

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council  
held at Endecott House on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Bleakman; Coombe; Davies; Geering; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jefferies; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Perryman; Sampson

**In Attendance:** the Clerk, Mrs Stone and PSO Lisa Smith

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Ms Thorn

**150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Min 175
- b) Cllr Geering declared an interest in Mins 157; 167e;
- c) Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in Mins 161; 162
- d) Cllr Parrott declared an interest in Min 167e
- e) Cllr Perryman declared an interest in Min 157
- f) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Mins 162; 167e;

**151 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to the inclusion of Cllr Mrs Hill's declaration of interest at the beginning of Min.123a.

**152 The late Mr Eric Webber**

The Chairman announced the death of Mr. Eric Webber on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007, previously a long standing Councillor for Chagford and former Vice-Chairman. The announcement was received with great sadness and the Members were informed that a letter of condolence had been sent to Mrs Webber and her family on behalf of the Parish Council. **Noted:**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**153 Dr. N. Atkinson**

Dr Atkinson wrote to express his appreciation of the good wishes sent him on his impending retirement. **Noted**

**154 Pavement Obstruction** (Mins 47; 83; 117 refer)

The Council was advised that there was to be an informal meeting with the Chagford Business Association on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 to determine what action should be taken in respect of pavement obstruction

**Resolved:** To place the matter on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**155 Beating the Bounds – Cllr Mrs Hill**

- a) The Chairman thanked Cllr Perryman for leading the event and accompanying Cllrs Mrs Hill and Sampson for carrying out three inspections to ensure safety; Cllr Coombe for providing cover for medical emergencies and the Clerk for administration duties. A special mention was made of Mr. Guy Almond for the tremendous amount of work he contributed in clearing the "Northhill" path . The event was considered to be a great success with attendance ranging from 70 – 120 persons involved at different stages. Everyone was much indebted to the ladies who provided a much needed supper at the end of the event.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to write letters of thanks to all concerned.

- b) A financial statement was circulated to all Members stating costs for catering were submitted by Mrs Bleakman in the sum of £23.50 and Cllr Mrs Hill in the sum of £273.71

**Resolved:** These sums to be approved for payment subject to details being submitted for further checks as there had been insufficient time to consider them in detail.

**156 Community Action re Climate Change** (Min 142b refers)

Cllr Bleakman informed the meeting that the Chagford Association for Sustainable Energy had indicated willingness to participate in this project. It was mentioned that Chagford had embarked on a course of action some three years ago and questioned whether it was best qualified to meet the needs of the new proposal.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to write to the DAPC to indicate Chagford's willingness to participate if it met their requirement.

Cllrs Geering and Perryman declared an interest in the following item.

**157 Public Enquiry – Cattle Grids**

A Public Enquiry concerning the installation of three cattle grids in Chagford Parish is to be held at the Recreational Trust Pavilion on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2007. No formal notification has been received as yet but the Council felt it necessary to appoint two representatives to attend the hearing.

**Resolved:** i) Cllrs Mrs Hill and Perryman to attend the hearing; ii) The matter be referred to an Extraordinary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 to discuss the Council's stance on the matter; iii) The Clerk to provide all Members with details of events leading up to the enquiry together with copies of plans of the cattle grid positions; Cllr Sampson to keep a watching brief if available.

**158 Padley Common – Community Action Day – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Ms K. Aylward, Natural England Officer, forwarded proposals for the Community Action Day to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The event is scheduled to begin at 9.30 - 10am on the cricket field to receive an introductory talk followed by a small guided walk around the site. Work will commence at 11am to 12.45 predominantly for the removal of willow saplings and European gorse. At 1pm a BBQ will be held on the cricket field and there will be activities for children who will be shown how to make a bird feeder or bug 'bling'. The event will end at 2.30pm.

