

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9th AUGUST 2011 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 7JA.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman

Cllr. C. Manning

Cllr. J. Jeffries - Vice-Chairman

Cllr. M. Goff

Mr. P. Hornibrook – Clerk

Cllr. P. Graveson

Cllr. S. Dungay

Cllr. R. Doyle CCC

Cllr. A. Frost

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Thompson (Work Commitments), Cllr. D. Weatherall (Work Commitments). Cllr. G. Hoare (Sickness), Cllr. Butcher (Other Commitments).

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 12th July 2011 (previously circulated).

Proposed by: Cllr. Jeffries and Seconded by: Cllr. Manning.

All members voted in favour.

(3) COUNCIL: a) Declaration of any member's interest in agenda items.

No interest in any specific agenda item was noted by any member.

b) Any change in declaration of member's interest.

No changes in member's interests were noted.

(4) MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising were noted.

(5) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE

(A folder of correspondence was available for all Councillors to view the correspondence and to make comment on)

The following issues were raised for discussion:

Item 1: CCC – Agenda – Joint Meeting of the Rural Area (North) Member Panel and the Rural Area (South) Member Panel – Monday 25th July 2011. Details were available for all members to read.

Item 2: CCC - Agenda Supplement (Item 10 – Kent Recommitment) – Joint Meeting of the Rural Area (North) Member Panel and the Rural Area (South) Member Panel – Monday 25th July 2011. Details were available for all members to read.

Item 3: CCC – Agenda Supplement Item 11 (updated Forthcoming Decision List, CCC) – Joint Meeting of the Rural Area (North) Member Panel and the Rural Area (South) Member Panel – Monday 25th July 2011. Details were available for all members to read.

Item 4: CCC - Agenda – Development Management Committee – Tuesday 26th July 2011. Cllr. Dawes noted that there were details of the ‘Refused’ planning application for the detached house at the back of Rentain Farmhouse, in the document.

Item 5: AWCIRK – Oast to Coast Magazine – Summer 2011. A copy was available for all members to read and Cllr. Jeffries took the document for perusal.

Item 6: AWCIRK – 88th Annual Meeting on 18th October 2011 at Dunkirk Village Hall. Details were noted to all members.

Item 7: Southern Water – Changes to the ownership of private sewers. Cllr. Dawes noted details to all members.

Item 8: AWCIRK – Rural News Issue 105. A copy was available for all members to read.

Item 9: CCC – Street Monitors Meeting – Minutes of 7th June 2011. A copy was available for all members to read.

All members were reminded about the recent e-mail concerning the ‘Vision for Kent’ and the Clerk asked if any members had any further comments to make towards the forum. No further comments were noted.

The issue of the abolition of the Standards Regime, which includes the statutory Code of Conduct was also raised. The question of ‘what if anything should replace the current regime on a voluntary basis’ was raised. All members agreed that the current code should remain as it is.

(6) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS & MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) Finance and General Purposes Committee:

A resolution that orders for payment as shown in attached schedules was agreed unanimously. They were signed by Cllr. Dawes and Cllr. Jeffries.

The Clerk noted that Lloyds TSB had recently sent an ‘Invoice’ to the Parish Council for the period June to July 2011, noting that they were going to charge the council for cashing and paying in cheques as well as transferring funds between internal accounts. It was noted that Lloyds TSB were now charging all businesses with a turnover of £50,000 per annum. The Clerk noted that after discussion at the local branch of Lloyds TSB and with their Clubs & Charities branch, the bank had now agreed that they would not incur any charges all the time our overall balances are as they have been over the past year.

It was subsequently reported that due to Lloyds TSB agreeing to rescind their charges, the Clerk has now applied to open a new 'Public Conveniences' account and is awaiting further contact from the local branch.

The Clerk noted that we need to arrange a new date for a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting to discuss our Concurrent Funding application for the 2012/2013 year, as Cllr Graveson cannot make the date previously arranged. After discussion a date of Tuesday 30th August 2011 at 6.00 pm was agreed. The Clerk will issue new agendas to all members in due course.

(b) Planning:

The Clerk reported that there were five new 'Planning Applications' to be dealt with at the meeting:

CA/11/01228/CAC – Proposal: Demolition of existing detached garage building:
Location: Archway Lodge and Stable House, Mystole Park, Mystole Road, Mystole, Chartham, CT4 7DB: **PC Comments:** No Objections.

