

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
11 NOVEMBER 2009 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WELLS ROAD, CHILCOMPTON**

1. **Present:** Cllrs. Mattick (Chairman), Pickford, Blatchford, Boxall, Mattick P, Parry, Morgan, Pike & Thwaites. MDCllr Gus Halfhide (8.45pm approx).

Apologies: Cllrs. Aldridge, Bacik & Foster. Beat Manager Jay Appleton & PCSO Nikki Housley.
2. **Public Participation:** There were no members of the public present.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Ordinary Meeting:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.
4. **MDCllr Gus Halfhide:**
 - a) **Raglan Housing Association/106 Agreement:** In the draft amendment, one specific revised agreement should take over from all existing agreements and should also cover for the future for any builder in Chilcompton. Specifically in item 3 (e) the word 'Chilcompton' needs to be inserted; and it had been previously agreed that under occupancy would be allowed for Chilcompton people and this should be included. Cllr. Halfhide read out an e-mail from MDC which outlined revisions to the draft 106, and provided an update on the current situation. He will forward this on and this will be discussed at next month's meeting.
 - b) **PIB and Parish Forum:** November PIB received – drop in session on 3 December 5-8pm. to put forward views on housing in Mendip under the 'Time to Plan' consultation. Cllr. Halfhide emphasised the importance of our views being represented and Cllr. Pickford is hoping to go. It was agreed we have already fulfilled our allocation of housing in the village and the Clerk will write if Cllr. Pickford is unable to attend.
 - c) **'More Powers for Parish Councils':** Unlock Democracy requesting support to get the Sustainable Communities Act amended to include local councils. It was questioned if local councils will be subject to quality status, as this is not mentioned. Cllr. Halfhide has advised he can find nothing in the amendment to show this will be subject to quality status. It was agreed the Clerk will write to support this amendment if the deadline has not passed. 09/09
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Parish Council Records to SCC Archives:** The last set of Minutes is now with a local bookbinder for binding. He has verbally quoted £30 so the Clerk has given instructions to proceed.
 - b) **Cleaning of the Street Ponds:** The invoice for the repair to the railings has been received. The Project committee are concerned that if this invoice is not paid out of the remaining grant money, this money may have to be returned to the awarding bodies. Also, if the Parish Council do not pay the invoice, Chilcompton Celebrates will be responsible for the VAT. The Clerk also pointed out that the grant money held by the PC is designated to be spent on the Ponds project and should not be used for anything else. With this in mind, it was agreed the grant money will pay Richard Wood's invoice for £2112.55 inc. VAT. There will still be approx. £1,000 grant money left over, without the £1,000 set aside out of PC funds, and it has been suggested this is used to paint more railings. Cllr. Foster has indicated that perhaps Chilcompton Celebrates can help with this instead and there are also other deserving causes the Celebrates money can be used for. It was noted the railings by the bottom bus shelter are in need of attention.
 - c) **Highways:** items reported (Highways ref. no. included – Call Centre tel: 0845 345 9155):
 - i) 182228 - planked bridge & sleeper partially blocks far end of Valley outlet pipe. The Footpaths officer has asked the landowner who installed the bridge and sleeper to modify the construction to allow better flow of water. The Clerk has reminded. 01/08

Signed..... Date.....Witnessed.....

- ii) 201002 - Naishes Cross finger signpost to Wells is missing. This post has been painted, but still does not have a Wells finger.
 - iii) 203422 – 3 signposts - Naishes Cross, top of Bakers Lane and on Naishes Cross green are loose in their settings and are still leaning making them dangerous to passers by. Works order has been issued. 07/08 The Clerk has asked Andy Fountain to phone her.
 - iv) 200997 - Grit boxes to be placed at the top of Fry's Well hill or if not possible on the pavement in The Redan car park, and at the top of Stockhill Road. The Clerk has ordered 2 x 370ltr. grit bins from Glasdon, price each £167.20 plus VAT. Then Highways will fill along with the empty bin on Bowden Hill. 02/09
 - v) 215020 - Potholes in Coal Lane. These have been marked for filling. 09/09
 - vi) 218657 - Narrow pavement at the bottom of Stockhill Road. Requested widening with a dropped kerb for access. 10/09
 - vii) 218658 - 3 diversion signs have been left behind around the village, following Highways works. 10/09
- d) **Emergency Plan:** Cllrs. Morgan and Blatchford are getting together. It was agreed this will form part of the Parish Plan. 05/07
- e) **Development of land opp. Somerset Wagon – junction improvement and TPO on tree:** Bo Walshe has confirmed that the TPO on the Maple tree is provisional for 6 months to give time to consider any statements of support or objection – none have been received so far. The TPO will be confirmed prior to the provisional TPO running out on 15 January 2010. He is also going to keep an eye out for any proposal for the highway junction. The Clerk will write to strongly support this TPO. 11/07
- f) **Flashing 'SID' sign:** Any action to put up our own sign will be deemed illegal by SCC Highways. The SID is back at Bennell but it was generally agreed that these signs do not appear to make much difference to traffic speed wherever used. 02/08
- g) **Broadband speed in the village:** Cllr. Foster is finding out if broadband speeds have changed for those in the village who originally complained. 05/08
- h) **Murals inside 2 Bus Shelters:** The painting of the mural in the bottom bus shelter is still continuing. Cllr. Parry kindly offered to keep the shelter clean. 06/08
- i) **Light pollution at New Rock:** The planning application for a canopy has been passed; awaiting the new canopy to shield the light. 06/08
- j) **No bus shelter cleaning:** Alan Davis has finished tidying the garden adjoining the bus shelter and is not interested in continuing to clean out the bus shelter. 03/09
- k) **2 dog fouling signs for Fry's Well:** This has been done. 03/09
- l) **Conditions of planning permission on land adjacent to The Redan:** Mendip Planning have confirmed that the public will be consulted on the TRO and the speed camera should not be affected by the pedestrian crossing but this will be a consideration of the safety audit which forms part of the TRO. 04/09
- m) **FP32 from Tunnel Lane to Whitegates:** 3 stiles are there but can't be used as these areas are overgrown. Also, the footpath is blocked by 2 electric fences. Sheila is having problems getting the owner to communicate with her. Cllr. Foster said she would also phone the owner. It was noted the owner is there on Saturday mornings. 06/09
- n) **Downside School project:** The Deputy Head is proposing litter picking as a suitable community based environmental project in the village. Cllr. Parry will contact him about the possibility of students working in the Old Rec. and also painting the railings in Church Lane. 07/09

