

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday, February 11th 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Geering (until Min 339/40); Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott (until Min 339/40; Sampson (until Min 339/40) and Ms Thorn.

In Attendance: the Clerk, Mrs Stone

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Davies and Perryman

311 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Jeffreys declared an interest in Min 335
- b) Cllr Geering declared an interest in Min 320a;b;
- c) Cllr Parrott declared an interest in Min 320a;b;
- d) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Min 320a;b;

312 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 14th January 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed.
- b) The Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 28th January 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed

MATTERS ARISING

313 Tinnors Fair (Min 305 refers)

Cllr Bleakman summarised the outcome of a meeting held on 21st January 2008 concerning arrangements for the proposed Tinner's Fair, which is to be held on May 3rd 2008. It is hoped the Council will permit the erection of a 3-metre square gazebo on the Cross Tree site to house the Royal British Legion event. As this is Council owned land the Church Insurers will not cover any liability for the event. The Clerk informed the meeting that Council Insurance would only cover events for which the Council is solely responsible. The organisers of the fair are also hoping the Council will contribute funding for the occasion.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to the event co-ordinator Dr C Barnes, indicating i) permission will be granted for the erection of the gazebo if adequate insurance cover is provided by others and ii) funding will be considered if more details of costs etc are provided before the next meeting.

314 DEFRA – Climate change (Min 291 refers)

An informal meeting is to take place on 25th February to discuss climate change and Representatives of the Chagford Association of Sustainable Energy will be invited to take part.

Resolved: Recommendation from that meeting will be submitted at the next full meeting of the Council for consideration and discussion.

315 Unauthorised Signs (Min 292 refers)

The Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer DNP was unavailable for discussion on this matter but it would be referred to the next meeting.

316 Dog Fouling (Min 291 refers)

A written report from Cllr Davies re outcome of discussion with Dog Warden was circulated to all members. A notice advising parishioners of the penalties incurred for not complying with the regulations has been forwarded to the Bulletin. **Noted:**

317 WDBC – Government Reduction in Rural Funding (Min 305b refers)

Information received from the WDBC at the last meeting was circulated to all Members.

Concern was expressed at the Government's decision to increase grants by only 1.6%, less than the rate of inflation despite increased costs in providing free national travel scheme passes and the increased cost of landfill. The WDBC is facing a shortfall of £200,000 in its budget. A 1% increase in taxes from the small population of West Devon only raises an extra £34,000. To help to offset some costs, West Devon is now working in partnership with the South Hams and Teignbridge Councils. In the last Government assessment, West Devon was in the top ten of all District Councils in the Country in management of its finances and proved to be delivering value for money.

Resolved: The Clerk to write 1) to the Chief Executive of West Devon expressing support for their endeavours and congratulating him on his recent appointment as Chief Executive of the South Hams Council, a position he will hold jointly with his current role at West Devon. 2) to the local MP Mr G. Cox expressing the Councils considerable concern regarding the Governments funding decisions; copies to be sent to the DCC Councillors covering the West Devon District

URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There was no urgent business to discuss.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

318 Planning Inspection Group

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the planning inspection group at the meeting held on 7th February 2008 and attended by Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Davies; Mrs Haxton; Jeffreys.

0047/08 Stoneridge, Chagford

Proposed sun room to south elevation, small extension to existing dining room, alterations to roof profiles to suit two dormers to first floor rooms, potting shed to side of garage, new porch and entrance door

Resolved: The Council is supportive of the majority of this application, which, in its opinion, will significantly enhance the vista of the rear of the building. It is considered that the proposed dormer window will look less obtrusive compared with the existing rooflights when viewed from the high land at Nattadon and Meldon hills. The Council was disappointed in the design solution and choice of materials of the proposed front door porch, which it felt was not in keeping with the rest of this house and others in the vicinity.

319 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission

0919/07 St. Levan, Broomhill, Chagford

Proposed removal of existing garage and extension and construction of new single garage and single storey rear extension and alterations to roofline including addition of dormer windows. **Noted**

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

320 Refusal to Issue a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development

a) 0896/07 Land at Thorn Noted:

b) A letter was received from Mr. & Mrs Cork expressing their disappointment at a further refusal to issue a Certificate of Lawfulness.

Resolved: The Clerk to acknowledge the letter received from Mr & Mrs Cork.

321 General Permitted Development Order 1995: Schedule 2, Part 6

Teigncombe Manor Chagford

Approval of proposed timber framed barn (7.5m x 9m) for the storage of agricultural machinery and animal feed.

322 DCC Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Consultation on New Procedures for the Validation of Planning Applications details the national requirements for applications and applicants should make reference to this when making an application. This is known as the National List. The proposed Local List for Devon County Council can be found on the web link planning@devon.gov.uk

Noted:

323 Financial Matters

Cllr Mrs Hill circulated a detailed statement of account and drew attention to items still to be paid when the appropriate accounts are submitted. She was commended on the information provided.

Resolved: i) To approve payment of the balance of the Chairman's account £100; ii) to hold a further finance meeting before the Parish Assembly meeting on 17th April 2008.

324 Jubilee Field Inspection Report

a) Cllr Geering reported no further deterioration in the equipment or surfaces from the last inspection. There is an increase in mole activity but the Clerk confirmed she has written to Mr. Brackenbury on this matter and has not received a reply as yet. A bonfire has been lit in close proximity to the wooden train but no damage to the train has been sustained.

