

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday, 12th July 2010 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Geering (after min 93); Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Ms Thorn and 3 members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Perryman and Sampson.

In attendance the Clerk, Mrs P. Stone.

89 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) Cllrs Mrs Hill declared an interest in Min 105
- b) Cllr Ms Thorn declared an interest in Min 99b

90 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 14th June 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

91 Visual Audit (Ref: Minute 60)

Cllrs Bleakman; Coombe and Mrs Haxton gave a report on their meeting with WPC Nadine Wilson (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) on 23rd June 2010.

A written report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda detailing areas where attention was needed. **Noted:**

92 Chagford Car park Ticket Machine (Ref: Minutes 440, 36 & 62)

WDBC informed the Council that the base for the second ticket machine was in situ but the actual machine has not appeared to date.

Resolved: The Clerk to make further enquiries.

93 First Aid Course (Ref: Minute 63b) – 30th Jul 2010

The Clerk reported 3 Members of the Primary School Staff have volunteered to attend the first aid course and the Conservation Group is to submit names in due course.

Cllrs Bleakman; Jeffreys and Mrs Jeffreys; Mrs Haxton and Mrs Milton are to attend also.

Resolved: The Clerk to submit a full list of names to the Red Cross as soon as possible.

94 Public Transport (ref: Minute 67)

- a) Cllr Bleakman reported that there has been no response to date in respect of the Council's letter to Mr Drysdale concerning possible improvements to bus links to Chagford.

Resolved: To await a response for the time being.

- b) Cllr Parrott said he has raised the Council's proposals with the Business Association who are considering what benefits to the community might ensue.

Resolved: The Council to be kept informed of the outcome.

95 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Questionnaire (Ref: Minute 83)

Cllrs Bleakman & Mrs Haxton completed the questionnaire and gave it to WPC Nadine Wilson, Local Community Officer when she attended for the Visual Audit. Among the items listed for consideration were i) the difficulty of calling at the Police Station because of poor bus services; the need for 2 open evening sessions per week to enable access for workers; the possibility of the service being made available elsewhere such as the local library and after church services on a Sunday. **Noted:**

96 Health Centre Fence (Min 75a refers)

A reply from the Practice Manager, Chagford Health Centre confirmed that arrangements have been made for the repair of a section of the Health Centre fence. The Council's attention was drawn to the need for some attention to the boundary behind the conifer trees adjacent to the skate park with a request that a fence be constructed to prevent children from encroaching on the Health Centre premises.

Resolved: The matter be referred to the Environment and Finance Groups for appraisal.

97 Eastern Links Meeting – 1st July 2010

Cllr Mrs Hill circulated a report of the Eastern Links Meeting as follows:-

Police Report

- a) A report re accidents at the Whiddon Down Junction to be presented at the next meeting.
- b) Crime There were 13 crimes in Chagford in the previous 3 months including 1 burglary; 4 assaults and 4 thefts, three of which were from insecure property. The need to mark equipment and personal possessions was stressed. A question was asked about comparison figures for crime in previous years to which Mrs Hill replied there has been a sharp increase this year. A more detailed report from the police will be sought and reported at the August meeting.
- c) Police Station It has been proposed that the opening hours at the Okehampton Police Station should be reduced from 10 hours per day to 25 hours per week.
- d) Changes to the NHS It is proposed to reduce the length of stay for mothers and babies at Okehampton Hospital; to reduce the number of staff; having a qualified midwife on call 8pm – 8am at night hence saving on employing a midwife on night duty.
- e) Denbrook Community Liaison Group The liaison group has been formed with Bellingham PR Company and members of the 6 affected Parish Councils. The Parish Councils is the conduit to inform the Company where monies may be spent. The Company ensure a fair distribution of monies from the wind farm which is approximately £36,000 per annum for 25 years. Road improvements are anticipated from Whiddon Down to North Tawton to facilitate transportation of turbines.
- f) DCC Winter Maintenance Task Group In previous winters DCC used 12 tonnes of salt; this winter they used 80 tonnes of salt for gritting roads. 20% of the roads which carry 80% of the traffic are gritted. Any other roads that are gritted are a bonus. The recommendation is to increase the number of grit bins; encourage Communities to clear their own pavements; have clear guidelines about the law and improve communications by making the DCC live site available for all to see.
- g) The Budget All Councils are concerned about the implications of the budget, but as yet it has not been confirmed if the freeze will apply to Town and Parish Councils.
- h) Waste Contract The WDBC waste contract has been finalised and information is being cascaded through the Borough. **Noted**

Resolved: The need for additional grit bins be referred to the Environment Group for consideration particularly in areas such as Murchington, Thorn and Batworthy.

