

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M.
ON TUESDAY 13th MAY 2008
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY,
KENT, CT4 5PW.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman	Cllr. S. Dungay
Cllr. C. Barlow – Vice-Chairman	Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. M. Goff	Cllr. D. Butcher
Cllr. J. Jeffries	Cllr. D. Frost
Cllr. D. Weatherall.	Cllr. P. Graveson
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk	

Police Community Support Officer – Paul Rigden, KCC Community Warden – Tom Tucker-Smyth.

Thirty Nine members of the public.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Thompson, CCC Cllr. R. Doyle.

(2) ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE -CHAIRMAN

Cllr Dawes asked for nominations for Chairman:

Cllr. Dawes was Proposed by Cllr. D. Frost and Seconded by Cllr. Butcher.

All members voted in favour.

Cllr. Dawes took over the role of Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr. Dawes asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman:

Cllr. Barlow was Proposed by Cllr. Graveson and Seconded by Cllr. Butcher.

All members voted in favour.

(3) ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members were asked to note their preferences to be members of the following sub-committees:

Those Councillors that were absent had either expressed a wish to continue their position in their current sub-committees, or were nominated to continue in their current roles.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are automatically noted as members of all committees.

Amenities: Cllr.D. Weatherall, Cllr. S.Dungay, Cllr.D. Thompson, Cllr. D. Butcher, Cllr.A. Dawes, Cllr.C.Barlow.

Cemetery: Cllr.C. Barlow, Cllr.A. Dawes, Cllr.M.Goff, Cllr.J. Jeffries and Mr. I.Bingham (Cemetery Superintendent).

Countryside: Cllr.P.Graveson, Cllr.D.Butcher, Cllr. A. Dawes, Cllr.C. Barlow.

Finance & General Purposes: Cllr. C. Barlow, Cllr. D. Thompson, Cllr. P. Graveson, Cllr.A. Dawes, Cllr. A. Frost, Cllr.D. Frost.

No Man's Orchard: Cllr.C. Barlow, Cllr.A. Dawes, Cllr.M. Goff, Cllr.D. Butcher.

Planning: Cllr. C. Barlow, Cllr.A. Dawes, Cllr.M.Goff, Cllr. D. Butcher, Cllr. S. Dungay, Cllr. D. Weatherall, Cllr. J. Jeffries.

(4) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meetings held on 8th April 2008 (previously circulated).

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

Resolution carried unanimously.

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

No interest was noted in any agenda items.

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

No change was noted in any member's interests.

(6) MATTERS ARISING

Thirty-nine villagers turned up at the meeting to express their serious concerns about the amount of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour by youths in various parts of the village. One villager spoke to the meeting on behalf of the parishioners gathered, detailing a catalogue of incidents, and describing what life is now like for those affected. It was pointed out that the Parish Council is also a victim of vandalism and mindless property damage spending money that could well be spent elsewhere to repair the play areas and other public amenities that have suffered over the past couple of years.

The Police Community Support Officer, Paul Rigden who spends a lot of his time in Chartham responded to their concerns, as did Tom Tucker-Smyth our full-time Kent County Council Community Warden. They are both aware of the incidents taking place and those committing them but without sufficient evidence it is extremely difficult to take any prosecution forward. Chartham also has Nick Bell who is the Rural Beat Constable for Chartham, Petham and Waltham but who was unable to attend as he was on duty earlier in the day.

Despite the incidents that were detailed in the meeting the Police reported that they only had one reported incident recorded, and it was suggested that if every incident of anti-social behaviour was reported to the Police then more resources would be diverted to policing in the parish. It was claimed that there are not enough Police patrols around the village especially at night, but it was noted that a lot of patrols are made in unmarked Police cars.

The residents also demanded that street lighting be improved and that CCTV cameras be provided to cover their homes and cars. The street lighting in the main part of the village is wholly the responsibility of Canterbury City Council, and the lighting in St Augustine's is the responsibility of Kent County Council, and it is to these bodies that requests for additional lighting and repairs to existing lighting should be made.