Resolved: The Clerk to approach Mr. Brackenbury once more re mole hills.

b) The ground maintenance contract is due for renewal and Mr. Sheridan has indicated his agreement to taking up the second year option offered to him. Terms are to remain as before - £231.25 per month from April to November.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Mr. Sheridan to confirm acceptance.

c) Health Centre hedge Advice has been received that the leylandii hedge adjoining the health centre can be pruned back satisfactorily without reducing privacy for the health centre. The height and depth of the hedge will be difficult to manage as will the brambles beneath. However, whilst removing the green frontage, the green growth will re-emerge in time and the hedge will become easier to control. It is understood that cost will be in the region of £300.

Resolved: i) to invite Mr. Sheridan to consider submitting a tender, ii) to authorise the Chairman, in conjunction with the Chairman of Finance and Clerk to authorise a spend of up to £300 once all prices had been submitted

d) Mogford Associates advise they will carry out the Jubilee Field inspection between March 31st and April 4th 2008. **Noted:**

325 Public Convenience Inspection (Min 300 refers)

Following Cllr Davies' recent meeting with the WDBC Client Service Officer and the cleaning Contractor, it has been noticed that the loos are being locked at 7pm at night and opened at 8am.

Resolved: The Clerk to ask WDBC to extend the evening hours to 9pm.

326 Environment Committee

a) Information received from pest control officer re Valley View property (Min 304a refers), to the effect that his inspection did not reveal any rats. He will continue to monitor the area. **Noted:**

Arising It was reported that there is a notice on the property stating that it is privately owned but the Council continues to have concerns about its state and lack of use.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Hill to view the notice and report to Council.

b) **Fly Tipping**

The Clerk received reports indicating that known persons were seen disposing of refuse and newspapers, late at night into the litter bins in and around the Square. It was also

stated that a Councillor from an adjoining Parish was seen to be disposing of rubbish into the waste bin by the church gate.

Resolved: i) The Clerk to write to the named person pointing out that this practice is not in the interests of health and hygiene particularly in view of the increasing rat population and drawing attention to the facilities already available elsewhere; ii) Messrs FOCSA be asked to monitor the refuse deposited with a view to identifying anyone carrying out the practice and iii) to request that the business association bring this matter to their members attention at their next meeting.

327 Clerk/Chairman's Report

A Broomhill resident has requested the installation of a "No Through Road" sign to deter unauthorised vehicle entry. The Clerk informed the meeting that she has approached the Highways Department who state they can not provide signs for entry to private roads but the residents are welcome to do so themselves if they first approach the highways department. **Noted:**

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

328 DCC Cllr J. McInnes – Local Councillor Committee Budget

Cllr McInnes advises that he has a small amount of funding to use at his discretion for local projects of benefit to the Community. Further posters are available on the subject on application to him.

Resolved: The Clerk to obtain more posters and through Cllrs Sampson & Bleakman advise the Jubilee Hall and Endecott House Committees of the availability of the fund.

329 Friends of Chagford Commons

Letter received from a newly formed group expressed concern with the grazing and ecology of the commons and requesting support from the Parish Council to further their aims. It would appear that this is not a constituted group and it was assumed that the group was unaware of the grazing and management of the Commons supervised under the ESA agreement and supported by Natural England.

Resolved: The Clerk to thank the group for their interest and point out that the Council is committed to an Agreement with the ESA Authority. The Chagford Commoners Association should be approached with regard to Commons not owned by the Parish Council.

330 Audit Commission

The Audit Commission has forwarded details in respect of a change of External Audit Services. **Noted:**

331 DCC Chief Executive – Unitary Update

A Bulletin received from the Chief Executive DCC refers to further consultations to take place with regard to Exeter City Council's intention to pursue unitary status.

Noted:

332 Southwest Highways – Road Closure

The road closure due to take place from Corndon Cross to Yelland Cross did not occur as was originally planned. It is now intended to take place from 25th to 27th February 2008. **Noted:**

333 West Devon Mayoral Awards

Nominations requested for the West Devon Mayoral Awards by 20th March 2008.

Resolved: Proposals for nomination to be referred to the Clerk or the Chairman.

334 WDBC – Local Development Framework

Core Strategy Further Consultation Report received for consideration. **Noted:**

Cllr Jeffreys declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

335 The Whiddon Parishes

Churchwardens have requested a review of the street lighting between the car park and the rectory.

Resolved: i) the Clerk to forward a copy of the letter to the Highways Department for their consideration ii) Whiddon Parish Clerk to be advised of the action taken.

336 Campaign to Protect Rural England

Invitation for Membership received.

Resolved: To lie on the table.

337 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

		£
a)	3060 Mrs P. Stone – January salary	657.53
b)	3061 Mrs P. Stone – January post; electric; computer	26.24
c)	Direct Debit – Tiscali – Broadband services	26.26
d)	3062 Devon Procurement Services – Supplying 2 Litter Pickers	24.68
e)	3063 Chagford Combined Charity - Hire Endecott House 01/10/07 – 31/3/08	130.00
f)	3064 Cllr Bleakman – Balance of Chairman’s allowance	100.00
g)	3065 Chagford Parochial Church Council – Balance of Grant for churchyard maintenance	750.00

338 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED.

- a) DNP Agendas 1st February 2008
- b) In Touch – winter 2007/08
- c) WD Strategic Planning – shaping the future of West Devon
- d) West Devon – e-connect – January/February 2008
- e) CCD – Devon Communities in Action
- f) The Playing Field – winter 2007/08
- g) Eastern Parishes Link Committee – next meeting 6th March 2008 at Whiddon Down Village Hall.
- h) Charity Commission News – January 2008.
- i) DCC In Touch – February 2008.

Cllrs Geering, Parrott and Sampson left the meeting at this point.

339 Resolved: 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)

340 DNP Application 0380/07

The Meeting Closed at
Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....