

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday, 8th September 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman(Chairman); Coombe; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Perryman; Sampson; Ms Thorn.

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Davies & Geering

In Attendance the Clerk, Mrs Stone.

136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sampson declared a personal interest in Min 141b; Min 141d; 143

Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in Min 141b

Cllr Parrott declared an interest in Min 143.

137 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 11th August 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to an amendment to record i) that Cllrs Geering; Parrott and Sampson declared an interest in Min 115 and not 114; ii) the figure “2” be erased from line 5 of Min 109b before this is the site of; iii) the Ride & Skate Group to be amended to Ride/Skate Group in Min 121c.
- b) The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1st September 2008 were not ready for circulation.

Resolved: To be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

138 Rowan Tree – The Square, Chagford

- a) Mr. M. Palmer, Tree Warden, gave a report on his inspection of the dead rowan tree and his subsequent discussion with Mr. Beasley, Trees & Landscape Officer, DNP. The Council has been advised to consider removal of the dead tree together with as much of the soil as possible and the tarmac surface close to the base of the tree. It is understood a replacement tree will be made available by the DNP. Mr. Palmer indicated that it would be advisable to replace soil at the base of the existing healthy rowan as far as is possible to alleviate it of the stress caused by the close tarmac surround. The Clerk has since received information to the effect that Mr. Beasley is making enquiries of persons known to them who may be able to carry out the complete restoration and we will be advised in due course. A tentative approach was made to the Clerk to enquire whether the Business Association might help with a contribution towards costs.

Resolved: i) To await the outcome of Mr Beasley’s enquiries.

ii) In the event that costs may be involved, the Chairman; Environment Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to spend up to £100 for the work.

iii) The Business Association to be advised of the current situation and thanked for their kind offer.

- b) Mr Palmer thanked the Council for inviting him to speak about the responsibilities of a tree warden and gave details of matters currently of interest. He is involved at present in assisting the DNP with their survey of all trees of interest, particularly aged and large trees. Information received from the general public will be much appreciated and if appropriate will be recorded with the data kept by the DNP.

Of the many interesting facts provided by Mr. Palmer, he informed us that of the advantages received from trees, they absorb rain (a mature oak drinks 8,000 gallons of water a year); they prevent flooding; provide wildlife shelter and relieve stress. An oak tree takes 300 years to grow, 300 years to mature and 300 years to die (given the right

environment). When a significant tree is identified, safeguards will be taken to protect it possibly by reducing surrounding saplings and shrubbery. The Whiddon Park area is currently undergoing a large survey by the DNP.

The Chairman commended Mr. Palmer for his endeavours on behalf of the Council and thanked him for his interesting talk. **Noted:**

139 MV Kestor

To consider approach from Mr. R. Howard (Reading) re acquisition of the MV Kestor model for display purposes. Mr Howard operates a visitor attraction in Reading and would like to display the model amongst the other items on display. Attempts to telephone him have proved to be difficult so further information is not available at present. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that it would be preferable to display the model locally and the most appropriate site would be Endecott House.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to the Trustees of Endecott House to enquire if this would be acceptable.

URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

140 Olympic Pentathlon 2008

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parishioners of Chagford, the Clerk has written to Miss Heather Fell congratulating her on her success by winning the silver medal in the Olympic Pentathlon at Beijing. Miss Fell and her family, who live at Merrivale near Tavistock, have strong connections with the Parish. **Noted:**

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

141 Development Control Planning Applications

Cllr Bleakman gave a report of the recommendations of the Planning Group meeting held on 5th September 2008 attended by Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Mrs Haxton; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton and Cllr Parrott.

a) 0047/08 Stoneridge, Chagford – Amended Drawings for Information only. Noted

Cllrs Mrs Hill and Sampson declared an interest in the following item and left the building for the duration of the discussion.

b) 0552/08 20 Mill Street, Chagford

Proposed reinstate existing vehicle access to rear of property and provide turning/parking area within gardens; reduce height of existing stone rear boundary wall.

Resolved: The Council is supportive of this application, which will significantly improve the vista in this historic part of Chagford. We have seriously considered the possible road safety issues of additional vehicles exiting onto Mill Street. Our site visit showed that the visibility in a westerly direction is excellent and although less good in an easterly direction, vehicles exiting slowly would see and easily be seen by other vehicles travelling from east to west along Mill Street. As such, the Council believes that the benefits of providing one more parking space is paramount. However the Council is concerned that the parking provision provided by this application should not be used for the conduct of a commercial business and that the parking should be limited to one vehicle.