**Resolved:** Representatives of the Council to meet with Ms Aylward to arrange final details.

**159 Community Council of Devon – Working to Improve Services for Older People** (Min 140c refers)

Cllr Bleakman attended the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and stated there were only 25 persons in attendance. The Devon County Council is interested in creating a number of senior Councils for persons aged 50 and over to discuss matters affecting the over 50s. A network of up to 29 local Associations is being set up in Towns across Devon. **Noted:**

**160 Parish Plans Information Event** (Min 142a refers)

Cllr Parrott expressed regret at not being able to attend the Parish Plans Information event but stated he has asked for an e-mail of the contents of the discussion.

**Resolved:** The matter to be referred to Council when the details are received.

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

Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in following two items and left the building

**161 Lower Street Fire Site**

It was reported that a start on rebuilding the granite wall on the fire site garden was held up because of work carried out by another Contractor who had not liaised with the Council Contractor.

The Council's Contractor had indicated that he was prepared to commence work on Monday September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to advise the Frontager concerned, and her Contractor that they would need to make the site available for work to commence as stated.

Cllr Sampson declared an interest in the following item and remained in situ but declined to vote. Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest and left the building.

**162 Chagford Combined Charity – Appointment of Trustee (Nominated by the Parish Council)**

Mr. R. Webber's term of Office is due for renewal and the Clerk has ascertained that Mr. Webber will be pleased to continue in service if required to do so.

**Resolved:** i) The Clerk to write to Mr. Webber accepting his kind offer; ii) The Trustees be advised of the appointment.

**163 Diamond Wedding Celebrations**

To determine action to be taken in respect of the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Duke of Edinburgh.

**Resolved:** To send a congratulatory letter from the Parish at the appropriate time (Nov 14<sup>th</sup>)

**164 Registrar of Births; Deaths & Marriages.**

Concern was expressed at the indifferent service being provided by the Registrar's Department, particularly with regard to notifying deaths. At a time when relatives were particularly distressed, they were being asked to "call back" or travel to Tavistock when it was often difficult for them to do so. It was found to be difficult to obtain an appointment at Okehampton for this service.

**Resolved:** i) The Clerk be requested to bring this matter to the attention of Age Concern at County Level; ii) the matter be raised with the Registrar's Department; iii) copy letters be sent to Cllr McInnes, Cllr Sampson – ward Cllr and the Member of Parliament Mr. J. Cox Q.C.

**165 Village Design**

In order to allow sufficient time for this item it was **Resolved:** to place the matter on the Agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

**166 Post Collection on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays**

It was reported that notices have been appearing on mailboxes to the effect that normal postal collections on Sundays or Bank Holidays would cease from the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**Resolved:** i) This matter be raised with the Head Postmaster; ii) A copy of the letter be forwarded to the Business Association.

**COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**167 Planning Inspection Committee – Cllr Bleakman**

The Planning Inspection Group meeting was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September comprising Cllr Mrs Haxton, Cllr Bleakman (Chairman), Cllr Geering and Cllr Jeffreys

a) **0680/07 Treverry, Easton Cross,**

Proposed first floor bedroom extension

**Resolved:** No objection

b) **0700/07 2 Rushford Mill Cottages, Chagford**

Proposed conservatory

**Resolved:** The Council has no objection with the principal of this application, however, during the site visit they noted that the drawing was not accurate in that the rainwater pipe that runs down the western wall will have to be rerouted in order to enable a doorway to be created through the existing window to gain access to the Conservatory from the existing dwelling. The Architect has advised that this together with the sealing of an open foul water drain inside the proposed conservatory, are not material aspects of the application. Any detailed changes to the plan, resulting from building control regulations, that affect planning approval will be submitted as amended plans.

c) **0709/07 East Coombe Farm, Thorn, Chagford**

d) **0710/07 East Coombe Farm, Thorn, Chagford – Listed Building Consent**

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:** In view of the late arrival of this application the matter be deferred to an extraordinary meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

Cllrs Geering; Parrott and Sampson declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

e) **0097/07 Higher Justments, Thorn, Chagford – Amended Plans**

**Resolved:** The Council has no objection to the amendments to the Plans as defined in drawing Ref: 07/01/02B dated as received on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007 by the DNPA

**168 0380/07 Land at Thorn, Chagford – Refusal to Issue a Certificate of Lawfulness.**

Notice was taken of an entry in the Agenda for the DNP Planning Meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007 stating the intention to refuse a Certificate of Lawfulness for the use of this land subject to any comments received from the Parish Council. No indication was received from the DNPA that any comments were required.

