

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 8th JUNE 2015

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE WAS SIGNED BY IAIN ROBERTSON BEFORE THE MEETING COMMENCED.

PRESENT: Mrs R Jess (Chairman) Mr A Bell, Mr D Broad, Mr M Fulford, Mr I Morgan, Mr C Poulton, Mr I Robertson & Mrs E Broad (Clerk)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to declare interests as necessary.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 18th May 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC: County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson spoke about his £40,000 pot of money for “active together” to be put toward public health such as outdoor gym equipment. This would be considered further at the next meeting. A member of the public requested that item 1 on the agenda should be taken at the end of the agenda as it related to procedural matters.

It was agreed to bring forward item 1.4 (e) as the landowner was present.
Footpaths at Hartshill Farm: A letter and map were received from Mr Anthony Wilkinson of Hartshill Farm, seeking the support of the Parish Council to remove two footpaths around Hartshill Farm mainly for security reasons. It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mr Wilkinson to explain his plans. When Council reconvened it was agreed that as the letter and map had only been received at the meeting and the details were not on the agenda, the matter should be discussed at the following month's meeting. In the meantime, the information would be included in the Hill and Valley and the plans put on the website.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

Parish Council Working Practices: It was agreed to consider this at the end of the agenda.

Affordable Housing: Emails from had been received from Lynne Barber, Cirencester Housing Society, stating they were awaiting a firm commitment of an offer from the Parish Council. The future of the Affordable Housing Project was briefly discussed and it was suggested that it should be established how much of a priority this was for the village, bearing in mind that the well attended Parish Council meeting in September, when the site adjoining the tennis courts was discussed, was unanimously against this site. Mr Morgan suggested a Neighbourhood Plan should be considered and agreed to look into this.

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

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a) Fields Road and Community Speed Watch: Mr Fulford reported that he had spoken with Mr Shaftoe and it was felt necessary to keep the speed watch ticking over at present. Mr Poulton suggested that since the white lines had been removed this had slowed down traffic but the signage should be more prominent. Councillor Hodgkinson, who was present, agreed to look at the cost of the signage previously suggested.

b) Traffic & Parking at St Andrews School: Mr Poulton had not attend the recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Coordination Group so it was agreed to ask Mr Mugrave, who was present, to give a report. Councillors discussed what further action was needed regarding the school safety plan. As it had previously been agreed that extending the zig zag lines around the junction of School Lane and School Hill would improve safety, it was agreed to ask Mr Gray, GCC Highways, to carry out this work as soon as possible.

c) Cutting of Visibility Splays: An email reply had been received from Mr Gray, GCC Highways outlining the programme for verge cuts which involves one full cut of roadside verges and one safety cut at junctions and bends. Members of the public should not be put at risk by carrying out the work themselves, and the correct channel for reporting problems should be via the GCC 08000 514514 telephone number. The Chairman pointed out that several years ago the Parish Council arranged the grass verge cutting with a local contractor giving a greater degree of flexibility, with an amount of money given towards this from GCC Highways. It was agreed to explore the possibility of undertaking this again and make enquiries from Manor Farm and Stowell Park Estate. Mr Musgrave volunteered to cut the verges at the Village Hall crossroads. He explained that he had the necessary insurances and the Council accepted his kind offer.

b) Verges in Lower Chedworth: An email reply had been received from Mr Gray, GCC Highways, stating that he had no fundamental objection to trees being planted on the verge by the Old Chapel but the correct process needed to be followed and agreement reached, he also suggesting a meeting on site. It was agreed to set up a meeting as soon as possible and Mr Bell and Mr Robertson would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

e) Verges on Church Row: A query had been raised by Mr Hamilton who was concerned about damage to walls and also the potential danger of the emergency vehicles not being able to get access to Church Row and Courts Close because of parked vehicles. It was agreed to ask Mr Gray if he would be able to combine a visit to this area of the village with his visit to Lower Chedworth.

f) Conservation Verges: An email from CHEG had been received. It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mrs Moore to speak. Mrs Moore reminded the Parish Council of the statutory requirements regarding grass verges. When Council reconvened it was agreed that Mr Bell would liaise with CHEG to come up with a verge management plan and report back to the Parish Council.

g) Tuns Hill Triangle: The metre cut around the outside had been done recently by the GCC contractor leaving the middle overgrown and untidy. It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr Poulton to obtain quotes for strimming firstly from Peter Heaps with a limit of £150.00 so the Clerk can go ahead and agree for this work to be done, agreed.

