

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

1. **Present:** Cllrs. Mattick (Chairman), Pickford, Aldridge, Blatchford, Boxall, Foster, Mattick P, Morgan & Parry. SCCllr Harvey Siggs (7.45pm.)

Apologies: Cllrs. Bacik, Pike & Thwaites. MDCllr Gus Halfhide.

2. **Public Participation:** There were 2 members of the public present to speak on a planning application.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Ordinary Meeting:** In item 4. SCC Siggs recorded that his Councillor's grant should be used for something attached to the Street Ponds project. With this amendment, the minutes were agreed as a true record and signed.
4. **SCCllr Harvey Siggs:** SCC are working hard to flat line debts and keep the Council tax at the same level. The SCCllrs. Fund is being phased out. With the recent extreme weather, the gritters have been busy which has raised costs this year. It was noted yet again that Fry's Well was not gritted, despite this being a bus route and the Clerk continually advising Highways. Harvey agreed to follow this up with Highways. There are also many large potholes as a result of the bad weather which will take time to deal with, but it was pleasing to see that the urgent holes are being filled straight away.
5. **MDCllr Gus Halfhide:**

- a) **Raglan Housing Association/106 Agreement:** Cllr. Halfhide has pointed out that we have not given our views on all of the outlined revisions to the draft 106. 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 these other matters. 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. The Clerk will convey this information to Cllr. Halfhide.
- b) **PIB and Parish Forum:** Cllr. Parry felt that the Parish Council should take more time out to discuss the distribution of housing in villages; it was noted this should be done as part of our preparation towards our Parish Plan. Cllr. Pickford thought this Rural Development Strategy will come together by July and should be Policy by the end of the year. January Bulletin received. Next Parish Forum 1 February 6pm. Council Chambers. Agenda circulated.
- 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

6. **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 noted one of the duck signs has been uprooted for some time. Paul Mattick agreed to see if this can be reinstated in a different position.

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 - Stockhill not accurately and was partially tipped over, Cllr. Blatchford agreed to rectify. This grit has been used and a refill was promised in the 2nd week of January but this has not been done, the Clerk will chase. 2 more grit boxes have been requested by villagers for Parsonage Lane and the Sawmills estate but it agreed this is not possible, small communities should come together to maintain their own areas.
 - iv) 215020 - Potholes in Coal Lane. Cllr. Pickford has also received a complaint that the lane is impassable. Cllr. Blatchford will check this & the potholes. 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) **Development of land opp. Somerset Wagon – junction improvement and TPO on tree:** The TPO on the Maple tree has been confirmed as permanent. 11/07
- f) **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
- g) **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
- h) **Light pollution at New Rock:** The planning application for a canopy has been passed; awaiting the new canopy to shield the light. 06/08
- i) **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
- j) **FP32 from Tunnel Lane to Whitegates:** 3 stiles are there but can't be used as these areas are overgrown. Cllr. Foster will get full details of the problem from Cllr. Pickford before speaking to the owner 06/09
- k) **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
- l) **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

