

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
10 FEBRUARY 2010 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WELLS ROAD, CHILCOMPTON**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Bacik & Foster. SCCllr Harvey Siggs & PCSO Nikki Housley.

2. **Public Participation:** There were no members of the public present.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Ordinary Meeting:** In item 6.r) Cllr. Pickford suggested that every other street light is turned off after midnight. With this amendment, the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.

4. **MDCllr Gus Halfhide:**

- a) **Raglan Housing Association/106 Agreement:** At the last meeting Parish Councillors felt that until clear confirmation is given that the agreement will prioritise under occupancy for Chilcompton villagers over and above other clauses, there is little point discussing all of the outlined revisions to the draft 106. These issues do not form the 'bone of contention' and Councillors generally agree with the other points raised. The only proviso noted is that persons previously living in the village should have done so for a continuous period of 5 years (not 6 months) and could have been out of the village for more than 5 years, they would still be deemed 'a local' and should be eligible. Cllr. Halfhide has passed on our views to the MDC Solicitor but there is no further update yet.
- b) **PIB and Parish Forum:** February Bulletin received. A new dedicated phone number has been set up to fast-track calls about council tax and housing benefits – 0845 300 3352. There is a new Government campaign looking at building community resilience; advice on local risks in an emergency and support available. Details passed to Cllrs. Blatchford and Morgan. Governance Toolkit for Parish & Town Councils available online at [www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/media/Parish\\_Toolkit\\_April\\_2009.doc](http://www.standardsforengland.gov.uk/media/Parish_Toolkit_April_2009.doc) - designed as a reference document for Clerks and Councillors to help ensure good governance. March Parish Forum not yet arranged.
- c) **'More Powers for Parish Councils':** Unlock Democracy requesting support to get the Sustainable Communities Act amended to include local councils. The Clerk has written and received support from David Heathcoat-Amory, and confirmation from Alistair Burt MP that he is intending to adopt this Bill and attempt to progress it through Parliament. This will be an on-going support issue. 09/09
- d) Cllr Halfhide reported that MDC are proposing a 0% tax increase, except for an additional 1.7% to establish the 'Sort It' door to door recycling of cardboard and plastics. This would mean some bins at the Co-Op would eventually be taken away & this will save some money. Cllr. Morgan mentioned that Coleford Recycling Centre has stopped taking all plastics apart from bottles. Cllr. Halfhide will find out the reasons for this.

5. **Matters Arising:**

- a) **Parish Council Records to SCC Archives:** The Clerk will arrange for our records to be taken to SCC Archives.
- b) **Cleaning of the Street Ponds:** Remaining grant money can be used to paint more railings. It was noted the railings by the bottom bus shelter are in need of attention. Cllr. Foster advised that the final report of spending has been submitted to Awards for All for approval; some grant money may have to be returned as Penny's invoice was less than quoted. Cllr. Parry added that the uprooted duck sign on the bridge is on a Highways post which has come out of the ground. The Clerk will ask Highways to reinstate this.

