

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 14th APRIL 2014

PRESENT: Mr A Bell, Mr D Broad, Miss L Gallagher, Mr J King and Mrs E Broad (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr G Brister and Mr P Sibbald

ABSENT: Mr R Richmond

As both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were absent from the meeting it was proposed by Mr Broad and seconded by Miss Gallagher that Mr John King takes the Chair for the meeting, agreed. Mr King then took the Chair.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th March 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC: Mr and Mrs Wheeldon had come along to speak about their planning application CD 3338/1/A Rookery Cottage. Mr and Mrs Wheeldon briefly explained their application and the Chairman explained the initial concerns of the Parish Council being the absence of two sets of the plans, especially the one showing the elevations, the colour of the woodwork on the garage doors and the bifold French Windows, also the roof pitch. The applicants pledged to address these concerns although they were sure that the missing plans had been submitted. The Clerk was asked to chase the missing plans up with CDC. It was noted there was still a reasonable amount of time left to comment on this application.

MAIN MATTERS:

Communication between Parish Council and the Public:

- a) The Parish Council Website: Mr King reported on progress on the village email system as per his recent email to Councillors. After discussion, it was agreed that existing subscribers should be asked to positively opt in to the new system rather than opt out and that the Parish Council could not agree to support the system until it was known exactly how the system would be operated. Mr King would continue to liaise with Mr Robertson. Mr King also asked for the outstanding resumes for the website from Councillors Gallagher, Bell, Sibbald & Richmond. He also referred to the website statistics which had been circulated recently for the Jan to Mar quarter.
- b) PC Facebook Page: After some discussion on the recent email that Mr King had circulated to Councillors, it was agreed that Miss Gallagher would fold up the Parish Council Facebook page as it currently did not serve any useful purpose. The PC website, in particular the News Items and the Twitter feed, together with the PC Email Alert system satisfy the requirements. The Village Facebook Group page is also available and working well as a social media communication channel for the village, but will not be used formally by the PC.

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Affordable Housing:

a) Update: Mr Brister had circulated an update prior to the meeting and it was agreed to include this on the website. Mr Broad had provided some information on the site history of the plot adjacent to the Village Hall including the fact that it had been given two different plot numbers by CDC Planning in the past.

MATTERS FOR UPDATING AND DISCUSSION:

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

a) Fields Road and Community Speed Watch: Mr King gave a brief report on the meeting between the Fields Road Project Team and Messrs Richard Gray & Paul Swift of GCC Highways, including the confirmation that Fields Road was due to be resurfaced again in the summer.

b) New Highways Contract – Email from Vernon Smith GCC: Noted.

c) TTRO 1024/3/151 Yanworth to Stowell Road Closure: Mr King had already sent out an email alert and agreed to put out a further email alert reminder.

d) Grit Bin Lids – from Parish Meeting: Mr Sibbald had offered to order some plywood for this and the loan of a jigsaw, but it was felt that it would be preferable to pay somebody to make the lids. Although there were approximately 50 bins in total, it was decided to get quotes to make 10 or 20 as a trial.

It was agreed to ask Mr Sibbald to obtain quotes for this.

Footpaths:

a) Footpath from The Church to Tuns Hill: Nothing further.

b) Modification Order Hills Farm Track: An acknowledgement had been received from GCC PROW but nothing further had been heard as yet.

Items Arising from Email & Correspondence:

a) Chedworth Remembers WW1 Letter – Email from Peter Seymour: Following the last meeting a letter of support for the project had been sent.

The Playing Field:

a) Entrances on to the Playing Field: Nothing further.

b) Playing Field Cutting 2014 Season: The Clerk had flagged up to fact that no one had been asked to undertake the cutting. She had obtained a quote from Bibury and they were prepared to continue on the same basis for £40.00 per cut. This is the amount that had been included in the budget. It was agreed that they should be asked to continue for the coming season, as they have always done the mowing well in previous years.

It was identified that the top slip rail in the fence between the Playing Field and Fields Road needed replacing. It was agreed to ask Mr Sibbald to look at this.

