

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday 10th January 2011 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Geering (after Min 288); Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Perryman; Sampson and Ms Thorn.
In Attendance: The Clerk, Mrs Stone.

286 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Min 295a
- b) Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in Min 299d
- c) Cllr Parrott declared an interest in Min 299b
- d) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Min 299d

287 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 13th December 2010 were confirmed as a true record subject to the following amendment i) the word beholding in Min 246 to read “beholden” and line 5 in Min 246 to read “between the Parish Priest and the Chairman as well as the Royal British Legion.

MATTERS ARISING

288 Public Transport Services (Mins 189; 248 refer)

A meeting with a DCC representative (Mr Fishpool) and Cllrs Mrs Hill & Davies took place on 10th January 2011 to discuss local bus services and request links to other services operating in the area. Difficulties are being experienced because of the infrequency of Chagford services and inconvenient times of departure and return. Several possible improvements were proposed to Mr Fishpool who recognised the shortcomings but stated the DCC budget has not been decided as yet and it is unlikely that any more funding will be found for improvements to bus services. He suggested that local bus travellers should lobby all DCC Councillors for Chagford and surrounding areas to seek their assistance when the budget is discussed in February. It was suggested that a survey be held at the bus stop at strategic times to invite travellers to answer a Questionnaire to put to the DCC and they be advised to write to the DCC direct.

Resolved: Cllr Davies to prepare a list of questions and available Councillors to form a rota to seek information from travellers at the bus stop.

289 Provision of additional Grit Bins (Mins 228; 250a refer)

The Clerk confirmed that the grit bins being financed by Cllr McInnes from his Community budget would be delivered by the Highways Department but had not arrived as yet.

Resolved: The Clerk to pursue the matter.

290 DNPA/Parish Council Meetings – (Min 257 refers)

Cllr Bleakman referred to topics discussed at the meeting between DNPA and Town & Parish Councils held on 16th November 2010. Subject matter related mainly to possible budget cuts and changes in the management structure. Mr Tony Halse gave a talk on the work of his conservation team and willingness to assist locally where possible. When questioned about the possibility of carrying out work for charitable trusts, Dr. Bishop, Chief Executive DNPA) said he would consider the matter.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to enquire whether Dr Bishop has reached a decision on the matter.

291 Royal Wedding – 29th April 2011 (Min 264 refers)

No information has been received to date of suggestions for local Authority celebrations to commemorate the Royal Wedding. It has been suggested that Chagford might have a beacon at the top of Meldon.

Resolved: i) Cllrs Bleakman; Mrs Hill and Sampson to consider other possibilities and ii) a beacon to be lit on Meldon.

292 Snow/Ice Clearance (Min 270c refers)

a) Road Clearance Problems As a result of the considerable difficulty in maintaining satisfactory road conditions it was agreed that the situation should be reviewed in order to learn from the experience should the need arise in the future. Contact was maintained with the Highways Department who were advised of specific difficulties as and where they arose. To their credit, the response received to requests for assistance, was received quite rapidly when access wasn't blocked by inconsiderate parking. To overcome this problem it was suggested that in the future it would be helpful to negotiate a temporary parking area in the vicinity of the market field to keep access roads clear of parked vehicles.

Resolved: The Emergency Planning Group to include this subject in future discussions.

b) A Letter received from the Manager of Helpful Holidays questioned the need for Parish Council involvement in arranging groups of volunteers to cope with snow clearance in the future. It also indicated that the Council should not rely on the West Devon Borough Council to provide snow clearance and gritting.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Helpful Holidays to make the following points:- i) The Borough Council is not responsible for such services it is the prerogative of the Devon County Council Highways Department; ii) the services of the Highways Department were co-ordinated where possible by the Parish Council in an endeavour to overcome problems caused by inconsiderate local parking preventing snow ploughs and gritting lorries from getting through on occasions; iii) a request for volunteers during any future needs in this respect during bad weather conditions would be referred in part not only to local residents but also to local businesses and the business Association for their participation.

293 Informal Police Meeting

The informal meeting with the Police Inspector and his team held on 15th December 2010 was attended by Cllrs Mrs Haxton; Davies and Jeffreys who reported that the meeting was poorly attended. The meeting was divided into 2 groups and it was evident that there was serious concern at the possibility of jobs being lost and the subsequent effect on services provided. It was also suggested that policing would be conducted on a different level in the future with Officers being appointed to specialist subjects rather than carrying out general duties across the board. The decision on these matters would be taken in April.

Sergeant Nadine Wilson indicated that there was increasing evidence of the use of drugs in public houses. She also suggested willingness to participate in a Council meeting if invited, preferably after April. **Noted:**

294 COUNILLORS QUESTIONS

No questions were raised.

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLANNING MANAGEMENT & Development Control Matters

295 Grants of Conditional Planning Consent – Noted:

Cllr Coombe declared an interest in the following item.

a) **0535/10 Teign Marsh, Chagford**

- Proposed single storey extension to rear and improvements to existing workshop.
- b) **0550/10 The Shallows, Teigncombe, Chagford**
Proposed relocate front door of property with new porch, plus dormer with balcony.
- 296 Grant of Listed Building Consent – Noted:**
0554/10 The Three Crowns, Chagford
Proposed repairs and alterations.