In response to the request for CCTV it was pointed out that with the cost running into many tens of thousands of pounds for installation and a similar amount of money for ongoing maintenance and supervision it was unlikely that it would be provided especially as the recorded crime statistics do not show high enough levels to warrant any installation, a cost which would be borne by local taxpayers. Cllr. Barlow stated to all present the reasoning for the Parish Council to hand back the maintenance of the street lights to CCC some years ago. There is a KCC led programme to upgrade street lights throughout the County but this will take time. The PCSO and the KCC Warden also advised those present that CCTV can be ineffective where youths are wearing 'hoodies' and other head-gear.

The Parish Council will be writing a letter to the City Council to be published in the local paper and Parish Magazine, requesting improvements and investment in Chartham to reduce the amount of low-level crime and will be including the names of all those residents present to show the level of feeling within the village about this unpleasant problem. It was agreed to ask CCC Cllr. R. Doyle to take forward the problem of policing in the village, a problem confounded by the lack of regular Police forums which Cllr. Butcher used to attend.

Cllr. Graveson noted that we are all part of the same community and that we should all fight this problem together.

In closing this part of the meeting, it was hoped by all that this problem could be stopped before it escalated into more serious crime such as violence, burglaries, and assaults.

(7) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE

(Folder of correspondence issued for all Councillors to view and comment on).

The following issues were raised for discussion:

- Item 1: Eastern & Coastal Kent NHS – PCT Health & Wellbeing Spring Roadshows – April to May 2008. A copy of the document was available for members to peruse.
- Item 2: CCC – Development Control Committee – Special Meeting – Wincheap Regeneration – Tuesday 15th April 2008. A copy of the document was available for members to peruse.
- Item 3: South East England Regional Assembly – The Region’s Housing needs. Details noted to all members.
- Item 4: Letter from parishioner sent to Kent Highway Services concerning Hatch Lane. Cllr. Dawes read out the letter to all members and it was reported that the hedgerow on some houses does not help the situation.
- Item 5: Ashford Borough Council – Core Strategy Submission Development Plan – Independent examination. Details noted to all members.
- Item 6: Kent Highway Services – Reply from Ruth Goudie regarding the A28 Ashford Road/Hatch Lane improvements. A letter from Ruth Goudie regarding the recent road-works to the junction was read out to all members.
- Item 7: CCC – Development Control Committee – List of Planning Applications – Tuesday 29th April 2008. A copy of the document was available for members to peruse.
- Item 8: CCC – Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 29th April 2008. A copy of the document was available for members to peruse.
- Item 9: CPRE – Kent Voice Magazine – Spring 2008. A copy of the magazine was available for all members to peruse.
- Item 10: AWCIRK – Oast to Coast – Magazine – Spring 2008. A copy of the magazine was available for all members to peruse.
- Item 11: KCC – Handyman & Homesafe Services. A copy of the letter was read out by Cllr. Dawes to all members. It was noted that the KCC Community Warden has delivered a number of leaflets to households in the parish.
- Item 12: Robinsons – Stuart Smith retiring. Cllr. Dawes read out a letter from Robinson Solicitors regarding the retirement of Stuart Smith who has been the Parish Council for many years. A letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish council has been written to Mr Smith.
- Item 13: Southern Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan – Comments Requested. Cllr. Dawes took the document for perusal.
- Item 14: Farming & Wildlife Magazine – Spring/Summer 2008. A copy of the magazine was available for all members to peruse.

- Item 15: The Planning Inspectorate – Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Local Inquiry at Chartham Hatch Village Hall on Tuesday 21st October 2008. Details were noted to all members and Cllr. Butcher took the document for perusal and to pass onto Mrs Litten for reference purposes.

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

a) Finance and General Purposes.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council Accounts had been reviewed and agreed at a recent meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 9th May 2008. A resolution to adopt the 2007/2008 Accounts was proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. A. Frost. All members voted in favour.

The Clerk confirmed that our ‘Concurrent Funding’ grant had been received from CCC for the 2008/2009 year.

The Clerk also confirmed that our ‘Precept’ had been received from CCC for the 2008/2009 year.

The Clerk also reported that the “Standing Orders and Financial Regulations” for 2008/2009 were reviewed and agreed at the recent Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 9th May 2008. A resolution to adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations was proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr.D. Frost. All members voted in favour.