CA/11/01140/FUL – Proposal: Demolition of existing detached garage building and the erection of a four bay garage/carport: **Location:** Archway Lodge and Stable House, Mystole Park, Mystole Road, Mystole, Chartham, CT4 7DB: **PC Comments:** No Objections.

CA/11/01150/FUL – Proposal: Erection of building to contain 8 No. Controlled Atmospheric Stores: **Location:** Newmafruit Farm Ltd, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7HQ: **PC Comments:** The Parish Council is concerned over the extent of new buildings on the site being erected over the past few years. The site appears to be expanding quickly even though a lot of the buildings cannot be seen from the road. The parish would like to ensure that the new buildings will be sympathetically coloured and the whole block adequately screened from the road.

CA/11/01293/FUL – Proposal: Two-storey side and single-storey rear extension to dwelling and replacement front porch: **Location:** 156 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7QN: **PC Comments:** No Objections.

CA/11/01256/FUL – Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling house with associated double garage and access: **Location:** Land forming side garden of Lakeview House, Ashford Road, Chartham, CT4 7HH: **PC Comments:** The Clerk was asked to check the council's previous comments on this site and circulate them to all members. A site visit may be required.

Cllr Graveson questioned if there was any news on a planning application being submitted on the 'Site C' development at St. Augustine's. It was reported that no application had been submitted to date.

The Clerk read out four '**Granted**' Planning Applications:

CA/11/00985/LB – Internal alterations – Burnt House Farm, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7HU.

CA/11/00755/FUL – Change of use of land to residential garden (resubmission) – 9 Aspen Road, Chartham, CT4 7TB.

CA/11/00222/FUL – Single-storey extension to existing pack-house – Newmafruit Farms Ltd, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7HQ.

CA/11/01088/FUL – Two-storey extension to side of dwelling – The Old Rectory, Ashford Road, Chartham, CT4 7HS.

(c) **Cemetery:**

It was reported that Cllr. Jeffries, Cllr. Hoare, Alan Groombridge, Richard Marsh (Gravedigger) and the Clerk had recently started the marking out of the new Plots M & N in the cemetery grave extension. It was noted that there will be 10 grave spaces across and approximately 40 rows down, making space for approximately 400 new burials. This will keep the burial ground open for many years to come.

It was noted that we are still waiting for new signage to be delivered and erected before we install further bollards on the cemetery pathway to deter vehicles driving to the top of the grounds.

We are still awaiting a quotation from Alan Groombridge for the cost of new pipe-work and taps, etc. to enable us to install a new water pipe to the top of the cemetery near the millennium garden. The Clerk will chase this issue.

It was also noted that The Clerk, Cllr. Hoare and Cllr Jeffries can now arrange to undertake the check of 'Dangerous Memorials' for the current year.

The Cemetery Rules & Regulations require updating and the Clerk will liaise with other committee members to review and update the booklet.

The Clerk reported on a recent incident at the cemetery when relatives of a recently deceased person, dug up the topsoil, chalk and grass from the grave and loaded it into one of our large wheelie-bins. They had moved the soil to plant flowers in the new grave even though our Rules & Regulations clearly state that a grave should be left to settle for at least 9/12 months. The bin subsequently toppled over onto another grave and damaged the bin beyond repair. Alan Groombridge then had to have a tractor and fork-lift to remove the bin as it was far too heavy to move manually. A new 1100 litre bin from CCC will cost £329.88 including VAT, and we have now written to the family asking them to pay for the new refuse bin and the cost of Alan Groombridge's time.

(d) **Countryside:**

The Clerk noted an e-mail from Anna Palmer at CCC stating that the City Council want to plant new woodland, preferably with a connection to an existing area of ancient semi-natural woodland. The City Council are asking if we can recommend any local sites. Cllr. Doyle was asked to confirm the size of site required and the type of trees to be planted.

The Clerk showed councillors an enlarged footpath map of the parish, which clearly shows all the footpaths and their numbers. A further map will now be enlarged and they will be placed on a new notice-board in the small room next to the parish office. The maps can then be used for reference when reporting footpath problems to the PROW Office.