The Chairman and Clerk made an executive decision to inform the DNPA that this procedure was untimely given that they were aware of the Applicants instructions to his Solicitor to Appeal against the previous refusal. The DNPA informed the Clerk they would take this matter into consideration at the appropriate time.

**Resolved:** To endorse the action taken.

**169 0682/07 Sandy Park Inn, Sandy Park, Chagford.**

Proposed two storey extension to existing public house to form three additional bedrooms, cellar, store, extension to kitchen and three parking spaces.

**Resolved:** The Chagford Parish Council recognises that this application is within the Drewsteignton Parish and would not normally concern itself with the Application.

However, in this case the proposed development is alongside one of the main entry roads to Chagford Town and the Council is extremely concerned about the increase in car parking that will certainly result from this application. As you are aware, car parking in this area caused by users of the Inn and local residents frequently extends down the road to the Chagford Parish boundary. The road is extremely narrow and it is sometimes impossible for any vehicle other than a moderate sized car to pass safely along this road. The increase in the number of bedrooms will almost certainly result in the increase of parked cars by the same number. We see that the Applicant has tried to provide 3 extra parking places but these are situated along a very narrow driveway. It is our opinion that it will not be possible to use these spaces without the user either backing into or out of the space. This will result in very dangerous manoeuvres on this crowded and poor visibility road. As such it is our opinion that the application does not satisfy the details of Policy TF2. ii) a copy of the letter be forwarded to Drewsteignton Parish Council.

**170 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission**

a) **0490/07 Land at Lower Middlecott, Chagford**

Proposed erection of hay barn and lean-to for cattle or sheep (104sqm) **Noted**

b) **0493/07 Meldon View, Mill Street, Chagford**

Proposed installation of solar collector on south facing roof **Noted**

c) **0495/07 2, The Old School, New Street, Chagford**

Proposed summerhouse/studio in garden **Noted:**

**171 Grant of Listed Building Consent – Noted:**

**0418.07 The Globe Inn, High Street, Chagford**

Proposed refurbishment of ground floor bar/restaurant and WC areas, conversion of first floor meeting room to two en-suite bedrooms and provision of beer garden at rear.

**172 DNP Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Development Plan**

**Document Submission Version.** (Min 94;127 refers)

Cllr Bleakman reported that it had not been possible to arrange a meeting with Mr. Markham of the DNPA to discuss this and the following item.

**Resolved:** To postpone the meeting until a mutually convenient date.

**173 Dartmoor National Park Management Plan** -(Min 95; 128 refers)

See resolution above,

**174 DNPA – Development Control Site Inspection Procedure – Noted:**

The DNPA write to advise that in future all interest parties will be present throughout site meetings rather than having to withdraw at certain stages, so that the issues are openly and properly discussed and considered with an input from all interests. The Authority's Services Officer will also attend to ensure an accurate record of the meeting is made for relaying to the following Committee meeting where a decision will be made.

Cllr Coombe declared an interest in the following item and left the room

**175 DNP Proposed Tree Works – Deferred from last meeting**

**Ref: BB/GS/27/12/3/07/13 Brook House, Chagford**

The report of the Inspection Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007 and attended by Cllrs Bleakman; Davies and Geering item was submitted under delegated Authority to meet the required time scale.

**Resolved:** The Council has no objection to the felling of the young Sycamore and Ash. Their removal would benefit the Cherry and the surrounding vista. The Council is however, concerned regarding the proposal to raise the canopy of the mature cherry by 1.5m. It is our opinion that such works would remove a substantial amount of the lower branches of this tree resulting in a very poor, top heavy profile. The Council understands the necessity to shorten the lateral branches and would not object to this work as it would enhance the shape and reduce the weight on the lower limbs of the tree. The Council is of the opinion that this tree is a very important feature of this part of the conservation area and as such its future should be protected by the issuing of a Tree Preservation Order. We are willing to meet with you and the applicant to discuss these observations in more detail.

