

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
8 AUGUST 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WELLS ROAD, CHILCOMPTON**

1. **Present:** Cllrs. Pickford (Chairman), Pike, Aldridge, Bacik, Gregory, Mattick, Morgan, Stanford & Thwaites (7.35pm). SCCllr. Harvey Siggs (7.40pm).

Apologies: Cllr. Foster & PCSO Nikki Housley.

2. **Public Participation:** There were 0 members of the public present.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Ordinary Meeting:** The Clerk pointed out that cheque number 633 was spoilt and cheque number 634 was to the Post Office (HMRC) for the Clerks Tax - £57.20. In item 7, it was agreed the Chairman will apply to the 'Fields of Jubilee' awards. With these amendments, the Minutes were agreed as true record & signed.
4. **Ongoing Matters:**
- a) 06/11 - Allotments in the village: 2 requests received. (04/11)
 - b) 08/11 - Murals inside 2 Bus Shelters: Small amount of artwork still to be done. Cllr. Bacik confirmed the paint is available and in good condition to finish the job. Cllr. Bacik will deliver the anti graffiti paint to the Clerk. (06/08)
 - c) 03/12 - Hedges & Verges in Bakers Lane: Verges in front of the bridge wall and a hedge further up outside Trelawne, Bakers Lane to be cut by Railway Property Board and the owner of Trelawne respectively. The Clerk has chased both of these again; reply received from BRPB advising SCC job. The Clerk will ring Highways. 10/11
 - d) 03/12 - gritting for next winter: Salt bags (10 x 20kg) available from either Frome or Glastonbury depots. Salt bin on Bowden Hill is split and the Clerk has obtained prices to replace. It was noted BTM sell these and the Clerk will find out the price.
 - e) 03/12 - Emergency Plan Proposal: Plan has been formulated. 'Cascade tree' to be set up – contact details of Councillors received to go on this list.
 - f) 03/12 - Footpath works list for Mendip Ramblers/Clare. 12/11
 - g) 08/12- School wall by the garage is falling apart 03/12
 - h) 08/12 - The Drang Footpath: Part of the hand rail is missing & Footpaths replacing. 03/12
5. **SCCllr. Harvey Siggs:** Harvey mentioned that they are taking over some functions for the NHS and he is also helping Rotary with the defibrillator which will be installed at the Co-Op. The Chairman raised the issue of the accident at Lynch Hill and made a request for a pavement and 30mph speed limit, on behalf of the residents. Many Mulberry staff walk to work, as well as other walkers, and it is not possible to walk on parts of the verge. This needs to be addressed now. After much discussion, it was proposed and agreed to ask Highways to carry out a feasibility study to consider all options to improve road safety ie. speed limit to 30mph, warning signs, pinched points etc. and to put in a new pavement to include the houses up to Thickthorn Lane. The Clerk will copy this to Harvey and the Police, and ask Mulberry and The Court if they would be prepared to contribute to the cost. In the meantime, the Clerk will ask the Police to monitor this section with speed guns. Our contribution to this to be considered on result of the study.
6. **Matters Arising:**
- a) **Revisions to Code of Conduct:** This was prepared by the Clerk. 'Interests' forms completed by all Councillors to be sent to MDC by 15/8. The Code of Conduct was proposed, seconded and formally adopted by the Council.
 - b) **Community Speedwatch:** 6 volunteers for the speed watch sessions. 4 awaiting training and Terry will organise. Problems obtaining guns in the UK and buying a gun from USA considered. It was agreed to see if we can get hold of the spare gun at Oakhill first. Cllr. Pike asked his Oakhill connection to make contact With Cllr. Morgan but this has faltered. Contact now being made. Letter from Mr. Broome asking questions on speed gun which the Clerk has answered.