An e-mail was read out from the Welfare Officer for the local Parkinson group regarding the possibility of using a tandem and tandem trike on the Great Stour Way. The group are looking for somewhere local to store the bikes, instead of their current site in Rough Common. It was suggested that the group should approach businesses on the Ashford Road Industrial Estate as the Parish Council has no storage facility of its own that could be used.

It was noted that the metal lych-gate at the rear of the Royal British Legion has been removed/stolen. The Clerk will report the issue to the PROW Office.

Cllr. Dungay noted that the house by the footpath near the railway bridge at Shalmsford Street has two large dogs that jump up against the fence around the house and scare people walking past. The dogs are not on a lead and it was suggested that we ask the KCC Community Warden to visit the owners of the dogs regarding the matter.

(e) Amenities:

The Clerk noted an e-mail from Janet Taylor, Deputy Head of Legal Services at CCC noting that the lease on the toilet block on the Memorial playing field 'has been badly delayed by sheer lack of resource'. It will take a further few months to resolve the issue.

It was noted that we now have new signage to be installed on the toilet block noting the Parish Council is now responsible for maintenance of the toilets.

It was reported that there is graffiti on the bus shelters at the Crescent and on the A28 Ashford Road at Hatch Lane. Alan Groombridge has been asked to clean both shelters.

Cllr. Manning asked if there could be a dog bin erected at Bobbin Lodge Hill. The Clerk will ask CCC to investigate the request.

Cllr. Dawes noted that her Eco-Tips for inclusion in the Parish Magazine this month will be on Solar Panels, Double Glazing and Delivering Oil to rural areas.

Cllr. Graveson suggested that we should consider having a link on the parish website to a reputable Eco site. This will be investigated further.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee:

It was noted that the No Man's Orchard Management Committee are due to meet next week.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion:

It was reported that the Football Foundation has now agreed to re-word the lease on the pavilion confirming that there will be no individual liability on any Sports Club member. The Sports Club and Parish Council solicitors are now waiting further instructions from the Football Foundation.

(b) Play Areas:

The Clerk reported that Digley Associates had recently undertaken the 'Annual ROSPA Inspection' on all the play areas in the parish and that we now have their report. Cllr. Dawes, Cllr. Dungay and Cllr. Frost have all been sent copies of the report and the Clerk will now liaise with Alan Groombridge to undertake minor repairs and maintenance of the play equipment.

It was suggested that the council should consider the fencing of the outdoor adult exercise equipment to deter dogs fouling on the safety matting. The Clerk has been asked to obtain quotations for fencing the area.

The Clerk noted that he had been unable to take forward the procurement of soil from the A2 slip-road, towards the building of a BMX track. A meeting had been arranged at Shalmsford Street recreation ground with a representative from Ringway, but the gentleman did not turn up and then failed to return a number of phone calls.

Cllr. Graveson noted that three teams from the Sports Club had been playing each other at St. Augustine's, prior to the new season starting.

(8) VILLAGE HALL.

There was no formal report on the village hall as Cllr Hoare was ill.

However, it was reported that all tables in the hall had now been stamped 'Chartham Village Hall', to deter people from stealing tables which has happened in the past.

It was noted that hiring prices for the hall were increased from the 1st August 2011.

It was reported that no further action had been taken on improving the visual aspect of the front entrance to the village hall. The Clerk and Cllr. Hoare will continue to take the matter forward.

A new worktop will be installed in the meeting room and a radiator will be moved to a new location to accommodate the worktop, which will help with the food and drink service in the room.

(9) HIGHWAYS / POLICE & KCC WARDEN LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

It was noted that the Clerk has reported two locations for new salt/grit bins in the parish to Kent Highway Services, but to date no response has been forthcoming. The Clerk will chase KHS for a reply.

Cllr. Dungay questioned who owns the small piece of land at Stour Road, which is currently overgrown. The Clerk will try and make enquiries with the City Council and Arjo Wiggins.

It was noted that the pot-hole outside the shop in Station Road has still not been filled. The Clerk will again report the problem to KHS.

Cllr. Manning reported that the 'line of sight' was obscured at the junction of the A28 Ashford Road, turning left at the Station Road triangle. The Clerk will check out the problem.

(b) Police / PCSO/ KCC Warden Liaison:

No report was available from the KCC Community Warden or the Police Community Support Officer.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 13th September 2011** at 7.30 pm at The Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7JA.

(11) CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 08.50 p.m.

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