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

- m) **Footpath FP5/24, off Sweetleaze Lane:** The post on the bottom step is rotten. The Footpaths Officer has not been able to find it. The Clerk has clarified the position and suggested the Footpaths Officer ring Cllr. Boxall with a view to meeting on site. 10/09
 - n) **Improvements to Footpath FP5/9 - steps to Highfield Crescent:** It was agreed to make another request in April. In the meantime, the Clerk will obtain a quote of the likely cost from Mike Jennings. 11/09
 - o) **Illuminated sign opposite Broadhayes at Naishes Cross:** A new light has been fitted in the wrong position and does not light the sign. This was reported to SCC Lighting ref: 14451.
 - p) **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 meet next on February 1st when they will hopefully decide to decide how to respond. 12/09
 - q) **Bridge wall in Bakers Lane:** Further confirmation from BR Property dept that they are also carrying out a 'monitoring inspection' this month. 12/09
 - r) **Energy saving in the village:** It has been suggested that every other street light is turned off. The Clerk will ask SCC Lighting if this is feasible. 12/09
7. **Recreation Project Report:** Cllr. Boxall reported that the grant application to Awards for All was not successful, so they have applied to the Football Foundation for half of the cost required for the shed and are more optimistic as they have been more receptive. December results of the 100 Club draw are – 1st Gabriel Boxall-Legge, 2nd R Shaw, 3rd Sue Aldridge.
8. **Playing Field (Old Rec.) Sub-Committee Update:** Cllr. Parry felt that if other people are all organising different repair jobs outside the sub-committee, the project will become disjointed and lose the prime directive of the project already agreed by the Council. 2 quotes are in the post for new schemes and as soon as these are collated and put into a proposal, this will be put before the Council, hopefully at the next meeting. It was agreed not to proceed with any other work.
9. **Grass Cutting and Strimming contracts:** It was agreed to ask 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.
10. **Planning Applications:**
- a) 2009/1984 – Erect carport to side of garage (DEL), Britannia Cottage, Britannia Close, Chilcompton – Recommend Approval
 - b) 2009/2033 – Proposed single storey dwelling and garage (DEL), Ash Cottage, The Street, Chilcompton (Outline planning permission – some reserved matters) – Recommend Refusal as this is overdevelopment of the site. The access is not suitable for continuous vehicle use or for emergency vehicles, and will be a danger to the elderly pedestrians that use this right of way. With 3 more new homes on the site of Fern Villa, this will considerably increase the density of housing in this area and will be a serious disruption to neighbours, including the elderly residents nearby. In the proposed 'Time to Plan' document, Chilcompton has already exceeded the quota of recommended development and should therefore be ineligible from more housing.
 - c) 2009/2065 – Proposed felling of 3 trees subject to TPO (DEL), Hazelwood, Broadway, Chilcompton – Recommend Approval with the proviso that these trees are replaced with deciduous varieties.
 - d) 2009-2972 – Erection of single storey rear extension (DEL), 25 Wells Road, Chilcompton – Recommend Approval

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

11. Accounts:		£
469 – VHMC	- Hall Rent	- 26.70
470 – Mrs N A Jarman	- Salary £270.83 & Expenses £19.59	- <u>290.42</u>
		317.12

12. **Extend Millennium footpath to Midsomer Norton:** Somer Valley Wheels have been successful in getting permission for the cycle path from Five Arches to the railway station. They also want to try to get a cycle path from the station to Chilcompton and would like an opportunity to come to speak at a meeting at a future date. It was decided to leave the discussion on extending this footpath until the cycle club is ready to take the matter further.

13. **Correspondence:**

- a) Police – e-mail confirming that from 3 January Jay Appleton is no long our Beat Manager and a replacement officer has not been appointed. The Clerk will find out when we will have a new Beat Manager.
- b) Mrs Rusbridger from Abbey Road – complaining at dangers in Rock Road due to speeding vehicles. This was supported by Cllr. Morgan who thinks that drivers need to be reminded they are still in a 30mph. limit when they turn off the Wells Road. It was agreed the Clerk will ask Highways for 30mph. signs for Rock Road and write to the Police to monitor the situation. Pedestrians need to report any problems to the Police when they occur.
- c) SALC items of interest - new Model Standing Orders being issued.
- d) MDC – draft Gypsy & Traveller Strategy now online for feedback. Details circulated to Councillors. It was suggested as Cllr. Thwaites is familiar with this document, he is asked to look into this and comment if required.
- e) Action for Market Towns – free ‘Sustainability Toolkit’ available. E-mail information circulated to Councillors.
- f) BANES – ‘Renewable Energy Producing’ and ‘Energy Saving’ workshops in February. Details circulated to Councillors.
- g) SCC – The Somerset Cultural Strategy. Online website under development. E-mail information circulated to Councillors.

14. **Any Other Business:**

- a) The Clerk reported the VH noticeboard and hinges need some TLC and repair. She will get Oberns to quote for work required to assess whether a new board would be preferable.
- b) Cllr. Paul Mattick reported potholes in Church Lane. The Clerk has already reported this to Highways and will chase.
- c) Cllr. Pickford mentioned that a 6ft. fence has been placed around the green adjoining the access road to the new homes at Westmead. The Clerk will find out from Planning if this is permissible.

15. **Date of next meeting:** This was fixed for 10 February 2010.

16. **Close:** The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

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