98 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

No questions were raised.

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLANNING MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT CONTROL MATTERS

99 Development Control - New Applications, Amended Plans & Tree Orders

- a) **0275/10 Westcott House, Chagford**
Proposed Victorian style glasshouse

Resolved: The Council supports this application

Cllr Ms Thorn declared an interest in the next item and left the building

b) 0276/10 6 New Street, Chagford – Listed Building Consent

Proposed remove defective render and re-point all stonework: replace front door and fit new rainwater goods. The resolution to adopt the Planning Inspection Group recommendation was agreed by 5 votes to 2 votes

Resolved: The Council strongly objects to two aspects of the application.

With regard to the proposal to leave the front elevation of the building un-rendered given that

- i) all other dwellings in this building group and those on the opposite side of the road have rendered finish, see photo 1; and
- ii) the material used in this elevation, comprising mainly small pieces of granite rubble and significant amounts of red brick is unattractive, see photo 2; and
- iii) in at least two locations on the front elevation, the ends of the supporting beam are visible on the outside surface of the wall leading the Council to believe that this wall must have had surface rendering to prevent moisture ingress into these beams; and
- iv) the building is within the Chagford conservation area and visible from the churchyard.

The Council is of the opinion that the proposal does not satisfy the requirements of DNPA core policy COR5 and the property should be returned to a lime rendered finish. In principle the Council has no objection to the fitting of a rain water gutter and down-pipe. However, it is very concerned with the proposed discharge of the rainwater directly onto the roadway. The roadway at this point has no gutter, the surface sloping immediately away from the property towards the other side of the road. All of the water discharged from the pipe would flow across the road and it is the Council's opinion that in freezing weather conditions this would create an unacceptable roadway safety hazard that does not satisfy DNPA Policy COR 21 (ii). It was also noted that at the particular point shown on the drawing for the down pipe there existed a large protruding granite boulder at ground level which would require the down pipe to be some 10cm away from the wall. This would result in the end of the pipe protruding into the roadway, see photo 3. The Council feels that the rain water must be channelled into the highway drainage system via an underground gully. The Council also has reservations about the use of painted galvanised steel for this application.

With regard to the proposal to replace the front door, the Council has no objection.

Cllr Ms Thorn returned to the meeting.

100 Development Control - Grant of Conditional Planning Permission – Noted:

a) 0169/10 The Three Crowns, High Street, Chagford

Proposed new dormers and flues to north wing and alterations to internal rooms

b) 0173/10 The Bungalow, Teigncombe Cleve, Chagford

Proposed new oak framed cottage to replace existing derelict bungalow (resubmission of previously approved application 0506/06)

c) 0214/10 1a The Square, Chagford

Proposed extend existing window to create new doorway

101 Development Control - Grant of Listed Building Consent - Noted:

0170/10 The Three Crowns, High Street, Chagford

Proposed new dormers and flues to north wing and alterations to internal rooms.

102 DNPA Business Plan (Min 69 refers)

Cllr Bleakman's appraisal of the DNPA Business Plan was circulated to all Members and attention was drawn to the first, and most important, paragraph identifying what the

Authority will do over the next 3 years, to deliver aspects of the DNPA Management Plan relevant to the Authority itself. As such the Plan is not issued for direct comment but rather for information to the other parties interested in the National Park.

Resolved: Members wishing to peruse the whole document can do so by application to the Clerk

103 DNPA – Local Development Framework

Local views sought re supporting development that is good for Dartmoor and its Communities. Endecott House, 15th July 2010, 11am to 7pm. Members are advised of the importance of participating in this event.

Resolved: To place this matter on the August Agenda.

