

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 13th FEBRUARY 2012

PRESENT: Mr P Sibbald (Chairman) Mr A Bell, Mr G Brister, Mr D Broad, Miss L Gallagher and Mrs E Broad (Clerk).

VACANCY ON CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL: The Clerk reported that she had not yet received any official notification from CDC regarding the vacancy.

APOLOGIES: Mr J King.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th January 2012 were agreed and signed as a true record.

OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC: The members of the public present did not wish to raise anything at this point.

MAIN MATTERS:

Taking Stock of Chedworth Parish Council:

a) Setting of a Four Year Plan: Mr Brister had the final draft in hand and hoped to have it completed in the next couple of weeks.

Communication between Parish Council and the Public:

a) The Parish Council Website: The Chairman reported that it was hoped to have the template within the next week. When it was received the Chairman and Mr Bell would progress it as quickly as possible.

b) Updating the Village Website: In Mr King's absence it was agreed to leave until next month.

MATTERS FOR UPDATING AND DISCUSSION:

It was agreed to bring the HVLTC rent review forward on the agenda.

Five Yearly Review of HVLTC Annual Ground Rent: Mr Broad felt that a starting point of £200.00 would be a good place to start negotiations. Mr Brister felt the way it was done in the past was not necessarily the right way to do it given the actual terms of the lease and that as a public body dealing with public property there were clear and sensible rules about determining the right value. You could not guess. It may be £200.00 was the right answer but we needed a proper process to understand what was the right number. If it was different from £200.00 then there would be a negotiation with HVLTC, which is exactly what was envisaged under the lease. After some further discussion it was agreed to seek the views of some independent local valuers as to the correct rent for this facility. Miss Gallagher had a contact who she agreed to speak to and other Councillors felt they may also know

people who could help. It was felt that this information could probably be sought free of charge.

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 13th FEBRUARY 2012 – Page 2.

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

- a) Fields Road Speeding: It was understood that the Community Speed Watch training was booked but nothing further was reported.
- b) Winter Maintenance & Grit Provision: The Chairman reported that he along with Mr Bell and Mr House had gone out with the gritter three times during the recent snow. Mr Brister proposed a vote of thanks to the gentlemen for the gritting work so far, this was agreed. The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by a Yanworth resident who was interested in towing the gritter. The Chairman had put him in touch with GCC Highways. The Chairman also reported that he had been in touch with Mr Swift at GCC Highways to order more grit and asked for the bins to be refilled. The Chairman and Mr Bell would cut a grit bin at an angle and set it in the verge at an angle to see if this would prevent rain getting in. It was further agreed to advertise in the Hill and Valley for more volunteers to tow the salt spreader.
- c) Slow Sign on Hemplands Hill: Mrs Watkins at GCC Highways had agreed to provide a road sign and paint “slow” on the road.

Defibrillators:

- a) Purchase of the Third Defibrillator Cabinet: The Chairman reported that he had the cabinet which he would install shortly along with Mr See who would do the electrics. Mr See would charge around £150.00 for this. The Chedworth Society donation would go towards this. Notification had been received from Cardiac Science that the defibrillator in the Seven Tuns had a faulty component and needed to be returned to them for repairs. The Chairman had this in hand. In the meantime it was agreed to let the ambulance service know that there was not a defibrillator located at the Seven Tuns at present.

Items Arising from Email:

- a) Trees and Hedge Planting - Email from Joanne Leigh: Joanne Leigh had suggested planting a row of trees along the side of the Football Field on Fields Road as the Woodland Trust is sending out free fruit trees to celebrate the Jubilee. Mr Bell felt there was not enough merit in this idea as trees did not make good hedges and would not serve as a corridor for wildlife, it would also incur future maintenance costs. Mr Bell agreed to draft a reply to Joanne Leigh and it was also suggested that she should speak to Rosanne at the Farm Shop to see if the trees could be planted at the quarry site. Mr Bell also reported on an idea he came across in Germany where trees are planted in a trail around the village with the produce from each tree being allocated to a resident or family each year, through a draw.
- b) Request for use of Football Pitch for Sunday League Team: A team from Northleach who were sponsored by the Seven Tuns requested the use of the Playing Field for next season. It was reported that the Village Hall Committee were happy

for them to use the changing facilities. It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr Broad to allow the use of The Playing Field for the introductory fee of £150.00 to be paid in advance of the season, agreed.

c) CDC Cotswold Conversation Workshop – Email from John King: Noted.

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 13th FEBRUARY 2012 – Page 3.

d) GCC Fields Road and Lower Chedworth Carriageway Patching Works:

Notification had been received that work was due to commence on 6th February.

e) Chedworth Event - 19th May 2012: The event was to be held at the quarry. The Chairman had met with the organisers, the Licensing Unit of the Police and Rosanne from the Farm Shop. Numbers will be limited to 400 and tickets will be sold over the internet. The event will run from 12 noon on Saturday until 3.00 am. Sunday morning, parking will be in the field opposite the Farm Shop. There will be notices put in the Hill and Valley and a letter drop at the Farm Shop end of Fields Road. The Police had no problems with the licensing side of things.

f) Waste at “The Cottage” - Email from Mr Hobart: Mr Hobart had email to complain that a foul mess of rubbish had been left outside by the bin and he had bagged it up in order for it to be collected. It was felt that this was a holiday let, so it was agreed to contact the letting agent making them aware of the problem and ask them to ensure their clients deal with the rubbish properly.

The Playing Field – Moles: There were a number of mole hills on the playing field. It was agreed to obtain a quote from Able Pest Control to sort out the problem. It was proposed by Mr Bell and seconded by Miss Gallagher to set a ceiling of £100.00 to deal with the problem, agreed. If the quote was in budget it was agreed to ask Able Pest Control to go ahead and deal with the problem.