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

- c) **Stratton footpath** Cllr. Foster advised the dog poo group did not get the grant of £2,500 from the Sperring Trust for 7 joint bins. They are writing to the press to raise awareness and will then try to get local businesses to sponsor the provision of a new bin. 12/11
- d) **Bus stops:** Bus stop extensions and flags now done. Response to formal complaint received and circulated to councillors. Jeff blamed First bus for long delay on flags, but our record show the flags were put on the posts about 10 days after the extensions fitted. It was agreed we are not going to get any further with this and to send a final reply stating that there is the matter of accountability to rate payers, that we were dealt with badly and are not happy with the conclusion.
- e) **Footpath overgrown behind the old butchers shop to the Valley:** Cllr. Foster advised the whole footpath (7b) needs looking at, especially the overhanging brambles from the hedgerow adjoining the field. The Clerk has advised Clare who will look at this. 07/11
- f) **The Bungalow, Wells Road:** Matthew Williams, Planning Team Manager has offered to come to our Planning meeting on 26 September. The Clerk will write to accept. 12/11
- g) **Police Report:** PCSO Nikki Housley sent her apologies and a report as follows: 23/07 - A break in occurred to a locked compound at Massey Wilcox, goods had been removed from the backs of lorries. Two culprits were detained in custody. 02/08 - Report of a flood between Chilcompton and Norton (nr the sewage works).
- h) **Broadband Improvements:** Reply from SCC advising that they are in the third stage of decision making on where broadband will be rolled out under the current funding bid but cannot be specific yet about dates, locations, speeds and technology, until they have completed procurement and appointed their broadband provider. Hopefully towards the end of 2012 they will know where superfast broadband will be rolled out across Devon & Somerset. They aim to provide to deliver 'standard' universal broadband (>2mbps) for every home & business by 2015, plus 'superfast' broadband (>24mbps) for at least 85% of homes & businesses by 2015. The Clerk circulated the detailed information to Councillors. 6/12
- i) **Queen's Jubilee:** A Jubilee commemoration was discussed and it was decided to look into providing a planted concrete flower tub with plaque on the new pinched point to be created near Downside Close. The Clerk has obtained a couple of prices, but the size required will not be known until the pinched point has been completed.
- j) **Cow parsley overgrowing the pavement from the Glebeland on Wells Road:** The developers advise this is SCC and the Clerk asked Highways to cut this back. This is now completely blocking the pavement and the Clerk will ring again. 6/12
- k) **Verge overgrown on the bend in Parsonage Lane:** Cllr. Pike said this had been cut back about 1ft. and the Clerk has asked Highways to cut this back further. Agreed to chase again as it is very dangerous. 6/12
- l) **Community history exhibition:** Radstock Museum wrote to include Chilcompton in the first group with Paulton and Camerton from Feb 2013 to April 2013. The Clerk wrote in support but the Museum have replied advising they already have 4 villages for the first exhibition and we should work towards the second exhibition in 2014. 07/12
- m) **MDC Parish Development Officer:** The Chairman met with Sally Gubb and another officer & talked about planning and our complaint; also about the village plan. Sally advised several PC's had complained about the planning dept. and Matt. Williams is arranging a forum for this in the Autumn. The accompanying officer asked about projects on the go as they are working across Somerset to help with these & some villages are getting left out. 07/12
- n) **Thickthorn Lane:** Potholes around the piggeries. The Clerk has reported this to SCC Highways and advised Ston Easton PC. 07/12

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

- o) **Automatic External Defibrillator:** Rotary Club of Somer Valley – asking if they can place an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in Chilcompton - Co-Op or Village Hall, and if the PC would contribute to this. The Council agreed to pay for the installation of the AED, approx. £150 to go at the village hall. The Chairman obtained the VHMC agreement to this, however SCC Siggs advised this will be placed at the Co-Op. 07/12
- p) **Weeds on pavements:** The Clerk wrote letters of thanks Messrs. Wood and Corbett for their work. Lots of places are looking scruffy and the Chairman has put a piece in the Radstock Journal outlining the problem and making the plea to villagers to look after the village and do their bit by tending outside their houses, Cllr. Aldridge also put a piece in the Church mag. It was noted these have had some effect. The Clerk will put requests on the notice board, and a piece on the website. 07/12
- q) **Obscured lights in Parsonage Lane:** The Clerk has asked SCC Lighting to check all of Parsonage Lane and cut back where necessary.
- r) **Potholes:** The Clerk has reported potholes at the top of Coach Lane and near Church Lane car park to SCC Highways. 07/12
- s) **Mendip Forum:** Cllr. Stanford attended on 30 July regarding Play Strategy, Mendip Community Support & Localism. He reported that Stuart Finney gave a presentation on the future of play areas, mainly urban. MDC playgrounds are inspected weekly, and they have asked more information on our play area. Councillors noted that we used to inspect our play equipment monthly; Cllr. Bacik believes she has the inspection folder for this and will pass it to the Clerk. Councillor Pike will respond to MDC request by 18/9. Cllr Stanford continued briefly about Mendip Community Support reporting that they give advice and training, and also provide hire of projectors, screens etc. Finally, he outlined the report on Localism and the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) highlighting the ability of Parish Council's to 'register the right to bid' on properties – ie. if a shop or pub is to be sold and we register it with MDC, we have 6 months then to make a bid before the property goes on the open market; this is useful if a community want to get together to keep a shop etc. running. He noted that the Village Design Statement is a document that should be given priority. He also mentioned that we should invite John Meeker to come to a meeting to outline the NP and this was agreed for our Planning meeting on 24/10. He will make the invitation and will circulate comprehensive notes from the Mendip Forum meeting to Councillors. 07/12
- t) **Stockhill church yard and boundary:** Some Councillors looked at this to see if any work is required. Cllr. Bacik said any work to the wall needs permission but this looks OK. She thought the trees and shrubs were not a problem and better than in previous years. Cllr. Stanford felt that if we have the funds to keep this from overgrowing why not use them. Other Councillors to have a look. 07/12
7. **Playing Field – Children's play area:** Moving and providing new goalposts will be put on hold for the moment. Cllr. Mattick has completed the installation of the new equipment and presented his invoice at the planning meeting. Just the new gate to be purchased and installed. Margaret has addressed the poor skateboard inspection already and replied stating medium/high risk on skateboard equipment is normal with equipment needing no remedial work. Cllr. Mattick suggested that getting a quote for pruning the ash and sycamore trees inside the play areas should be left until the leaves fall off the trees and this was agreed; it was noted there are two specialists in the village that we can approach in October. The Chairman applied to the 'Fields of Jubilee' awards by 16/7.
8. **Village Plan Report:** Cllr. Stanford had very little to report from their meeting; drafts were discussed plus the layout of the final plan. There is some concern about the work load so any volunteers would be appreciated. Currently they are on schedule. Some discussion followed on making the compiled raw data available on the website for comment and amendment, but VP committee members felt that villagers had had their opportunity to make comments by responding to the questionnaire and this would give the committee a lot more work. The Chairman said she would take this suggestion back to the committee however.