Grass Keep Field:

a) Fencing: In the absence of Mr Sibbald there was nothing further to report.

b) Tenancy: It was pointed out that jumps had been erected in the field and this might be in breach of the licence. Mr King agreed to check our liability cover with

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the Insurance Company and the terms of the grazing licence agreement. The Clerk had provided some figures on income and expenditure over the past three years which showed a very high expenditure on fencing repairs compared with the licence income. Although the licence states that 28 days' notice in writing should be given if the owner wishes to terminate the licence, it was agreed at Mr and Mrs Baker's request in May 2013, to give them 3 months' notice. After some discussion on current market rates for grazing, it was proposed by Miss Gallagher and seconded by Mr Bell to offer Mr Baker a new licence for the Grass Keep field, but with a modest increase of 5% to reflect inflation and expenditure on fencing repairs. The new fee will be £546.00, agreed.

c) Diggers Licence: The Licence was due in mid May. Miss Gallagher proposed an increase in the rent to £75.00, this was not seconded. It was proposed by Mr King and seconded by Mr Broad to offer to renew the Diggers licence for a further 12 months for the same token rent of £50.00 per year, agreed with one against. Concern was expressed over the appearance of the plot and it was agreed to ask the Diggers to try to keep it as tidy as possible. Concern was also expressed that the active membership of the Diggers seems to be decreasing, it was agreed to ask them to give some indication if this is the case.

Winter Emergency Plan: It was agreed to remove this from the agenda until later in the year when the Plan would be reviewed, including a suggestion from Mr Bell that "Winter" should be omitted.

Playground Developments: Mr Brister had reported at the Parish Meeting that funding may be available in conjunction with an affordable housing project. Mr Broad reported that he had met with a representative from Sovereign Play Equipment, at their request, recently.

Spring Clean/Litter Pick: This had taken place on 5th April and had proved to be very successful with approximately 30 to 40 volunteers attending, mostly Area Wardens who had responded very well. Mr King had also organised a working party to complete the cleaning of the village road signs. It was agreed to write and thank the WI for providing the refreshments. Mr Sibbald had taken details of pot holes and it was agreed to pass these on to GCC Highways. Mr King had also received an email from Doug Foster pointing out that he had found several plastic dog poo bags. After discussion, it was agreed to include this in an item on the Litter Pick in the Hill and Valley.

Seven Tuns:

a) Retaining Wall: An acknowledgement had been received from Criterion stating the works were in hand.

b) Representation on Action Group: Mr King had asked for this to be included on the agenda as he felt a representative from the Parish Council should be on the newly formed action group set up following the recent meeting at the Village Hall. It was noted that the Parish Council had heard nothing from the group since the public meeting on March 13th, nor was anyone from the group present at the

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meeting to provide an update. Without knowing the group’s objectives, its plan of action and, in particular, the progress since the open meeting, the Parish Council felt it was not able to put forward a representative at this stage. The Parish Council remains keen to assist in whatever way it can to secure the future of the Seven Tuns, which is why it secured registration of the Tuns as a community asset last year. But the PC cannot make decisions on the most appropriate routes of support unless it is aware of progress and plans. Therefore, it was agreed to ask that the group provides the PC with regular updates by email or in person, rather than relying on the rather informal Friends of the Seven Tuns group on Facebook as not all Councillors are able to access it. In this way the Parish Council can decide the best actions that can be taken to support it, as well as keeping the wider community informed and apprised of progress. It was proposed by Miss Gallagher and seconded by Mr Broad to write to the group, agreed.

Funding for Health Benefits: Mr Brister had agreed to follow this up from the last meeting but nothing further had been heard.

Noticeboards – Quotes for Refurbishment: Mr Sibbald had emailed to say he was in the process of obtaining quotes. It was stated that several of the noticeboards needed attention. Miss Gallagher suggested asking Mr Mike Sellers as he had made the noticeboard by the Village Hall previously.

Welcome to Chedworth Leaflet: Mr King had updated this and circulated it. He also reported that the Friends of St.Andrews team would be visiting new residents to deliver their own Welcome Leaflet, but not the PC’s or that of any other village organisation. However the FoStA Leaflet, of which the Clerk had a copy on file, prominently referenced the Parish Council website, and also the PC Welcome Leaflet had now been put up on the PC website in a more obvious position on the home page. He was duly thanked.

