

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday 13th February 2012 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman; Coombe; d'Arch Smith; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill (Chairman); Lloyd Hill; Parrott; Sampson; Shears; Ms Stead; Ms Thorn; Williams and Cllr J McInnes, DCC.

In attendance the Clerk Mrs P Stone.

340 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Bleakman declared an interest in Min 366
- b) Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Min 348a
- c) Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in Min 366
- d) Cllr Lloyd Hill declared an interest in Min 348a
- e) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Min 366
- f) Cllr Ms Thorn declared an interest in Min 348a
- g) Cllr Williams declared an interest in Min 366

341 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Regular meeting held on 9th January 2012 were confirmed and signed subject to an adjustment to the interest declared by Cllrs Coombe and Lloyd Hill to read Min 315b.
- b) The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23rd January 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

342 Cllr J McInnes – Working with Neighbourhood Parishes

Cllr McInnes kindly accepted an invitation to join the Council in a discussion on working with Neighbourhood Parishes. He explained that the DCC has set aside 'one pound per elector' to enable Parishes to consider ways in which they could provide a service. He stated he was aware of the local need for a better transport link to other bus services such as the main to route to Exeter from Okehampton via Whiddon Down. In the ensuing discussion, the possibility of other neighbouring Parishes linking with a scheme was explored. Cllr McInnes stated that if necessary the sum of £3,000 towards setting up and running a suitable scheme for this purpose could be made available. It was understood that Mr Richardson Dawes (DCC Transport Department) would be willing to discuss ways the Parish Council could organize such a scheme.

It was further suggested that neighbouring Parishes could also co-operate in sharing the services of a Lengthsman

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Mr Richardson Dawes to invite his participation in discussion to examine the project.

The Council thanked Cllr McInnes for his kind offer and help in this matter.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

343 WDBC Public Conveniences Consultation (Min 278 refers)

A letter received from the WDBC Environment Officer drew attention to the impact the localism bill was having on any negotiations currently under

consideration in respect of toilet maintenance. The WDBC is therefore committed to maintain the current level of service until devolution options have been fully explored. The letter was considered to be transparent and did not enable a decision to be made about the proposed 30% increase in the Parish contribution towards maintenance costs. At the present time the Council feels unable to commit to the 30% increase but is minded to do so if and when the WDBC offers the standard of service required.

Resolved: i) The Clerk to convey the Council's view to the WDBC; ii) Copies of the correspondence to be forwarded to Cllrs McInnes and Sampson.

344 WDBC Car Parking Strategy Group (Min 286a and 308 refers)

Ms C Aubertin (WDB Officer) was present at a meeting with the Council when a suggestion was made by the Chagford Business Association, that consideration should be given to allowing the first hour of parking in the car park (to 10am) should be free of charge. The ensuing discussion ranged over the possible increase in the number of parking spaces and season tickets. Ms Aubertin agreed to pursue these matters with the Parking Strategy Group and report the outcome to the Council. To date, there has been no further consultation and any new measures would need to be implemented by 1st April 2012.

Resolved: Cllr McInnes indicated he would make enquiries on the matter at the WDBC.

345 Grit Bins (Min 282b refers)

The Chairman was happy to confirm that the promised salt delivery had eventually arrived, most of which has been distributed. Some salt bags remain on a pallet in the Fire Station and are to be collected by Cllrs within a day or two. The Chairman also reported that the salt bin deposited in the car park by South Hams, was defective in that the lid leaked and it was full of water. When reported to South Hams, she was informed there was nothing wrong with it.

Arising: The Clerk confirmed that although South Hams expected the local snow wardens to provide their snow clearance services, they had failed to confirm they would cover the insurance needs and DCC had stated they would not provide cover for anyone clearing the car park.

Resolved: Cllr McInnes to speak to South Hams re the salt bin and WDBC car park clearance.

346 Chagford Library – Noted:

Cllr Mrs Hill stated it had not been possible to arrange a meeting with DCC Head of Library Services but would do so as soon as possible.

347 URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Department of Transport – Cattle Grids

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of State to the County Solicitor has been forwarded for the Councils information. It concludes with the following statement:-

“In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 82 to 90 and Schedule 10 of the Highways Act 1980, the Secretary of State has therefore decided, for the reasons set out above, that she remains unable to give her consent to

Devon County Council to determine in the affirmative an application for the installation of the three cattle grids and by-passes at Langaford Bridge, Higher Stiniel and Weddicott Cross.

There is no statutory provision for appeal against the decision but it can be Challenged in the Courts promptly and, in any case, within 3 months of the date of this letter. The procedure for this involves an application to the High Court for permission to apply for a judicial review under the Supreme Court Rules.”

Cllr Shears stated that this is a clear indictment of the way the matter was handled by the Devon County Council and the matter should be referred again to HATOC for further discussion.