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h) Potholes:

i) To consider how to deal with reports of potholes which are made to the Parish Council: It was agreed to include an item in the Hill and Valley reminding people that they can report potholes themselves or it can be done through the Parish Council.

ii) To inform GCC Highways of any problems which have been notified to the Council: It was agreed that the Clerk would pass on the report of potholes at the top of Cooks Hill as recently notified by Mr Sibbald.

i) Speeding in Chedworth: An email had been received from Mr & Mrs Duggleby suggesting 20 is Plenty should be displayed in the village to slow traffic. It was agreed to open the meeting to allow County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson to speak. He pointed out that these signs were not legally binding but volunteered to look into the possibility of have temporary 20 is Plenty advisory signs erected in the village. When Council reconvened, it was agreed to report this back to Mr & Mrs Duggleby.

Footpaths:

a) Overgrown Path from Rookery Lane to Fields Road: Mr Poulton had contacted the landowner and the path was due to be cut on the day following the meeting. It was agreed to notify Mr Boehm of this.

b) MacMillan Way Footpath Marker at Setts Farm: The Chairman reported that the sign had broken off. It was agreed to ask GCC PROW to repair or replace it.

c) The Strimmer: Alex Priest had the strimmer for safe keeping. It was agreed to ask GCC PROW if they still provide training sessions for Councillors and members of the public to learn to use the Strimmer so that they are covered by insurance, and if so what is the cost.

d) Broken Stile Lower Chedworth: Correspondence between Mrs Stainforth, John King and Cotswold Wardens stating that the repairs were in hand were noted.

Miscellaneous Items Arising from Email & Correspondence:

a) Chedworth Electricity Club Proposal: Further information had been received from Mr Blackwell and had been circulated to Councillors. It was agreed that the Parish Council supported this proposal.

b) Planned Turning Point on Hemplands Green: An email had been received from Louise Millard regarding a proposal to create a turning area for sewage lorries on the grass triangle at the back of the houses. It was reported that an article in the press suggested that Bromford had decided against the idea. It was agreed to contact Bromford and ask them to keep the Council informed of any developments.

c) NGC Meeting: It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Mr Musgrave & Councillors Hodgkinson who regularly attended these meetings, which are held by the police ever three months, to explain them. When Council reconvened it was agreed that Mr Robertson & Mr Poulton would attend the next one.

d) CDC Community Transport Research Finding Workshop: Noted.

The Playing Field:

a) Line Marker: An email response had been received from the Football Club stating they would make sure the line marker is cleaned up.

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b) Shed: One response had been received from Mr Malcolm Fisk who stated in his opinion the existing shed should be replaced. It was agreed to obtain quotes for a replacement shed.

Improving Telecommunications:

a) MIP: Mr Bell reported that he understood there had been no further progress but he understood that Harlequin/Aquiva were prioritising other projects. Mr Bell agreed to speak to Aquiva and Stowell Park Estate to find out what the current situation was with regard to Site 10.

b) Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2015: Notification had been received that the Parish Poll would be held on Tuesday 16th June. Mr Bell queried whether the Chairman should have declared an interest as she had been in contact with Nigel Adams the Retuning Officer after the poll had been claimed. The Chairman explained that she had been in touch with Mr Adams prior to the meeting for information and an approximate cost and following the meeting to thank him for the information he had provided, inform him that the poll was taking place and tell him the question.

c) Broadband: It was agreed to open the meeting to allow Dr Aveline to speak. Dr Aveline reported that Gigaclear had been awarded the contact for fibre broadband. When Council reconvened Dr Aveline and the team involved in obtaining faster broadband were thanked.

