting orchard news and future events.

The next NMO meeting is on the 14th January 2010.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion:

The Clerk reported that Sports Pavilion build is still progressing on target for completion in early December 2009. The roof is on with windows and doors installed and the building is now water-tight. The cladding on the outside of the building is almost complete and the under-floor heating is to be installed within the next week.

The Clerk noted that Craig Low from the Football Foundation had visited the site two weeks ago to access the progress of the build programme and reported that he was suitably impressed with its progress and the quality of the facility.

(b) Play Areas:

The Clerk reported that repairs had now taken place to the crossbeam on the swings at the Junior play area at St. Augustine's.

The Clerk reported that a new gate had also been installed at the Junior play area to meet ROSPA recommendations on access/exits gates to deter bullying.

It was noted that the entrance gate to the Junior play area site has been moved to the front of the play area for easier access and a new pathway built to enable pushchair access from the road to the site.

Repairs have also been undertaken on the vandalised fencing at the Senior play area site at St. Augustine's.

It was reported that repairs have also been undertaken to the gate at the Laurel Way play area.

The hinges on the gates at the Memorial playing field play area have been replaced by Campbell's Fencing after youths were found to be swinging on the gates.

The Clerk noted that he has asked RSS twice to visit the play area sites at St. Augustine's and inspect the play equipment for any potential signs of rot.

(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

The Clerk reported that Berkeley Construction has now been paid in full and that the village hall is now fully under the ownership of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee.

It was noted that the Herts Door & Window Company are due to complete the repairs to the patio doors in the lounge on Thursday/Friday this week.

The Clerk read out a letter from the VHMC to the Parish Council asking members to nominate a Parish Council representative to stand on the VHMC, at this year's AGM. Cllr. Dawes expressed a desire to stand and Cllr. Barlow proposed a resolution that Cllr. Dawes stands as the Parish Council representative on the VHMC for 2010. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Dungay.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

The Clerk noted that he is still awaiting news from Richard Dixon at KHS regarding the reinstatement of the bollards on the crossroads at Chartham Hatch.

The Clerk noted that he was due to attend a meeting at Kent Highway Services offices on Thursday this week regarding the roll out of the 'KHS Parish Portal' system. This will enable the Clerk and Councillors to report Highway problems such as pot-holes, street lighting etc, and will also provide the facility to track the progress of each incident and to provide regular reports.

(b) Police /KCC Warden Liaison:

The KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth noted the following issues:

- There have been no more reports of nuisance youths breaking in at the sports pavilion site.
- I recently completed an inspection with Helen Cross and Aidan Potts from CCC, as well as

Cllr. Doyle around the village. Quite a few action points came out of it with some houses noted as detrimental to the local area. Helen has sent letters and visited the occupiers.

- The 2 car parking areas in Rentain Road are strictly for permit holders who pay for the right to park there. Helen is in talks with Bob Pollard to see if they can police this area on behalf of the Council.
- Good News. We now have two new willing volunteers to undertake Speedwatch. They are keen to get on with the project, so thanks to them, and 'watch out Chartham'.
- A new type of graffiti solvent is being used to etch on to glass. The chemical is called Hydrofluoric Acid and it is very corrosive and is used in Bingo pens. This form of tagging is called "Dutch Tagging". DO NOT TOUCH.
- Most local Supermarkets have got the 'no trick or treats' posters in stock and they available for all residents to stick on their doors and windows.
- Last Thursday I and another KKC Warden gave a safety talk to the children at the Firs Nursery School and gave out stickers. Thank you to all the staff for their kindness to us both.
- A local youth is squatting in a caravan on Mr. Crouch's land at Bakers Lane. PC Gibson was informed last week and is taking the matter forward.
- Last Monday at 20.00 hrs a red ford fiesta was seen wheel spinning on Station Road? We know who it is!
- On doing my late shifts I have noticed some streetlights not working. I will be reporting these on the new 'Parish Portal' system to KHS.
- I received 24 phone calls this month, mainly for enquiries and advice.
- I gave a talk to the Over 60s on 'Beat the Bogeyman'.
- Twice dogs have recently fouled the play park on the Memorial field, even with signage saying '**no dogs allowed**'. These irresponsible dog owners get responsible owners a bad name. It's your dog your mess and you should clean it up.

Police Community Support Officer Chris Chapman noted the following issues:

- There has been a recent spate of calls to elderly people from a company called SAS Alarms, trying to obtain householder details. This is a bogus company and if anyone has a call from them please contact me.
- Please use the 'Handy-van' services for locks and other safety services that are available free of charge.
- Speeding in Shalmsford Street is still a concern and I will be working with colleagues to try and tackle the problem, and in conjunction with the Speedwatch team.
- Ant-Social behaviour reports are being submitted to the Police.

- Fly-posting - Make sure that any posters erected have been authorised by CCC or they can be removed without notice. Some local organisations should be warned of this issue as there is a cost involved if posters are erected and then removed because they have been put up illegally.
- Any graffiti around the parish should be reported to the PCSO or the KCC Warden.
- Further details of the 'Dial a Bus' scheme will be obtained, as it is felt there is a need in the parish for a bus for the elderly to use for shopping and for other trips to Age Concern etc.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 10th November 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 09.10 p.m.

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