

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday 12th September 2011 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman; Coombe; d'Arch Smith; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill (Chairman); Lloyd Hill; Parrott; Sampson; Williams.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms Stead; Ms Thorn and Shears

In Attendance, The Clerk, Mrs P Stone.

146 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Mins: 148; 157

147 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 8th August 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to an amendment to the spelling of Epsom Derby in Min 130b.
- b) The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 22nd August 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to the addition of Cllr Coombe's declaration of interest in Min 143.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

148 Stone Lane Gardens (Min 111 refers)

The WDBC Tourism Officer forwarded information to the effect that she has contacted the Dartmoor Partnership with regard to the distribution of information concerning Stone Lane Gardens. The Distribution Officer for the Partnership will be visiting Chagford later in the week when it is her intention to ensure that local outlets receive a supply of leaflets.

Resolved. The Clerk to forward a copy of the e-mail received to the Proprietor of Stone Lane Gardens.

Cllrs Coombe; Lloyd Hill and Williams left the meeting at this point to attend a fire service call.

149 Polling Station Review (Min 124 refers)

A reply from the WDBC Electoral Officer re the conduct of the election poll stated that every election count has to be conducted according to the circumstances and type of election. The addition of a referendum count at the last election required alternative arrangements. **Noted:**

150 DCC Library Service (Min 112 refers)

The Chairman and Cllr Sampson reported a meeting with the local Librarian regarding a reduction in Library opening hours. The Librarian reported that all evening opening sessions were being withdrawn, which in turn negates the need for a second person to be at the Library. This has resulted in the opening hours being reduced to six hours per week 15.00hrs -17.00hrs on Tuesdays and 10.30- 12.30hrs on Fridays and Saturdays. The Library Assistant's contract ends at the end of September therefore there will be little time for the Librarian to assist people wishing to use the computer and she is also going to have a busy time with normal library duties. The DC Cllr. James Mc Innes had suggested that DCC would be encouraging the use of volunteers but on further inquiry this does not appear to be happening.

Correspondence to the Clerk from Devon Libraries stated that they were unable to consider the use of volunteers to replace paid staff to enable libraries to remain open longer.

Resolved: The clerk to copy the Devon Libraries e-mail to the DCC Cllr J McInnes together with a copy of his statement to the Council that volunteers were to be encouraged in order to maintain services.

151 Grit Bins.

The Clerk has been given to understand that the five grit bins provided by Cllr J McInnes had been installed by the Highways Department. Unfortunately, in spite of details being provided by Cllr Coombe and the local Highways Engineer, some of them had been installed in incorrect positions.

The Clerk was also informed that if a request to Cllr McInnes for a further supply of 5 grit bins were to be made, there would be a delay of 8 weeks from point of order before they could be obtained.

Resolved: i) Cllr Coombe to check the positions of bins already supplied; ii) the Clerk to pursue the supply of additional bins from Cllr McInnes.

URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

152 West Devon Homes AGM

Notice received that the AGM of West Devon Homes is to be held at Tavistock on Tuesday, 27th September 2011. Meeting open to all Members. **Noted:**

153 DALC Conference – 8th October 2011.

Cllr Mrs Hill drew attention to the joint conference of DALC and CCD at the Exeter Racecourse on 8th October 2011. The AGM's will commence at 9.30am to be followed by a joint Conference from 10.30am – 4pm.

Highlights of the meeting will be Localism in Devon – Speaker John Hart, Leader DCC. National Policy Context – Speaker John Coleman, Head of Rural Intelligence and Big Society, DEFRA.

Choice of Workshops on Localism Themes

Resolved: The Clerk to make a booking for Cllr Bleakman to attend. The Chairman will be in attendance ex officio.

154 DALC Training Dates

Parish Council Discussion Workshop by Came & Company, Local Authority Insurers.

Resolved. Details to be e-mailed to Cllr Mrs Haxton.

155 Endecott House Trustee

Attention was drawn to the need for renewal of Mr R Webber's Trusteeship for Endecott House.

Resolved: The Clerk to seek Mr Webber's agreement to continue in Office and refer the matter to the October Agenda.

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

156 Development Control Matters

a) 0377/11 & 0378/11 43 New Street, Chagford – Amended Plan

Proposed removal of recent rear extensions and the construction of a new rear extension.