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- o) **Bus stop by Britannia Close:** Awaiting this bus stop to be moved further away from the bottom of the hill for safety reasons. A date has not yet been set to move the bus stop. 08/09
- p) **Planning app. 2009/0505 on part of Glebe Land:** Appeal by Flower & Hayes against the failure to give notice of its decision on the variation of condition 5 on permission 104997/004 within the appropriate period. MDC have written setting out their reasons for refusing this appeal but indicating an alternative solution. Therefore, the Inspectorate has allowed the appeal with a revised variation to form the access onto the Glebe land site but redefined the condition that no 'development' on site can take place without modifying the adjoining highway junction. 08/09
- q) **Housing Strategy first draft:** We were given 3 days notice to comment by 25 September. MDC have replied and will take on board our comments. 10/09
- r) **Adopting the red phone kiosk at The Pitching:** The Clerk has read the information and exactly the same conditions will apply as for the Bennell kiosk. Removal of the electricity supply is not a requirement but we will be liable for the cost if we wish to remove it – Bennell quote was £170. Insurance under the Street Furniture section of the policy is likely to cost £25 per year. We must get approval from MDC Planning before applying to BT for the adoption and their deadline is 15 December. After much discussion, a vote was taken to adopt this kiosk, 8 for, with 1 abstention. The Clerk will proceed with the adoption. 10/09
- s) **New properties at the top of Parsonage Lane:** The boundary has been moved out 1 metre over the pavement on Wells Road. The Clerk will find out if this is legal. 10/09
- t) **Footpath FP5/24, off Sweetleaze Lane:** The post on the bottom step is rotten. The Clerk has reported this to the Footpaths Officer. 10/09
6. **Recreation Project Report:** Cllr. Boxall confirmed the contractor for the tractor shed base has been agreed and they have obtained 3 quotes for the 7m x 7m shed, which will also be used for storage. Grant applications have been made to the Sperring Trust towards the concrete base and Awards for All for the full cost of the shed. The last 2 months results of the 100 Club draw are below:
- October – 1st Elizabeth Brown, 2nd Mr P James, 3rd Mrs Helen Edgell.
November – 1st Steve Davis, 2nd Jane Wheeler, 3rd Margaret Pugh.
7. **Playing Field (Old Rec.) Sub-Committee Update:** Cllr. Parry reported they planted a cherry tree for peace, funded by Celebrates, MSN Peace group and Gardening Club. They have also had their bonfire which was a small affair with baked potatoes. The garden clearing is on-going but they could do with some more help, especially with strimming the edges of the field. She will make contact with Downside School for help. The play area project is on-going but there is no update on the repair of the existing equipment. The Clerk will ask Cllr. Bacik when this will be done. They are putting together proposals for new equipment to cater for slightly older children and will concentrate on grant applications to help cover this provision. There are only a few people involved in this project now but they are still enthusiastic.
8. **Village Hall Sub-Committee:** A draft letter to the Governors setting out the history, facts, legal position of the VHMC and responsibilities of the school/children's centre was put together by Cllr. Thwaites and circulated to all Councillors with the Agenda. Cllr. Thwaites felt there was a lot of misunderstanding and a solid document was needed to clarify and start negotiations. This letter should go as a joint undertaking from the VHMC and PC, on Parish Council headed paper, with a copy to the Education Authority. The VHMC Treasurer had voiced her concerns that a letter should not damage the current individual agreements with parents paying for parking, now that 26 had signed up. Cllr. Blatchford commented that some parents still do not understand the parking conditions despite the letters being sent out. Cllr. Thwaites felt this is not a long term solution to the overall problem; some parents are upset that others are not paying and, in accordance with the original planning application for the new school, this is the school's responsibility.

