

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held on Monday, February 9th 2009 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Geering; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Perryman (after Min 290); Sampson; Ms Thorn.

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Mrs Haxton

In attendance The Clerk, Mrs Stone.

286 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Ms Thorn declared an interest in Min 300a
- b) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Min 291b

287 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 12th January 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to the following adjustments:

- i) Add to Minute 266 - Cllr Bleakman to attend the meeting on 23rd January 2009
- ii) Add to Minute 277 – The successful applicant may be required to submit to a check by the Criminal Investigation Board.
- iii) Add to Min 280 - and the need to keep dogs off the Jubilee Park playing field.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

288 Parking Restrictions (Mins 236; 265a refer)

- a) The environment Committee drew attention to the lack of appropriate signage at the Crossways junction in respect of the parking bay that the Highways Officer had attempted to remove. The marking previously in situ was now apparent again and there was no appropriate signage to indicate its current status. The lack of a “parking in marked bays only” sign only added to the confusion.

Resolved: i) The Clerk to remind the Highways department that the previous white lines need to be removed completely and a sign to indicate where drivers might park be prominently displayed; ii) A copy of the letter be sent to Cllr J. McInnes.

- b) DCC Highways

- i) Loading Bay.

Acknowledgement received re request for reclassification of High Street loading bay. The Area North Highway Management indicated they would consider this matter when a future opportunity arose to amend the traffic order. No time scale was given for this work as it would be incumbent on other changes being required in the Town. The Clerk informed the meeting she was aware that a survey of the effects of the original traffic order was currently under survey but she had been unable to make contact with the person carrying out the survey.

Resolved: The Clerk to i) make enquiries as to the nature of the survey and state that the Council wishes to participate in the procedure; ii) draw the matter to the attention of Cllr McInnes and the Business Association.

- ii) Disabled Parking bays need relining.

Resolved: The Clerk to bring this matter to the attention of the Highways Department

- iii) A sign is needed at Whiteabury Cross/Great Weeke junction to prevent HGV vehicles attempting to use the road.

Resolved: The Highways Department to be advised of the need.

289 Western Power (Mins 251; 266 refer)

The meeting was informed that there is ongoing co-operation between the Highways Lighting Engineer and Western Power with regard to programming their combined

services. The Street Lighting installation has started with new lights in Lamb Park and reports from local residents are very favourable. The last stage of the lighting programme will be in the Autumn when Western Power intend to remove the existing poles in the High Street. Western Power Management has agreed that the site is exceptional from an historic point of view and a budget has been allocated to allow a reasonable amount of underground cabling to be installed. Cabling will be installed below a church footpath (not the churchyard) and below ground in the high street. There is to be a meeting with Mr. Cleaver of Western Power and the Chairman Jubilee Hall Committee to discuss removal of overhead cables in the vicinity of the Jubilee Hall. The meeting will take place on 17th February 2009. **Noted:**

290 Street Lighting. Letters received from local residents regarding additional lights in Manor Road and Nattadon Road gave a favourable response. 4 letters were received from residents, none of which were received from the Nattadon road area. All 4 letters were supportive of the proposal to fit a new light on the pole adjacent to Greenacres. One of the letters raised a daytime road safety issue and this has been forwarded to the Highways Department.

Resolved: The Clerk to advise the Lighting Engineer that there has been no opposition to the proposals.

URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There were no urgent matters to discuss.

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

291 Development Control Planning Applications

Cllr Bleakman circulated recommendations, regarding the following application, to the Council to meet the required deadline. The resolution was forwarded to the DNPA under delegated Authority.

a) 0790/08 Treverry, Easton Cross, Chagford – Amended Plan

Proposed extension to house including infill of ground floor space (revised design of permission ref: **0680/07**).

Resolved: No objection to the amended plan.

Cllr Sampson declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting.

b) 0001/08 26 The Square, Chagford

Compliance of “as built” with “as approved design”.

Further consideration of this chimney showed that it deviates from the original design on three counts i.e.- i) the as built chimney is not as tall as the approved design; ii) the approved design shows the top section of the chimney to have tapering sides as per the existing chimney. The as built chimney does not have any tapered section although there is a slate drip course on one side approximately 1/3 from the top; iii) the approved design of the chimney is for one that does not protrude into the house beyond the rear wall. The as built configuration does extend into the house so as to make the chimney nearly twice as thick as the approved design.

