

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 7JA.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman
Cllr. C. Manning
Cllr. G. Hoare
Cllr. M. Goff

Cllr. J. Jeffries
Cllr. A. Frost
Cllr. R. Doyle CCC
Mr. P. Hornibrook – Clerk

KCC Community Warden – Tom Tucker-Smyth.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Thompson, Cllr. D. Butcher, Cllr. P. Graveson, Cllr. D. Weatherall, Cllr. S Dungay.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meeting held on 9th February 2010 (previously circulated).

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

(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 we should set the date for the next Parish Assembly meeting which is normally held in May. The Parish Council meeting is due to be held on the 11th May 2010 and it was subsequently agreed that the Parish Assembly should be held on the following Tuesday 18th May 2010 at the Village Hall. The Clerk will confirm the booking of the hall and issue the usual invites to all local clubs and organisations in due course.

The Clerk and Chairman reported on a recent Parish Forum meeting that they attended on Saturday 27th February 2010 at Herne. The Clerk outlined issues discussed such as car parking, play areas and open spaces. The Clerk and Cllr. Dawes will take forward the issue of ensuring that all play areas and recreation grounds are protected from possible future development.

It was noted that the broken glass in the notice-board at Chartham Hatch will be repaired this week.

(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 - Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 2nd March 2010. Details were available for all members to read.
- Item 2: Ashford Borough Council – Submission of Tenterden & Rural Sites DPD – Ashford Borough Council Local Development Framework. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 3: Natural England – England’s statutory landscape designations. It was noted that there was a picture of the Chartham Village Design Statement cover on the inside of the publication. Cllr. Doyle took the document for perusal.

(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 reported that he had now received the last quarter’s VAT claim.

It was noted that both Cllr Manning and Cllr. Hoare have now completed the new signatory’s form at Lloyds TSB, and should be able to sign cheques within the next week.

(b) Planning:

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

CA/10/00148/FUL – Proposal: Two-storey & roof extension to rear of dwelling:
Location: 6 Riverside Cottages, Riverside, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7JR: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/10/00263/FUL – Proposal: Dormer window to rear of dwelling: **Location:** The Bolt Hole, Bolts Hill, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7JX: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/10/00197/FUL – Proposal: Conversion of half of double garage into study/recreation room: **Location:** 2 Chestnut Close, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7TD: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/10/00281/LB – Proposal: Conservatory to south west elevation of dwelling (Revised scheme): **Location:** Court Lodge, Parish Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LD: **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/10/00282/FUL – Proposal: Conservatory to south west elevation of dwelling (Revised scheme); **Location:** Court Lodge, Parish Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LD; **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/10/00291/TPO – Proposal: Crown reduction by 25% and thinning by 30% of trees subject of T.P.O No. 4 of 1997; **Location:** Central House, Ashford Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7HH; **PC Views:** No Objections.

CA/10/00310/FUL – Proposal: Erection of Barn (Retrospective); **Location:** Land adjoining Royal Oak, Hatch Lane, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7LP; **PC Views:** The Parish Council objects strongly to the application as it clearly contravenes the original plans and we cannot see any real reason for the change.

The Clerk read out two '**Granted**' Planning Application.

CA/09/02003/FUL – Land adjoining The Royal Oak Public House, Hatch Lane, Chartham.
CA/09/01832/FUL – Sand Down, Gravel Hill, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7NJ.

The Clerk noted one '**Refused**' Planning Application.

CA/09/01965/FUL – Butterfly Cottage, 49 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7RS.

The Clerk noted a '**Notice of a Planning Appeal**' relating to land adjacent to Royal Oak, Hatch Lane, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7LP. Any further representations are to be made by the 2nd April 2010.

(c) **Cemetery:**

The Clerk reported that an offer of £160,000 had been agreed for the sale of the Cemetery Lodge. Foundation Property Services and Robinson Solicitors are taking forward the sale of the property. A resolution to agree the sale of the lodge at £160,000 was proposed by Cllr. Goff and seconded by Cllr. Frost. All members voted in favour.

It was reported that the Cemetery Committee are still taking forward the proposal to erect a new notice-board in the cemetery grounds.

