

# **CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5HX.**

### **Present:**

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman  
Cllr. D. Butcher  
Cllr. G. Hoare  
Cllr. M. Goff  
Cllr. D. Weatherall  
Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk

Cllr. J. Jeffries  
Cllr. S. Dungay  
Cllr. P. Graveson  
Cllr. R. Doyle CCC  
Cllr. C. Manning

### **(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. D. Thompson.

### **(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (previously circulated).

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

Cllr Dungay stated that she wanted her ‘objections to more traffic movements’ noted on the planning application at 49 Shalmsford Street.

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

None were noted.

#### **b) Any change in declaration of member’s interest.**

No changes in member’s interests were noted.

### **(4) MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk noted to all members that CCC had now advised him that the Parish Council is now free to co-opt a new councillor to replace Rev. Barlow who resigned at the end of December 2009. It was reported that Ms Carol Manning had applied to join the Parish Council some weeks ago and was the only candidate who had applied. A resolution to co-opt Ms Carol Manning as a Parish Councillor was proposed by Cllr. Dawes and seconded by Cllr. Goff. All members voted in favour.

Cllr. Dawes welcomed Cllr. Manning to her first meeting of the Parish Council and the Clerk noted that he had recently spoken to Cllr. Manning and given her a welcome pack.

The Clerk will arrange with Cllr. Manning further paperwork to be completed for CCC and Parish Council records.

**(5) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The following issues were raised for discussion:

- Item 1: CCC - Canterbury District Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Option Report January 2010 (Regulation 25). Details were available for all members to read and Cllr. Dawes took the document for perusal.
- Item 2: CCC – Parish Forum Meeting – Invite Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Details were noted to all members. Cllr. Dawes and the Clerk will attend.
- Item 3: Invitation to join Canterbury & District Pensioners Forum. Details were noted to all members and it was suggested that details should be passed to Julie Fegan for the ‘Over 60’s’ group to investigate further.
- Item 4: CCC – Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 5. Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald – A2 Maintenance Work. Details were available for all members to read. The Clerk will forward a copy to all members with the minutes of today’s meeting.

The Clerk reported a requested by a Mrs Helen Lewis to erect a Memorial bench in the cemetery grounds on behalf of her late parents. Details of a proposed design were noted to all members and after discussion it was agreed to allow the request. The Clerk will liaise with Mrs Lewis regarding the installation of the bench and its location.

**(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. Dungay.

The Clerk reported that he had now completed the last quarter’s VAT claim.

The Clerk noted that now Cllr Manning has joined the council, he can now complete and return the new signatory’s form from Lloyds TSB. This will add Cllr. Hoare and Cllr. Manning to the list of signatories and delete Cllr. D. Frost and Cllr. Barlow.

**(b) Planning:**

The Clerk reported that there was one new Planning Application to be dealt with at the meeting:

**CA/10/00056/FUL** – Proposal: two-storey extension to side of dwelling: **Location:** 39 Updown Way, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7TP: **PC Views:** No Objections.

It was reported that caravans on a piece of land at Chartham Hatch near the North Downs Way, now have people living in them again. The matter will be reported to the CCC Enforcement team to investigate.

The Clerk noted that the CCC Enforcement team are still continuing their investigations into two untidy sites at Chartham Hatch and that enquiries are progressing to serve Planning Contravention Notices.

It was also reported that the CCC Enforcement team is still dealing with an alleged breach of Planning Permission on land adjacent to The Royal Oak, Chartham Hatch.

The Clerk reported to all members on a recent meeting that he had undertaken with a parishioner on the Ashford Road, who is proposing to submit a planning application to build a house.

**(c) Cemetery:**

The Clerk reported that the Cemetery Lodge is still for sale and that Foundation Property Services are still actively showing potential buyers around the property.

It was reported that the Cemetery Committee are investigating a new notice-board at the cemetery grounds as the current one is too small and in poor condition.