142 Site Inspection Report Westcott Park, Adley Lane, Chagford 0257/08

Cllr Mrs Milton (spokesperson) and Cllr Davies attend the site meeting on 15th August 2008 in respect of the above planning application. Among those present were members of the DNP management committee; Cllr McInnis; the case officer and the Architect. An apology was received from Cllr Sampson. Mrs Milton stated the Parish Council had not received any objections and the neighbour gave whole hearted support for the proposal. On leaving the site Mrs Milton and Cllr Davies felt encouraged the application

would be approved. Mrs Milton requested a copy of the minutes of the procedure for the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance and Mrs Milton for her detailed report. **Noted:**

143 Appeal Refusal for Certificate of Lawfulness – 0896/07 Land at Thorn, Chagford.

Notice received of appointment of Inspector to conduct an enquiry into the matter.

Further details will be received in due course. **Noted:**

144 DNP Planning in your Parish 2008.

Notice received of a planning conference to be held at Parke, Bovey Tracey on 15th October 2008 commencing at 7pm. The Council has been invited to send 2 representatives. This was felt to be too limited given the importance of the subject.

Resolved: The Clerk to endeavour to obtain places for 3 Members to attend i.e. Cllrs Bleakman; Jeffreys and Parrott.

145 Eastern Parishes Link Committee Meeting – 4th September 2008.

Cllr Mrs Hill gave a report of the meeting during which she was elected to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year. The Council congratulated her on her election.

Inspector Hammond, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary informed the meeting that there had been a 36.3% decrease in crime generally except for burglary which had seen a slight increase from 2 to 3 offences. Cllr Sampson expressed the view that there was a disappointing level of attendance from Parish Councils. The next meeting will be held at North Tawton on 20th November 2008. **Noted:**

FINANCE GROUP

146 Finance Meeting 28.08.08

a) At a meeting of the Finance Committee Members held on 28.08.08 the following recommendations were made:-

- i) To with-hold renewal of the photocopier maintenance contract pending Cllr Davies report of an alternative to provide print and copy as required.
- ii) The Clerk to seek advice from the DNPA re tagging granite troughs.
- iii) The Chairman's allowance in the sum of £300 to be allocated.
- iv) An estimate has been requested from Messrs Williams & Trigg for an inscription on the granite step.
- v) Restraint will need to be exercised in the provision of Grants for the coming year with the main priorities being the Swimming Pool and churchyard maintenance. Cllrs Bleakman & Parrott are to discuss the swimming pool's 2008 accounts with the Committee for more details
- vi) Cllrs Mrs Hill and Coombe are to report to the next meeting on the subject of playing field inspection costs following their attendance at a playground maintenance seminar to be held at Moretonhampstead on 23rd September 2008.
- vii) Cllr Sampson and the Clerk to advise the Committee of possible Land Registry costs when their enquiries are complete.
- viii) Cllrs Mrs Hill and Davies to advise on costs involved in the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhood Act following the completion of their appraisal to be presented at the next meeting.
- ix) The Clerk to make enquiries concerning a possible Grant from the DNPA in respect of toilet cleansing.

Resolved: All recommendations to be noted and acted upon as necessary.

b) DAPC

- i) Subscription for 2008/09 to be raised to £235 **Noted:**
- ii) Proposed subscription rates for 2009/2010 - £246 **Noted:**

- iii) AGM to be held on 27th September 2008 at County Hall.
Resolved: Cllr Mrs Hill (DAPC Vice-President) to attend on behalf of the Council.

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

147 Cllr Coombe stated there was nothing of consequence to report this month.

148 Public Convenience Inspection Report

Cllr Sampson stated he had been unable to carry out his inspections during the past month but Cllr Bleakman was able to confirm that the condition was satisfactory. **Noted**

149 Jubilee Park Inspection Report

- a) Cllr Sampson drew attention to water collecting in the tunnel of the infant multiplay and a loose nut and bolt on the multiplay unit. Pathways at the entrance have been weeded but gravel on the steps needs replenishing. There are still some cycle tracks visible in the grass bank.

Arising: Cllr Sampson also reported that the cross tree path is becoming overgrown.

Resolved: The report to be referred to the environment group for action.

- b) Cllr Bleakman stated that his meeting with Ms Lemieux re willow shelter is to take place later this week.

Resolved: To defer the report to the next Agenda.

- c) WDBC advise the can recycle Bank will be returned to the car park in due course.

Noted:

Arising: The Clerk was requested to speak to the WDBC re the need to empty the plastic recycling skip more frequently.

150 Memorial Garden

- a) Notice received that Messrs Walker Welding intend to complete the works on the Memorial garden by 10th October 2008. **Noted:**

- b) The memorial garden seat to be returned from storage to enable Messrs Walker Welding to install it. **Noted:**

- c) Mrs Anderson continues to care for the memorial garden but has suggested the formation of a properly formulated and funded group to take responsibility for future maintenance. Donations held by the Parish Council could be provided for a fund to be held and administered by the Group.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Mrs Anderson expressing interest in her proposal and seek further details which might be relayed to the Finance Committee.