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

9. **Recreation Committee Report & Proposal:** The Clerk has been advised that the old planning application on CD will cost £56. The Clerk has replied stating that we were quoted £25, and on this basis to proceed to make the copy. It was agreed if they will not accept this, to ask for a paper copy. Tim Curtis has advised that the committee feel the current arrangement of only one PC rep is sufficient and the constitution does not allow for other member organisations nominating a substitute. Cllr. Mattick reported that the recent meeting covered mainly day to day running of the site, but also noted that the number of car parking spaces around the tractor shed have been increased as proposed.

10. **Planning Applications:**

- a) 2012/1557 – Demolition of existing property and erection of detached dwelling and garage, Roclyn, Bowden Hill, Chilcompton – After much discussion, 3 proposals and 2 votes, it was agreed to recommend approval observing that we have some reservations on the 2 storey garage being close to neighbouring property. Cllr. Stanford declared an interest and refrained from voting.

Sub-Committees:

- b) 2012/1586 – 2 storey side and rear extension, remodelling internal layout and incorporating self-contained annexe accommodation, 2 Hoecroft, Chilcompton – Recommend approval with reservations about adequate parking for both no.2 Hoecroft and the proposed self-contained annexe. We would not wish to see this extension become a separate dwelling and be misrepresented, as has happened at Valley Farm Bungalow.
- c) 2012/1596 – single storey rear extension, Wilene, Wells Road – Recommend approval
- d) 2012/1597 – single storey rear extension, Pebleigh, Wells Road, - Recommend approval

11. **Planning Decisions:** None

12. **New Website:** The sub-committee has met with Alex and is currently discussing and deciding on style and design of new website. Main topic headings have been identified and Alex has asked for up to date photos of interest in the village.

13. **Accounts:**

		£
635 – Massey Wilcox Ltd	- reimbursement of incorrect BACs receipt	7544.00
636 – P Mattick	- play equipment & picnic bench	- 2809.77
637 – A J & R C Brown	- Grass Cutting x 2 + Strimming	- 415.20
638 – Richard Wood Engineering	- repair to Street railings post	- 105.00
639 – Moore Stephens	- Audit fee	- 342.00
640 – Chilcompton PCC	- Burial grant	- 420.00
641 – Mrs N A Jarman	- Net Salary	- 229.13
642 – Mrs N A Jarman	- Reimbursements	- 16.57
643 – Post Office (HMRC)	- Clerks Tax	- <u>57.20</u>
		7394.87

14. **New Clerk:** It was agreed to advertise in the Journal, on noticeboards and the village website. The Clerk will ask SALC for a job description, application form, advert wording and any information how to advertise for a new clerk. The interviewing sub-committee will consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr. Thwaites, and the Clerk will send on SALC information when received.

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15. Correspondence:

- a) SALC – Government consultation document issued on 17 July to repeal LGA 1972 section 150(5) (requiring signatures of cheques by two members of council) thus allowing for internet banking.

16. Any Other Business:

- a) Cllr. Mattick mentioned we are still a Council of 10 and we ought to try to recruit the 2 extra members to complete our quota; Parsonage Lane and Sheppards Walk estate are not represented. The Chairman will put this in the Autumn newsletter. The Clerk already has notices on the boards. Councillors will put the word around.

17. Date of next meeting: This was fixed for 12 September 2012.

18. Close: The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

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