**176 Chagford Business Association**

a) Cllr Parrott reported that meetings with the Chagford Business Association held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007 and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 covered a variety of subjects the first of which was Christmas decorations, lighting and late night shopping. It was agreed that it would be better for i) the Council to purchase specific items for decoration; be responsible for the provision of Christmas trees and lights for the Market building, hopefully with some participation from the WDBC; ii) obtain the services of an approved electrician for a safety certificate to satisfy insurance requirements and contribute to the Insurance premium. It was further suggested that the area of lighting could be extended.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to make all necessary enquiries and report to the next Regular Meeting.

b) Late Night Shopping. A proposal has been received to extend late night shopping to 2 nights, preferable December 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, but this matter would be referred to the next meeting for confirmation **Noted**

c) Car Parking & Traffic Management It was agreed that this matter should take priority at a future meeting. Previous submissions on this subject were acknowledged to be essential for the continued viability of the Town's commercial activity. **Noted:**

d) Encouraging more People to Chagford It was acknowledged that greater effort was required to encourage more people to come to Chagford particularly with regard to the lack of accommodation and the number and standard of eateries in the Town. A local history trail was also suggested.

**Resolved:** Cllr Sampson to provide the Clerk with a copy of an original Town Trail.

e) Gas Main Installation The Business Association was reminded that details were still awaited concerning their survey of transport needs for large lorry deliveries. These were required for a meeting with the Highways Authority re diversionary routes currently being planned. **Noted:**

- f) Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 – location to be arranged. **Noted:**

**177 WDBC East Link Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Cllr Sampson reported that discussions concerning rural transport and affordable housing would be discussed at the next Link meeting to allow time for Parishes to indicate areas of interest. With regard to the Police report, all Parishes urged that the statistics be broken down by Parishes as long as production did not impair operational efficiency. Consideration is being given to reviving moribund Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and the Horse Watch Scheme.

The G10 Group (Sustainable Community Strategy) advised that by the end of March 2008 there will be comprehensive, multi agency delivery plans in place for West Devon for all five themes: housing, economy, environment, community wellbeing and access to services.

The recruitment process for a co-ordinator has commenced. It was proposed to offer a secondment to a 9 month post and then review future arrangements.

G10 was felt to be a valuable forum for exploring perceptions of gaps in service or performance issues, to verify actual delivery and feed information back to Town and Parish Councils through the membership.

Details of Local Development Framework Consultations and Proposals for LSP restructuring are to be circulated to all Members.

Parish Questions included subject matter such as the need for seat belts to be worn on school buses.

West Devon and Devon County Officers are to obtain up to date information on the Whiddon Down Junction and report to the next meeting.

Parishes are asked to comment on the proposed review of the West Devon Licensing Policy. **Noted:**

**178 Financial Matters**

- a) Cllr Mrs Hill produced an up to date record of the Council's expenditure which was circulated to all Members. She indicated that a meeting should be held at the beginning of October to prepare for the Precept demand.

**Resolved:** The Finance Meeting to be arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 – venue to be decided.

**Arising:** Cllr Davies congratulated Cllr Mrs Hill on the amount of work needed to produce the figures she had provided. The Council supported that view wholeheartedly.

- b) An ESA payment in the sum of £79.44 has been received. **Noted**

**179 Public Convenience Inspection Report**

Cllr Bleakman confirmed that the loos were in a good condition. It was, however, suggested that there was no facility for the provision of drinking water.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to make the necessary enquiry from the WDBC.

