

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 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. M. Goff
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk

Cllr. J. Jeffries
Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. S. Dungay
KCC Cllr. J. Simmonds

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Butcher, Cllr. D. Frost, Cllr. D. Thompson, Cllr. D. Weatherall.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 11th August 2009 (previously circulated).

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

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 noted a 'letter of thanks' received from the Chartham Hatch Village Hall Society for the recent donation from the Parish Council towards the refurbishment of their kitchen.

The Clerk reported that Southern Water had recently sent a team to clear up and weed the sewage pumping station on the Memorial playing field. It was noted that nothing has been done regarding either painting the fencing or erecting new fencing to further tidy up the site, but the Clerk will chase them again in the next couple of weeks.

The Clerk suggested that the Parish Council should give a 'vote of thanks' to the Chartham Fete Committee and all the volunteers who worked extremely hard to organise another successful fete at the weekend.

Cllr. A. Frost questioned what was the outcome of the recent meeting between KCC Cllr. J. Simmonds, Steve Davies from CCC and the Clerk, when they were discussing the adoption of the roads, street lighting, etc at St. Augustine's.

KCC Cllr. Simmonds reported that the developers started work on the roads at St. Augustine's last week, with a view to adopt the roads, street lighting, and sewers as soon as possible. The work will take approximately 2-3 months. It was reported that Steve Davies at CCC Development Control is investigating the possibility of taking legal action against the Greenbelt Company for their failure to meet their maintenance responsibilities at the site. It was noted that the Hyde Housing Association and the Parish Council are currently meeting their responsibilities for the areas which they maintain.

(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 18th August 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 2: CCC – Development Control Committee – List of Planning Applications – Tuesday 18th August 2009. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 3: CCC – Herne Bay Area Action Plan – Submission to the Secretary of State (Regulation 30). Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 4: CCC – Invite to Rural Forum – 28th September 2009. Details were noted to all members by Cllr. Dawes. The Clerk will attend the meeting.
- The Clerk noted a letter from a parishioner asking that the Parish Council discuss the village hall hire fees, which were considered to be too high. Cllr. Dungay replied on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee stating that the fees had been compared with other local halls in the area and that they were very competitive. It was noted that the letter has been referred to Jenny Bradbury at AWCIRK for further advice. It was also noted that the hire fees are purely a matter for the VHMC to decide and that they were viewed as being fair and competitive. A letter of response will be sent to the parishioner by the VHMC.

(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. Dungay.

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 a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting will have to be arranged in the next few weeks to discuss and agree the Concurrent Funding application for the 2010-2011 year. It was noted that Cllr. Dawes and the Clerk are due to attend a CCC meeting tomorrow evening to review the recommendations of the CCC Executive regarding the Concurrent Funding function and the ability of all parishes to try and save money.

(b) **Planning.**

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

CA/09/00953/FUL – Proposal: Sports Pavilion (Revised Scheme): **Location:** Sports Pavilion, Beech Avenue, Chartham: **PC Views:** No Objections.

The Clerk reported that two other Planning Applications were dealt with at a planning sub-committee meeting on the 19th August 2009.

CA/09/01162/FUL – Proposal: Use of land for the storage of seasonal workers' caravans during the winter months. (Renewal): **Location:** Howfield Farm, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7HQ: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/09/01106/FUL – Proposal: Demolition of dwelling and erection of 3 dwellings and detached double garage: **Location:** Sand Down, Gravel Hill, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7NJ: **PC Views:** The Parish Council strongly objects to the planning application. The planning application does not comply with the recommendations made in Chartham Parish Design Statement. It will set a precedent for building similar developments within our parish. The houses although a very good design do not appear to be in keeping with the surrounding properties (bungalows) and they are being built up to the site boundary line with agricultural buildings! If further trees are damaged, who will oversee the replanting of trees as the site has been decimated currently? There is a narrow access road to and from the site and this is not adequate to support further vehicles exiting onto an already busy road. The plot of land now appears much larger since the removal of the large number of trees and as such is the land outside the original plot subject to 'change of use'? We would also refer you to a decision made on the 12th May 2004 concerning land at the rear of the Royal Oak at Chartham Hatch, which was for four dwellings, garaging, new access and parking. This project was 'Refused' on the following grounds and as such also forms the basis of our objections. 1. The proposed development is contrary to Policy RS1, RS2 & RS5 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2001-2011 which provide that development will not be permitted in rural Kent other than at the small rural towns and villages except in certain specified circumstances. There is no justification for granting permission in this case. 2. The proposed development would be contrary to Policy ENV1 of the Canterbury District Local Plan 2001-2011, which states that the countryside will be protected for its own sake and development which adversely affects it will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need. No such need has been justified. 3. The proposed development would be contrary to Policies in that it would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the rural locality.

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

CA/09/01018/FUL – Pegasus, 9 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7RZ.

Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area:

16 River Court, Chartham – Reduce crown of twin stemmed Horse Chestnut in rear garden by a maximum of 25%: No Objections from the Parish Council.

It was reported that the CCC Enforcement Team are investigating the matter of persons living in two caravans on sites at Chartham Hatch without permission.