104 West Devon Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Min 71 refers)

In the absence of Cllr Sampson it was **Resolved:** to place this matter on the August Agenda.

GENERAL PURPOSES AND POLICY MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in this item and left the building.

105 Endecott House Trustees

A letter from the Clerk to the Trustees of the Chagford Combined Charity drew attention to the end of Mr R. Sampson's appointment as Trustee.

Resolved: That Mr Sampson be reappointed to serve for a further four years and the Clerk to the Trustees be advised accordingly,
Cllr Mrs Hill returned to the Meeting.

106 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Finance Group Report

Cllr Mrs Hill circulated a review of a meeting of the Finance Group held on 23rd June 2010 attended by Cllrs Davies; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys and Parrott.

The review covered the end of year accounts for 2009/10; accounts for 2010/11; the consideration of future expenditure and Grants. There were a number of complex unresolved issues to consider requiring further discussion before submitting firm proposals to put before the Council. In addition it was thought necessary to update the check list for Jubilee Park inspections and the specification for the maintenance contract and also to obtain a price for a sign for the Pound garden.

Resolved:

- i) Three Cllrs (Cllr Davies; Mrs Hill and Jeffreys with the Chairman as ex-officio) be appointed to review the interest rates for the Council's funds current on deposit;
- ii) the sum of £200 be approved for payment to DNPA for work on the leat;
- iii) the sum of £200 be approved to meet insurance costs for the Conservation Group in recognition of their valuable contribution to the Parish;
- iv) the Environment Group to review the check lists and maintenance contract.
- v) the Council agreed that the Finance Committee should look into the benefits and problems of the Council moving towards electronic communications
- vi) To write to the WDBC regarding repair to the fence in the car park

107 107 Chagford Conservation Group

Mr C. Miller, representing the Chagford Conservation Group, was invited to speak to the assembly for 3 minutes to outline the objectives of the Group. He thanked the Council for the opportunity and drew attention to the 48 Members most of whom are very active retired locals who take pleasure in conserving and enhancing the local environment, enjoyed by all. He expressed the view that they would be pleased to increase the service provided for the locality but could only do so with financial support

to meet some of the costs involved, principally insurance. The current insurance renewal was stated to be £251.54. In the following discussion it was thought there would be benefit in creating a link between the Conservation Group and the Council's Environment Group. The Conservation Group would also be invited to join the Council on the occasion of the next Visual Audit to get an overview of what was necessary. Mr Miller was thanked for his very informative report.

Resolved:

- i) A grant of £200 be approved for payment at the next meeting;
- ii) the Group to be advised of arrangements for the next Visual Audit.

108 Chagford Leat (Min 77c refers)

In order to facilitate the commencement of the work to refurbish sections of the Chagford Leat system it was considered necessary to advance the sum of £200 to the Dartmoor National Park Authority to meet part of the cost of the project. The remainder of the costs will be borne by the Dartmoor Trust and the DNPA.

Resolved: The sum to be approved for payment

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

109 Environment Group Report

Cllr Coombe (Chairman) circulated details of work carried out by the environment group when they met on 3rd July 2010. He thanked them for their hard work and great achievement. At the Jubilee Park, all steps were weeded and gravel levelled out. The cavity beneath the top kissing gate was levelled with gravel and the shrub bed areas were weeded and tidied as was the entrance and the rose beds. At the Pound Garden the front wall against the road was weeded and all flower beds weeded and cut back. The tree nearest the entrance gate was pruned back. The next non working environment meeting will be held on 5th August 2010 at the fire station at 7.30pm. **Noted:**

110 Jubilee Field Report

a) Cllr Parrott was pleased to report that the condition of the Jubilee Field was generally good with little evidence of litter. In some areas the grass needs to be strimmed closer to the shrubs and there is a cap missing from a multiplay bolt. **Noted:**

b) **Dog Bins** (Ref: Minute 75a)

It was suggested to the Council that 2 dog bins be purchased at a cost of £148 + VAT each for installation at the entrance to the car park to replace the damaged bin at the entrance to Chagford House and an additional bin for installation at the entrance to the War Memorial Playing Field.