It was also reported that the Cemetery Committee are still taking forward the issue of painting the fencing along the front of the cemetery lodge and car park. A quote for the work had been received from Alan Groombridge and was being considered.

The Clerk reported that the Cemetery Charges for the 2010/2011 year had recently been reviewed by members of the Cemetery Committee, and copies were handed out to all members to review. A resolution to adopt the new charges was proposed by Cllr. Dawes and seconded by Cllr. Manning. All members voted in favour. The Clerk noted that the charges and a letter relating to the 'conservation & care' of the cemetery will be issued to all local Funeral Directors and Stonemasons as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that if the sale of the lodge progresses as is hoped, some of the funds from the sale should be used to install the new roadway and pathways required in the new cemetery extension.

(d) Countryside:

The Clerk reported that the 'kissing gate- at the rear of the Royal British Legion had now been reinstated by Alan Groombridge.

The Clerk noted a request from the Chartham Hatch Village Hall Society to be able to use the recreation ground at Chartham Hatch for their Summer Fete on Saturday 14th July 2010. The event would run from midday to 3.30 pm and permission was also required to park on the field. The application was agreed, subject to the usual proviso of inclement weather on the day. The Clerk will reply in writing to CHVHS

It was noted that the next walk is on Sunday 11th April 2010 at 2.30 pm from the Royal British Legion.

Cllr. Dawes noted that new leaders are required for the Sunday walks and volunteers would be welcomed.

(e) Amenities:

The Clerk reported that we had still not received a formal response from CCC regarding the proposed closure of the public toilets on the Memorial playing field. Cllr. Doyle will investigate and let us know the current situation.

It was reported that a recent meeting had taken place regarding the village hall car park and the current problems being encountered with lack of spaces for the users. It was noted that last Tuesday a number of local mill workers had parked in the car park taking up at least 6/7 spaces. This meant that some of the parents attending the 'mother & toddler' group had to park on Station Road and near St Mary's Church. This is clearly an unacceptable situation. It was proposed that we should make the car park for the use of village hall users and residents of the parish who park and commute to Ashford, London etc. It was noted that a number of spaces are also being used by persons from outside the parish who have found the car park cheaper and more secure than parking in Canterbury and then getting the train from Canterbury West station. The Clerk noted that he was due to meet with Clive Metcalf, Head of Parking Services at CCC tomorrow afternoon to discuss the regulations and wording for new signage at the car park. The possibility of using an independent 'clamping' company was also to be investigated. Various other options such as issuing permits to park would be discussed, as well as locking the gates on some evenings prior to the 'busy' mornings at the hall. The Farmers Market is also another event when the hall is extremely busy and we have the added problem of exhibitor's vehicles also being parked in the car park. Whilst the Parish Council does not want to exclude dog walkers, parents using the play area, ramblers etc from using the car park the main focus should be to hall users. Further discussion will take place on the proposals once the Clerk has visited CCC and obtained further information on the subject.

Cllr. Goff noted that the grass area around the War Memorial had been badly damaged by British Gas when undertaking recent repairs to the nearby gas supply. It was suggested that we write to the gas board asking them to reinstate the area to its original standard.

Cllr. Dawes reported that the Parish Council bench located on the pathway at St. Augustine's near Magnolia Drive needs the weeds clearing around it. The Clerk will arrange the work with Alan Groombridge.

Cllr. Hoare reported that 'The Slip' was in a dangerous condition and required clearing and cutting back. Cllr. Dawes will contact the PROW Office and ask them to clear the site.

(f) No Man's Orchard Management Committee:

The Clerk noted that a meeting had taken place between the NMO Management Committee and Jon Shelton from KSCP, to discuss the expenditure for proposed work to be undertaken by the KSCP team and volunteers for the rest of the year. The committee now has an idea of its financial commitments for the rest of the year.

The Clerk noted an e-mail from Diane Comley KSCP regarding the proposed location of 'Blean Interpretation Panels'. They have narrowed the location down to two sites, one at The Chapter Arms and the other at the Chartham Hatch Village Hall car park. We will be notified in due course of the final decision.