Resolved: The deviations from the original design of the chimney to be brought to the attention of the DNPA Enforcement Officer with a request that the non-compliance be reviewed.

c) 0698/08 Bly Cottage, Chagford – Amended Drawing

An amended drawing of the window on the upper floor of SE elevation was supplied for information and **Noted:**

292 Grants of Conditional Planning Permission - Noted

a) 0392/08 Chagford Montessori Nursery School

Proposed extend opening hours to 8am – 6pm, create play scheme for two weeks from 8am to 6pm in school holidays, teacher training courses in term time and practical workshop during school holidays.

b) 0778/08 Hillhead Farm, Chagford

Proposed alterations and extensions comprising new garden room and enlargement of first floor bedroom.

c) 0717/08 Lower Jurston Farm, Chagford

Proposed removal of downstairs cloakroom

d) 0718/08 Lower Jurston Farm, Chagford

Proposed alterations to upper parlour.

e) 0697/08 Bly Cottage, Chagford

Proposed removal of existing garage and construction of new extension.

293 DNPA Development Management Review

The Clerk reported a communication with the Planning Office re shortcomings of new alternative to the weekly list. Until the present time it was possible to receive the weekly list of applications on line and these included any applications in adjoining Parishes and any tree works. Now the only information on line was that of applications within the Parish unless a search was made of all other localities separately. She has written to the planning officer who has replied that he accepts that the on line list needs to be modified to simplify the search. **Noted:**

294 Burrator Parish Council

The Chairman read a letter received from Burrator Parish Council that outlined their concerns regarding effectiveness of the current DNPA Development Control system in taking the proper consideration of Parish Council comments on Planning Applications. They were also seeking support for a proposal that Parish Councils should become voting members of the DNPA Planning Committee for applications within their Parish. The Council were of the opinion that making parish councils voting members of the DNPA Management Committee would be difficult and expensive as the membership of such bodies was laid down by Act of Parliament. They also saw practical difficulties in applying such a change as Parish Council representatives would change for each application considered.

The Council has sympathies with the principles that led to the Burrator proposal and has previously asked the DNPA (Chris France) if it would be possible for the Parish Council to be able to make a 3 minute presentation to the Committee as is currently the case for the Applicant and a representative of the Objectors. Mr France advised that he felt such a change was unnecessary as the Council's comments were presented by his Officer and several more 3 minute presentations during the meeting would make it unacceptably long. He also advised that if he changed the rules for the Parish Council, why should he not let other consultees have the same privilege?

The Council was also reminded that there were two Parish Council appointed representatives on the DNPA Committee and that perhaps we should make more use of their services when the Council had strong views on an application.

Resolved: 1) The Clerk to write to Burrator Council advising them of our agreement with the issues but not the proposed solution and outlining the actions we had already taken with the DNPA. 2) The Planning Inspection Group to recommend, in their report, the occasions when the help of the Parish Council representative should be sought.

- 295 Chagford Conservation Area – Proposed Tree Works Lower Hillsborough.**
Schedule of Works – Fell 1 Eucalyptus; Fell 1 red plum; Reduce in height – group of trees and shrubs. The Chairman sought approval of his decision to offer a resolution of No objection under delegated authority, based on a previous recent inspection of the site
Resolved: To ratify the recommendation of No objection.

- 296 Chagford Business Association**
Councillors expressed their appreciation of the endeavours of local traders to continue providing services during the recent severe weather problems.
Resolved: Cllr Parrott to convey this message to the Chair of the Business Association on behalf of the Council.

FINANCE REPORT

- 297** Chagford Swimming Pool Committee thanks the Parish Council for the Grant of £500
- a) for lifesaving services **Noted**
 - b) Grant received from DNPA in respect of loo cleaning (£250).
Concern was raised at the reduction in Grant from previous year of £594.61. The Clerk informed the meeting she was advised that this was because of a reduction in funds available and the probability was that there would be no further Grants in the future.
Resolved: The Clerk to acknowledge receipt of the Grant but write to draw attention to the DNPA's avowed commitment to support tourism in rural areas and the importance of public toilet facilities in this respect.
 - c) Finance Meeting. The next meeting of the Finance Group has been arranged to take place on Thursday, 26th February 2009. **Noted:**