The Clerk noted that the CCC Enforcement Team is still making enquiries regarding an 'untidy' site at Chartham Hatch.

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

Cllr. Goff noted that the advertising sign on the wall of a house near the Artichoke should be taken down as it is in a Conservation Area and a distraction to drivers. The Clerk will check with CCC Development Control to see if the sign is legal.

(c) Cemetery.

The Clerk reported that the sale of the Cemetery Lodge is still progressing, but is nearing completion after the buyers have queried a couple of issues. We are hoping to complete the sale within the next couple of weeks.

It was noted that the resurfacing of the cemetery car park will be reviewed once the sale of the Cemetery Lodge goes through.

(d) Countryside.

The Clerk noted that he had recently contacted Kent Downs AONB regarding their offer to provide new village signs advertising the Kent downs AONB. The Clerk read out an e-mail response to all members. Hopefully new signs will be in place by the year end, but we have to wait and see what available budget Kent Highway Services has as they will be installing the signs. KCC Cllr. J. Simmonds stated that he may be able to find the funds available to install the signs.

Cllr. Dungay questioned how visitors get to Horton Manor to look around the Chapel. It was stated that anyone wanting to visit the Chapel should contact Brett's.

Cllr. Jeffries questioned how the Pond Wardens were progressing with their survey of the parish ponds. The Clerk will contact the warden by e-mail to check the current situation.

It was reported that the broken footpath post at the rear of the Royal British Legion has still not been reinstated. The Clerk will take the matter forward.

The next footpath walk will be on Sunday 11th October 2009 at 2.30 pm from opposite the Royal British Legion Hall. Sandra and Martin Cook will be leading the walk.

(e) Amenities.

The Clerk reported that the shingle tiles on the roof of the bus shelter at the top of Arnold Road have been repaired after recent vandalism.

It was reported that the new notice-board for the St. Mary's churchyard wall has been collected from the sign-writer and installed.

The Clerk noted that he had contacted CCC Streetscene regarding the erection of a litter bin on the grass area somewhere between Bakers Lane and Arnold Road. It was reported that CCC stated that there should be a litter bin at the top of Arnold Road. The City Council will check the site and install one as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that Campbell's Fencing will undertake repairs to the gates on the Memorial playing field play area, where the hinges have been damaged by people swinging on the gates.

Cllr. Barlow raised the matter of a number of incorrect details being noted in the Parish Magazine, relating to Parish Council issues. It was stated that the date of the Parish Council meeting was incorrect, as was the note that the 'cemetery' was up for sale. There were also incorrect references to the village hall 'Trust Deed'. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Dawes will provide details of what should be published in the Parish Magazine from Parish Council meetings.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee.

The Clerk reported that he is chasing the BBC for payment after they used No Man's Orchard recently for a day's filming.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion.

The Clerk reported that Sports Pavilion build is progressing on target with the roof now on and the first-fix electrics having been installed. The plumbers are due to start work tomorrow.

It was nice to report that vandalism at the site has stopped and there has been no further report of items being stolen from the site.

The Clerk noted that Campbell's Fencing have started work fencing the Cricket ground at St. Augustine's as part of the Football Foundation grant.

(b) Play Areas.

The Clerk read out a letter from a parishioner requesting that the Parish Council consider the installation of 'disabled' play equipment at the Memorial playing field. The issue was discussed and it was agreed that the request would be discussed at the next Amenities Committee meeting. KCC Cllr. J. Simmonds stated that he would look into the funding for specific disabled play equipment. The Clerk was requested to check what CCC position is regarding the installation of disabled play equipment on their play areas.

The Clerk reported the repairs to the crossbeam on the swings at the 'junior' play area at St. Augustine's had been undertaken. The crossbeam was removed on Health & Safety grounds and the Clerk has written to RSS asking them to visit the site and inspect the rest of the play equipment for any potential signs of rot.

Cllr. Dungay reported that the see-saw on the Memorial playing field was 'stiff' and required oiling.

(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

The Clerk reported that Clagues have now issued the final valuation to Berkeley Construction in the sum of £9,676.21, and that this now finalises our payments to Berkeley Construction.

It was noted that the Herts Door & Window Company are still to complete the repairs to the patio doors in the lounge and that we are waiting for the new frame to be made and its installation to be carried out.

It was hoped that the Trust Deed confirming the running of the village hall and payment of all bills could be officially agreed by the VHMC on the 1st December 2009, after the VHMC Annual General meeting.

The Clerk noted that the Chairman's notice-board has now been updated by the 'sign-writer'.

Cllr. Barlow reported on a visit to Robinsons Solicitors regarding the village hall Trust Deed, which has been updated and will be clarified after Sandra Worth has consulted with Jenny Bradbury from AWCIRK.

Discussion took place between all members regarding the use of the parish office at the village hall.

Cllr. Barlow suggested that now the final payment has been made regarding the village hall we should put together a schedule of costs including the purchase of the hall and car park from Arjo Wiggins, the build cost by Berkeley Construction, grants received etc. Cllr. Barlow, Cllr. Dawes and the Clerk will liaise over the compilation of the figures.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

The Clerk noted that it was particularly pleasing to see Shalmsford Street in such great condition after its recent resurfacing.