The Clerk reported that at the recent Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting a resolution was passed to agree a 2.5% wage increase for the toilet cleaner for the 2008/2009 financial year.

The Clerk reported that his own wage increase would be settled later in the year and would be in line with NALC recommendations.

The Clerk noted that he had received payment for three submitted Capital Grant applications to CCC for the following items:

Resurfacing the car park at the village hall	£9,179.00
New Play Equipment	£3,768.00
Bus Shelter	£1,350.00

The Clerk reported that the Finance & General Purposes Committee had agreed to pay Paul Newman a sum already agreed towards the completion of the patio at the rear of the hall.

The Clerk also noted that the Finance & General Purposes Committee had agreed a quotation from Paul Newman to complete the patio area outside the lounge on the memorial playing field side of the hall.

The Clerk read out a letter from the Canterbury & District Early Years Project who provides the staff and equipment for the 'Mother & Toddler' group which is run at the village hall. A request was made to the Parish Council to help provide funds towards the continuation of the project and the Clerk confirmed that KCC Cllr. John Simmonds was due to visit the village hall on the 10th June 2008 to see the project in action, and that he may also be able to help with further funding. After discussion a resolution was proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Weatherall to donate £1,500.00 towards the project. It was stated that the group is extremely well attended and that it is hoped that a Health Visitor will attend the project in the future, and the project should be supported by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that he is due to submit the VAT claim for the last quarter to HM Customs.

The Clerk confirmed that he is still chasing CCC regarding the incorrect refund of Business Rates for the village hall paid to the VHMC.

The Clerk reported that he is due to meet with Jo Newman Estate Agents later this week to review the valuation of all the Parish Council properties. The Parish Council Fixed Asset Register will then be updated and forwarded to Zurich Municipal within the next two weeks.

(b) Planning.

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

CA/08/00569/CHA: Proposal: Installation of decking to front of Public House: **Location:** The Local (formerly The Fagge Arms), Cockering Road, Chartham. CT4 7PT: **Parish Council Views:** Site Visit to be arranged.

CA/08/00585/CHA: Proposal: Single-storey extension to rear and pitched roof over existing extension: **Location:** 2 Ensigne Cottages, Shalmsford Street, Chartham. CT4 7RF: **Parish Council Views:** No Objections.

The Clerk noted that four further planning applications were dealt with at a Planning sub-committee meeting on the 29th April 2008.

CA/08/00443/CHA: Proposal: Permanent use as a stud farm with livery including construction of new single-storey dwelling to replace existing mobile home, retention of stables and provision of hay store-tack room: **Location:** Bobbin Lodge Farm, Bobbin Lodge Hill, Chartham, CT4 7DD: **Parish Council Views:** No Objections.

CA/08/00450/CHA: Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling and associated garage: **Location:** The Old Cattle Yard, Deanery Farm, Bolts Hill, Chartham: **Parish Council Views:** No Objections.

08/00648/AS: Proposal: Proposed new temporary offices, car park and lorry park:
Location: Thruxted Mill, Penny Pot Lane, Godmersham, Kent, CT4 7EY: **Parish Council Views:** We have grave concerns over the proposed lorry park as we feel this will lead to an increase of lorry traffic which already comes directly through Chartham and which does no end of damage to the narrow lane leading to the site and the associated roads through the village of Chartham. We object strongly to the application.

Two '**Granted**' Planning applications were read out:

CA/08/00272/CHA – East Kent timber, Howfield Lane, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7HQ.

CAL08/00023/CHA – Rattington Cottage, 3 The Square, Rattington Street, Chartham.

Four '**Refused**' Planning applications were read out:

CA/08/00385/CHA – 2 Woodview Cottages, Howfield Lane, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7LX.

CA/08/00281/CHA – 3 Nickle Bank, Nickle Lane, Chartham, CT4 7PB.

CA/08/00268/CHA – Former Iffin Tank, Iffin Lane, Chartham.

CA/08/00069/CHA – Salvation Army Hall, Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7SE.

