

CHARTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, CHARTHAM, NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5PW.

Present:

Cllr. A. Dawes – Chairman

Cllr. C. Barlow – Vice-Chairman

Cllr. D. Butcher

Mr P Hornibrook – Clerk

Cllr. P.Graveson

Cllr. D.Weatherall

Cllr. J. Jeffries

Cllr. S. Dungay

KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth .

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Thompson, Cllr. R. Doyle CCC, Cllr. M. Goff, Cllr.A. Frost, Cllr. D.Frost, Cllr. J. Simmonds KCC.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution: To confirm minutes of meetings held on 12th August 2008 (previously circulated).

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

Resolution carried unanimously.

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

No interest was noted in any agenda items.

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

No change was noted in any member's interests.

(4) MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Dawes requested that when any Councillor takes a document for review or comment that they provide feedback to all members at the following Parish Council meeting.

(5) TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE

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

The following issues were raised for discussion:

- Item 1: CCC – Development Control Committee – Agenda – Tuesday 19th August 2008.
A copy was available for all members to read.

- Item 2: CCC – Development Control Committee – List of Planning Applications – Tuesday 19th August 2008. A copy was available for all members to read.
- Item 3: AWCIRK – 85th Annual Meeting – Thursday 4th September 2008. Details of the meeting were noted to all members.
- Item 4: CCC – Kent & Sussex Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group – 2008 Autumn Events. A copy of the leaflet was available for all members to read.
- Item 5: Kent Highway Services – KCC Draft Permit Scheme – Comments Requested. Cllr. Dawes read out the letter from KHS and the Clerk will review the document and make any further comments required.
- Item 6: CCC - Response to letter regarding ‘vandalism in the parish’. Cllr. Dawes read out the City Council’s response to all members. The letter noted that the crime figures for the parish do not warrant any further increased Police action and that all residents should be encouraged to report any criminal activity and obtain a crime reference number. If the Police are not aware of any crimes that are committed they cannot divert further resources to the area.
- Item 7: CCC – Parish Council Forum – Thursday 25th September 2008 at Herne Village Hall. Details of the event were noted to all members.
- Item 8: CCC – Parish Council Forum – Saturday 15th November 2008 at Chartham Village Hall. Details of the event were noted to all members.
- Item 9: Kent Highway Services – Parish & Town Council Seminar – 15th October 2008. Details were noted to all members and the Clerk will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Item 10: CCC – Mapping Exercise on Social Activities for the Over 60’s in the Canterbury District. Details were noted to all members and after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would complete the attached form and return it to CCC.
- Item 11: Southern Water – Draft Business Plan/Business Plan Roadshows. Details of the dates of the Roadshows were noted to all members.
- Item 12: South East Water – New Water Main to secure supplies for Ashford. Details were noted to all members.
- Item 13: CCC – Allotment, Open Space and Play strategic consultation event – 21st October 2008. Details of the event were noted to all members. Cllr. Dungay took the document for review.

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

a) Finance and General Purposes.

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting the final ‘sign off’ of the Parish Council Accounts by the Audit Commission.

The Clerk noted that a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee will be required shortly to discuss and approve the 'Concurrent Funding' application to CCC for the 2009/2010 year. The application has to be returned to CCC by the 17th October 2008 and the Clerk will notify all members of a meeting date in due course, once he has obtained details of next years proposed increase in costs from various Parish Council contractors.

The Clerk reported on a meeting that he had attended earlier in the day with Nicolette Cole from the Canterbury & District Early Years project, which organises the 'Mother & Toddler' group at the village hall. It was stated that funding for the 2009/2010 year that was thought to be forthcoming from KCC has not been agreed and that the continuation of the project will be in jeopardy if funding cannot be found. The group approached the Parish Council to see if they could help with any future funding. The Clerk noted details of the expenditure of the group and how much would be required to run the group for a year. It was noted that the group is the busiest in the area with over 100 families and 145 children registered for the project. The sessions average 46 children and 35 parents each week and it was noted that they are trying to obtain a Health Visitor to attend the group on a regular basis. The Councillors requested that further information be confirmed as to how much, if anything parents have to pay for each session. The Clerk will make further enquiries and the issue will be discussed further at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

(b) Planning.

The Clerk reported that there were two new Planning Applications to be dealt with at the Meeting:

CA/08/00991/CHA: Proposal: conservatory to rear of dwelling: **Location:** Mill House, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7HZ: **Parish Council Views:** No Objections.

CA/08/00970/CHA: Proposal: Two-storey extension to rear and porch to side of dwelling (Revised scheme): **Location:** 1 & 2 Box Tree Cottages, Bolts Hill, Chartham. CT4 7JX: **Parish Council Views:** No Objections.