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

- c) **Highways:** items reported (Highways ref. no. included – Call Centre tel: 0845 345 9155):
- i) 201002 - Naishes Cross finger signpost to Wells is missing. This post has been painted, but still does not have a Wells finger. 07/08
  - ii) 203422 – 3 signposts - Naishes Cross, top of Bakers Lane and on Naishes Cross green are loose in their settings & are still leaning making them dangerous to passers by. Still outstanding and the Clerk is chasing. 03/09
  - iii) 200997 - Grit boxes at the top of Fry's Well hill, top of Stockhill Road and on Bowden Hill have been filled once – these are still empty and the Clerk will chase.
  - iv) 215020 - Potholes in Coal Lane & the lane is impassable. Cllr. Blatchford confirmed the potholes are still there & there is mud on the road which needs the brusher wagon. 09/09
  - v) 218657 - Narrow pavement at the bottom of Stockhill Road. Requested widening with a dropped kerb for access. Andy Fountain has advised this cannot be considered until April but will check feasibility. He thinks this will result in a 'no right turn' into Stockhill Road from Naishes Cross, if agreed. 10/09
  - vi) 220687 - blocked drain outside 104 Stockhill Road (again). 11/09
  - vii) 221879 - blocked drain outside the village hall. 12/09
- d) **Emergency Plan:** Cllrs. Morgan and Blatchford are getting together. It was agreed this will form part of the Parish Plan. 05/07
- e) **Broadband speed in the village:** Cllr. Foster is finding out if broadband speeds have changed for those in the village who originally complained. Gus Halfhide is making enquires about Ultra-fast broadband trials that are being carried in Cornwall and Wiltshire; if these are successful, Somerset is on the next list. Cllr. Blatchford advised that Downside School are upgrading their connection to the Stratton exchange which may improve the service provided by the exchange. This should be done in April. 05/08
- f) **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
- g) **Light pollution at New Rock:** The planning application for a canopy has been passed; awaiting the new canopy to shield the light. 06/08
- h) **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
- i) **FP32 from Tunnel Lane to Whitegates:** 3 stiles are there but can't be used as these areas are overgrown. Cllr. Foster will speak to the owner 06/09
- j) **Downside School project:** 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
- k) **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
- l) **Footpath FP5/24, off Sweetleaze Lane:** The post on the bottom step is rotten. The Footpaths Officer has not been able to find it. Sheila is meeting Cllr. Boxall on site. 10/09
- m) **Improvements to Footpath FP5/9 - steps to Highfield Crescent:** It was agreed to make another request in April. In the meantime, the Clerk has asked Mike Jennings to give a cost for the installation of new steps. 11/09
- n) **Illuminated sign opposite Broadhayes at Naishes Cross:** New light has been fitted in the wrong position and does not light the sign. Still outstanding & the Clerk will remind. 11/09

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

- o) **Village Hall Sub-Committee: Car Parking letter revisions:** Cllr Thwaites has confirmed that the letter was sent just before Christmas and has been acknowledged. The School Governors are now meeting on February 22 before responding. It was questioned if the new parking signs at the VH are effective but it was noted that they are having no effect. 12/09
  - p) **Energy saving in the village:** It has been suggested that every other street light is turned off after midnight, or a similar energy saving scheme. Cllr. Morgan asked what other villages have done and for some options to consider. The Clerk will contact Trevor Gutteridge at SCC Lighting for some answers. 12/09
  - q) **Grass Cutting and Strimming contracts:** The Clerk has written to A J & R C Brown to do the grass cutting on the same basis as last year and also enquire if they would be prepared to do the strimming again from May to September. 01/10
  - r) **Police:** PCSO Nikki Housley has advised that a replacement Beat Manager has not been appointed yet. 01/10
  - s) **Speeding vehicles in Rock Road:** PCSO Nikki Housley agrees there are not enough 30mph. signs for Rock Road and the Clerk has asked Highways for 30mph. repeater signs. She has also advised the complainant of the action taken. Cllr. Pickford added we should look at the speed problem in the village as a whole as the same problems exist in Parsonage Lane and Stockhill Road. The Clerk will add these roads to our request to Highways. The Street was also mentioned but it was agreed to add this on if our request is successful. 01/10
  - t) **VH noticeboard and hinges need some TLC and repair:** The Clerk has asked Oberns to quote for work required to assess whether a new board would be preferable. 01/10
  - u) **BANES:** ‘Renewable Energy Producing’ and ‘Energy Saving’ workshops. Cllr. Parry said that more focus needs to be directed on this asked for a Councillor to take on the project of ‘energy saving in the village’ and represent the Council. 01/10
  - v) **6ft. fence at Westmead:** The Planning Enforcement Officer has advised that he investigated the site about two months ago. The developers have sold the grassed area to the adjacent householder. SCC Highways are happy that the visibility remains OK at the junction and the fence does not require planning permission. 01/10
6. **Recreation Project Report:** Cllr. Boxall advised that Tim Curtis was appointed Chairman at their AGM last week. There is no further update on the tractor shed.
7. **Playing Field (Old Rec.) Sub-Committee Update:** Cllr. Parry advised that they will be asking the Council for around £10,000 to get the toddlers area revamped this Spring as a priority. The 2 additional quotes for the new schemes should arrive shortly. There was still some discussion on whether the existing multi unit could be saved as Richard Wood had already done some of the work on it. Cllr. Bacik will be asked to advise how far this repair work has progressed.