Notice of Proposed Work to Trees in a Conservation Area – Landscaping of area to south of Mystole Road and west of the west wing of Mystole House: A site visit will be arranged.

(c) **Cemetery.**

It was reported that the Cemetery Lodge is still up for sale and although some interest has been shown, no firm offers have yet been made

Cllr. Barlow noted that he was holding onto several fees for burials taking place this week.

The Clerk noted that he had been trying without joy to contact a firm at Ashford regarding treating some damp on the walls in the Cemetery Chapel. Cllr. Barlow noted another name and address to contact.

It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr. Jeffries had recently met with Alan Groombridge regarding numerous 'Sunken Graves' which require top-soil and also to undertake the annual review of the 'Dangerous Memorials' required under our Cemetery Regulations.

It was reported that work had commenced on the St.Mary's lych-gate and pathway repairs.

The Cemetery Rules & Regulations for the 2008/2009 year are still in the process of being reviewed and updated by the Clerk, Cllr. Barlow and Cllr. Jeffries.

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting a reply from Robinson Solicitors, regarding the 'rights of access' across the cemetery car park.

Cllr. Barlow reported that the Clerk and Cllr. Jeffries are still updating the grave plans at the cemetery into computer format.

Cllr. Dawes noted that a 'Military Roll of Honour' was found some weeks ago in the parish archives. The document has now been copied and will cost £40.00 to frame. It was requested that the Parish Council provide the funds for the framing of the document which will then be hung in the village hall. A resolution to pay the £40.00 was proposed by Cllr. Graveson and seconded by Cllr. Goff.

(d) Countryside.

The Clerk noted that a meeting had been arranged for the 12th June 2008 between the Parish Council Tree and Pond Wardens, and Cllr. Dawes, Cllr. Jeffries and himself.

The Clerk reported that the trees on the Memorial Playing Field adjoining Mr Griffins land will be pruned and the hedgerow cut back shortly, with new fencing to be erected.

Cllr. Butcher noted the problem with a couple of trees 'down' on the footpath at Thruxted Lane and that he has contacted the PROW Office who will now remove them.

Cllr. Butcher noted that the PROW Office is to erect a 'kissing gate' on the footpath at the rear of the Royal British Legion hall.

Cllr. Frost noted that the steps on FP 487 are disintegrating and require urgent repair/replacement. Cllr. Butcher will contact the PROW Office.

Cllr. Dawes noted that the footpath between Primrose Hill and Town Lane is used regularly by horses. It was reported that 'No Horse Riding' signs are due to be erected.

It was noted that the 'cap' on the gas main by the lych-gate at St.Mary's churchyard is missing. Cllr. Goff will arrange repairs.

The next footpath walk will be on Sunday 8th June 2008 at 2.30 p.m. from the lay-by at Brice Avenue, Chartham. Sandra and Martin Cook will lead the walk. For further information telephone 01227 731247.

It was reported that the riverside pathway near the village hall is overgrown and requires cutting back. It was noted that it is cut back twice a year and is due to be undertaken by the PROW Office.

(e) Amenities.

It was reported that only one letter had been received regarding the proposed rail service cuts through Chartham, and that it was 90% certain that the platform at the station would now be extended. No date for the works to commence was known at present.

The Clerk reported that he had received a CCC Capital Grant payment of £1,350.00 towards the installation of a new wooden bus shelter at Chartham Hatch. It was also noted that there was £5,000 allocated in the Precept for the provision of a new bus shelter. The Clerk will now take forward the ordering of the new shelter.

It was noted that the Amenities Committee had chosen new play equipment to be installed on the Memorial Playing Field. The Committee had already viewed four different proposals from various Play Area providers and decided that the best proposal was from Park Leisure Ltd who are based at Ashford, Kent. A plan of the layout of the new play area was available for all members to view.

The Clerk reported that there was £13,395.42 in a 30 Day Business Account, plus interest, as well as £5,000.00 allocated from the Precept and a further £3,768.00 from CCC Capital Grant Scheme, a total of £22,163.42 towards the cost of the £25,000.00 scheme. The Parish Council will pay the shortfall.