The Clerk read out four '**Granted**' Planning applications.

CA/08/00882/CHA – 1 & 2 Box Tree Cottages, Bolts Hill, Chartham, CT4 7JX.

CAL08/00067/CHA – The West Wing, Mystole House, Mystole, Chartham CT4 7DB.

CA/08/00818/CHA – 8 Nightingale Close, Chartham Hatch, CT4 7NB.

CA/08/00885/CHA - 1 & 2 Box Tree Cottages, Bolts Hill, Chartham, CT4 7JX.

The Clerk read out one '**Refused**' Planning application.

CA/08/00904/CHA – Land rear of 225/227 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7PY.

One '**Withdrawn**' Planning application was read out by the Clerk:

CA/08/00865/CHA – Bahia Cottage, Howfield Lane, Chartham, CT4 7NA.

The Clerk noted details of an 'Appeal' lodged with the Secretary of State at the following site: 3, Nickle Bank, Nickle Lane, Chartham, CT4 7PB.

(c) **Cemetery.**

Discussion took place regarding the proposed sale of the Cemetery Lodge. It was noted that the purchase price had been lowered as per instructions at the last Parish Council meeting, but this has not seen any further interest being shown in the property. Previously it was suggested that the Lodge should be put up for 'Auction' as soon as possible, with a reserved price placed on it. However, in view of the current housing market problems it was agreed to leave the house on the 'For Sale' market until Spring 2009. The Clerk will inform the Estate Agents and Auctioneers.

Cllr. Barlow noted that he had dealt with one or two 'tricky' memorial applications recently.

The Clerk noted that he had recently met with John Russell (Builder) regarding undertaking further repairs to the skirting board, and painting of the Cemetery Chapel. It was reported that 'CURE' of Ashford have recently undertaken repairs to some long-standing damp areas on the rear wall of the Chapel and that new concrete skirting board was now required. The back and side walls that have been re-plastered and are currently in the process of drying out.

It was reported that the filling of the 'Sunken Graves' are still being attended to by Richard Marsh and Alan Groombridge on an ad-hoc basis.

It was noted that the grave plans are still being updated by the Clerk and Cllr. Jeffries.

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr. Barlow are hopefully due to meet with Mr Hulme next week to discuss the 'Right of Access' through the cemetery car park.

(d) **Countryside.**

The Clerk noted that he was still taking forward the ordering of some new trees with tree warden Alun Griffiths for various areas at St. Augustine's, Shalmsford Street recreation ground, and the Memorial playing field. A further meeting with the tree and pond wardens will be arranged for October 2008 to take the proposed projects forward.

The next footpath walk will be on Sunday 6th October 2008 at 2.30 pm from the Royal British Legion Hall. It was noted that this is also 'Scarecrow Day'.

Cllr. Butcher noted that he has not yet had time to visit the new PROW Office at East Brabourne to try and clear up several outstanding local issues, but will arrange a visit in due course.

Cllr. Weatherall reported on a complaint made to her by a parishioner regarding the leaking of 'untreated waste' from HGV lorries heading towards Thruxted Mill. The parishioner has photographic evidence of the leaks from the vehicles which were not properly covered. It was stated that the parishioner should write to both Ashford Borough Council and Canterbury City Council Environmental Departments as well as Thruxted Mill, enclosing copies of the photographic evidence.

(e) **Amenities.**

The Clerk reported that the old play equipment at the rear of the village hall will be removed by the end of the month. The area will then be covered with new topsoil and seeded.

The Clerk noted that the notice board, litter bin and cycle rack from the old play area will be moved to the site of the new play equipment on the Memorial playing field.

Cllr. Dungay asked for the Amenities meeting arranged for the 24th September 2008 to be rearranged to another date. The Clerk will notify members of a new date in due course.

It was noted that a new seat is required at the new play area for parents to use whilst their children are playing.

Cllr. Weatherall gave an update on the progress made of setting up a new Youth Club at the village hall. It was noted that Cllr. Weatherall and KCC Community Warden Tom Tucker-Smyth had recently attended a meeting with members of the Village Hall Management Committee to discuss various issues regarding hall hire costs, storage of equipment etc. It was hoped that the Club would start in October on a Wednesday evening between 6.00 & 8.00 pm. An 'Open Evening' is to be arranged next Wednesday evening 17th September 2008, and Cllr. Weatherall will promote the Youth club at a stall at the 'Garage Sale' this coming weekend. Some volunteer CRB checks are still being undertaken.

Cllr. Dungay requested that the Chairman's Notice board in the village hall be updated. The Clerk will contact a local sign-writer.

