

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016

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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th December 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to declare interests as necessary.

OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC: Nothing was raised at this point.

SETTING OF 2016/17 PRECEPT: It was agreed to consider this later on the agenda.

It was agreed to bring forward application number 4 on the planning agenda.

CD 3338/1/Q 3 The Rookery - Replacement Dwelling & Alterations - Mr Broad and Mr Fulford declared an interest and left the room. It was agreed to open the meeting to allow members of the public present to speak. Several spoke of their concerns about the application including questions on the accuracy of the plans regarding roof heights and distance from neighbouring properties which it is understood are being investigated by planning officers. When Council reconvened it was agreed to object. Councillors agreed that while they accepted that the appearance of the new house would be identical to that approved under the application to extend the proposal to demolish gave the applicant the opportunity to create a new dwelling which was more in keeping with the surrounding properties and the conservation area. The timber clad house with its balconies, a feature not seen elsewhere in the village would appear incongruous in the setting of the Rookery and would be very obvious from the other side of the valley. The proposed building is not of outstanding architectural merit, or individual enough to be considered a positive addition to the village fabric. The roof pitch is atypically shallow, and the extensive use of glass on the north elevation (up to and including the gable ends, the floor-to-ceiling opening doors, plus the eaves skylights), will be jarring and obtrusive. Regarding the driveway, the council also objected to this aspect of the application. No drawing had been provided to show the appearance of the drive from the road but councillors were of the opinion that the gradient would be impractical and the appearance of a large expanse of tarmac would be unacceptable.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

Communication between Parish Council and the Public:

a) The Website, Twitter, Facebook, H & V News, Newsletters: Mr Robertson gave a brief update where he reported that he was having problems contacting Parish

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016 – Page 2

Websites to arrange the transfer of the current chedworth-pc.org.uk to ourselves. It was agreed to consider other domains, Mr Robertson agreed to look into these.

b) Deciding on Parish Council Priorities: Mr Fulford had condensed the document and it was ready to go on the website. Because of the Parish Council's current workload Mr Robertson suggested reviewing this in May and this was agreed.

Neighbourhood Plan:

a) To receive an update from Councillor Morgan on the proposed meeting for volunteers: Mr Morgan had arranged a meeting of volunteers on 27th January. The Chairman asked Mr Morgan to copy in Councillors on emails he sends to the volunteers.

b) To consider whether Helen Richards of GRCC should be invited to the initial meeting of the steering group for which there may be a cost of £125 + VAT to be borne by the Parish Council: Mr Morgan explained that he felt it would be useful for Helen Richards to attend but there would be a cost of £125.00 + VAT for this. The cost would initially have to be met by the Parish Council but could be reimbursed if it was agreed to go ahead with the plan and the grant was paid. It was proposed by Mr Bell and seconded by Mr Robertson to cover the £125.00 cost of Helen Richards attending the initial meeting on 27th January, agreed.

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

a) Traffic & Parking at St Andrews School: Mr Poulton reported that he was currently chasing up Mr Gray to ask when the outstanding work on the road outside St Andrews School is due to be completed.

b) Conservation Verges: Mr Bell had circulated the Conservation Board Verge Management document. Mr Bell suggested that there was grant funding available through the Conservation Board. It was agreed that a first step would be to speak to CHEG. Mr Bell offered to do this and it was agreed to consider further next month.

c) Speeding in Chedworth: It had been agreed that the '20 is Plenty' signs would be temporary. After some discussion it was proposed by Mr Bell and seconded from the Chair to take the signs down at the beginning of February and put them up again when the clocks change at the end of March, agreed.

d) Signage for Church: The Chairman invited Sue Callard, who was present, to update the Council. She reported that she had funding for the signs agreed from CHOC and she was currently still trying to persuade Mr Gray to allow them to be placed on existing road signs.

e) Queen Street & Gallows Lane: The Chairman reported that problems with the manhole cover overflowing had occurred again and the road had now been closed again. She had also received a telephone call from a concerned resident who saw 3 small children playing in the water and jumping on the manhole and he was very

worried that it may tip and allow a child to fall down into the chamber under the road. The Chairman had emailed Mr Gray to make him aware of this. A villager has suggested that if a grille were used in place of the manhole cover then the road would not have to be closed every time the water flooded as it was the unsafe aspect of the manhole cover rather than the water which caused the problem. It was agreed to contact Mr Gray to suggest that a long-term solution may be expensive and

