

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday 13th October 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Geering; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Sampson; Ms Thorn; Mrs Lemieux and four students; Mr J., Shears,

Apologies for Absence. No apologies were received.

In Attendance the Clerk, Mrs Stone.

163 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Mins 169c;169e.
- b) Cllr Geering declared an interest in Min 169c;171;175.
- c) Cllr Parrott declared an interest in Min 171.
- d) CLLR Sampson declared an interest in Mins 169c;169g;171.

164 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1st September 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to an amendment to the spelling of Cllr McInnes name under those present.
- b) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 8th September 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

165 Wild Woods & Willow – Mrs Lemieux (Min 159 refers)

Standing orders were suspended to permit Mrs Lemieux to present details of a scheme to involve young people in working outdoors. She was accompanied by 4 young students who described various activities which they clearly enjoyed, involving woodcraft, making shelters, planting willows etc. The Council was shown handicrafts they had made.

Mrs Lemieux explained that the Group needed support for application for Grants from various sources and possible consideration of a Grant from the Parish Council. A one day event for approximately 30 children costs approximately £450 with parents contributing £3.50 per child. They are currently in receipt of assistance from CELT. There are 4 Leaders of the team at present and funds are needed for their reimbursement of materials etc. Transport costs arise when the occasional day trip is organised to such places as the Somerset Levels.

There is a close association with the school and it is hoped to establish a holiday project. An invitation was extended to Cllrs and members of the public to visit them on site (Epona – top of Nattadon) on Wednesday 15th October to see the activities taking place.

Mrs Lemieux and her students were thanked for their presentation.

Standing Orders were re-instated at this stage.

The Council discussed the information received and agreed in principle to support the scheme.

Resolved: i) To provide a letter of support to assist Grant applications; ii) to refer the matter to the Finance Committee.

166 Street Lighting – Mr Bailey, Street Lighting Engineer

The following extract of information received from Mr. Shane Bailey, Street Lighting Engineer in respect of Chagford Street Lighting improvements formed the basis of the Council's discussion.

Proposals:

1. Change existing lamps to put them on electronic control
2. Reduce output to 45watts with the exception of the car park light by the use of new lamps which provide the same luminescence as the old lights
3. Switch off lights at night on side roads.

Benefits of Option 2

1. Option 2 offers a reduction in the carbon footprint from 30.58tonnes to 10.32tonnes (reduction of 20.26tonnes)
2. Reduction in energy consumption from 59,651Kw to 24,000Kw (Saving 35,651.55KW)
3. Reduction in energy costs from £3,877.35 to £1,560.00 (Saving £2,317.35)

Number of Lights currently in situ – 111, 70watt; 1, 150watt (car park)

Additional lights will be considered for areas considered to be underlit i.e. Manor Road and Rectory Hill.

Replacement 45watt lamps will throw light downwards reducing light pollution.

The cost of replacement lanterns & 45watt lamps will be £65,068.91. Cost met by Government. They will need to be changed less often (currently every 3 years.)

Two Councillors visited Exbourne and Petrockstowe to examine comparable systems currently operational and reported the systems to be most satisfactory. It was considered advisable to proceed with Option 2 following a notice to be placed in the Bulletin informing the Parish of the Council's intentions and inviting comments where thought necessary. Any comments to be forwarded to the Clerk by November 14th 2008

Resolved: i) the Clerk to inform Mr. Bailey that the Council wishes to proceed with Option 2; the Clerk and the Environment Committee to be authorised to approve the location of any additional lights (if necessary); iii) a notice be placed in the Bulletin Inviting comment from the Parishioners with a closing date for comment by 14th November;

167 Rowan Tree – The Square, Chagford (Min 138 refers)

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received advice from the Trees & Landscape Officer DNPA, that the dead Rowan tree should be removed and a replacement would be provided as soon as the DNPA could arrange it.

Resolved: i) The Clerk be authorised to spend up to £100 and arrange for the tree to be felled and removed; ii) The Highways Department be informed.

168 Tagging Granite Troughs Min (146aai refers)

The DNPA has advised that it can microchip granite troughs on receipt of site details. It is possible there will be a charge involved that can be offset by a Grant from The Historic Features Trust.

Resolved: A list of troughs and their sites to be forwarded to the DNPA.

URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

There was no urgent business reported.

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**169 Development Control Planning Applications.**

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the Planning Inspection Group site meeting held on 3rd October 2008 attended by Cllrs Bleakman(Chairman) Davies; Mrs Haxton & Parrott.

a) 0571/08 Northhill Farmhouse, Chagford (Retrospective)

Proposed front door and frame, fixing of original ironmongery and formation of glazed opening.