Cllr. Dawes asked how successful the recent Charlton Athletic Football Coaching Course was. Cllr. Weatherall noted that 28 children attended, although they had originally hoped for over 40. The lack of numbers was due to the holiday period and a local problem advertising the event. It was hoped that the event would be run again next year. It was also stated that the Charlton Athletic coaching team were excellent, and that all the children received 'ruck' sack gift packs and the offer of free tickets to the next Charlton Athletic game.

Cllr. Weatherall left the meeting at 8.52 pm..

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

The next No Man's Orchard Committee meeting is on the 17th September 2008.

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

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting a decision from the Football Foundation regarding the grant application for the new sports pavilion. The Football Foundation has again requested further clarification on various issues and the Clerk and Bryan Taylor have responded to these questions.

The Clerk read out a letter from Chartham Sports Club regarding the issue of storage of mowers, goal posts etc at the proposed new sports pavilion. The Clerk will contact Peter Harrington regarding the matter.

The Clerk reported that the ROSPA play area report had now been received, noting minor repairs to be undertaken to the play equipment, fencing and surrounding areas. The Clerk is liaising with Alan Groombridge to complete all the issues noted.

The Clerk noted one quotation received from Campbell's fencing for the fencing of the new play area at the Memorial playing field. The Clerk is to arrange for two further quotations to be provided for comparison.

(8) VILLAGE HALL UPDATE.

The Clerk reported that Sandra Worth at Robinson Solicitors is still reviewing the 'Trust Deed' for the village hall and is in the process of ensuring that the car park and village hall are properly registered with the Land Registry Office.

It was reported that Clague are still in the process of liaising with Berkeley Construction to try and resolve the final account for the village hall.

Cllr. Barlow reported that the Village Hall Management Committee have officially appointed Mr & Mrs G Hoare as caretaker and cleaner at the village hall.

It was noted that the recent village fete was a great success with a lot of hard work undertaken by the Fete Committee and other volunteers.

It was reported that estimates are being obtained for acoustic panelling and curtaining in the village hall.

(9) HIGHWAY PROBLEMS / POLICE LIAISON.

Highways:

The Clerk reported that Kent Highway Services had now carried out repairs to the dangerous pot-holes at the top of the junction of Rattington Street and Cockering Road.

The Clerk reported that the broken bollards at the triangle near the Railway Station and at the crossroads at Chartham Hatch will be replaced in the next week or so, by Alan Groombridge.

Cllr. Butcher reported that photographs had recently been taken of the 'Speedwatch' equipment and volunteers for a Police Magazine article.

The Clerk read out a letter from a parishioner noting that it is odd that there is no footpath along Rattington Street to promote safe walking between St. Augustine's and the village facilities. It was stated that this issue has been raised before and the cost to provide such a facility has always been prohibitive. The road would have to be widened to encompass a new pavement, meaning land would have to be purchased from local landowners. In the current climate both Kent Highway Services and the Parish Council do not have sufficient money available to fund such a project.

Cllr. Dawes noted that several complaints had been received regarding footpaths being blocked with overgrown hedgerow and weeds from adjacent properties. It was agreed that a leaflet should be constructed by the Parish Council which could then be delivered to appropriate householders asking them to clear any offending obstruction. The KCC Warden

or PCSO could be asked to deliver the note and explain the reasoning behind the request. A resolution to design the leaflet was proposed by Cllr. Barlow and seconded by Cllr. Dungay.

Police Liaison:

The Clerk read out a letter from Police Community Support Officer David Garland noting that he is the new Supervisor for the Canterbury District PCSO's. The letter requested that that Parish Council member's should be asked if they would like the re-instigation of the 'Police Rural Parish Council Forum' that had previously existed. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the re-introduction of the Police Forum and Cllr. Butcher volunteered to attend the meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was noted that the PCSO had undertaken three speed camera campaigns recently in the village and that letters had been sent to those offending motorists.

It was reported that the KCC Warden had received 26 phone enquiries in the past month, mostly asking for various types of help and advice from other departments.

The KCC Warden also confirmed that the CCC Dog Warden and CCC Traffic Management Officers will be patrolling around the village in the next few weeks.

Cllr. Dawes noted a problem with dog-fouling at Chartham Hatch recreation ground and the KCC Warden and CCC Dog Warden will be asked to investigate the problem.

Cllr. Dawes also asked if the PCSO monthly surgeries at the village hall on farmers Market day have been useful. It was noted that both the PCSO and KCC Warden have been approached for advice and information on a regular basis.

(10) SIGNING OF ORDERS FOR PAYMENT.

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

(11) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting confirmed as **Tuesday 14th October 2008** at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 7HX.

(12) CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.15 p.m.

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