

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

1. **Present:** Cllrs. Pickford (Chairman), Pike, Aldridge, Bacik (7.35pm), Gregory, Mattick, Morgan, Stanford. MDCllr. Steven Priscott (8.20pm). PCSO Nikki Housley (8.30pm).

Apologies: Cllrs. Foster & Thwaites.

2. **Public Participation:** There were 0 members of the public present.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Ordinary Meeting:** In item 4.c) it had been agreed the paint would be delivered to the Clerk. In item 6.k) it should read 108 Stockhill Road, not 104. In item 12. the Chairman suggested a jubilee commemoration, to be discussed in July. 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) 01/12 - Revisions in the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders came into effect on 1 July. SALC has sent the model revision and the Chairman and Clerk will incorporate this into our standing orders.
 - d) 03/12 - Hedges & Verges in Bakers Lane: Verges in front of the bridge wall and a hedge further up outside Trelawne, Bakers Lane are being cut by Railway Property Board and the owner of Trelawne respectively. The Clerk will chase both of these again. 10/11
 - e) 03/12 - gritting for next winter: Salt bags (10 x 20kg) available from either Frome or Glastonbury depots. Cllr. Mattick noted the salt bin on Bowden Hill is split and the Clerk will get prices to replace.
 - f) 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.
 - g) 03/12 - Footpath works list for Mendip Ramblers/Clare. 12/11
 - h) 04/12 - Zebra crossing: SCC advise they are awaiting a timescale from their contractors. Harvey mentioned they are having trouble getting materials and he will deal with this. 12/11
5. **MDCllr. Steven Priscott:** Steven apologised for not attending recent meetings due to the new set up and as a result him being extremely busy. Nigel Taylor has taken over Enforcement. He took on board all our gripes about the recent planning issues, especially with Valley Farm Bungalow and The Bungalow and our comments that villages get a poor deal; the accumulation of events has given us no confidence in MDC in all aspects, they are inconsistent and there is over development everywhere. He assured us of his best attention and is now back in the loop.
6. **Matters Arising:**
- a) **Community Speedwatch:** 6 volunteers for the speed watch sessions. 4 awaiting training and Terry will organise. Purchased 100 x 30mph wheelie bin stickers at 50p each and Terry delivered stickers to the meeting. Cheque prepared and given to Terry. It was decided to hand these out rather than sell them, with the suggestion that villagers donate to the Mendip Speedwatch as Terry is short of supporting equipment. He will send the Clerk a digital poster so we can advertise these. Terry mentioned problems obtaining guns in the UK. There was discussion on whether to buy a gun ourselves from USA but on a vote amendment, it was agreed to see if we can get hold of the spare gun at Oakhill first. Cllr. Pike will make enquiries.
 - b) **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