- Resolved:** No objection to the proposed solution to include a small window and inclusion of the window bars and hinges from the original door. Reference drawing 2441/5
- b) **0576/08 Northhill Farmhouse, Chagford – Listed Building Consent (Retrospective)**
Proposed internal alterations.
Resolved: The Council is supportive of the internal changes. It is of the opinion that the sections of wall that have been removed are of no consequence to the original C16/C17 building. The new wardrobe does not create any structural damage and it was noted that the gates/balustrades fitted at the top of the spiral staircases are also not fixed to the building walls and are therefore both a sensible safety feature and have not created any damage to the original building structure.
Cllrs Coombe; Geering and Sampson declared an interest in the following item, and left the building during the discussion.
- c) **0607/08 Greatstones, Chagford**
Proposed demolish existing frame barn; construct day care nursery plus alterations to track and road entrance.
Resolved: The Council fully supports the principle of this application. It accepts that the proposed location is outside the Town curtilage but is of the opinion that as the Town has a need for additional pre-school facilities, this location is sufficiently close to the Town to satisfy that need. The Council considers that all aspects of the application have been well thought out and particularly welcome the road safety improvements of the B3209 that will result from the implementation of the application. The Council did have minor concerns in three areas:-
1. That a specific facility be included to ensure that refuse and recycling bins left at the gate do not interfere with the visibility from and to any vehicle exiting or entering the driveway.
 2. That the number of disabled parking spaces be reviewed with appropriate experts in this area.
 3. That the number of drop off and pick up stopping places to be provided are subject to a similar review by appropriate experts.
- d) **0893/03 Cannon House, Chagford. – Amended Plans**
Proposed change of use of part ground floor to established commercial use. Conversion of first and second floors from one dwelling to two maisonettes
Resolved: No objection to the revised layout of the rear entrance to the two maisonettes as defined in the drawing numbered 0893/03 and dated 16th September 2008 by the DNPA.
Cllr Coombe declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the proceedings.
- e) **0612/08 55 Lamb Park, Chagford**
Proposed fit flue to run up the side of property.
Resolved: No comment. This application was subsequently withdrawn as it fell within permitted development rights.
- f) **0616/08 Higher Shapley Farm, Chagford**
Proposed replacement of existing general purpose agricultural building (22.8m x 6.9m)
Resolved: No objection.
Cllr Sampson declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the proceedings.
- g) **0625/08 Orchard Cottage, Orchard Terrace & Springfield Cottage, 5, Southcombe Street, Chagford.**
Proposed alterations to cottages including re-positioning of current dividing walls.

Resolved: Site Inspection deferred. Recommendations to be submitted under delegated Authority by 3rd November 2008.

h) 0632/08 Westcott Park, Adley Lane, Chagford.

Proposed two storey extension and new garage.

Resolved: As with the previous application, the Council supports this application. It considers that for a very small increase in the footprint of the dwelling the proposed extension provides for a much improved living space. The Council is of the opinion that both the changes to the dwelling and enlarged garage are sympathetic with the original building and satisfy the requirements of DNPA Policy GP2.

170 Chagford Conservation Area -Proposed Tree Works – Maple Lodge, Chagford
Proposed fell 1 Magnolia and 1 Fir; crown lift 1 cotoneaster.

Resolved: Letter to DNPA Trees & Landscape Officer indicating no objection, endorsed.

Cllrs Geering; Parrott and Sampson declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the proceedings.

171 Re: 0070/07 Land at Thorn – Noted:

Letter received from Applicant in respect of renewal of enforcement notice by DNPA.

172 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission

a) 0454/08 Rushford Barton, Chagford

Proposed settlement pond with relayed drains. **Noted:**

b) 0458/08 27 Lamb Park, Chagford

Proposed loft conversion (raising roof by 0.75m) to include dormer windows to rear of property. **Noted:**

173 DNPA – Validation of Planning and related Applications

Notice received that all new applications will need to comply with a checklist before submitting plans. **Noted:**

174 Housing Needs (Min 96b refers)

Mr P. Markham (DNPA) and Mr J. Packer (WDBC) are in discussion regarding the need to further action to procure affordable housing for Chagford. The Parish Council has been invited to submit its' views of the matter.

Resolved: The matter to be referred to the next meeting.

Cllr Geering declared an interest in the following item.

175 Chagford Commoners Association

Minutes of a meeting held on 5th February 2008 were available to Members. All Officers were re-elected en bloc. A question was raised as to the future of the Commons after the ESA Agreement finished. It was decided Ms Aylward of Natural England be invited to address the next Commoners' meeting on the matter. **Noted:**

176 DAPC AGM – 27th September 2008

a) Cllr Mrs Hill circulated a report of her attendance at the Boundary Review meeting held at Broadclyst on 13th October 2008 at which it was stated that a Status Quo was not an option. No one knows what the alternative will be. Many areas have already started work on Community Boards. Okehampton has applied to be a pilot area and it would appear to be to Chagford's advantage to be involved in this respect. Clearly there is a need for vigilance and it is imperative that Towns and Villages send their views to the Secretary of State prior to Christmas this year. **Noted:**

Arising:i) The Chairman paid tribute to the impressive zeal with which Cllr Mrs Hill has tackled this complex and difficult subject for the benefit of the Council's understanding. ii) A small group consisting of the Chairman; Vice-Chairman and Ward Councillor to keep a watching brief on developments and enlist the help of 2 more if necessary.

