

CHEDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES – PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 12th FEBRUARY 2018

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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 22nd January 2018 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: Mr Harrison asked on behalf of Paul Sibbald why the village was being asked for money for the Village Hall disabled toilet when there was sufficient in their bar account to pay for this. Councillor Hodgkinson gave an update on the A417 Missing Link consultation and reported that the Highways contract was up for tender, five companies had tendered and the successful tender would be announced later in the summer. Mr Selway explained the current request from the Village Hall for provision of the disabled toilet and answered questions from Councillors including the bar account. The Chairman then took the Village Hall matters as the first item on the agenda.

Chedworth Village Hall:

- a) Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee: To consider any reply from Nigel Adams CDC: No reply had been received from Mr Adams & the Clerk was asked to chase this up.
- b) To consider any request from Chedworth Village Hall Committee for funding for the disabled toilet project: After some discussion it was proposed by Mr Poulton and seconded by Mr Morgan to donate £4,000 to the Village Hall towards the completion of the disabled toilet project, agreed.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

Opportunity to bring better Mobile Coverage to Chedworth:

- a) To receive an update on the installation of the mast: Mr Fulford reported that the power connection by SSE was still awaited. He hoped this would be done by mid to late March.
- b) To received an update on the tree screening of the mast site: Nothing further.

Traffic in Village and Road Matters:

- a) To receive an update on the meetings with:-
 - i) Mrs Hamilton regarding Snow Warden & Plough Operator duties: Mr Fulford and Mr D Broad had met with Mr & Mrs Hamilton and Mr Fulford had circulated an email detailing the discussions. Manor Farm would like to relinquish the role of Snow Warden & plough operator but were willing to carry on at the moment. Mr Fulford reported that members of the Parish Council taking over the Snow Warden role as part of the Winter Emergency Plan & Mr Fulford had contacted some local operators, who were not willing to take on the role, but Brian Brazington was willing to take on the role of back up operator. Mr Fulford proposed that the Parish Council looks at taking on the role of Snow Warden with Manor Farm as the primary snow plough operator with Brian Brazington as back up plough operator, this was seconded by Mr D Broad and agreed.

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- ii) Danny Taylor & Bob Skillern GCC Highways: The Chairman and Mr Robertson had met with Danny Taylor & Bob Skillern along with Paul Hodgkinson. The Chairman had circulated an email detailing discussions and responses. Subsequently it had become known that Chedworth was not part of a county-wide review as Councillors had been led to believe but in fact that the village was the only area which had its gritting route cut. The decision to remove Chedworth's main village roads from the gritting route was again discussed and members were surprised to learn that it had been suggested that parked cars were causing problems for gritter drivers, a claim which Councillors do not feel is valid, which was justification for the route being cut. It was agreed to ask Highways to reconsider their decision and answer the following questions:- 1) Why was Chedworth singled out for a cut? 2) What are the cost and time savings achieved by removing Chedworth from the gritting route? 3) Where are the exact locations in the village where parked cars caused difficulties? It was further proposed from the Chair and seconded by Mr Robertson to make a FOA request for all information, including reports, assessments, internal and external communications, notes of meetings and old and new individual gritting lorry routes which led to the change in the primary gritting route in the Parish of Chedworth in winter 2017/18, agreed.
- iii) Update to the Emergency Plan Councillors Fulford & Robertson: Mr Robertson gave a brief update and said that he would now circulate the revised plan to Councillors.
- iv) Invitation to Cllr. Vernon Smith GCC Cabinet Member for Highways: No response had been received to the original email or the reminder sent.
- v) Parish Emergency Store Shed: Mr Fulford had obtained some quotes for suitable sheds which he had circulated. Mr G Broad reported that the Village Hall Committee would like further details of the dimension for the shed and also would like some rent from the Parish Council for siting the shed on their property. Councillors were surprised about this request and it was agreed to reconsider if the shed could be sited elsewhere.
- vi) To discuss and agree what winter equipment the PC should look to purchase alongside the offer from Highways: Mr Fulford reported that Highways had promised three hand grit spreaders which had not yet been received. Highways had also pledged half the cost for grit bins. They quoted £226.00 for each bin from their supplier but Mr Fulford had found suitable ones for £77.00 each. It was agreed that Mr Fulford and Mr Robertson would meet with Danny Taylor to agree locations for siting the grit bins within the village. It was proposed by Mr Fulford and seconded by Mr D Broad to purchase seven grit bins for the cost of £256.12 to the Parish Council, the other half of the cost to be met by Highways, agreed.
- b) Verge Management: Nothing further.
- c) Cutting of Hedges:
- i) To note that Mr Brazington has now completed his allocated time and has cut back areas along Fields Road, Pancake Hill and Hemplands area: It was also noted that other cutting has been carried out by local landowners to their hedges in addition.
- ii) To consider the email letter from Roseanne Finch: Miss Finch had written to say she was unhappy with the way she was spoken to at the recent meeting she had attended and she was unhappy with the recent cutting back of the trees and branches in the vicinity of Denfurlong Farm. It was agreed to reply that it was not the intention of the Parish Council to be rude or unpleasant, and when the trees overhanging the verges adjacent to her property require cutting we will contact her so that she is able to carry out the work herself.
- d) Wall around Waterfall on Tuns Hill: The Chairman reported that Danny Taylor, GCC, had agreed to repair the wall when the weather permitted.
- e) Removal of scrub on PC land at the top of School Hill: Mr Fulford asked if quotations for the removal of this scrub overgrowth could be sought as a sum of money had been included in the budget for this. It was agreed to obtain three quotes from Peter Heaps, Bibury and Philip Dickenson.