**180 Jubilee Park Inspection Report**

- a) Cllr Bleakman reported that the playing field was generally in good condition. The following matters were considered to be in need of attention:-
- i) waste bins not always emptied. The wheelie bin does not have the right size liner bag and so debris is left at the bottom of the bin.
  - ii) steps need attention i.e. re gravelling
  - iii) safety surfaces need sweeping and cleaning.
  - iv) there are brambles on the Health Centre hedge
  - v) gate at top of field needs netting to prevent dog entry and a self closer is needed.
  - vi) the Tennis Club link fencing needs tightening
  - vii) a resident is placing a bridge across the leat
  - viii) boards in the Multiplay need blanking plugs some of which need recessing.

**Resolved:** i) Enquiries be made to identify the person bridging the leat and they be warned not to interfere with the watercourse; ii) the Health Centre hedge to be pruned; iii) the tennis club be advised to deal with their link fencing; iv) the Clerk to forward all other matters to the appropriate persons.

- b) An estimate was received from Messrs Wickstead for the supply of 2 sets of chains, seats and shackles for the senior swings in the sum of £123.00 exclusive of VAT.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to place an order for the equipment.

#### **181 Environment Committee**

- a) Dog Bins – (Min 135b refers) deferred from last meeting

Cllr Mrs Hill reported that all dog bins were now being emptied satisfactorily. **Noted:**

- b) Granite Troughs (Min 100b refers)

Cllr Bleakman confirmed that he had taken photographs of the granite troughs which he was unable to circulate due to printer problems.

**Resolved:** Defer to next meeting.

- c) Cigarette butts. Following the smoking ban there has been a marked increase in the number of cigarette butts thrown down in the Town particularly outside local hostelrys and around the Market house.

**Resolved:** The Business Association to bring this matter to the attention of their Members.

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

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted all relevant Authorities and the Business Association with regard to making further arrangements to alleviate problems during the installation of the new gas main. Following the next meeting, it is hoped to circulate details to all householders. **Noted:**

- b) MV Kestor – The Clerk reported that she had endeavoured to obtain advice and a valuation on the restoration of the model MVKestor and was advised that this was a matter from a specialist in the field. She had since contacted the Maritime Heritage Department of Plymouth University and was given details of the Officer who could help. Unfortunately he is not available at the moment.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to contact the Officer when possible and report to Council.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

##### **183 Dartmoor Society Debate 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Invitation received to attend the Dartmoor Society Debate on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 from 10am to 4.30pm. Subject – “What future for the Dartmoor Village?”

**Resolved:** The Clerk to provide Cllrs Mrs Milton and Davies with details of the event.

##### **184 Devon Partnership NHS Trust**

Invitation received for Membership of the Foundation Trust.

**Resolved:** To lie on the table.

##### **185 WDBC – Flood Awareness Event, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

A meeting to highlight flood awareness will be held in Endecott House on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007 from 9.30am to 12 noon

**Resolved:** The Clerk to inform the Flood Prevention Officer that Chagford does not have a significant flood problem but recognises the need to ensure that the drains are kept clear of obstruction.

##### **186 Devon Association of Parish Councils**

- a) Notice of AGM to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007

**Resolved:** Cllrs Jefferies and Sampson to represent the Council at a cost of £15 per person.

- b) Notice was received of a proposed increase of 4.5% in Membership charges. **Noted:**

**187 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

		£
	The following accounts were approved for payment	
a)	3015 Mr. J. Sheridan – Jubilee Field Maintenance – August	231.25
b)	3016 Mrs P. Stone – August salary	641.65
c)	3017 Mrs P. Stone – August post; electric; computer	30.02
d)	<b>Direct Debit</b> – Tiscali broadband services	38.53
e)	3018 Mrs R. Bleakman – Catering expenses for Beating the Bounds	25.50
f)	3019 Cllr Mrs Hill – Catering expenses for Beating the Bounds	273.71

**188 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED**

The following publications were made available to Members

- a) Devon in Touch – August 2007.
- b) DNPA – Agendas 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007.
- c) Village Green – September Issue
- d) DAPC Annual Report
- e) Devon Rural Transport Partnership – Summer Newsletter.
- f) Clerks & Councils Direct – September issue.

**The Meeting Closed at 10.07pm**  
Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....