Resolved:

- i) The Clerk to seek WDBC permission for placing a bin at the entrance to the car park;
- ii) 2 bins be purchased at the agreed price and the Highways Department to be approached for the installation.

111 Public Convenience Report

a) Cllr Parrot stated that the loos were in reasonable condition but reference was made to the fact that gent's toilets were malodorous. It was considered likely that this problem could arise from the external drain leading from that side of the market house.

Resolved: The Clerk to report this matter to the WDBC with a request that an inspection be carried out as soon as possible.

b) **Opening Hours** (Ref: Minute 76c)

In response to a request for later closure of the public conveniences, the WDBC stated that the existing contract with the cleaners could not be altered but a key could be

provided if one member of the Parish Council would undertake the task. Cllr Mrs Hill kindly offered to undertake the responsibility.

Resolved: The Clerk to advise the WDBC accordingly and obtain the necessary key.

- c) A letter received from the Chief Executive of the DNPA reaffirmed the Authority's decision to offer financial support for the public conveniences due to cuts in their budget. The Chairman sent a reply expressing his **personal views** on the matter which he presented to the meeting for information purposes. He reminded the Authority that they were required to support Public Service Agreement 1 and should give more consideration to the needs of businesses and employees working in the tourist industry. The Council complimented the Chairman on his views and expressed the wish to strongly support his sentiments to the DNPA.

Resolved: i) The Clerk to write to the DNPA accordingly; ii) a copy of the letter to be forwarded to Cllr McInnes.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

112 Devon Partnership NHS Trust

e-mail received requesting views on mental health services with invitation to attend Network Action Group Meeting on 16th August 2010 at Wonford House Hospital.

Resolved: To lie on the table.

113 DALC – Empowering Communities in Devon – A Local Perspective

Invitation to participate in meeting to be held at The Ockment Centre on 15th October 2010 from 10am to 2pm. Delegate fee £15.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Hill to represent the Council.

114 Exeter City Council – Recession Impact Campaign.

Advice offered to those needing assistance resulting from the recession.

Resolved: Poster to be displayed on Notice Board.

115 WDBC – Parish Council Emergency Planning Support Sessions

Invitation received for participation in emergency planning support sessions. **Noted:**

CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

116 Communications

An invitation was extended for topics thought worthy of inclusion in the Council News and other publications.

Resolved: The Clerk to be advised of suitable material.

117 Okehampton Community Transport Group

Invitation received for 20th birthday celebrations to be held at The Hall, The Ockment Centre, Okehampton on Wednesday, 4th August 2010. **Noted:**

118 Western Power – Cable Undergrounding

Advance notice received of intention to underground current overhead cables in part New Street. Road Closure necessary. The Council will be formally advised in due course. **Noted:**

119 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment

		£
a)	Direct Debit – Talk Talk – Broadband Services	28.35
b)	3413 WDBC – Dogs (Fouling of Land Act) Partnership	453.00
c)	3414 Mr B. Pell – Jubilee Field Maintenance 08/06; 21/06	260.00
d)	3415 Mr J. Messling – Repair defective fence, Jubilee Park	26.00
e)	3416 Neat Ideas - inkjet labels	48.13
f)	3417 Mrs P. Stone – June salary	719.55

- g) 3418 Mrs P. Stone – June post; electric; computer 33.66
- h) 3419 DNPA – Advance towards repair for leat repair 200.00
(on behalf of the Dartmoor Trust)

120 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED.

The following publications were made available to Members

- a) Community Safety Newsletter – May 2010.
- b) Eastern Parishes Link Meeting – Agenda 1st July 2010.
- c) DNPA – Agenda 2nd July 2010.
- d) West Devon Connect – Spring/Summer 2010.
- e) WDBC – Housing Strategy Update – 2010/11
- f) Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2010.
- g) DCC – Emergency Newsletter – June 2010.

**121 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)**

a) Traffic Management

There are to be further discussions to include the Business Association re improvements to traffic management before making arrangements to bring the matter into the public domain.

b) Affordable Housing

Discussions are continuing to advance the prospects of an affordable housing scheme.

The Meeting Closed at 10.05pm

Dated.....

Signed.....