The Grass Keep Field:

a) Erection of Structure – Email from Mr Baker: Mr Baker had emailed to say the quotes he had received were more than expected and he asked if the Parish Council would be willing to contribute. It was agreed to reply that the Parish Council is not interested in contributing towards the shelter, as the field is let on a short tenancy at a low rent, but would still be willing to assist with the planning application.

Broadband Speeds: Mr Bell gave a brief update.

Emergency Planning: Held over until the next meeting in Mr King's absence.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Updates via Email from John King: The Clerk was concerned that the plan to recover the VAT on donated funds for the event on 4th June would not comply with the VAT regulations. She had spoken to Customs and Excise and they had confirmed that it would be somewhat of a fiddle to attempt to reclaim VAT on purchases made by the Jubilee Committee. The Clerk felt that with

regard to the permanent memorial, such as the Village Sign, by following proper procedures and the Parish Council retaining ownership of the end product, it would almost certainly be possible to comply with the regulations for this. It was therefore agreed not to attempt to reclaim VAT on purchases made by the Jubilee Committee or have the money channelled through the Parish Council's accounts. The idea for the large screen TV had been shelved as it was thought likely that the Buckingham Palace Concert would be broadcast too late in the evening.

CLT Proposal to the Parish Council – Email from John Robson: It was agreed to hold this over until later in the meeting.

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 13th FEBRUARY 2012 – Page 4.

Housing Needs Survey – Visit from Martin Hutchings, GRCC: As Mr Hutchings had not yet arrived it was agreed to hold over until later in the meeting.

Communication between Parish Councillors: Mr Brister was happy that this had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

PLANNING:

Applications:

CD 3277/T Denfurlong Farm – Change of use to provide Camping/Caravanning Site and Ancillary Building – No objection
CD 1971/F Seven Tuns – Cess Pit – No objection
12/00189/TCONR Evenlode – Tree Works

Approval:

CD 1969/B Highfield House – Extension to Agricultural Building
12/00189/TCONR Evenlode – Tree Works
CD 1430/Y The Oxbyre – Non Material Amendment to Previous Permission - No consultation undertaken.

FINANCE:

1. Clerks Quarterly Phone/Broadband Contribution £40.45, prop. P Sibbald, G Brister.
2. Council in receipt of £778.50 GCC contribution towards the Salt Spreader
3. Council in receipt of £200.00 Donation from Chedworth Society towards the Seven Tuns Defibrillator.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Items for the Hill and Valley: Several items were identified for inclusion.

Annual Parish Meeting - 19th March 2012: It was agreed to invite the Village Charities, The CLT, The Diamond Jubilee Committee, The Village Trust and The Chedworth Society to report at the meeting.

Resignation of Lindy Gallagher from Village Hall Management Committee: Miss Gallagher had resigned from the Village Hall Committee due to other commitments. It was agreed to try to appoint a replacement member at the May meeting when these appointments are usually made.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to follow up the Japanese Knotweed problem at the top of Tuns Hill with Gloucestershire Highways.

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 13th FEBRUARY 2012 – Page 5.

CLT Proposal to the Parish Council – Email from John Robson: Mr Robson had sent an email explaining that the CLT were experiencing problems gaining approval for building the affordable houses and senior bungalows on their site at Pinkwell and asked the Parish Council to consider making the Playing Field area adjacent to the Village Hall available, as the planners had previously indicated that this may be a preferred site, and consider moving the Playing Field to the opposite side of the road. It was noted that “Affordable Housing” is accommodation made available for rent to those unable to buy or rent properties on the open market without assistance, due to high local property prices. The properties are for those with a significant established connection with the village and include properties suitable for home working and for older people or with limited mobility. The properties come back to the CLT at the end of the lease. It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mr Catton and Mr Isaac representing the CLT to address the meeting and explain the proposals further. Mrs Jess was also present and spoke against the proposals. Mr Hutchings joined the meeting during the debate and explained about planning exception sites and letting procedures. When Council reconvened there was some limited discussion. In principle the Parish Council, previous and current, has supported and continues to support the aims of the CLT in their project. The more problematic issue has been where to site such affordable housing. The Council was conscious that a similar proposal was considered by the previous Council in 2010 and the subsequent Parish Poll voted against the use of that particular site. The Council are also surprised that given the importance of the project, the above interested parties (CLT/potential buyers and renters/CDC Planners/Cotswolds Conservation Board) have not been able to find another site – recognising that will need some essential give and take on all sides. The Council understands this is a difficult issue and is going to set up an open, fact based and balanced consultation on potential use by the CLT of the site. For the present it was agreed that in the absence of any firm plans, to hold this over for further discussion next month.

Housing Needs Survey – Visit from Martin Hutchings, GRCC: Mr Hutchings was welcomed to the meeting and it was agreed to open the meeting to allow him to address the Council. Mr Hutchings had circulated a suggested questionnaire prior to the meeting. He said the costs involved would be the printing of the forms which would be around £30.00 to £40.00 and also the cost of posting the forms back to GRCC, although collections boxes could be made available around the village to save on the postage. It was suggested amending the forms slightly to include live/work units and bungalows. When Council reconvened it was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Miss Gallagher to ask GRCC to carry out another Housing Needs Survey, agreed. Mr Hutchings had indicated that the time scale for printing the forms was 10 days and it was hoped that they could be distributed with the March edition of the Hill and Valley. The Chairman thanked Mr Hutchings for attending.

The meeting concluded at 10.08 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 12th March 2012 at 7.30 pm.

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