It was noted that the demolition of the old sports pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field will take place this Thursday or Friday, weather permitting.

It was noted that the Parish Council will consider the deployment of a number of 'skips' around the parish in July/August, for residents to clear away any household waste.

It was reported that the Committee is looking into the possibility of painting the play equipment at both Chartham Hatch and Shalmsford Street this year. New colours of red, blue, green and orange have been chosen and the special non-toxic paint has been sourced and the Clerk will take this matter forward with Alan Groombridge.

The Clerk noted that a new notice board to be erected at the entrance of the village hall car park has been ordered from WDS Signs Ltd and will take approximately 10-13 weeks until delivery.

The Clerk reported that a new 'vandal proof' litter bin for the Memorial Playing Field has been ordered from Broxap Ltd.

The Clerk also reported that a cycle-rack for the village hall has been ordered from Broxap Ltd.

It was also noted that a new 'green' dog bin has been ordered from Broxap Ltd for the riverside pathway near the village hall. The Clerk reported that he had contacted CCC regarding the possibility of them erecting new dog bins at Magnolia Drive, Little Copse Close and Chartham Hatch. They will investigate the proposed sites and let us know if there are appropriate sites available for the installation of new bins.

It was noted that Cllr. Weatherall is still taking forward both the setting up of a Youth Club and the 'junior' Football training with Charlton Athletic proposed for August this year at the Memorial Playing Field. The Criminal Records Bureau checks for the volunteers are currently in progress, and Child Protection Training is also awaited.

Cllr. Goff reported that he had received a number of complaints about the current state of the Arjo Wiggins Paper Mill and what an 'eyesore' it has become in the village, totally run down and unkept. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Mill Manager noting that the above concerns have been noted by residents.

The Clerk noted that the Parish Emergency Plan is still in the process of being updated.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee.

It was reported that the last meeting consisted mainly of discussion regarding the '60 Years On' event, which is to be held at the orchard on the 26th July 2008.

It was stated that alternative types of refreshments apart from the 'Hog Roast' is still being sourced.

It was noted that the next meeting of the No Man's Orchard Management Committee will be on Wednesday 4th June 2008.

(9) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

The Clerk reported that we will hopefully have some news on the Sports Pavilion grant application to the Football Foundation by June 2008.

It was noted that there is still problems with 'Graffiti' on the senior play area at St. Augustine's.

(10) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

It was noted that the 'Final Account' for the village hall is still being taken forward with Clague Architects.

It was also reported that Robinson Solicitors are reviewing the 'Trust Deed' for the village hall.

It was reported that the Clerk had met with Sean Diver from Clagues and a representative from 'Bushford Twyford' to discuss design changes to the village hall toilets. Final quotations for undertaking the work were still awaited.

Patio designs for the area outside the lounge alongside the Memorial Playing Field were shown to all members, as were the plans for the 'planters' at the front of the village hall.

(11) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

Highways:

It was noted that a road sign at River Court was missing.

It was stated that the broken bollard on one of the traffic calming islands at Beech Avenue had been replaced.

It was reported that one of the bollards at the junction of the A28 and Hatch Lane has been knocked down. The Clerk will report the problem to Kent Highway Services.

Cllr. Barlow noted that representations of concern have been made over the damage to the wall at De L'Angle house. After discussion it was agreed that we would look at the issues of the ownership and access to the footpath leading to the house and whether a post/barrier should be erected.

Cllr. Butcher reported that the newly laid tarmac on the footpath at Shalmsford Street had been damaged with cars and vans continually parking on them. The PCSO will monitor the situation.

Police Liaison:

A detail of Police action concerning the recent spate of vandalism was noted earlier in the Parish Council meeting.

PCSO Rigden noted that speed checks have been undertaken recently around the village with a number of tickets issued to speeding drivers.

It was reported that two youths were arrested recently for breaking into a car at St. Augustine's.

It was also reported that another youth was arrested for burglary at a house in Shalmsford Street, which took place in the middle of the day.

(12) SIGNING OF ORDERS FOR PAYMENT.

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

(13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting confirmed as **Tuesday 10th June 2008** at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7HX.

(14) CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.01 p.m.

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