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

- c) **Bus stops:** Bus stop extensions and flags now done. The Chairman obtained signed statements from villagers and the Clerk has made a formal complaint - awaiting response. Report received of buses not stopping at Fry's Well and the Clerk has raised this with John Perrett. He has obtained assurance from First Bus that drivers are being reissued with instructions to stop there. He hoped this was a one off incident.
- d) **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
- e) **Recreation Field - proposed clubhouse:** Tim Curtis has confirmed that we can take the representation at the last meeting as a formal request as lessee to landlord. Also concerned that as Trustees, it would be a problem if we had substitutes for Cllr. Mattick as PC rep. It was agreed that Cllr. Morgan will be the only substitute, if necessary, and will also sign the Trustee declaration. Cllr. Mattick will keep Cllr. Morgan up to date with meetings and minutes. There was discussion on what immediate action Chilcompton Sports would take if they received planning permission. The majority consensus was that without funding, which may take 2-3 years, they were unlikely to start any work. Mr. Mattick provided a report from the Rec. Comm. meeting, including plans to expand the car parking area; this item will be put back on the Agenda. The Clerk advised that she was waiting for Matt Williams to advise her how to obtain the old planning application on CD.
- f) **The Bungalow, Wells Road:** MDC have replied to our letter raising objections to the garage and TPO tree damage, including other applications where local advice has been consistently ignored by Mendip District Council planners; the Clerk circulated the letter to Councillors for comment. It was felt that we can challenge on inconsistencies and there is fraud by not looking properly – Valley Bungalow. Cllr. Foster asked what changes will the Planners make from our comments for the future? The Clerk has written to ask Matthew Williams, Planning Team Manager to one of our Planning meetings. 12/11
- g) **Valley Stream and footpath:** Cllr. Foster reported footpath 7c overgrown all the way up. The owner of 1 Newlands has cut the hedge at the very top of the path and Clare has agreed to deal with the rest. 01/12
- h) **Village Litter Picking Group:** Radco are putting a bin by the door. 5/12
- i) **Police Report:** ATM will be back operating shortly, new ATM to be installed on 12 July. PCSO Nikki Housley reported that on 21/6 – rogue traders, k/a Four Seasons, were operating in Stockhill Road but were sent away. On 28/6 – flat bed lorry going around asking for scrap and on 3/7 a different vehicle was doing the same in Wells Road. It was noted that things will change soon with the introduction of photo ID and cheque paying systems. On 6/7 an aggressive loose staffs bull terrier was reported growling at a child in Parsonage Lane. This morning Croscombe was flooded with 8" of rain falling very quickly. The Council thanked Nikki for coming to the meeting and her report.
- j) **School wall by the garage is falling apart:** This has not been done yet. The Clerk has written to the school again. Cllr. Stanford thought the wall was not too bad and was concerned they may remove this and not replace with like for like. 03/12
- k) **The Drang Footpath:** Part of the hand rail is missing. Clare is arranging for Mike Jennings to repair this. 03/12
- l) **Housing Options Team Rural Lettings Policy consultation:** Replies received. The answers indicated that they are tied down by red tape and they couldn't do anything on the older schemes retrospectively. It was agreed to leave this as it stands. 05/12
- m) **Broadband Improvements:** The Clerk has written to ask if we are eligible for any grants towards improved broadband as we get such a poor service. 6/12

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- n) **Queen's Jubilee:** £30 received from Yummy Tummies. 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 is obtaining prices.
- o) **Cow parsley overgrowing the pavement from the Glebeland on Wells Road:** The developers advise this is SCC and the Clerk will contact Highways to cut this back. 6/12
- p) **Verge overgrown on the bend in Parsonage Lane:** Cllr. Pike this had been cut back about 1ft. and the Clerk will ask Highways to cut this back further. 6/12
7. **Playing Field – Children's play area:** Moving and providing new goalposts will be put on hold for the moment. Cllr. Mattick has collected the play unit and has started installing it, work to be completed the next day. He has also purchased a new picnic bench and is proceeding to obtain the new gate. Everything should be finished next week and he will let us have his invoices. RoSPA inspection reports received and copied to the sub-committee and Margaret Pugh. It was noted the skateboard inspection showed poor state of equipment & the Clerk will ask Margaret to address this as although the Council are not responsible, we are concerned as it is on our land.
8. **Village Plan Report:** Cllr. Stanford reported on the monthly meeting held on 3 July – it was agreed not to check any further questionnaires following the 5% check. Action was taken to redeliver and collect outstanding business questionnaires. The draft preparation basically covering the Introduction to the Plan, were generally agreed. It was also agreed that the CVP website should continue for at least another 2 years. David Strawbridge will be asked to write a potted history of the village. When the questionnaire data has been downloaded, work can commence on the body of the VP.
9. **Planning Applications:** none
10. **Planning Decisions:**
- a) 2011/3260 – Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use and the erection of stables, land at Tunnel Lane, Chilcompton – approved subject to standard conditions.
- b) 2012/1055 – Proposed two storey side extension, 5 Pines Close, Chilcompton - approved subject to standard conditions.
- c) 2012/0531 – Proposed two storey extension, 3 Bennell Close, Chilcompton – approved subject to standard conditions.
11. **Website Items:** Alex has said she can meet with the sub-committee any evening except Tuesdays. Monday 16/7 was suggested and the Clerk will arrange the meeting.

