

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 14th JULY 2014

PRESENT: Mr P Sibbald (Chairman) Mr G Brister, Mr D Broad, Mr J King and Mrs E Broad (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr A Bell, Miss L Gallagher, Mr R Richmond

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th June 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.

OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC: Mr Mike Buller presented his letter of objection to the planning application at Grange Cottage. Council went into closed session and it was proposed by Mr King and seconded from the Chair to object to the planning application. The main reason being overdevelopment of a relatively small plot plus the other points identified in an email previously circulated by Mr Bell, and also restricted access and parking, agreed.

Mr Robertson spoke about the latest information on broadband speeds where it was hoped the exchange would be updated by the end of 2015. It was agreed to include on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was agreed to bring several items forward on the agenda at this point:-

Fields Road and Community Speed Watch: It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mr Shaftoe to report. Mr Shaftoe reported on the recent sessions on Fields Road to further monitor the speed and on a Police initiative to involve the Village School in their “Kiddie Cop” scheme. This encourages children to understand the importance of appropriate speeds in the community and then to design a poster or letter which can be sent to speeding motorists. The school & the police are keen to get the support of the Parish Council for this and Mr King had volunteered on behalf of the Parish Council to help.

Mr King produced a copy of a Community Speedwatch road sign that the group were currently discussing purchasing. Councillor Hodgkinson suggested a larger sign which would be more expensive but he may be able to fund it from his highway budget. It was felt that the Parish Council were not opposed in principle to signs being put up and it was agreed that the group would now explore both options & consider the costings ready for the next meeting.

It was reported that a date for resurfacing was still awaited, Councillor Hodgkinson agreed to chase this up.

Councillor Hodgkinson asked the Parish Council to identify their priorities with regard to spending some of his highway budget. It was agreed that the repair of pot holes in Lower Chedworth and at the top of Tuns Hill were a priority, along with Withington Hill which was not in our Parish but where a cyclist had recently crashed.

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Tennis Club Courts Resurfacing: Mr Shaftoe had emailed and asked for permission to access the courts via the playing field but avoiding the football pitch. It was agreed to open the meeting for Mr Shaftoe to report. When Council reconvened, it was agreed there was no objection to this.

It was agreed to taken the rest of the planning items at this point on the agenda:-

PLANNING:

CD 3338/1/N Rookery Cottage – Replacement Garage – It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mr Beer to speak. Mr Beer was concerned about the height of the proposed garage and the privacy of neighbouring properties. When Council reconvened it was agreed to object that the proposed height of the garage will affect the privacy of the neighbouring properties and ask that the applicants consider not having a 1st floor. It was agreed to write and inform the applicants of the objection.

CD 4950/A Grange Cottage – Extension & Garage – Object as above & also agreed to write and inform the applicants of the objection.

CD 9439 Weavers Cottage – Extensions – Mr King had expressed some concerns about this because of its prominent position in Ballingers Row. The Chairman asked for more time to look at this application and it was agreed to comment by email before the deadline on August 8th.

Approval:

CD 3966/M Ashcombe Edge - Extension

CD 5779/U Whitegates - Extension

14/02649/NONMAT Rookery Cottage – Non Material Amendment to move Windows

14/02650/COMPLY Rookery Cottage – Retention of Summerhouse & Porch

MAIN MATTERS:

Communication between Parish Council and the Public: Mr King reported that the new email system run by Mr Robertson and himself was up and running.

Affordable Housing:

a) Update: Mr Brister invited Mr Broad to report what he knew about the recent developments with the affordable housing, which Mr Broad declined and invited Mr Brister to report what he knew. Several emails had been circulated during the month in which Mr Brister had questioned Mr Broad's involvement and Mr Brister asked for this email exchange to be included on the website under Affordable Housing. Mr Brister then presented a preliminary site layout prepared by Cirencester Housing Society for six units solely on the Parish Council land opposite Valley View. Mr Brister explained that this was a first option for discussion and that Cirencester Housing Society invited comments. Councillor King felt that the development on this small plot would be quite crowded and expressed surprise that the larger piece of land originally identified as the main site was not included,

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Mr Brister suggested that this was because of the complications agreeing terms with the landowner. Council was also concerned about the proposed access to the site at the junction with School Road since this had been an issue with one of the previous CLT proposals, Mr Brister understood that GCC Highways had been consulted but he undertook to explore these points further with Cirencester Housing Society so that they could be discussed in more detail at the next PC meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to include the plan on the website with some appropriate notes, to be prepared by Mr Brister, in order to publicise it as widely as possible. It was further agreed that Mr King would prepare a list of the neighbouring properties so that Mr Brister could hand deliver the information to them.