It was also reported that the Cemetery Committee is considering painting the fencing along the front of the cemetery lodge and car park as the fencing is currently in a very poor state of repair. The Clerk stated that he has asked Alan Groombridge for a quotation to undertake the work.

The Committee is currently in the process of reviewing its Cemetery Charges for the 2010/2011 year, and will bring the new charges to the next Parish Council meeting for formal approval.

Cllr. Dawes raised the issue of the 'Millennium Garden' at the top of the cemetery grounds and noted that it was currently not manageable or used by anyone. It was suggested that when the new extension is opened consideration should be given to levelling the site.

Cllr. Jeffries questioned when the new cemetery extension would have to be opened and whether it had to be consecrated. It was stated that we should aim to open the extension within the next year, and that the grounds will have to be consecrated.

**(d) Countryside:**

Cllr Butcher noted that the footpath at the rear of the Royal British Legion is marked by a concrete stone, but stated that the footpath sign still requires reinstatement and the PROW Office will be contacted.

Cllr. Graveson again raised the issue of a locked gate on footpath CB439/CB385. The issue will be reported to the PROW Office.

It was noted that the next walk is on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 2.30 pm from the Royal British Legion. It will be led by Bernard Wilson.

(e) **Amenities:**

The Clerk reported that we had still not received any formal response from CCC regarding the proposed closure of the public toilets on the Memorial playing field.

Cllr. Dungay reported that there are some tiles missing on the roof of the bus shelter at the top of Arnold Road. The Clerk will arrange repairs.

It was noted that the Clerk had submitted two grants to the CCC Capital Grant Scheme for a disabled roundabout and a half ball Multi-Sport basketball and goal. A decision will be known by the end of March 2010. The KCC Community Warden is also looking into further funding opportunities.

It was noted that two road signs have been covered in graffiti at the entrance to the Hyde. The Hyde Housing Manager has been informed.

It was noted that the proposed BMX track has been 'put on the back burner' at present as it is too expensive to build without adequate grant funding. It will be revived when outside funding can be secured.

It was noted that the sewage plant on the Memorial playing field has now had new fencing erected by Southern Water.

Cllr. Dungay stated that the Bottle Bank had now been cleaned up by Alan Groombridge. The site was in poor order with broken glass and litter hidden around the back of the containers.

It was noted that a new seat will be erected at the weir on the riverside path after the old seat was removed to undertake work on the new shared cycle path.

Cllr. Dawes reported that the parish notice-board at Chartham Hatch still required the broken glass in the door replacing. The Clerk noted that repairs were in hand.

Cllr. Dawes raised the issue of whether the War Memorial is a listed monument. The Parish Council has spent a lot of money on the War Memorial over the years and continues to do so. CCC Cllr. Doyle stated that she would make further enquiries at CCC to see if the Memorial is a listed monument.

(f) **No Man's Orchard Management Committee:**

It was reported that the pruning of the orchard has now been undertaken.

It was noted that a National Trust pruning workshop will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010, between 10 am & 15.30 pm. This is a private event and it will commence at the village hall and then transfer to the orchard in the afternoon.

It was reported that the KSCP have had a drastic cut-back in their funding and was now having to charge for many of its previously free services. The NMO Management Committee has a meeting arranged with Jon Shelton from KSCP to review work and services to be undertaken for the rest of the year and their potential cost.

It was reported that there are a number of new trees on order for the orchard which will cost £25 each and are due to be planted at the end of this year.

It was also noted that the KSCP had sent a recent e-mail to Committee members requesting £800 plus, for the updating, production and printing of the No Man's Orchard leaflet. This came as an unexpected surprise to all members and will be further discussed at the meeting with Jon Shelton.

The NMO Management Committee may also have to look into other funding opportunities and events to raise money in the future.

**(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.**

**(a) Sports Pavilion:**

The Clerk reported that the final snagging jobs are being undertaken at the pavilion. There are some DDA issues still to be resolved after a recent report was completed. The architect will be liaising with the contractor and the CCC Building Regulations Officer to undertake the necessary work.