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016 – Page 3

difficult to get into the capital programme and suggest the use of a grille may be an acceptable interim measure. With regard to Gallows Lane it would appear the overhanging trees were on highway verge rather than on private land. It was agreed to ask Mr Gray if he would have any objection to us arranging to get this cleared if he is unable to do it.

f) Damaged Verge at Village Hall: Mr Broad raised this on behalf of the Village Hall committee who were concerned that traffic was driving across the grass to avoid the Gigaclear works.

g) Refilling Grit Bin at Courts Close: Mr Broad had been contacted by a resident to say the grit bin at Courts Close had not been refilled. It was agreed to see if the rest of the bins had been refilled this year. Mr Fulford offered to refill the Courts Close bin if this was the only one but contact GCC Highways if the rest had not been done.

Footpaths:

a) MacMillan Way Footpath Marker at Setts Farm: Nothing further.

b) Horses Ash Lane: Mr Bell had met with Mr Gray on 5th January and he reported that technically this route was a restricted byway and as such would fall within the remit of the Public Rights of Way Team. However he explained that given the current resourcing issues within the Public Rights of Way team, he had offered to help on this matter as much as he could. He noted that its width was being reduced by both foliage growth along the path edges and third party growth overhang and intruding onto the path. This latter matter would be for the relevant adjoining land owners to take action on and Mr Bell offer to approach them on an informal basis and should this approach fail Mr Gray could arrange for a more formal letter be sent reminding them of their responsibilities. Mr Bell suggested that the council obtain a quote from a local contractor to cut back either side along this path, and Mr Gray might be able to contribute towards it. It was agreed to obtain quotes by the next meeting and ask for the works to be done by the end of February.

c) Footpath Wardens: Mr Bell had circulated his suggested outline of duties/guidance which was agreed with a couple of amendments that had been suggested. After some discussion Mr Bell agreed to be the liaison between the council and the wardens. It was further agreed to write to thank all the wardens for volunteering to keep an eye on our paths. Meantime David Boehm is working on dividing up the parish into manageable areas and it was thought it would be sensible to get

everyone together so that they all could all be involved in that process. Mr Bell agreed to try to obtain a copy of the current Definitive Map from GCC PROW.

d) Footpath from road below Hemplands to lower road: The Chairman had discussed this with Phil Coates from the Cotswold Wardens. He offered to include this on his schedule of paths to be cleared. It was agreed to accept this offer.

Proposed Diversion of KCH 47: Mr Morgan felt that the Parish Council should be notified automatically if temporary path closures were extended. It was agreed to ask GCC that the Parish Council be kept informed if this, or any other temporary path closure, was extended.

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016 – Page 4

The Playing Field:

a) Active Together: The first instalment of the grant had been received from GCC. The Chairman had put together detailed research which she had emailed to Councillors before the meeting. It was proposed by Mr Broad and seconded by Mr Morgan go ahead with the project and place an order for fitness equipment with Fresh Air Fitness as outlined in their quote of 6th January 2016, agreed with one abstension. It was agreed that we would like the project to go ahead in March once we receive the final instalment of the grant. It was further agreed to thank Alan McLellan for all of his work on the project and County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

b) To consider the letter from Mr Sibbald: Mr Sibbald had emailed a letter regarding the fitness equipment. It was agreed to reply to Mr Sibbald sending him a copy of the research carried out into the proposal for Fitness Equipment in the village.

c) Folk Camp Visit: The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Village Hall Booking Secretary to say that the Folk Camp Organisation which visited the village last year and took over the Village Hall and playing field want to come back for a long weekend from 27th to 30th May this year. They have approached the Village Hall Committee about hiring the facilities and have asked if the Parish Council would allow them to use the field again. Mr Broad declared an interest and left the room. As it was not an agenda item, it was agreed to consider at the next meeting.

Improving Telecommunications:

a) Gigaclear Installation: Mr Robertson gave a brief update which included a report on problems with the trench at Valley View before Christmas which had now been sorted out. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to have a roads liaison person to liaise with Gigaclear. Mr Robertson offered to do this.

b) Improving mobile phone signals without MIP: Mr Fulford reported that no further feedback had been received. It was agreed to seek comments for the document on the website by the end of February.

Defibrillators:

- a) To receive any updates on the VETS scheme: The Clerk reported that she had emailed the 10 volunteers details to CHT but had not heard anything further. She was asked to chase this up.
- b) To report the eXbox Defibrillator is out of order: It was agreed to ask Gary See, who had done the original installation, to look at this.