(7) SPORTS PAVILION/PLAY AREAS.

(a) Sports Pavilion:

The Clerk reported that the Sports Club is still investigating problems with the VAT reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs. A member of the Sports Club was due to go to the VAT Office at Maidstone today, to try and sort out the issue.

The final fencing around the car park is due to be completed this week, along with the clearing of some of the trees and shrubs around the car park.

Privacy screens are still to be erected in the changing-rooms along with some other minor snagging issues.

Disabled parking signs and disabled parking bays are to be erected and marked in the car park, and further signage is to be erected on the pavilion.

'Dog- Fouling' and 'Pick-up your Litter' signs will also be erected on the fencing around the cricket pitch.

The Clerk noted that KCC Cllr. John Simmonds had had given a further £2,500 towards further sports equipment for the new pavilion. This will be paid in April 2010.

It was also reported that £5,500 had been awarded to the sports club from the Collyer Ferguson Trust for 'sight screens and pitch covers' for the cricketers. The Clerk noted that he was still liaising with the Trust for further funds.

(b) Play Areas:

The Clerk reported on a meeting that he and Cllr. Hoare attended with Alan Eastell, the Area Manager of RSS Record at the play area sites at St. Augustine's.

The meeting was arranged to discuss the problems we had encountered recently with a 'rotten' wooden beam on the swings in the 'junior' play area. An inspection of both the play areas was undertaken and all the other equipment was found to be in good order. The Area Manager will confirm guarantee dates with us as the equipment was originally installed in 2004. We also requested that RSS send some spare bolts and specialist tools to enable us to carry out routine maintenance on the play equipment. Cllr. Hoare also requested that RSS let us know if there is a method of 'load testing' the crossbeams on the swings and other equipment.

It was noted that the play equipment is checked weekly by Cllr. Frost and the Clerk.

(8) VILLAGE HALL.

The Clerk noted that a new patio door had now been fitted to replace the broken one going out onto the rear patio area.

It was reported that the problem with the drain in the village hall car park in between the planters has now been temporarily resolved.

It was also noted that that new bolts had been fitted to the doors leading from the lounge into the main hall.

There have been recent problems with the boilers in the hall and it now appears that a wrong style 'domestic timer' was fitted instead of an industrial one. Repairs will be undertaken in the near future.

A quotation has been received for the installation of a 'Butler Sink' for the cleaners to use, and this is to be ratified by the VHMC at its next meeting.

The VHMC are in the process of writing a new 'Booking Policy' and 'Opening Policy' for hall users.

It was reported that CCC have booked the hall as a 'polling station' on the 6th May 2010.

It was reported that there was recent damage to the doors leading into the lounge from the lobby, caused at a recent party. The VHMC are now to look at introducing a 'holding/booking fee' to pay for any damage caused by hirers.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

(a) Highways:

Numerous pot-holes were noted on Bigberry Road and Primrose Hill. The Clerk will report them to KHS.

Cllr. Dawes reported the 'Road Narrows' sign at Town Lane requires reinstatement. The Clerk will again report the issue to KHS.

(b) Police /KCC Warden Liaison:

The KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth noted the following issues:

- Numerous calls had been received in relation to advice and organisations for people to contact.
- Lots of pot-holes have been and are still being reported to KHS.
- There have been some recent problems in the village, now taken care of by PC Gibson.
- ‘Operation Cubit’ took place in Canterbury last week, with some success in the village.
- Duster sellers were causing problems in Chartham Hatch, and well done to the vigilance of Cllr. Dawes.
- There was a problem with Illegal Immigrants being found around the mill and Rentain Road area last week.
- An inspection of CCC properties was undertaken recently with the KCC Warden, PC Gibson, Helen Cross CCC Housing Officer, SERCO and Streetscene representatives, to identify areas and issues that need addressing.
- A youth was arrested recently for ‘obtaining money by deception’.
- Discussion took place regarding the youth living in the caravan on land at Bakers Lane and it was noted that the Police are aware of the problem, but have to follow strict procedures in any action to be taken.

(10) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed to be **Tuesday 13th April 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 08.57 p.m.

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