ENVIRONMENT GROUP REPORTS

- 298 Public Convenience Inspection Report**
Cllr Geering expressed the opinion that the toilets were showing signs of age and need upgrading. A request was made that this should be the subject of discussions with the WDBC when they attend the next outreach surgery on 13th February.
Resolved: Cllrs Davies and Sampson to raise the matter at the outreach surgery.
- 299 Jubilee Park Inspection Report**
- a) Cllr Geering was pleased to report that the Playing Field has survived the recent spell of heavy snow and rain without undue damage. **Noted:**
 - b) The Clerk reported a discussion with Mrs Lemieux regarding the future of the willow shelter when she was informed that it was doubtful that the shelter would ever prove to be a satisfactory endeavour. In the hope of coming to a more suitable decision, she asked that she might bring some of the young people involved to the next meeting to explain ideas they had on the subject.
Resolved: The Clerk to inform Mrs Lemieux that the Council will be pleased to receive her group to address the Council at the beginning of the next meeting.
Cllr Ms Thorn declared an interest in Min 300a
- 300 Environment Group Report**
Cllr Coombe circulated the findings of the environment group inspection. He drew attention to the following items:-
Jubilee Park
Cllr Ms Thorn declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion:-
- a) damage to the fence/hedge next to the allotments
 - b) the health centre/skate park hedge needs attention

- c) there is a fallen tree across the leat
Padley Common
- d) The top and bottom gates are corroded and broken
- e) The litter penalty sign is damaged and needs to be removed
- f) There are damaged trees on the bridlepath

Chagford Square/Market House

- g) The disabled parking bays need to be relined.
- h) A tie has been broken on the dog bin outside the ladies' loo.

Resolved: a) The area to be monitored to determine who is causing the damage; b) A working party be organised during March to deal with the skate park bank and hedge; c) ownership of the tree to be identified and the appropriate action taken; d) Cllr Hill and the Clerk to be authorised to spend up to £75 for the repair of the gates; e) Members of the Committee to remove the litter sign; f) the DNP Ranger to be advised of the tree damage; g) the Highways Department be advised of the need to repaint the disabled bays; h) The Clerk to make the necessary arrangement

301 Bus Shelter (Min 278 refers)

The Clerk reported a discussion with Highways Department re school bus shelter following a telephone call enquiring about the position of any existing bus shelters. She advised the Department that bus stops existed at the Market House and Lamb Park but apart from the Market House there are no shelters. She was told that it would not be advisable for a shelter to be placed in front of the school and the bus stop at Lamb Park would present problems of visibility etc for vehicles exiting Lamb Park. She also advised the Department that 3 Councillors were currently monitoring the pupils attending the school with a view to clarifying the need for a shelter.

Resolved: The Department be advised of the outcome of the survey in due course and this item to be referred to the next meeting.

302 Eastern Parishes Link Committee

- a) Minutes of the Link Meeting held on 20th November 2008 received. **Noted:**
- b) Next meeting to be held on 5th March 2009 at Sampford Courtney Village Hall.

Resolved: Cllrs Hill and Thorn to question i) the current policy with regard to road clearance in bad weather; ii) the need for more attention by the lengthsman with regard to gully clearance.

303 Clerk/Chairman's Report

- a) Civic Service – Theme – Young People – The Future.
The Chairman confirmed that the civic service will commence at 11am with coffee being served in the church from 10.30am. The service is to be a version of Matins in which the young people will participate. Following the service, light refreshment will be served in Endecott House. **Noted:**
- b) **Sale of Glendarah House**
Information received that Glendarah has been sold for conversion to a “supported living” unit. **Noted:**

GENERAL PURPOSE & POLICY REPORTS

304 Clean Neighbourhood Act (Mins 48; 221; 254 refer)

Cllrs Bleakman; Mrs Hill; Sampson and the Clerk met the Environment Officer and Dog Warden from the WDBC to discuss WDBC participation in the proposed introduction of a byelaw to restrict dog access to the Jubilee Park. The WDBC has expressed support for the Chagford Parish Council in its' endeavours but indicated they are unable to commit to financial involvement with regard to possible costs in pursuing

litigation for offences. It was further pointed out that in the event of changes following the boundary review, they may not be able to provide support of any kind. The WDBC team are to seek further consultation with their management body.

Resolved: To await a further report.