- b) The DCC are providers of office space and resources for the DAPC and concern has been expressed as to how this will affect the Association when a Unitary Council is formed. The number of training programmes is being increased and it is recognised that there needs to be more participation from electors if Local Government is to thrive. The new white paper “Communities in Control, Real People with Real Power” is seen as pivotal and a central component to future local Government. **Noted:**

FINANCE GROUP

177 Cllr Mrs Hill reported the following sums of money have been received-**Noted:**

- a) 2nd phase of precept - £12,500.
- b) VAT repayment - £155.36
- c) £365 from The Bulletin for the purchase of a seat for the memorial garden. A letter of thanks has been forwarded to the Bulletin.

178 Applications for Funding- Referred to Finance Committee – Noted:

- a) Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureau
- b) Okehampton Community Transport Group
- c) WRVS

179 Notice received from Community Council for Devon re free training on “Figuring Out Finance”. Programme to take place on 25th November 2008.

Resolved: Cllrs Bleakman, Mrs Hill and Jeffreys to attend.

180 Jubilee Hall Refurbishment

A request has been received for consideration of a Grant towards a refurbishment of the Jubilee Hall to be included in the forthcoming Precept. Details forwarded to the Finance Committee. **Noted:**

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

181 Cllr Coombe circulated a detailed report prior to the meeting. It is proposed to hold a working group for 1st November 2008 from 9am to take the following action:- i) clean safety surfaces; ii) prune roses and park entrance; iii) prune shrubs near infant multiplay and spring tractor/horse; iv) prune trees near Health Centre; v) remove brambles from Health Centre hedge; vi) renovate Skate Park Devon bank. It was suggested the debris could be burnt at the Nov 5th bonfire.

The site entrance for the bonfire to be kept clear by bollards loaned by the fire brigade.

- b) A Parishioner has drawn attention to difficulties experienced whilst walking the footpath from Witheycombe through Piggery Lane. Stiles need attention and a field gate has been un-hung and has been left on the ground.

Resolved: i) The DNPA Ranger to be advised of the need for attention; ii) the Owner to be advised of the need to avoid obstruction by the stile.

182 **Public Convenience Inspection Report**

Cllr Ms Thorn was unable to carry out the inspection but it was reported that the wallgate in the Gent’s loo was not working. The matter has been reported to the WDBC. **Noted:**

183 **Jubilee Park Inspection Report**

- a) Cllr Mrs Hill and Cllr Coombe attended the Playing Fields Seminar on 23rd September 2008 at Moretonhampstead. They stated that a lot of information had been acquired including the need to increase the insurance on use of the field to £8,000,000. It is understood that a recent settlement for damages amounted to £4,500,00 elsewhere.

Resolved: This matter to be taken into consideration by the Finance Committee.

- b) It was advised that in addition to Cllrs monthly inspections; detailed equipment monitoring should take place on a Quarterly basis with a complete evaluation once a year. There are new soft bond safety surfaces available. **Noted:**
- c) It is now a requirement that all persons carrying out work on playing fields have been vetted by the Criminal Review Board in the interest of children's safety. This is a matter for consideration for future arrangements.

Resolved: Refer to the Environment Committee for further enquiries.

184 Memorial Garden

- a) It was disappointing to note that the promised hand rails and mosaic stand had not been installed as promised by the 6th October.

Resolved: The Clerk to speak to the Contractor to expedite the matter.

- b) The Council gave approval for the Clerk to order a Barmouth garden seat from Messrs Streetmaster – a contribution from the Bulletin.

Resolved: The Clerk to request delivery a.s.a.p.

185 The Pound Rest Garden

Two letters have been received in respect of unauthorised activity in tending the Pound Rest Garden which has caused conflict.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to the correspondents explaining arrangements for garden maintenance is the sole responsibility of the Environment Committee and Mr. Martin Swift.

CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

186 Emergency – Effects of Power Failure

Attention was drawn to failure to gain access to Great Tree Park recently due to power failure affecting the electronic gates. The Property Owners confirm that the matter is in hand. **Noted:**

187 Ashburton Civic Service – 13th September 2008

Cllr Bleakman reported that the service was very enjoyable and whilst there he was invited to attend the Newton Abbot Civic Service. **Noted:**

188 Remembrance Service – 9th November 2008

The Royal British Legion has indicated that they would like to see formalities at the war memorial completed in time for all persons to be seated in church for the 2 minute silence.