151 Overhanging Hedge – Southcombe Street

Mr. P.Shields writes to thank the Council for drawing attention to the overhanging hedge on his property and states it will be dealt with. **Noted:**

152 CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman has received an invitation to attend the civic service at Ashburton on 13th September 2008. **Noted:**

Arising. The Chairman is to arrange a civic service for the Chagford Parish Council some time early in the Spring. He will consult with the Reverend Geering re a suitable date and inform the Council in due course. **Noted:**

GENERAL PURPOSE & POLICY REPORTS

153 South West Regional Assembly

Proposed changes for the Regional Strategy for the South West require local responses by 17th October 2008. The proposals can be viewed on:-

http://gosw.limehouse.co.uk/portal/regional_strategies/drss.

Cllr Bleakman stated the web site required more study before it was possible to prepare a response and he would give a fuller report at the next meeting **Noted:**

154 Boundary Commission Review – Draft Letter (circulated)

- a) A detailed response was submitted for Council approval stating a preference for retaining the Status Quo. It was also suggested a Community Board be formed from Parishes within the Dartmoor National Park Authority because of their common interests in the event that a Devon Unitary Authority is approved.

Resolved: It was agreed the response be forwarded to i) The Boundary Commission; ii) The Secretary of State; iii) G. Cox M.P; iv) Cllr Mc Innis; v) Chief Exec W.D.B.C; vi) DAPC.

Arising: Cllr Mrs Hill was thanked for the considerable contribution she made to evaluate the needs of the Parish.

- b) The Boundary Commission Review is to be the subject of update events to be held on 15th; 16th; 17th September at Barnstaple, Ivybridge and Broadclyst respectively. The Speaker will be Mr. Brian Greenslade.

Resolved: Members to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

155 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

A Letter from Superintendent Sarah Sharpe re update on policing activity indicated public response had resulted in a number of arrests which highlighted the importance of public participation. Speeding continues to be a problem and it has been found that local drivers are largely responsible. They will continue to focus on this problem. As police officers are being released to beat practice, 2 additional officers have been allocated to Okehampton and 2 at Tavistock. **Noted:**

156 Devon County Council

a) Illegal Signs on the Highway

A letter from the Highway Maintenance Technician draws attention to the proliferation of signs on the Highway, particularly at Whiddon Down. He requests support for his action to control this problem and states signs for local events should not be erected more than 2 days before the event and removed within 24 hours of its' completion.

Resolved: The Council to assure the Highways Technician of its' support and place a notice in the Bulletin to that effect.

b) Road Closure Notification – New Street to Meldon Road Noted:

Notice received of a road closure order for the installation of pipe work, from 4th – 6th November affecting the junction of Stannary Place to the junction of Meldon Road.

c) DCC - Plastic Packaging

Invitation received for attendance at a one day Conference on 28th November 2008 re reducing, re-using and recycling plastic packaging. Cost £30 per delegate. **Noted:**

Arising: The Clerk was requested to draw the WDBC's attention to the need for more frequent collection of the plastic skip in the car park.

157 Western Power Distribution – Our Future – Your Future.

Letter of thanks received from Western Power for the response to the consultation process. The information has been forwarded to Ofgen and the report is now available on www.westernpower.co.uk. **Noted:**

158 West Devon Community & Voluntary Services AGM

The AGM of the WD Community & Voluntary Services will be held in Okehampton on 25th September 2008. **Noted:**

159 Wild Woods & Willow

Mrs Lemieux writes to draw attention to a project to involve young people in working outdoors to encourage an understanding of the local landscape. The project “wild woods n’ willow” operates under the CELT banner and is requesting Parish Council support for funding applications from the Parish Council.

Resolved: Mrs Lemieux and her supporters be invited to speak at the next regular meeting to explain the project.

160 WDBC Let’s Keep the Local in Local Government

Car Window Stickers supplied and distributed to Members. **Circulated.**

161 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

a)	3129	Mrs P. Stone – August salary	670.02
b)	3130	Mrs P. Stone – August post; electric; computer	12.21
c)	3131	Mr J. Sheridan – Jubilee Field Maintenance- August	241.25
d)	3132	Mrs P. Stone – purchase 2 Caution signs for playing field from Computer Solutions	24.00
e)	3133	DAPC – Course fee for Playground Seminar on 23 rd September 2008 2 delegates at £30	60.00
f)	3134	Cllr Bleakman – Chairman’s Allowance 2008/09	300.00

162 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED

- a) Devon in Touch – August 2008
- b) West Devon e-connect – August 2008
- c) DAPC Annual Report 2007-08.
- d) DCC – A Unitary Council for Devon – Your Questions Answered,
- e) DCC – A Stronger Voice for Devon.
- f) NALC – Legal Briefing – Indemnities for Members and Officers Order 2004
- g) DNPA Agendas – 5th September 2008.
- h) Clerks & Councils Direct September 2008.
- i) Village Green September 2008

The Meeting Ended at 9.20pm

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....