Resolved: The Clerk to make enquiries of the County Solicitor as what action is being taken by the DCC.

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

348 Development Control Matters

Cllrs Coombe; Lloyd Hill and Ms Thorn declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

a) **Planning Application 0025/12 – Proper Job, Crannafords Business Park, Chagford.**

Application for full planning permission for retrospective application for the siting of portacabins on land for the purposes of storage and retail.

The Council’s interim views on this application are based on the available data at this time and are subject to further discussion and possible revision by the Council following receipt of any further data to be provided by the Applicant and the DNPA, and is, therefore not binding on the Council.

b) **Letter from Mr Gomme on behalf of the Directors of Proper Job.**

A letter from Mr Gomme on behalf of the Directors of Proper Job is being held pending further information awaited from the DNPA. It will be referred to and fully discussed as soon as all relevant information is available.

Cllrs Coombe; Lloyd Hill and Ms Thorn returned to the meeting at this point.

c) **0312/12 Whiddon Farm and Park, Chagford – Noted.**

Proposed installation of a 3.6KW solar photo voltaic system on a timber ground mount at Warden’s Workshop

26th January 2012 - Notice received that the application has been withdrawn.

349 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission

a) **0584/11 Field No 6447, Thorn Farm, Chagford - Noted**

Proposed siting of temporary agricultural worker’s dwelling

b) **0590/11 Whiddon Farm, Chagford -Noted**

Proposed construction of building to accommodate refrigeration unit and relocation of tool shed.

350 6 New Street, Chagford – Noted:

A letter from DNPA re lack of response to a planning application states that the application has been withdrawn.

351 Alterations to Chagford Conservation Area Boundary

Letter received from Mr McKay, DNPA Historic Buildings Officer, re status of boundary states there will no longer be any area of historic setting in Chagford. The three small boundary amendments to the northeast and northwest of the area together with area 2 will be considered for designation by Authority Members at a future meeting.

Resolved: To take no further action for the time being.

352 Proposed Tree Works

a) Land adjacent to Bellacouch. Noted:

It was confirmed that the tree trimming at Bellacouch had now been carried out most successfully.

b) Grandy's House

Notification received from DNPA that trees will not be placed under a tree preservation order. – **Noted:**

353 Chagford Commoners AGM – 7th February 2012.

Cllr Shears reported on AGM of the Chagford Commoners Association and Chagford HLS Association held at the Globe Hotel, Chagford on 7th February 2012. **Noted:**

GENERAL PURPOSES & POLICY MATTERS

354 Localism Act – Future of Standards

Information received from monitoring Officer re future of standards states that the Localism Act has prospectively changed the rules concerning members conduct. The National Standards Board has been abolished but the duty on all authorities to promote and maintain high standards remains. The Department of Communities and Local Government are to produce regulations on how the new system will work. Advice re new regulations will be circulated in due course. **Noted:**

355 WDBC/South Hams – Devolved Services Workshop

Cllr Mrs Hill stated that the Devolved Services Workshop held on Tuesday, 31st January 2012 was well attended. The meeting was divided into four groups to discuss ways to influence the setting up and operating of devolved services.

Resolved: This subject be referred to the General Purposes Group.

356 FINANCE

a) To seek approval for following Grant Distribution:-

i) Diamond Jubilee Fund	500.00
ii) Chagford Swimming Pool – Lifeguard services	1,000.00
iii) Chagford Parochial Church Council – Churchyard maintenance	750.00
iv) Chagford Business Association – Christmas Lighting etc	120.00
v) West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau	75.00
vi) Okehampton Ring and Ride Group	75.00

Resolved: The Grants be approved for payment.

b) Registration of Small Society Lottery - Noted

To report receipt of small society Lottery licence.

357 Chagford Combined Charity – Noted:

Notice received of increased charges for rental of Endecott House from 1st April 2012. Annual charge to Parish Council to increase to £312 from £282 per annum.

ENVIRONMENT

358 Jubilee Park Monthly Inspection Report

Cllr Coombe reported various matters requiring attention as follows:-

Many safety surfaces are in need of repair and cleaning off. The black grab area on the cradle swings is cracking; climbing net on the multiplay is beginning to show signs of wear and tear; gravel on steps was topped up with gravel from the sand trap; the grass; and shrubs have been well kept by Mr Pell; litter is being pushed through the hedge from the car park.

Cllrs Mrs Hill and Coombe accepted an offer of a site visit from South West Play to discuss possible improvements to the playing field and were very impressed with his suggestions. They involved repairs to the safety surfaces and replacement of three items of play equipment. The Council was asked to consider what further action should be taken.

Resolved: The Clerk to advertise a specification for tender by 2nd March 2012.

359 Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

An invitation has been received for an application to be submitted for protected status for a local recreation site. Such sites, if accepted, will be protected in perpetuity, designated as a Queen Elizabeth the II Field and presented with a cast metal plaque as a permanent mark of this status. This will also afford an opportunity to apply for an improvement Grant.