12. **Accounts:**

		£
627 – A J & R C Brown	- Grass Cutting x 2 + Strimming	463.20
628 – VHMC	- Hall Rent (inc. APM & VP meetings)	102.29
629 – Playsafety Ltd	- Play inspections x 2	151.20
630 – Mendip Community Speed Watch	- 30mph stickers	50.00
631 – Mrs N A Jarman	- Net Salary	229.13
632 – Mrs N A Jarman	- Reimbursements	31.83
633 – Post Office (HMRC)	- Clerks Tax	<u>57.20</u>
		1084.85

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13. Correspondence:

- a) SCC – Mendip Strimmer Project, offering training and provision of shared strimmer to maintain our own paths etc. After much discussion, it was decided not to take up this offer as Cllrs. Stanford and Morgan are happy to strim for the Council, using their own strimmers, on occasion.
- b) Radstock Museum – community history exhibitions, in which they would like to include Chilcompton in the first group with Paulton and Camerton from Feb 2013 to April 2013 – for us to set up the exhibition? It was generally agreed that this is a good idea and to hold a village public meeting on 26 September to gauge interest and support for this project. Although we do not have a history group, David Strawbridge and Cllr. Foster have this interest in the village. The Clerk will find out how much is involved from the Museum and to invite them to the public meeting to speak.
- c) MDC – Parish Development Officer would like to meet Chair and Clerk. The Clerk is not available at the same time as this officer and the Chairman will meet the PDO alone.
- d) SCC – Survey and project on sharing Youth good work going on in communities. The Clerk will ask Tim Curtis if he will reply to this.
- e) SCC – Museum Development Officer advising of website containing 120 museums and heritage sites for information – www.somersetroutes.co.uk.
- f) Ston Easton PC – asking us if we have reported the bad state of Thickthorn Lane around the piggeries. Cllr. Pike agreed there are a lot of potholes and the Clerk will report this to SCC Highways.
- g) Wookey PC – asking for help with new skate park. E-mail forwarded to Margaret Pugh.
- h) Local Government Boundary Commission – Final Recommendations on Electoral Review of Somerset, online at www.lgbce.org.uk, also asking for completion of online survey on review processes.
- i) SCC – asking for nominations for ‘Chairman’s Award for service to the community.
- j) 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 this is a good idea and it should be placed at the village hall. It was proposed and agreed to pay for the installation of the AED, approx. £150. The Chairman will ask the VHMC to agree to this.

14. Any Other Business:

- a) The Chairman raised the issue of weeds along the pavements being bad, Messrs. Wood and Corbett have cleared the weeds in front of Montsurs Close to the school and outside The Redan, and the Clerk will write letters of thanks. Everywhere is looking scruffy and it was thought to set up a ‘cut back time’ in the future, to encourage villagers to look after the village and do their bit by tending outside their houses. We could use the new website to show nice areas kept tidy and areas in need of attention, without naming and shaming. For now, the Chairman will put a piece in the Radstock Journal outlining the problem and making the plea, the Clerk will put requests on the notice board, and Cllr. Aldridge will put a piece in the Church mag.
- b) Cllr. Mattick reported lights in Parsonage Lane opposite Chestnut Barn overgrown and the Clerk will ask SCC Lighting to check all of Parsonage Lane.
- c) Cllr. Mattick advised the top of Coach Lane and near Church Lane car park have potholes. The Clerk will report to SCC Highways.

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- d) Cllr. Mattick pointed out that the ash and sycamore trees inside the play area will need pruning in the winter period, he suggested 20% crown reductions and some serious trimming and the Clerk will obtain advice and a quote now.
- e) Cllr. Stanford mentioned the Mendip Forum on 30 July regarding Localism, and agreed to attend this meeting.
- f) Cllr. Stanford noted the Stockhill church yard and boundaries need some TLC and felt that the trust fund should be used for the said purpose. Cllr. Bacik pointed out we always have a problem of obtaining permission from the Diocese to do anything, especially to the wall as it is Grade II listed. The trees and shrubs around the perimeter are also causing a problem. It was decided to look and see what needs to be done before writing the Diocese for permission.
- g) Cllr. Pike gave apologies for the next Planning meeting; as the Chairman also cannot make this meeting, the Clerk will Chair the meeting.
- h) The Clerk mentioned that the PCC are due their annual grant and the Clerk will prepare the usual cheque for £420 for next month.
- i) The Clerk also mentioned that she has decided to give up the post of Clerk and this will be put on the next Agenda.

15. **Date of next meeting:** This was fixed for 8 August 2012.

16. **Close:** The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.34pm.

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