

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council  
held at Endecott House on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman until Min 346); Coombe; Davies; Geering (after Min 347); Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Perryman; Sampson; Ms Thorn.

**In Attendance:** the Clerk, Mrs Stone

**Apologies for absence** There were no apologies for absence,

**341 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- a) Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in Min 351c.
- b) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Min 351c

**342 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**343 Registrar Services** (Min 288 refers)

Cllr Sampson reported no improvement in the registrar services which are still under review. **Noted:**

**344 Tinnors Fair** (Min 313 refers)

Clarification was sought concerning who would benefit financially from this event and what provision was being made for stall holders. It was stated that there would be no charge for a stall and proceeds, if that was the nature of the business conducted, would be for the benefit of the stall holder; or organisation involved.

It was further stated that Whiddon Parish Insurance cover would cover all events and any damage to Council land. Council Land would be covered by the Council's Policy. Correspondence received relating to funding required for the purchase of bunting detailed costs of providing 24 swallow tail banners and bunting would be £725 and it was hoped the Council would provide some funding towards this item.

**Resolved:** The Council to offer a donation of £200 (under section 137) for some bunting on the proviso that the bunting becomes the property of the Council for future use and be manufactured to a durable standard.

**345 DEFRA – Climate Change** (Min 291; 314 refers)

Details of the informal discussion held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008, with Mr. G. Davies re Community involvement on the subject of climate change was submitted to the members for consideration. It was generally felt that participating in this project would not significantly benefit Chagford as there seemed little possibility of achieving progress other than to participate in talks with little prospect of concrete action being taken. In view of Chagford's obvious advantage on this subject it was felt further involvement would not be of benefit.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to inform DEFRA and the Community Council of Devon accordingly.

**346 Unauthorised Signs** (Mins 292; 315 refer)

The enforcement officer DNP has indicated the intention to take enforcement action with regard to the sign on the wall of the Globe Inn. It has since been reported that there are now additional signs attached to the railings.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to bring this matter to the DNP's attention.

**Cllr Bleakman vacated the Chair at this point because of ill health. Cllr Perryman (Vice Chairman took the Chair.**

**347 MV Kestor**

A question was raised concerning progress with regard to repairs to the model of the MV Kestor. The Clerk responded by saying she had made contact with a Mr Overton at the Plymouth Maritime Museum who had requested details before considering what action or advice could be taken. Historical details of the model and a photograph were sent to Plymouth but did not reach their destination and were subsequently returned by the Post Office. Attempts to locate Mr. Overton by telephone at the Plymouth University etc had failed to identify his whereabouts. The model is being safely stored at Endecott House pending further enquiries. **Noted:**

**348 Beating the Bounds**

A wish to carry out the second stage of Beating Bounds was expressed and it was suggested this should happen around May. The Clerk indicated that she was unable to undertake any further demands on her services due to pressure of work.

**Resolved:** The Beating the Bounds Committee to meet to discuss arrangements and a time scale for the event.

**URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION.**

**349 CCD – Training Programme for Current Legislation**

Invitation to Members to enrol for training in current legislation on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. Cost per member £40.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to make arrangements for the Council to be represented by Cllrs Bleakman and Davies.

**350 CCD – Boundary Commission Review of Local Government in Devon.**

Information received concerning time scale for Boundary Commission review from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Councils advised to consider their response which will be required from July to September 2008.

**Resolved:** To await further promised communication on the subject before responding later in the year.

**351 CCD – Devon Association of Community Buildings Conference – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.**

Attention drawn to conference designed to promote the value of rural community buildings.

**Resolved:** The information be circulated to Trustees of the Jubilee Hall; Endecott House and the Chagford Recreational Trust.

**352 Housing Survey Report**

Petition received concerning need to allocate any available single property to young local residents.

**Resolved:** The correspondent to be advised that the Parish Council is not the letting Authority for this purpose but is wholly sympathetic to the suggestion and will communicate that fact to the Borough Council; West Devon Homes and the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

**COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**353 Planning Inspection Group report**

Cllr Bleakman forwarded the recommendations of the planning inspection committee Meeting held on 4<sup>h</sup> March 2008 and attended by Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Davies and Jeffreys.

- a) **0709/07 East Coombe Farm, Thorn, Chagford – Amended Drawings.**  
Proposed alter existing porches and fenestration on farmhouse, remove asbestos flue, conversion of garage/workshop/barn to ancillary facilities and accommodation, car shelter on footprint of demolished barn and refurbish existing stables with new roof.

**Resolved:** No objection

- b) **0105/08 Mill Pond, Chagford – Listed Building Consent**

Proposed installation of solar thermal collectors covered with patent glazing in south pitch roof.

**Resolved:** The Council is very supportive of this application given the care that has been taken in the design to minimise the visibility of the panels. The creation of further window like structures in keeping with the existing windows is to be commended. The approval of this application is supportive of the Government's policy on renewable energy (PPS 22) and in the opinion of the Council does not contravene the requirements of PPG 15

Cllrs Mrs Hill and Sampson declared an interest in the following item and left the room

- c) **0117/08 4-6 High Street, Chagford**

Proposed change of use of ground floor of property to living accommodation associated with first floor.