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- f) Trees obstructing the hill through Withington Woods: An email had been received asking for the Parish Council to raise this problem with GCC Highways. It was agreed to write to Highways and the landowner, Mr Finch, asking for them to take action to clear the verge as quickly as possible.
- g) Drainage on School Hill/Calves Hill: An email had been received from Mr Needham copying the Parish Council in to his correspondence with Danny Taylor, GCC Highways. This was noted.

Footpaths:

- a) Footpath Wardens: Mr Robertson reported on a matter raised by Mr Boehm which he would investigate.

The Playing Field:

- a) To consider the provision of Rope and Stakes for marking off the parking area: The Chairman had obtained information and a quote for some barrier fencing comprising of tape and stakes. This would cost £13.00 for four stakes and £8.00 for tape. It was agreed to go ahead and the Chairman will look in to purchasing this.
- b) To consider the appointment of a contractor to cut the Playing Field during the 2018 season: Bibury had notified us that they were no longer undertaking the gang mowing of the playing field. It was agreed to ask for quotes from Tony Williams, who cuts the Cricket Field, RT & LD Services Ltd and Countrywide, who cuts the School Field, for the next meeting.

The Diggers Field:

- a) To decide if the hedges around the grass keep should be cut at the same time as the grass keep: Mrs Baker had been in touch with the Chairman to suggest doing this, but it was agreed to wait until after the works on the mast were complete before undertaking this.

First Aid Training:

- a) To receive a report on the first aid training arranged for January 2018 & consider if a further sessions should be arranged: With the voluntary contributions received this cost the Parish Council around £65.00 plus the hire of the Village Hall. The two sessions were a great success and it was agreed that as there was already a waiting list to arrange a further two sessions in April. The Chairman would arrange this.

Chedworth Village Hall:

- a) Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee: To consider any reply from Nigel Adams CDC: As nothing further had been heard the Clerk was asked to chase this up.
- b) To consider any request from Chedworth Village Hall Committee for funding for the disabled toilet project: Dealt with earlier on the agenda.

To receive any replies from the trustees of the Chedworth Allotment Charity as to whether they would like to continue as trustees when there appointments ends in May 2018: The Clerk reported that she had heard from Nigel Finch and he would be willing to stand again. Nothing had been heard from Maurice Wilkins. It was agreed to include and item in the Hill and Valley and send a reminder letter to Maurice Wilkins.

Litter Pick:

- a) To agree and set date for the annual village litter pick and any other actions to address ‘grot spots’ within the parish: CDC Had sent details of their Great Cotswolds Clean Up competition.

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It was agreed to hold a litter pick on Saturday 24th March. Mr Robertson agreed to organise this. The Clerk would contact CDC to arrange to borrow the equipment.

The Overgrown State of the Churchyard – To consider the complaint from Rosanne Finch at the last meeting: It was agreed to forward her complaint to the PCC who are responsible for the upkeep of the Churchyard.

The Chairman reported that she had been contacted by the new owners of Amphlett House who wanted the opinion on their plans. She had informed them of this meeting but nothing further had been received.

PLANNING:

17/01957/FUL Hayward Cottage – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission
18/00289/FUL Rookery House – Rear Extension – No objection

FINANCE:

1. Clerks Quarterly Phone/Broadband Contribution £74.10 (*Telephone/Broadband in budget*)
prop. C Poulton, sec. I Robertson
2. Viking (Ink & Paper) £14.35 (£36.54 less £22.19 Credit Note) (*Stationary in budget*)
prop. G Broad, sec. M Fulford
3. Telelink (Repayment of VAT paid in error) £1,000, prop. R Jess, sec. M Fulford
4. Cotswold First Aid (First Aid Course) £240.00, prop. R Jess, sec. D Broad
5. Council in receipt of £175.00 Reimbursement from First Aid Course attendee's
6. Appointment of Iain Selkirk as Internal Auditor for the 2017/18 Annual Audit – It was proposed by Mr Morgan and seconded by Mr Robertson to appoint Mr Selkirk our internal auditor for the 2017/18 audit, agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Statement from Councillor Fulford: Mr Fulford gave a brief statement regarding how individual Councillors progress things between meeting and apologised if it was felt he may have unintentionally overstepped the mark recently. Councillors agreed that it was difficult to sometimes know where to draw the line and the Chairman said that sometimes there is a failure to give clear instruction and agree what the perimeters were. It was felt that as long as the final decision can be taken by the Parish Council it would be acceptable as it was acknowledged that decisions cannot be made by individual Councillors. It was also suggested that it is made clear that initially Councillors were speaking as individuals not on behalf of the Parish Council

To agree items to be included in the March edition of The Hill & Valley Magazine: Several items were agreed to be included in the March edition of The Hill & Valley Magazine which would be written by the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 9.54pm.

NEXT MEETING: Parish Council Meeting - Monday 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Monday 19th March 2018 at 7.30pm.

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