305 Local Government Review of Devon Update

Information received indicates that MP's are to meet the Secretary of State before she makes her decision on the Boundary Review to discuss the risks associated with the current economic conditions. It is considered that the revolutionary changes in local government are too big to be accommodated and will place greater restrictions on local government services. A subsequent e-mail from the Chief Executive of the Devon County Council states the Secretary of State has deferred her decision from 13th February to 13th July 2009 which almost certainly means the implementation of any eventual unitary recommendation is delayed to April 2011. The County Council elections in June this year continue as planned. **Noted:**

306 Chagford Jubilee Hall – changes to Trust Deed

Cllr Bleakman submitted a discussion document re a consultation with Trustees regarding a change to the Jubilee Hall Trust Deed. After a consultation with the Charity Commission a process has been started to consider an alternative arrangement for nomination and selection of Trustees.

The 10 organisations currently listed as being eligible to nominate Trustees shall have the right to appoint one representative. This group includes the Parish Council who is currently entitled to appoint two representatives but under the proposal this would be reduced to one.

Other organizations of a social; recreational; educational or similar character can apply to join the list of nominating organizations.

Nominations for Trustees properly proposed and seconded to be submitted prior to the AGM and displayed in a prominent place.

Up to 2 additional people can be co-opted by the Trustees.

Nominated and elected Trustees shall serve for two years and be eligible for re-nomination/election for a maximum of three occasions.

The rules applicable to the disposal of all or part of the premises and the use of any money so obtained remain unchanged.

The Council were happy with the proposed changes other than the reduction of the Council's appointed Trustees to two. Until the last change the Council had appointed three trustees but had been happy to reduce this to two, but as the elected body representing all parishioners it was felt that it was essential that the Council maintained its two votes on what would be an increased team of Trustees

Resolved: The Council's appointed trustees to make this Council's feeling know at the next Trustee meeting

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

307 Devon Link

Invitation received to join a new organisation – Devon Link.

Resolved: To stay on the table.

308 DAPC – Casual Vacancies on County Committee

Nominations to be received by 2nd March 2009

Resolved: A nomination be submitted for Cllr Mrs Hill.

309 DAPC – Royal Garden Party

a) Nominations required by 10th March 2009

Resolved: A nomination be submitted for the Chairman, Cllr Bleakman.

b) Power of Well Being Meeting

Invitation received for Chairman and Clerks to attend a legal briefing meeting to be held at Cardinal Newman House on 4th March 2009. Bookings cost £10 per person.

Resolved: Cllr Bleakman and Mrs Stone to attend.

310 Devon County Council – Emergency Planning

DCC seek information re current state of local emergency plans. The Clerk has advised that the plan is under review.

Resolved: A meeting of the emergency committee to be arranged for February 23rd commencing at 7.30pm.

311 Devon County Council – Commons Act 2006

DCC are to host an event to provide more information concerning Commons Registration. The event will take place in March or April and a further notice will be posted.

Resolved: The Chairman and Clerk to represent the Council.

312 Chagford Farmers’ Market

The Chairman of the Jubilee Hall Trustees, has forwarded a copy of his letter to the Chair of Chagford Business Association re the proposed Farmers’ Market advising that the possibility of holding markets would be reconsidered in a years time. **Noted:**

313 DCC Salting Policy

Cllr J. McInnes invites participation in discussions with a Highways Representative at the next Link meeting to discuss the highways salting policy. The Clerk was informed that Chagford is no longer on the gritting rota and there was marked shortage of salt for the roads overall.

Resolved: The Clerk to ascertain from the local Highways Engineer what the current status is with regard to stocks of road salt and their policy for roadside replacement following the recent period of high usage. This information to be passed to Cllrs Mrs Hill and Thorn who are to attend the Link Meeting.

314 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

£

The following accounts were approved for payment

a)	3170	Mrs P. Stone – January Salary	695.64
b)	3171	Mrs P. Stone – January post; electric; computer	35.81
c)		Direct Debit Tiscali – broadband services	31.34
d)	3172	Audit Commission – Audit fee 2008	327.75
e)	3173	Glasdon UK – 2 metres enviroscape for hedge strengthening	57.46
f)	3174	Chagford Combined Charity – Hire of Endecott House – from 01.10.08 – 31.12.08 (£65) and 01.01.09 – 31.03.09 (£70.50)	135.50

315 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following publications were made available to Members.

- a)** Devon Link – Newsletter
- b)** West Devon – e-connect January 2009
- c)** DNPA – Agendas 6th February 2009.
- d)** The Playing Field – Winter 2008/09 issue.

The Meeting ended at 9.20pm

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....