Once again due to the recent bad weather the preparation work on the new pitches has not taken place and we must wait for the ground to dry out before work can commence.

**(b) Play Areas:**

The Clerk noted that the proposed meeting with the Area Manager of RSS Record at the play area sites at St. Augustine's had to be cancelled due to him having a car accident. A further appointment is to be arranged.

It was noted that Ace Pest Control had recently been to the Memorial playing field to clear the moles on the football pitch. Cllr. Hoare stated that there are now moles around the patio area at the rear of the village hall.

**(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.**

The Clerk noted a request from Sandra Cook (Youth Club) to erect a poster on the village hall car park fence to advertise a Youth Club Boot Fair on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The request was agreed by all members.

Cllr. Dawes reported that she had met with Cllr. Dungay and the VHMC Accountant to discuss the proposed new charges for the hiring of the village hall. It was noted that prices will only be increased by a small amount. There will be a change to the length of time given to cancel a booking.

The next meeting of the VHMC will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

Cllr. Hoare reported that the drain in the village hall car park in between the planters is regularly blocked and after recent investigation confirmed that it is not connected properly. A temporary measure is to redirect the drain-pipe away from the area to another nearby drain. Repairs will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Cllr. Hoare also raised the issue of parking in the village hall car park. It was stated that today numerous parents from the Mother & Toddler group were unable to park in the car park because of the number of cars already parked there. It was confirmed that commuters are coming from Canterbury to catch the train because they can park all-day for free. It was also stated that numerous cars from the Mill are still being parked in the car park and that the Clerk will write to Mark Hobday requesting that they park in the Mill car park. Discussion took place on the subject and various ideas were suggested including 'clamping' and 'stickers for local users'. It was agreed that the issue will be debated further at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee.

**(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.**

**(a) Highways:**

The Clerk reported that a number of pot-holes and defective street lights had been reported to Kent Highway Services recently through the Parish Portal.

Cllr. Dungay reported a further two defective street lights in Rentain Road.

Cllr. Butcher again raised the issue of dog-mess at Shalmsford Street. It was noted that the main problem was enforcement of an 'incident'. CCC Cllr. Doyle stated that she would investigate further the City Council 'Dog-Orders'.

**(b) Police /KCC Warden Liaison:**

The Clerk read out a report from KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth who noted the following issues:

- Criminal damage caused to cars on Friday night in The Hyde. Our two PCSO's have been undertaking door-to-door enquiries and things are looking positive with names given to the Police.
- The Friday before there was a report of a nuisance middle-aged man causing a problem at the top end of The Hyde. The Housing Manager has been informed.
- The Royal British Legion had some windows smashed on Saturday.
- There have been regular complaints about anti-social behaviour coming from the Royal British Legion fuelled by drink. If you are experiencing this type of problem please contact your PCSO or KCC Community Warden. Phone numbers are in the Parish Magazine.
- The rest of the village has been pretty quiet.
- Dog fouling has become a problem again. It's a nuisance that irresponsible dog owners cannot clear up behind their dogs. SERCO are to be asked to visit the known problem areas. If you see someone walking their dog and they don't clean up its mess, take the time, date and location and pass it to SERCO who will take action against the dog owner.
- We now have a new Police Constable in the parish; he is PC 8351 Paul Gibson and he can be contacted on 07980770588.

Discussion took place regarding the licensing situation at the Royal British Legion and CCC Cllr. Doyle stated that she would check the situation with Roger Vick at the City Council Licensing Department.

Cllr. Dawes also reported on a recent meeting she attended titled ‘Safer Canterbury District Partnership’, jointly chaired by CCC and Kent Police.

**(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010** at 7.30 pm at The Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7HX.

**(11) CLOSURE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 08.40 p.m.

**Chairman.....Date.....**