MATTERS FOR UPDATING AND DISCUSSION:

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

- a) Fields Road and Community Speed Watch: Dealt with earlier on the agenda.
- b) Grit Bin Lids: The Chairman still had the getting of an estimate in hand.
- c) Direction Sign for Village School: Mr King reported that he had attended the recent School Open Day and was very impressed with the staff, children & facilities. He had asked if there was anything that could be done to strengthen the link between the School & the Parish Council, from which the School had requested some help in their attempt to erect a direction sign at the Village Hall. Mr King had contacted Mr Gray at GCC Highways who were not willing to consider putting an additional finger sign on the existing post as their policy is to only allow signs for safety reasons. Councillor Hodgkinson, who had been included in the discussions, had stated that he was now unable to help with this since it was no longer a highways matter. It had been suggested that a separate sign could be sited on the Village Hall land, Mr Broad thought that the Village Hall committee might prefer a temporary sign which could be erected when required. Mr King agreed to liaise with the school regarding this.
- d) Overhanging Trees at Chedworth Laines: Mr King reported that he had spoken to the landowners Mr and Mrs Grimes and they would organise for the trees to be cut back from the road. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.
- e) Japanese Knotweed: The Chairman reported there was still a problem on the left hand roadside going north from Tuns Hill triangle. He invited Councillor Hodgkinson to speak who asked the Clerk to copy him the emails from GCC Highways last year so that he could take this up with them again.

Footpaths:

- a) Broken Stile notified by Mrs Stainforth: Mr King reported that Mrs Stainforth has agreed to pay for a new stile and that he had informed the Cotswold Wardens. It was noted that, following the new GCC Rights of Way contracted-out arrangements with Amey, there is now a charge for materials used in repairing stiles etc, although the Cotswold wardens will continue to provide their services on a free volunteer basis. The maintenance of stiles etc is still the landowners responsibility.

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Items Arising from Email & Correspondence:

- a) The Seven Tuns – Email from Iain Robertson: It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mr Robertson to speak. Mr Robertson reported that he had heard nothing further on any progress towards the re-opening. The Chairman had emailed to inform the CHT & the Ambulance Service that the Seven Tuns defibrillator was out of action at present as there was a large trench in front of it due to the sewage tank works which had commenced recently.
- b) Tennis Club Courts Resurfacing – Email from Mr Shaftoe: Dealt with earlier on the agenda.
- c) Individual Electoral Registration – Email from CDC: It was agreed to include this as a news item on the website.
- d) CDC Minerals Local Plan – Email: Noted.
- e) Cotswold Conservation Board Agenda – Email: Noted.

The Playing Field:

- a) Continued Use of Football Pitch Email from Chedworth Cavaliers FC: An email had been received from James Harding asking for the use of the field for next season. It was agreed to allow them to continue with the same rent of £200.00 paid in advance of the season and ask them to sign the amended agreement from last season and return a copy. Also to let Mary Peace have a copy of their fixture list when it becomes available. Mr King made the Council aware that they have changed the padlock on the Line Marker shed, it was agreed to ask them to let us have a key.
- b) Fence Repairs & Broken Slip Rail: The Chairman reported that he was still awaiting quotes.
- c) Playing Field - Email from Mr Price (Bibury Landscaping): Mr Price reminded the Council of the poor condition of the gate onto the Playing Field. The Chairman reported that this would be addressed when the fencing was done.

Grass Keep Field:

- a) Tenancy Agreement & Erection of Jumps: Mr Bell had emailed to say he would be seeing his contact next week.
- b) Leak at Trough – Email from Joanne Leigh: Miss Leigh had emailed to draw to the attention of Council the leak at the stop cock at the water trough. It was agreed to reply that the Parish consider the leakage to be minimal and have been aware for some time of dampness around the stop cock but the rectification work is potentially very expensive and it is not considered cost effective to do the work at this time. However the cost of this leakage has been taken into consideration when setting the low rental fee.

Playground Developments: Nothing further.

Noticeboards:

- a) Refurbishment: Mr Malcolm Fisk had done a good job on the boards at Tuns Hill and the Village Hall. Mr Adrian Fletcher had the replacement of the Well Hill board in hand.

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Remembrance Trees for Local Communities and Schools Application: In hand with Mr Bell.

FINANCE:

1. Bibury (P/F Grass Cut June) £192.00, prop. J King, sec. P Sibbald
2. Malcolm Fisk (Noticeboard Refurbishment) £389.00, prop. P Sibbald, sec. G Brister
3. Viking (Printer Ink) £41.92, prop. J King, sec. P Sibbald
4. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Subscription £25.00, prop. J King, sec. D Broad
5. Community Heartbeat Trust £50.00 - It appears that a mistake has been made. Invoice number 103 dated 13/5/13 for the sum of £50.00 was paid in full on 13/5/13 but now another invoice numbered 103 dated 13/5/13 has been submitted for the sum of £100.00, with the rider that £50.00 is outstanding. It is the view of the Parish Council that invoice number 103 dated 13/5/13 had been paid in full.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Replacement Computer for the Clerk: It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr Brister to go ahead and purchase the Asus Laptop Computer for £329.00 plus VAT from Viking Direct as identified by the Clerk last month, agreed.

The meeting concluded at 9.17 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Parish Council Meeting - Monday 11th August 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Chairman _____ *P. Sibbald*

Date _____ *11/8/14*