Resolved: The Clerk to make an application to register the Jubilee Park Playing Field.

360 Public Convenience Monthly Inspection Report

Cllr Coombe stated that the graffiti has been removed from the gents' toilet but they are somewhat wet and smelly. No other problems were reported. **Noted:**

361 Chagford Reservoir/Nattadon Hill

The concerns expressed re various areas where water is leaking in abundance were referred to the South West Water Authority whose Engineer paid a site visit and reported that none of the leaks could be attributed to the Water Authorities responsibilities. Cllrs Mrs Hill and Sampson inspected the site, there is still water leaking from three catch pits which is considered to be the responsibility of the Water Authority. The old underground reservoir, now disused, and the surrounding area was always the responsibility of the Water Authority who used to regularly maintain standards at the old reservoir which could and was reused in emergency such as a drought period.

Resolved: The Clerk to invite a Water Authority representative to meet the Chairman and Cllr Sampson on site to discuss the situation and also request consideration of refurbishment of the old reservoir to meet future needs if need be.

362 CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There were no items to report.

CORRESPONDENCE/emails RECEIVED

363 Diamond Jubilee Proposals

a) Padley Common

An e-mail was received from Mr N. Scott raising objection to works being carried out on the Common and the decision to create a boardwalk from O'er Hill

Resolved: The e-mail to be forwarded to the Diamond Jubilee Group for consideration.

b) e-mail received from Mr & Mrs Bruce thanking the Council for its proposal to install a boardwalk from O'er Hill to Padley Common. **Noted:**

c) Tinnors Fair – Scarecrow Trail

Resolved: In view of many commitments of the Members in connection with the Diamond Jubilee to take no action.

d) NALC – Guidance on Using Royal Names and Titles in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year.- **Noted:**

364 The Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards

Nominations to be referred to the Clerk. **Noted:**

365 Community Safety Partnership Forum

Community Safety Officer extends invitation to participate in Community Safety Forum at Rattery Village Hall on 22nd February 2012.

Resolved: Members wishing to attend to notify the Clerk.

Cllrs Bleakman; Mrs Hill, Sampson and Williams declared an interest in this item and left the room.

366 Endecott House Garden & Building

A letter from Chagford Combined Charity Trustees requests support to assist with Grant applications, for a proposed project at Endecott House garden. The project although commendable, is extensive. The Council is willing to support in principle subject to details, and possible costs, being submitted for consideration.

Resolved: The Clerk to reply accordingly.

Cllrs Bleakman; Mrs Hill, Sampson and Williams returned to the meeting at this point.

367 Devon County Council Invitation.

The Chairman of the DCC extends an invitation for the Chairman and Clerk to attend a buffet reception at County Hall on Friday, 24th February 2012 at 6pm to celebrate the contribution made by Parish Councils to the life of Devon. **Noted:**

368 DALC – Planning System Explained – Helping you to Influence the planning decisions that shape your area.

Nominated delegates invited to attend a discussion to take place on Tuesday 6th March 2012 at the Okement Centre, Okehampton

369 SW Uplands Federation – 3rd Biennial Conference

Notice received of the 3rd Biennial Conference to be held on Friday, 19th October 2012 at Exeter Racecourse from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Subject: Management of the Commons in the 21st Century. Further information and to register interest visit

www.swuf.org.uk

Resolved: Refer to September Agenda

370 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment

		£
a)	Direct Debit – BT Broadband services	32.76
b)	3576 Mrs P Stone – January Salary	719.55
c)	3577 Mrs P Stone – January post, electric, computer	30.17
d)	3578 Chagford Combined Charity – Hire Endecott House 1/10/11 to 31/03/12	141.00
e)	3579 Mr B Pell – Grass Cutting – Jubilee Field 17/01/12 (extra cut)	130.00
f)	Grants:	
i)	3580 Diamond Jubilee Fund	500.00
ii)	3581 Chagford Swimming Pool – Lifeguard services	1,000.00
iii)	3582 Chagford Parochial Church Council – Churchyard maintenance	750.00
iv)	3583 Chagford Business Association – Christmas Lighting etc	120.00
v)	3584 West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau	75.00
vi)	3585 Okehampton Ring and Ride Group	75.00

371 PUBLICATIONS/ INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following publications were made available to Members.

- a)** The Standards Committee – Agenda 24th January 2012.
- b)** Junk Mail – Issue 8 - 2011.
- c)** Senior Council for Devon – January 2012.
- d)** Came & Company – A Parish Councillor’s Guide to Insurance.
- e)** Campaign to Protect Rural England – A guide to neighbourhood planning.
- f)** Devon Playing Fields Association – Winter 2011/12
- g)** Dartmoor Hill Farm Project – Spring 2012 Newsletter.

The Meeting Ended at 9.45pm

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....