Cllr. Dawes offered a vote of thanks to KCC Cllr. J. Simmonds for all his help in getting the new signs erected on the A2 at the junction with Denstead Lane, hopefully to deter HGV's turning into Chartham Hatch.

The Clerk noted that he had recently attended a Kent Highway Services meeting at Ashford regarding the roll out of the 'KHS Parish Portal' system that 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 reports.

It was noted that the pot-hole at the junction of Rattington Street/Cockering Road has been reported as has the poor state of the pavement just down from the Artichoke public house.

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

It was noted that work has now commenced by contractors at St. Augustine's to hopefully complete the work on the roads, street lights and sewers, which will then enable the 'adoption' of the services to take place by KCC.

Cllr. Graveson reported that the EDF box on the corner of Chestnut Close requires urgent repair as it has been badly damaged with numerous broken bricks.

Cllr. Dawes noted that there are bushes/trees overhanging the footpath at the Hyde. It was noted that this is a problem for the Housing Association as the offending bushes are on their land. The Clerk will contact Kelly Bristow.

Cllr. Dungay reported that a lady recently had a fall at Stour Close due to the poor condition of the road. KCC Cllr. J. Simmonds stated that he will investigate the problems with the road and take the matter forward with Kent Highway Services.

(b) Police Liaison:

The Clerk read out a Rural Crime Report from PC 8351 Paul Gibson noting incidents around the CCC parishes over the past few weeks.

There has been a marked increase in thefts from isolated premises, building renovations and outbuildings including building materials, tools, trailers, Mowers, etc.

We believe that transit vans are being used in these thefts. Sometimes there are more than one transit van in convoy, a blue one and either white or yellow one. These may be looking around in the daytime but stealing at night. Please be on the lookout and report to me any registration numbers of suspicious activity. We have one partial index of the blue van being [Y***RJH](#)

Although not on our policing area there have been some horses and ponies stolen, please warn any person with horses to be vigilant. I don't have further details as yet but should any of you horse owners need more info I will have it soon.

Over the last week or so I believe the same persons have been responsible for 3 x four wheel drive vehicle thefts, these were taken Petham, Bekesbourne and Selling, on each occasion either the keys were left in the vehicles or they were found nearby. It seems farmyards are a favourite as many vehicles, offices and workshops in the daytime are left insecure.

When challenged the visitors enquire about grazing land !! This has happened four times now where they have returned to steal.

We are still pro-actively seeking information on illegal gatherings or 'Raves', any information regarding a large build up of vehicles in a isolated area will be gratefully received.

A silver and blue Shogun 4x4 [no number] has been linked to two thefts from motor vehicles in the rural also.

Policing results.

Although this all sounds bleak, there have been some good arrests made over the last week by officers on high profile patrolling regimes targeting the vulnerable areas, especially at night.

A male stopped in the early hours with a stolen trailer full of stolen BT piping/cablings in Stodmarsh. He has been charged and bailed to court.

Three persons arrested again with stolen cabling that was winched from the ground near Barham.

Three persons were arrested for theft of an outboard motor from Grove Ferry. A male was arrested for a burglary in Adisham.

There has been some excellent information come in from Neighbourhood Watch and other rural residents and I thank you.

Remember please look at registrations number when you see something suspicious.

Without wishing to scare monger, there is at present more than the normal amount of criminal activity, which appear to be random, opportunistic thefts in our rural areas which are normally reasonably quiet. However, we are responding to this with various initiatives and action, please do not leave property insecure and on show and consider your own crime prevention methods that often only get considered after a crime has taken place.

If you feel genuinely vulnerable and isolated then please call me and we can visit with the Crime prevention officer.

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

- There have been no more reports of nuisance youths playing in the new pavilion site.
- Several issues of Graffiti have been reported to me and I will be removing the said graffiti this week.
- Many parishioners are still complaining about speeding on Shalmsford Street. The SID will be in use over the coming weeks to back up the Police, who have only caught 5 drivers in the past months.
- The parish Clerk has asked Kent Highway Services to install traffic counters and speed cables to monitor the traffic flow.
- Nuisance kids on Parish Road throwing apples, the said are four girls from the Hyde who will be visited by myself and Kelly Bristow the Housing Officer over this matter as we have them on CCTV.
- The log between the fields behind the British Legion was recently set alight. The people concerned have been spoken to about the dangers of starting fires.
- Mr Crouch's house in Bakers Lane has been broken into over the past few weeks. I have spoken with Guardian Security about securing the building and Kent Police have been informed and asked to look out for intruders.
- I have received reports of high velocity rifle shots in Bakers Wood and on investigation no-one was found, but regular patrols will take place in the area.
- Traffic Wardens will be checking parking in the village 3 times a week at their own choice. You have been warned!
- If anyone has any information concerning 'Raves', please call me or PCSO Chris Chapman.
- There have been reports of 'Fly Tipping' in Denge Woods.
- Please be aware that the schools are back for the new term so leave yourself plenty of time to get the kids to school and then get to work.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 13th October 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 09.03 p.m.

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