8. <b>Accounts:</b>	£
471 – Mrs N A Jarman	- Salary £270.83 & Expenses £13.41 - 284.24

9. **Correspondence:**
- a) SCC Highways – Temporary Road Closure: A37 Old Frome Road to Underhill, Ashwick (from the other side of Binegar to the junction with A367) for up to 9 working days from 15 March for resurfacing.
  - b) MDC – reducing the ‘Amenity Grass Cutting and Highway Verges’ contract from 14 cuts to 10 cuts a year to save money. Some verges and bypasses outside of residential areas may be reduced to 4 cuts per season. Quadron have also written offering quotes for addition cutting.

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

- c) SALC – Agenda for next East Area meeting on 1 March 7.30pm at Glastonbury Town Hall.
- d) SCC Library Operations – asking to publicise their mobile and home delivery services run by WRVS in village newsletters and on our website. This will be put on our website.
- e) NSPCC – asking to help raise awareness of the NSPCC Helpline by becoming a campaign partner and advertise this free 24 hour service in magazines and websites. It was agreed we are not a campaign group but will put a link on our website and notices on the boards.
- f) MDC – Member Development session 11 Feb on Improvements in Housing Services. Giving advice on key housing services to enable Councillors to talk knowledgeably to Parishioners.

#### 10. Any Other Business:

- a) Cllr Aldridge noted that builders are parking outside Hazelwood most mornings while unloading materials and blocking the pavement for families walking to school; a note of complaint has already been posted on the property. He will continue to monitor this situation for the next few days and the Clerk will ask the Police to intervene if this doesn't improve.
- b) Cllr. Parry mentioned the Chilcompton Society Spring newsletter is being collated and the deadline for contributions is 19 March. Send all items to [chilcosoc@googlemail.com](mailto:chilcosoc@googlemail.com).
- c) Cllr. Parry advised that this year's Twinning visit to Montsurs on the weekend of 27 May has a walking theme and Dave Lyons is walking from Chilcompton to Montsurs. Also, the Football Club are making their second visit to play against our twin village and this has given the association with Montsurs a boost and additional change of focus. It would be good for the Parish Council to show support to the Twinning Association at this time.
- d) Cllr. Parry reported on the meeting she had just attended for the Children's Centre. She was very pleased to hear that the centre is exceeding expectations with 470 families accessing the services they provide and 71 of these using the centre regularly.
- e) The Clerk pointed out that the APM is coming up in March; reports were requested for the Village Hall, Children's Centre, School and the Recreation Project. The date to be set will be either 24 or 31 March. The Clerk will advise shortly.
- f) Cllr. Pickford advised that a villager has enthusiastically cleared 2 footpaths of much litter. The villager wishes to remain anonymous but has been thanked. The Parish Council is very appreciative of villagers helping to keep the village clean and tidy.
- g) Cllr. Pickford reported litter strewn along Chilcompton Road from Brick Cottages to the County boundary. The Clerk will advise MDC.
- h) The Clerk asked if the Council would like to set a date for the Spring Village Clean Up. Dates were suggested for 17 or 24 April and this will be agreed at the next meeting.
- i) Cllr. Pickford asked for the item for 'making Church Lane one way for vehicles' to be reinstated in the Minutes. She suggested that we put a sign up with an arrow to ask vehicles exiting from the Church or Manor Farm to use Coach Lane only to alleviate the problems of two way traffic in Church Lane. There was some concern that if we put up a sign the Council could be held responsible if there was an accident. It was agreed to publicise this suggestion as a 'voluntary code of practice' in the Society newsletter and ask the Church to also put this in their magazine and advise their hall users. The Clerk will write to Chris North and copy the request to Cllrs. Aldridge and Pickford for uniformity in both publications.

11. **Date of next meeting:** This was fixed for 10 March 2010.

12. **Close:** There were no Planning Applications and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

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