Resolved: The amended drawings 396/PR/103A & 369/PR/101A are considered acceptable to the Council and do not change the decision submitted by the Council to the original application.

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

Cllr Bleakman referred the Council to the DNPA's outstanding decision on the planning application for 6, New Street. The original rendering was removed without permission being sought and following the Parish Council's strong objections, an arrangement was

reached whereby the granite frontage was repointed. The end result is unsatisfactory and unsympathetic to the neighbouring environment.

Resolved: A letter and photograph of the exterior of the property be sent to the DNPA requesting that a decision be taken to remedy the situation or enforcement action to be taken to return the property to its original condition.

157 Proper Job (Min 120 refers)

Following a letter from the Parish Council to the DNPA Director of Planning requesting a formal response to previous unanswered correspondence on this matter, an e-mail has been received stating the Director of Proper Job has been asked to notify the Authority of the current business and use of land at present in an endeavour to determine what elements of the use of land are acceptable.

Resolved: The matter be placed on the Agenda of the October meeting.

158 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission - Noted

a) 0328/11 Woodcote, Westcott Lane, Chagford

Proposed retrospective replacement of existing garage and store room

b) 0345/11 Gorselands, Chagford

Proposed installation of a 2.22KWp (12 panels) solar photovoltaic system on a ground mounted system to the rear of the garden.

159 Distribution of DNPA Committee Reports

Notice received to the effect that all Authority Committee Papers will be distributed electronically and no hard copies will be sent from November. Councils are advised to sign up for e-mail notification of information as it becomes available.

Resolved: The Clerk to register the Council's interest and notify the Library of the arrangement.

160 Local Development Framework for DNPA

Cllr Bleakman summarised the general principles of the Draft LDF and stated they were not too exciting save for the Policy statement DMD10 and the reference to Historic Interest. Questions remain as to what factors are used to identify such areas and what are specific additional controls from which such areas would benefit. An area of land for a new burial ground has not been identified nor is there any mention of the need.

Resolved: Cllr Bleakman to prepare a final draft response for discussion at the extraordinary meeting to be held on 26th September 2011 before submission to the DNPA.

GENERAL PURPOSES & POLICY MATTERS

161 Eastern Parishes Link Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Eastern Links Committee held on 7th July 2011 have been received together with notice that the next meeting will be held at South Tawton on 6th October 2011. **Noted:**

162 West Devon Town & Parish Council Voice

Following the Super Link Committee meeting emphasis was placed on the need for joint co-operation in meeting the demands of Town and Parish Councils. The current Chairman has met with Mr Richard Sheard, Chief Executive of WDBC who has expressed the need for a "round table" approach. An advert has been placed for the appointment of a Link Officer to facilitate the process. **Noted:**

163 Ward Councillor for WDBC

Cllr Sampson, Ward Cllr, gave a general report of the tasks currently being dealt with by various Committees i.e.- General Policies; mid term financial planning; the Budget process; public toilets and car parking. It should be possible to clarify the steps taken during his next report in November. Cllr Sampson was unable to throw any light on

previous requests to the WDBC re offer to subsidise the maintenance of the public toilets

Resolved: The Clerk to invite the Environment Officer to the Extraordinary Meeting on 26th September 2011 to discuss the Council's offer to assist in the maintenance of the toilets

164 FINANCE

a) Audit Commission – Noted:

The Audit Commission has reported a satisfactory outcome of the Annual Audit 2011

b) HM Revenue & Customs – Noted:

Notice received of a repayment of VAT in the sum of £427.93

c) A meeting of the Finance Group will be held at 8pm on 29th September 2011. Noted:

ENVIRONMENT

165 Jubilee Park Playing Field

The Chairman read the inspection report on behalf of Cllr Ms Stead and confirmed that there has been no further deterioration in the safety surfaces. The recycle bins for cans are being heavily used by householders instead of the weekly kerbside collections. The skate park bin needs more regular emptying. The sand trap promised by the DNPA is now in situ in the leat.

At this point, Cllrs Coombe; Lloyd Hill and Williams returned to the meeting.

Resolved: The Clerk to advise the Conservation Group of the position of the new sand trap.

Arising: Gym Equipment. Information concerning the provision of outdoor gym equipment was received and forwarded to the Environment Chairman.

Resolved: Equipment costs to be obtained for a consideration at a future meeting.