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Cllr. Thwaites proposed that with the approval of the VHMC, this letter is sent to the Governors. Cllr. Morgan seconded and 7 members voted to send the letter, with 1 against. Cllr. Blatchford declared an interest and refrained from voting. Cllr. Pickford congratulated Cllr. Thwaites on a good letter.

Cllr. Parry is concerned that the VHMC still has no proper Chairman or Secretary and members had not signed up as Trustees. As Parish Council representative, she will sign the Trust document and encourage others to do the same. She was thanked for her intended actions.

9. **Improvements to Footpath FP5/24:** The footpath from Highfield Crescent to the Valley needs steps to make it safe. Cllr. Pickford emphasised the path is very slippery and the handrail alone is not adequate. It was decided the Clerk will ask the Footpaths Officer if she can suggest a solution to the problem.

10. **Planning Applications - Sub-Committee:**

- a) 2009/1528 - Proposed works to a beech tree subject to TPO, reduce portion of crown overhanging rear garden of 5 Carter’s Way by up to 20% (DEL), 6 Carter’s Way, Chilcompton – Recommend Approval.
- b) 2009/1598 – Rear extension with rooms in roof, Mount View, Wells Road, Chilcompton – Recommend Approval.

11. **Accounts:**

	-	£
459 – A J & R C Brown	-	305.90
460 – Richard Wood Engineering	-	2112.55
461 – Mendip Community Transport	-	100.00
462 – Poppy Appeal	-	15.00
463 – Mrs N A Jarman	-	297.42
		<u>2830.87</u>

12. **Correspondence:**

- a) Planning Inspectorate – decision to allow the appeal for two 5 bedroom detached dwellings on land to the rear of 65 Stockhill Road as he does not consider the proposal would result in unacceptable living conditions by reason of the proximity to agricultural buildings.
- b) Mrs Skinner – requesting dog bins around the village especially on footpaths from Downside garage to Stratton (both ends), Rock Road, Abbey Road and by the Co-Op. Also, requesting a pelican crossing near the school. After more discussion on dog bins, it was decided our policy has not changed and the Clerk will reply stating that responsible dog owners will take their pets deposits home with them and the cost of these bins are very expensive. She will also mention that a pelican crossing is being considered as part of the Damar application.
- c) Binegar PC – requesting support to express concern regarding the stopping of Somerset Aggregate Levy Fund payments to communities next year. We have supported this in the past and will write again.
- d) Somerset Waste Partnership – review of management strategy. Stakeholder workshops on 20 & 27 November in Bridgwater.

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- e) MDC – Precept application 2010/2011. Council Tax will be based on Band D properties raising £807.96 for every £1 levied. Application by 15 January 2010. The Clerk will prepare the budget for the next meeting. Cllr. Pickford will calculate the formula to base the precept on the number of houses. This would bring in more revenue when housing increases.
- f) Rural Services Network – online survey on state of rural services in England. Cllr. Pickford agreed to complete this.
- g) Somer Valley Partnership – Climate Change event 19 November 2-9pm, Somer Centre, MSN and next SVP meeting 25 November 6pm. with only one item to discuss – Core Strategy.
- h) Digital UK – sending out advice to all Mendip transmitter users of the switchover to digital on 24 March and 7 April 2010. The Clerk will display posters giving contact details for help.
- i) MDC – the latest information on the Mendip Local Development Plan can be found at http://www.mendip.gov.uk/Documents/Organisational%20Development/Newsletter%20-%20local%20development%20framework_electronic%20version.pdf .
- j) BBC – Calling all story tellers. invitation to villagers to enter a competition and share untold rear life stories. More information at www.bbc.co.uk/mystory .
- k) Age Concern – requesting donation. It was decided not to donate.
- l) Mendip CAB – requesting donation. It was decided not to donate.

13. Any Other Business:

- a) Cllr. Blatchford asked for the item for the blocked drain outside to 104 Stockhill Road to be reinstated as this has not been cleared. The Clerk will advise Highways.
- b) Cllr. Parry asked if the noticeboard on Bowden Hill could be moved to the Old Rec. as it is in a dangerous position on the hill. It was noted that this could go in the red phone kiosk. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) Cllr. Pickford mentioned that Arthur Moon always does a lot of work for the Poppy Appeal and the Clerk will write to thank him for his contribution.
- d) Cllr. Boxall reported that a new light has been fitted to the illuminated sign opposite his house at Naishes Cross but is in the wrong position and does not light the sign. The Clerk will advise Highways.

14. Date of next meeting: This was fixed for 9 December 2009.

15. Close: The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.18pm.

Signed..... Date.....Witnessed.....