GENERAL PURPOSES & POLICY MATTERS

- 297 SWLC – Democracy Pack** (Min 263 refers)
Guidelines have been received from WDBC for the conduct of Local Elections in May 2011. One of the proposals suggests that local Councils hold awareness meetings in advance of the elections for would be Councillors. Cllr Sampson advised the Council that the WDBC are to arrange awareness sessions for candidates and he will inform the Council when these are to take place.
Resolved: An awareness gathering to be arranged to take place at Endecott House on 28th February 2011 from 7.30pm.
- 298 Chief Executive –WDBC**
An invitation has been received for the Chairman and Clerk to attend an informal meeting to discuss the pros and cons of shared services with South Hams. The Chief Executive is keen to harness the energy of local enthusiasts to good effect. The meeting will be held at Meldon Village Hall on 1st February 2011 from 7 – 9pm.
Resolved: The Chairman and Clerk to attend.
Arising: Cllr Sampson has been informed that the Chief Executive is keen to take up the Council's offer to visit and tour the area when convenient. He will make arrangements as soon as he is able.

299 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Cllrs Mrs Hill; Parrott and Sampson declared interests in the following items and left the room.
Approval sought for the following Grants recommended by the Finance Group:-
- a) Chagford Swimming Pool - £1,000
 - b) Chagford Business Association - £120
 - c) West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau - £75
 - d) Chagford Combined Charity for loft ladder - £150
 - e) Okehampton Transport Ring & Ride - £75
 - f) Mrs C. Thomas for Chagford Parish Calendar - £25
 - g) Parochial Church Council - £750
- Resolved:** To approve payment.
Cllrs Mrs Hill; Parrott and Sampson returned to the meeting at this point.

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

- 300 Jubilee Park Inspection Report**
Cllr Davies stated that, in spite of the poor weather conditions, the Jubilee Park was in reasonable condition. However, attention was drawn to the need for attention to the safety surface beneath the see-saw in the current year; action needs to be taken in respect of the poor condition of the willow shelter; the bank adjoining the skate park is being used as a short cut with the result that it has become very muddy and damaged; the entrance path was very icy during the bad weather; the health centre hedge has not been cut back yet although the Clerk said she had been informed the work would be carried out on 12th January 2011; the tables and seats would benefit from varnishing.

Resolved: The Environment Group to inspect the seats, the willow shelter and the skate park gate which doesn't close properly. All other matters to be dealt with by the Clerk.
Arising: The proposed meeting with the young persons involved with damage to the skate park bank will be arranged during the half term holiday and reported to the following Council meeting. **Noted:**

301 Public Convenience Inspection Report

- a) Cllr Davies was happy to report that following intense pressure from the Council, the toilets were being cleaned by a new Operative who was taking considerable care to improve their condition. It was suggested that previous problems were partly due to the fact that there was no means of drawing water, either hot or cold, for cleaning purposes as the tap once in situ had been removed by the WDBC. A local businessman had noticed that during the previous cleaner's visits, no materials were seen entering or leaving the premises hence it was obvious no activity was taking place. Cllr Sampson complimented Cllr Davies on his thorough monitoring of the toilets and stated the WDBC would benefit from a summary of his findings.

Resolved: Cllr Davies kindly agreed to provide a report of his findings for the Clerk to forward to the WDBC.

Arising: Cllr Mrs Hill stated the door to the ladies' loo would not close properly.

Resolved: The Clerk to report the matter.

b) **WDBC Public Toilet Service Review**

The Council has been advised that following a review of the Borough's Public Conveniences it was decided that three facilities would be closed in Okehampton; Tavistock and Yelverton. Because of forthcoming budget constraints, all Parish and Town Councils are being asked to consider contributing 30% of the maintenance and running costs of their facilities to help prevent further closures. In real terms this would mean an increase of £1,802.07 annually based on the 2009/10 contribution.

The Council gave serious consideration to the need to retain the public conveniences and acknowledged that running costs in the current climate were unrealistic. However, the current proposed increase could not be met in one instalment. It was felt that ever increasing maintenance and running costs could be reduced by improving the fabric of the premises; i.e. improved flooring enabling better cleaning etc. To this end it was suggested that the Council could enter into an extended partnership with the WDBC which would (after discussion) enable further improvements to be carried out with some shared financial responsibility.

The Chairman of the Finance Group indicated that an initial offer of an additional £400 would be possible for the year 2011/12 and further annual increases could be negotiated if the Borough is willing to accept an offer of shared responsibility.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to the Contract Performance Manager accordingly.

302 CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There were no items to report

CORRESPONDENCE/emails RECEIVED

303 WDBC – The Big Tree Plant

DEFRA Tree Planting Campaign – invitation to participate – funding available.

The purpose of the scheme is to provide green areas in rural developments to improve the environment. **Noted:**

304 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Invitation received to participate in Police Authority Conference to be held at the Exeter Conference Centre on Wednesday, 16th February 2011 from 10am to 3pm.

Resolved: Cllrs Mrs Haxton and Davies to attend.

305 MacNamara Seat

An e-mail has been received from the Conservation Group Co-Ordinator re the discovery of a seat (half buried) on Meldon Hill. It is situated on the road near Higher Weddicott and Meldon Hall.

Resolved: i) The site to be inspected by the Environment Group and a report to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting; ii) the Clerk to thank the Conservation Group for bringing this to the Council's attention and informing them of the action taken.

306 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

£

The Following Accounts/Grants were approved for payment

a)	3451 - Mrs P Stone – December Salary	719.55
b)	3452 - Mrs P Stone – December post; electric; computer	30.05
c)	3453 - Chagford Swimming Pool	1,000.00
d)	3454 - Chagford Business Association	120.00
e)	3455 - West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau	75.00
f)	3456 – Chagford Combined Charity for loft ladder	150.00
g)	3457 - Okehampton Transport Ring & Ride	75.00
h)	3458 – Mrs C. Thomas for Parish Calendar	25.00
i)	3459 - Parochial Church Council	750.00

307 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVE

The following publications were made available to Members.

- a) DNPA Agendas – 07.01.11
- b) Standards Committee Agenda 11.1.11
- c) WDBC Changes to the West Devon Submission Core Strategy

The Meeting Closed at 9.07pm
Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....