Resolved: Cllrs to gather at the Cross Tree at 10.20am.

GENERAL PURPOSE & POLICY REPORTS

189 Boundary Commission Review

- a) Geoffrey Cox Q.C., M.P. writes to thank Chagford Parish Council for forwarding details of its stance in respect of boundary proposals particularly since they are in accordance with his personal views. He has given his assurance that he will be working to oppose the Unitary scheme. **Noted:**

- b) **WDBC** – Response from WDBC to Boundary Commission forwarded for information. **Noted:**

190 Regional Spatial Strategy (Min 153 refers)

Cllr Bleakman outlined details of the report that suggested a substantial increase in housing could be expected although there would be some limitations for areas in the National Park. A proposal for a regionally distinctive policy will deliver sustainable construction, expressed in Policy G of the Draft. **Noted.**

191 Clean Neighbourhood Act (Min 48 refers)

Cllr Davies presented Phase 2 of his paper re the possible introduction of a dog control order. It is estimated that start up costs would not exceed £250 and would require notices in The Okehampton Times. Penalty Notices would be issued in triplicate by the Dog Warden. There would be no additional charge by the West Devon Borough Council for his services. An order for total exclusion of dogs should apply to the Jubilee Park Playing Field in the first instance to protect the health and safety of the children using the fields. Fines would be imposed on dog owners not complying with the Order. **Resolved:** Cllr Davies to proceed with the next stage of introduction of a dog order on the Jubilee Field and the Clerk to advise the West Devon Borough Council accordingly.

192 DCC – Commons Act 2006

DCC has been selected as one of seven Commons Registration Authorities to be a pilot authority for implementation of part 1 of the Act. Information required concerning possible amendments to Applications listed.

Resolved: The original Commons Registration records to be researched and referred to Council for consideration.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

193 Sandy Park Parking

Drewsteignton Parish Council request support for their request for better control of the parking problems at Sandy Park.

Resolved: The Clerk to write to Drewsteignton Parish Council to confirm support for their action and report incidences of parking problems to the Authority.

194 DCC

a) Parish Lengthsmen

The Parish Lengthsmen will visit Chagford on 8th October 2008 and 16th January 2009. Matters for their consideration to be drawn to the Clerk's attention please. **Noted:**

b) Waste Management Proposal for South West Devon

Public Consultation road shows will take place at various venues and dates. E.g. Parish Centre, Tavistock on 22nd October 2008. For further information visit www.SWDWP.co.uk (Referred to Proper Job). Cllr Sampson indicated his intention to attend a similar meeting in Newton Abbot. **Noted:**

195 Community Owned

CCD invite participation in a scheme to promote home grown food.

Resolved: Refer to the Allotment Association.

196 Disabled Parking

A letter has been received from Mrs Sweeney re disabled parking problems. As Mrs Sweeney was present, Standing Orders were suspended in order to allow her to speak and answer questions. Mrs Sweeney is a voluntary worker at Treliste Hospital working with the disabled and is also a regular visitor to Chagford where she has witnessed violations of the regulations in disabled parking bays. She expressed appreciation of the appointment of three traffic wardens appointed by the WDBC and was pleased to hear that this was having a beneficial effect on the problem. When asked how she felt matters could be improved further, it was suggested more prominent signage would be helpful with more information of the time allowed for each visit.

Following the re-instatement of Standing Orders the Council agreed that the improvement in enforcement should be complemented and encouraged.

Resolved: i) The Clerk to request WDBC to carry out more rigorous enforcement.

ii) The Highways Department be asked to improve signage to record time allowed per visit.

197 Okehampton & District Senior Council for Devon

Information received concerning a "Discussion & Information Fair" to be held at Okehampton Rugby Club on 16th October 2008. **Noted:**

198 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

a)	3135	Neat Ideas – Envelopes and note books	45.67
b)	3136	Neat Ideas – year planner	10.56
c)		Direct Debit – Tiscali – broadband services	33.53
d)	3137	Mrs P. Stone – September salary	670.02
e)	3138	Mrs P. Stone – September post; electric; computer; poppy wreath.	57.85
f)	3139	Mr. J. Sheridan – Maintenance Jubilee Park playing field September	241.25

199 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED

- a) Devon in Touch – September 2008
- b) Junk Mail – Summer 2008
- c) West Devon e-connect – September 2008 and Autumn 2008
- d) DAPC Newsletter – Sept/Oct 2008.
- e) DNPA – Agendas 3rd October 2008.
- f) CVS Newsletter – Autumn 2008

The Meeting Closed at 10.12pm.

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....