166 Public Convenience Inspection Report

Cllr Ms Stead reported that the Contractors are maintaining the toilets to a high standard. **Noted:**

167 Snow Wardens

The Clerk has endeavoured to seek confirmation of the status of training for snow wardens to no avail. The Chairman undertook training in February and was informed that she would be able to train volunteers for this purpose but there is no record of registered snow wardens as far as the clerk could ascertain. It would now appear that the DCC is reviewing and changing the training programme. The Emergency Management Bulletin issued for September indicates that five tonnes of salt will be provided by the DCC free of charge to Parishes that sign up to the scheme.

Resolved: The Clerk to contact Cllr McInnes to ascertain the status of the Chairman's qualification and the possibility of obtaining the salt supply.

CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

169 Xmas Tree

A Parishioner telephoned offering to supply a Xmas Tree, free of charge, for the Town. The matter was relayed to Cllr Parrott for consideration by the Business Association. Cllr Parrott states that further discussions are taking place to determine how large the tree might be and where would be an appropriate place to display it. **Noted:**

170 PCC Welcome Pack

Information has been received to the effect that the PCC is in the process of producing a welcome pack for new residents. **Noted:**

171 Gidleigh Parish Beating the Bounds – 29th August 2011.

Cllr Mrs Hill reported a most enjoyable walk with the many people who supported the Gidleigh Parish Beating the Bounds. **Noted:**

172 Chagford Business Association

The Chagford Business Association meeting held on 8th September 2011 was well attended and Cllr Parrott reported that Cllr Bleakman has been appointed as Chairman of the Association. Subjects discussed ranged from the possible closure of the public toilets which was a matter of great concern and the Association is keen to support the Council in retaining this facility. With regard to the car park it was suggested the Borough Council should consider the first hour of parking should be free with increased charges for parking thereafter. The latter should be raised with Officers at the next Highways meeting which is due to be held on 22nd September 2011. **Noted:**

173 Ponies on War Memorial Playing Field

The Chairman of WMPF writes to draw attention to damage occasioned on the playing field by ponies and cattle. Mention was made of the need for improved fencing against the commons. This matter is the responsibility of the Trustees of the WMPF and the matter should be discussed with the Commoners Association.

Resolved: The Clerk to reply accordingly.

CORRESPONDENCE/emails RECEIVED

174 Red Diesel

A reply has been received from Mr Mel Stride MP in respect of the Council's request for clarification re the use of red diesel for Community projects in which he states he is seeking further advice on the matter from HM Treasury. He will inform us of the outcome. **Noted:**

175 DCC Highways Surgery

Cllr McInnes forwarded an invitation to attend the DCC Highways Surgery to be held in the Ockment Centre on Thursday, 22nd September 2011 between 10.am and 12noon. Issues to be raised at the meeting are white lining of parking bays and the junction in the Square next to the newsagent. In addition, the white lines at the Easton Cross junction are indistinct and need renewing. Cllr Bleakman kindly offered to take photographs of the sites to assist identification.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Haxton indicated she would attend if at all possible.

176 Road Closure

Western Power advise of a road closure from Sandy Park to Crossways Cross from Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th November for network services. The road will be closed to all traffic. **Noted:**

177 B3206 Barriers at Greatastones.

An e-mail from a local resident questions the need for the barriers remaining on the road at the entrance to Greatastones following widening of the entrance. The, meeting was informed that the proprietors were waiting for the Contractor to tarmac the exposed verges but a problem had arisen because of a large granite stone protruding above the surface and the bedrock below the surface which needs to be removed. It is understood that on completion of this work the area of land would be adopted by the Highways Department as a road widening. **Noted:**

178 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

£

The following accounts were approved for payment

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| a) | Direct Debit – BT Broadband Services | 31.59 |
| b) | 3549 - Mr B Pell – Jubilee Field Maintenance 28/07; 08/08; 22.08 | 405.00 |

- c) 3550 - Mrs P Stone – August salary 719.55
- d) 3551 - Mrs P Stone – August post; electric; computer 33.72

179 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following publications were made available to Members

- a) DNPA Agendas- 2nd September 2011
- b) Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2011
- c) CCD- Annual Review – 2010-2011.
- d) Village Green – Autumn 2011.

The Meeting Closed at 9.15pm

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....