Autonomous Vehicles: It was agreed to defer this.

Revision of Standing Orders: Mr Bell had emailed his suggested amendments. It was agreed to consider this again at the next meeting to allow Councillors to look at the suggested amendments. The Clerk had circulated information of Freedom of Information Act from Nigel Adams at CDC.

Professional Standards of Internal Emails: Mr Poulton spoke of emails between

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016 – Page 5

Councillors. He said that as Councillors were all volunteers they should have mutual respect for each other and he asked that people reflect on what they put in emails before sending them and said they should not write in emails anything they would not say at meetings. Mr Robertson reminded Councillors that they had to work together as a group. Mr Bell asked that Councillors did not hold back from sending emails as he felt it helped in making better decisions.

Items Arising from Email & Correspondence:

- a) Email from Liz Pearse - Lower End Chapel Graveyard & Blocked Footpaths: It was agreed that Councillors should go and look at the Lower End graveyard before the next meeting and discuss again what needs doing. Mr Bell referred to an email send by Mrs Blackwell last year, the Clerk would circulate this again. With regard to the electric fence across the footpath. Mr Broad had been in contact with Jeremy Thayer from Withington who had put up the electric fence and he had now re-routed it.
- b) Email from CDC regarding request to spend the Ward Councillors budget for Environmental Services: The Chairman invited Jenny Forde to speak. She explained that she had a budget for £2000 for environmental services. Much of which had already been pledged to other villages but a small amount still remained. A dog waste bin on the road to Pinkwell was suggested. It was agreed to look into where to put it along this stretch of road.

PLANNING:

Applications:

CD 9103/J The Orchard - Change of use of Annex - No objection
 15/05419/TCONR Well Cottage – Tree Works
 CD 3670/K Buttress House - Variation of Condition 2 - No objection
 CD 3338/1/Q 3 The Rookery - Replacement Dwelling & Alterations - Considered earlier on the agenda.
 CD 9269/E Highfields - Garage - The Chairman and Mr Fulford declred an interest and left the room. Mr Broad took the chair for this item. No objection was raised.

Appeal:

14/05280/FUL Absolams Orchard - Proposed Parking Area - Allowed

Mr Bell left the meeting at this point.

FINANCE:

SETTING OF 2016/17 PRECEPT: The Chairman & Clerk had produced a draft budget which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. After some discussion the following budget was then agreed:-

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016 – Page 6

EXPENDITURE:

Village Hall Rent (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	230.00
Subscriptions (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	332.00
Donations (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	200.00
Playing Field Grass Cut (L.G. (MP) A. 1976)	840.00
Playing Field (L.G. (MP) A. 1976)	500.00
Grass Keep Field (L.G. (MP) A. 1976)	500.00
Lower End Graveyard (L.G. (MP) A. 1976)	120.00
Vegetation Clearance (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	500.00
Footpaths (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	100.00
Noticeboard (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	100.00
Clerks Salary (L.G.A. 1972 S. 112)	2400.00
Insurance (L.G.A. 1972 S 111)	600.00
Telephone/Broadband (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	220.00
Chairman’s Allowance/Travel Expenses (L.G.A. 1972 Sch. 12)	100.00
Audit Fee (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	95.00
Stationery (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	50.00
I.T. Support/Website (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	300.00
Photocopier/Laptop (L.G.A. 1972 S. 111)	100.00
Defibrillator & Xbox (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	300.00
VH Fundraising Event (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	300.00
Parish Council Information (L.G.A. 1972 . 137)	100.00
Fitness Equipment (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	300.00
Neighbourhood Development Plan (L.G.A. 1972 S. 137)	150.00

	8537.00
<u>ESTIMATED INCOME:</u>	
Grass Keep	596.00
HVLTC Ground Rent	200.00
Playing Field Rental	350.00
Interest on Deposit Account	3.00
	1149.00
Estimated Expenditure	8537.00
Less Estimated Income	1149.00
	7388.00

It was proposed by Mr Fulford and seconded by Mr Morgan that the 2016/17 precept should be £7388.00, agreed unanimously.

1. GPFA Membership £50.00, prop. I Morgan, sec. M Fulford
2. Council in receipt of £3296.43 first payment of GCC Active Together Grant

OTHER BUSINESS:

Items for Hill and Valley News: Several items were identified to be included in the February edition. The Chairman would write this.

Chairman.....

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 11th JANUARY 2016 – Page 7

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The meeting concluded at 10.46 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....