Community Emergency Plan: It was agreed this could be moved into the working practices part of the agenda for further consideration later.

Defibrillator Training: The Chairman reported that defibrillator & first aid training would be £ 175.00 per session. It was agreed to arrange one session of training with CHT.

Grass Keep Field:

a) Diggers Licence: A reply had been received from Joanne Leigh regarding maintenance of the site. It was agreed to consider further at the next meeting.

b) Water Leak: The Clerk reported that she had been monitoring the metre and only a small amount of water had passed through during the past month. No reply had been received from Mr Baker regarding the large water bill. It was agreed to chase this up.

Folk Camp Booking August 2015:

a) To consider the email concerns from Mr Pierce: Noted.

b) To discuss any action the council needs to take to inform neighbours or the wider village of the event & also request to mark out the pitch: It was noted that the Village Hall Committee had arranged a consultation meeting for neighbours & residents on Monday 16th June. It was agreed to include an item in the Hill & Valley to make sure residents were kept informed. The Folk Camp had emailed to ask for two sidelines on the Playing Field to be marked out to be marked out to ensure they did not camp on the pitch, it was agreed to ask Peter Heaps to do this.

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PLANNING:

CD 4661/X Willow Bank – Discharge Section 53 Agreement

15/02284/TCONR Ashcombe Edge – Tree Works

CD 3670/H Buttress House – New Dwelling – Notification of Referral to CDC Planning Committee on 10th June. The applicants had asked Mr Robertson to read the Parish Council submission to the CDC Planning Meeting. After some discussion it was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr Fulford that the Parish Council should not send anyone to speak. Mr Bell proposed an amendment that Mr Robertson should attend and speak, this was seconded by Mr Robertson. The amendment was voted on and defeated with 4 votes against.

FINANCE:

1. Clerks Quarterly Salary (inc. increase RPI 1st January 2015 = 1.1%) £592.00, prop. M Fulford, sec. A Bell
2. Clerks Quarterly Mileage (inc. Audit Mileage) £20.37, prop. M Fulford, sec. A Bell
3. Bibury (P/F Grass Cut May) £246.00, prop. R Jess, sec. I Robertson
4. ICO Registration Renewal £35.00, prop. C Poulton, sec. R Jess
5. Community Heatbeat Trust (Defibrillator Battery) £205.00, prop. M Fulford, sec. I Robertson
6. Viking (Printer Ink) £38.56, prop. C Poulton, sec. R Jess
7. Council in receipt of £50.00 Rental from The Diggers
8. 2014/15 Annual Audit – To note it has been submitted to the External Auditors

OTHER BUSINESS:

Hill and Valley News: It was agreed that New Councillors, Potholes, Folk Camp, thanks to Broadband Team, Verge Survey and verges in general, closing date for agenda, letters to council etc, footpaths at Hartshill & update on MIP should be included and the Chairman would write the article.

a) Distribution of Draft Minutes: It had been agreed by the previous Council that minutes are not circulated in draft form for amendment by Councillors, but amendments are made, if necessary, at the beginning of the meeting. The draft minutes are posted on the website marked unconfirmed. After some discussion it was agreed that when the Clerk submits the unconfirmed minutes for the website she would also send them to Councillors. It was also agreed to circulate the outgoing correspondence to Councillors for information.

In view of the length of the meeting, it was agreed to defer the outstanding matters relating to Parish Council Working Practices to the beginning of the agenda for the next meeting.

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Mr Poulton was surprised at the amount of emails that were being circulated. It was agreed to try to address this when working practices were discussed.

The meeting concluded at 10.15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Parish Council Meeting - Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Chairman _____ *R.Jess*

Date _____ *13/7/15*