**Resolved:** The Council objects to the Change of Use of the ground floor of Whiddons from Class A3 Food and Drink to Class 3 Private Dwelling House. Chagford Town is highly dependant on tourism to maintain its economic well being and the Council feels that the maintenance of a wide range of food and drink outlets is essential to this trade. Whiddons is one of a row of such outlets along Chagford High Street and it has, under previous ownership, served the town and its visitors successfully as either a mid range restaurant or tearooms with ancillary sales areas. The Council is also concerned that the garden of Chagford's highly used community hall, Endecott House, has its boundary as the wall of Whiddons. As such the users of the garden, a very regular activity in the non winter months, have the right to walk up to the windows of Whiddons. This has not been a problem whilst both premises have had a commercial use but a change of use of Whiddons to private domestic occupation could result in privacy and noise complaints that would be to the disadvantage of the existing community facility.

The Council did not object to the change of use of the upper floor of Whiddons under application 0868/05 as it felt that the provision of a self contained flat for the owners above the restaurant added to the long term viability of the building as a retail premises.

- d) **Amended Plans received for information only and Noted.**

- i) 0047/08 Stoneridge, Market Field, Chagford
- ii) 0025/08 Middle Drewston Farm, Moretonhampstead
- iii) 0001/08 26 The Square, Chagford

**354 Grants of Conditional Planning Permission – Noted.**

- a) **1009/Northfield House, Chagford**

Proposed construction of a new garage.

- b) **0982/07 Pound Meadow, New Street, Chagford**

Proposed demolition of part of a granite field boundary wall to widen the existing gateway to allow access for agricultural vehicles.

- c) **0001/08 26, The Square, Chagford**

Proposed reinstatement of previously demolished chimney on end elevation.

- d) **0004/08 Princes, Manor Road, Chagford**

Proposed link extension between dwelling and annexe and alterations to garage.

**355 Chagford Conservation Area: Proposed Tree Works**

**a) Millaton House**

Letter received from Trees and Landscape Officer to the effect that the DNP do not intend to protect the tree due to be felled in the grounds of Millaton House. **Noted**

**b) Memorial Garden, Lower Street**

Notice received from Trees & Landscape Officer, DNP, that work can commence on the Memorial Garden tree after 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008 unless a tree protection order is placed on the tree prior to that date. **Noted:**

**c) Bailey's Hey, Chagford.**

Conditional consent given by DNP for works to ash tree at Bailey's Hey, Chagford. **Noted:**

**356 DNP Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment**

Attention drawn to a consultation exercise on a proposed methodology intended to help the preparation of Strategic Housing Land Availability. **Noted:**

**357 Financial Matters**

**a)** Cllr Mrs Hill sought approval for payment of the following Grants:- balance of swimming pool grant-(£500), interim payment of £500 approved 14.05.07; West Devon CAB £100; Teignbridge CAB £50.

**Resolved:** To approve payment.

**b)** Receipt of a Vat Repayment in the sum of £295.21 was **Noted:**

**c)** The Finance Committee were requested to consider the possible replacement of the Council's photocopier in the forthcoming budget meeting. **Noted:**

**d)** Attention was drawn once again to the lack of an invoice from the Business Association, for funds for Christmas lighting and the provision of Christmas trees.

**Resolved:** To await the appropriate invoices hopefully before the end of the financial year.

**358 Jubilee Field Inspection Report**

**a)** Cllr Mrs Haxton drew attention to the following requirements:- i) more gravel on steps; ii) seat of the spring horse is peeling; iii) the trees and shrub beds need attention; iv) new bin bags required for the wheelie bin in the main park.

**Resolved:** the Clerk to obtain a supply of bin bags and obtain repairs to the spring horse seat. ii) a Council "work-in" be arranged for 30<sup>th</sup> March to deal with the shrub beds.

**b)** To note replacement chains for the swing seats have been installed by Cllrs Bleakman and Geering.

**c)** To report completion of Mr. Brackenbury's mole eradication service in the Jubilee Field. **Noted.**

**d)** Two quotations received for reduction of the health centre boundary hedge received.

**Resolved:** Messrs Hi-Line be invited to carry out the work at a cost of £300 plus VAT.

**359 Public Convenience Report**

Cllr Mrs Haxton indicated the conditions in the public conveniences varied owing to the frequent changes in weather condition but on the whole were acceptable. Children are frequenting the entrance to the Ladies loo at night which is off-putting to persons wishing to enter.

**Resolved:** The Community Police Sergeant be requested to monitor the situation with regard to the entrance to the ladies' loo.

**360 Environment Committee**

**a)** Cllr Mrs Hill summarised recommendations for progress at the Memorial Garden site – i.e. –an area along the back wall needs clearing; the mosaic needs fixing; the long granite troughs originally used in the Square be transported to site and used as edging along the front of the garden.