Items Ordered for Xbox: Mr Bell had the purchase of the outstanding items from the Heartbeat Trust in hand. He needed a special socket to replace the bulb in the Xbox but was not getting any response from BT when he had made enquiries from them. He would circulate a photograph of it to see if anybody else could help.

Burglary Alert from Police on 12th March: Mr King had raised the point with the police that the requests for information in their alerts were rather pointless unless information was given about the area where the burglary had taken place, but they refused to provide the information on this occasion, citing that the householder did not want to publicise it. Mr Bell suggested that we invite the local PCSO's to the next meeting to discuss this & any other items. Mr King agreed to contact them.

PLANNING:

CD 9422 Old Village Stores – Alterations – No objection

CD 6480/Y Cromwell House – Extension and Alterations – No objection

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CD 6480/Z Cromwell House – LB Consent – No objection
CD 1587/G Box Tree Cottage, Pancake Hill – Extension – No objection
CD 5975/E Barnfield House – Extension and Alterations – No objection
CD 8256/1/E The Summerhouse – Extension – No objection
CD 8256/1/F The Summerhouse – LB Consent – No objection
14/01361/TCONR Tall Trees – Tree Works
14/01174/TCONR Calveshill House – Tree Works
14/01015/TCONR Ashcombe Edge – Tree Works
CD 3338/1/K Rookery Cottage – Retention of Summerhouse & Alterations
Dealt with earlier in the meeting.
14/01098/FUL Barnside – Extension & Alterations – No objection

Approval:

CD 5875/K West Meadow – Extension
14/01174/TCONR Calveshill House – Tree Works
14/01015/TCONR Ashcombe Edge – Tree Works
14/01088/COMPLY Absolams Orchard – Extension & Alterations Compliance
with Condition 3, 6 & 9
14/01498/DD Land at Courts Close – Tree Works
CD 5975/E Barnfield House – Extension and Alterations

Refusal:

CD 7554/J Longbarrow Farm – Removal of Condition 2 of Planning Permission
05/01706/FUL

Application Withdrawn:

CD 4171/1/A 6 The Rookery – Extension and Alterations

Visit by Kevin Field, CDC - 12th May Parish Council Meeting: Mr Field had agreed to attend the May meeting. The Clerk reported that he had asked for an indication of the items that were lightly to be raised. The Clerk would forward some suggestions.

The recent new build property Listercombe Cottage, Fossebridge was raised. It was noted that the property was much more prominent than expected. It was agreed to bear this in mind in future when considering this type of application.

FINANCE:

1. Viking £85.10 (Stamps & Stationary), prop. L Gallagher, sec. D Broad
2. Chedworth PCC (Winter Plan Leaflet Printing) £138.00, prop. D Broad, sec. L Gallagher (Mr King explained that this was the correct sum but had been invoiced to & paid by the PCC in error).
3. 2013/14 Audit Notification – It was noted that the audit had been notified for 9th June 2014.

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4. End of Year Financial Summary – The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for compiling this, noting that the year-end closing balance was comparatively high.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Items for the Hill and Valley News: Mr King would write this including Dog Pooh, visit from Kevin Field to next meeting and Fields Road resurfacing.

Appointment to Hugh Westwood Educational Trust: Ann Deamer had emailed to say that her term office was coming to an end and she did not wish to continue. After some consideration it was agreed that Mr King would speak to Ros Marsden to see if she would be willing to be considered.

Mr Bell raised the matter of the lack of notification for the recent classic car rally which had come through the village. Mr King agreed to do some research and it was agreed to include on the next agenda.

Mr King asked if any member of the Parish Council was intending to attend the ChEG public meeting on 26th April. Mr Bell, as the PC portfolio holder for environmental matters, confirmed that he intended to attend.

The meeting concluded at 9.12 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Annual Parish Council Meeting - Monday 12th May 2014

Chairman.....

Date.....