- Resolved:** The Clerk to make the appropriate arrangements
- b) Mrs Hill's inspection of the empty property in Valley View (Mins 304a; 326a refer) revealed that there are private property notices in all the windows. **Noted:**
  - c) Arrangements for planting granite troughs are underway and volunteers have come forward to adopt some troughs and /or plant the memorial garden. **Noted:**
  - d) The Pound Garden The hedge needs trimming to improve the outlook.  
**Resolved:** The Clerk to speak to Mr. Swift to enquire whether he can assist.
  - e) Turn Lake Leat Concern was expressed at the reduced flow of water from the fender to the Commons. It is anticipated there is a blockage or diversion somewhere upstream.  
**Resolved:** The Leat be walked beyond the fender to investigate where the problem is arising.

### **361 East Link Committee Report**

The East Link Meeting held at Whiddon Down on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 dealt mainly with the Boundary Review and effects this will have on the district and Standard Board training sessions for Councillors. Councillor Mrs Hill has volunteered to attend a training session at Meldon Village Hall on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008. **Noted:**

### **362 Clerk/Chairman's Report**

- a) The Clerk has made arrangements for the deposit of Minutes Books with the Devon Records Office. A list of Minute Books held will be recorded in the Parish Council Inventory. **Noted:**
- b) Gas Main Installation Wales & West Utilities has completed work through Lower Street to the Square ahead of schedule and re-opened the road although the official road closure is still in place.  
**Resolved;** The Clerk to thank the team for their efforts and co-operation in minimising any inconvenience to the Town.
- c) Council Objectives for 2008. In the absence of the Chairman, this item has been deferred to the next meeting. **Noted:**
- d) Enforcement of Parking Restrictions After 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 parking enforcement will become the joint responsibility of the Devon County Council and the West Devon Borough Council. The Clerk has asked for details of how this will affect Chagford and felt it necessary to discuss the matter with Cllr James McInnis who has given assurances that he has sought the co-operation of the Police in continuing to enforce the rule until the new system is fully operational. **Noted:**

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

### **363 WDBC – Parish and Town Council Standards Training**

Information received concerning standards training events to be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Meldon Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs Hill to represent the Council

### **364 The Whiddon Parishes**

Letter received from the Treasurer, Whiddon Parishes, thanking the Council for the Grant of £750 for churchyard maintenance. **Noted:**

### **365 University of Plymouth – SW Lifelong Learning Network**

Questionnaires received for Councillors interpretation of the role of the Parish Council.

**Resolved:** Cllrs wishing to complete the questionnaires to return them to the Clerk within 2 weeks for return to the University.

### **366 Postwatch**

An e-mail received from CCD in respect of possible closure of Post Offices was discussed by members. Cllr Ms Thorn, Chagford Postmistress, was able to assure the meeting that Chagford Post Office was to remain open. **Noted:**

**367 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary**

Information received from The Chief Constable, Mr. Stephen Otter, referring to progress made over the last 12 month period, was circulated to members and **Noted:**

**368 West Devon Sets its' 2008/09 Budget.**

Details received of budget requirements for the current year. The WDBC is to receive an additional £64,000 (1.6% increase) for 2008/09 which is cause for concern when considering inflation will mean the Council's waste and street cleaning services will total over £70,000. A 4.5% increase in Council Tax has been set which will mean an average Band D property will pay an extra £7.83 per year or just 15pence extra per week. **Noted:**

**369 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

£

The following accounts were approved for payment

a)	3066	Messrs Wicksteed – 2 sets chains for swing seat	61.10
b)	3067	Mrs P. Stone – February salary	657.53
c)	3068	Mrs P. Stone – February post; electric; computer	28.48
d)		Direct Debit – Tiscali – broadband services	45.90
e)	3069	Chagford Swimming Pool Grant – 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment	500.00
f)	3070	Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureau Grant	50.00
g)	3071	West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau	100.00
h)	3072	Mr. I. Brackenbury – Mole control, Jubilee Park	40.00

**370 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED**

The following publications were made available to Members

- a) Enjoy England – Celebrate St. George's Day
- b) DNP Agendas – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- c) Local Council Review – March 2008.
- d) The Standards Committee – Agenda for meeting 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008
- e) West Devon e-connect March 2008.
- f) Clerks & Councils Direct March 2008
- g) Village Green – March 2008.
- h) DNP, Management Plan 2007 – 2012.
- i) Local Councils Update – March 2008

**371 Part II Items which may be taken in the absence of the public and press on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be disclosed. Local Government Act 1972 Section 100(A)(4)**

**372 Housing Survey – Progress on Action**

**Resolved:** To defer to next meeting pending the Chairman's return.

**373 Land to East of Southcombe Street**

**Resolved:** To await outcome of Chairman's further discussion with the Contractor.

**The Meeting Ended at 9.55pm**

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....



