

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday, 8th October 2007 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Geering; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Cllr Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Perryman; Sampson; Ms Thorn (after Min 197)

In Attendance The Clerk, Mrs Stone and 2 Members of the Public.

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllr Parrott

196 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- a) Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Min 207a.
- b) Cllr Geering declared an interest in Min 203
- c) Cllr Mrs Hill declared an interest in Min 203
- d) Cllr Perryman declared an interest in Min 203

197 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 10th September 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to a correction in line 4 of Min 155a to read Mr. Guy Allman; to delete one letter r in Cllr Parrott's name in Min 176a; to amend Cllr Jeffreys spelling in line 2 of Min 186a.
- b) The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 24th September 2007 were confirmed as a true record and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

198 Pavement Obstruction (Mins 47; 83; 117; 154 refer)

A meeting with the Chagford Business Association will be held on 12th October to discuss an appropriate approach to the problem of pavement obstructions. The Chairman of the Business Association has agreed to take action in the interest of public safety. The first approach will be by way of a request for co-operation to be followed up by further action if that is not heeded. The aim is for a uniform policy to be fair to everyone. The next meeting will be held on November 1st 2007. The Environment Committee will look into the matter of dropped kerbs, their position and suitability and the absence of kerbs not yet in situ. It is noted that many pavement problems will be addressed by Highways when they follow through during the gas main installation. **Noted:**

199 Padley Common Community Action Day – 13th October 2007

The final arrangements for the Community Action Day are nearing completion. Ms Aylward (Natural England) is to visit the Sports Pavilion on Thursday, 11th October to discuss possible availability of the hall in the event of bad weather. A Barbecue will be provided for lunch following the activities. **Noted:**

200 Gas Main Installation (Min 176e refers)

Members were advised of the preliminary discussions which had taken place with representatives of the Gas Board; the Contractors; the Highways Department; the Forestry Commission; the Business Association; the Fire Service and the Police in respect of the proposed installation of a new gas main.

The work will be extensive requiring a complete road closure from Moor Park to the Square for a period of 8 weeks. An agreed action list was devised by those present to alleviate transport and related problems over the period.

The Gas Board public relations department will circulate complete details of all the implications for residents and traders by the end of October and there will be an open day at Endecott House on Thursday, 8th November when questions will be addressed by the Officers involved.

The work will commence on Monday January 7th 2008 and will be carried out for 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 5pm. The road will be closed to through traffic throughout.

Resolved: The Clerk to liaise with the Gas Board re the information to be circulated; ii) a notice to be placed in the Bulletin.

201 Dartmoor Society Debate – 29th September 2007.

Cllrs Mrs Milton and Davies reported that unfortunately they were unable to attend this meeting but would make any information received available to Members. **Noted:**

202 Registrar Services (Min 164 refers)

WDBC writes to confirm their joint concern over certain aspects of the Registrar services. In addition, Cllr McInnis telephoned the Clerk to inform her the Registrar would now be available on Tuesdays and Fridays instead of Monday. There is ongoing discussion between the DCC and WDBC re a shared service with possible attendance at out reach surgeries.

Resolved: To place this item on the January Agenda.

URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Cllrs Mrs Hill; Geering and Perryman declared an interest in the following item and left the building at an appropriate juncture.

203 Public Enquiry – Cattle Grids

Letter received from County Solicitor stating public enquiry due to be held on October 9th and 10th, postponed until December 10th; 11th and 12th. An extraordinary meeting held on 24th September failed to come to an agreement on the steps to be taken. A question was raised concerning the possibility of rescinding the decision to make a financial contribution to the enquiry but it was pointed out that as a conscious decision had been taken and minuted to that effect, the decision must stand. Cllr Mrs Hill prepared a breakdown of previous minutes to enable members to concentrate their interpretation of the situation. It was suggested that possibly the proposed grids were in the wrong place and maybe a change of location would be more acceptable? Cllr Mrs Milton expressed concern at the possible loss of a community amenity at Langaford bridge, an amenity that should not be taken for granted.

At this point, Cllrs Mrs Hill; Geering and Perryman were required to leave the building.

The Chairman pointed out that the Council's function was to represent all Parishioners. It was recognised that the first installation of cattle grids had been beneficial to the Town by keeping animals in one area. However, phase 2 of the scheme would be less beneficial to the town but would prevent some animals straying onto the Moretonhampstead to Princetown road. Dislike of the locations resulted from the possible impact on local beauty and it had been pointed out that one grid was too far from the commons.

It was suggested that there are two possible solutions – i) to support the scheme as being necessary; ii) keep a watching brief and answer questions by the Inspector.

There was no indication from the Commoners Association following our discussions with them on the matter but the Chairman had been advised verbally that they had decided to proceed.

A third option was suggested concerning adjustments to the proposed locations.

However it was not clear whether that was an option at the Public Enquiry without further information being obtained.

Cllr Sampson tabled a resolution to read, *“This Council confirms its support for the present scheme of cattle grids and that its views should be represented accordingly at*

the forthcoming Public Enquiry, recognising that the precise locations might be adjusted.”

Resolved: The Clerk to make enquiries of the County Solicitor re the possibility of adding a third option for consideration and report to Council.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

204 Planning Inspection Committee

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the Planning Inspection Committee meeting held on 4th October 2007 and attended by Cllrs Bleakman; Davis and Jeffreys.

a) 0770/07 Collihole Farm, Chagford

b) 0771/07 Collihole Farm, Chagford – Listed Building Consent

Proposed slight enlargement of existing toilet extension.

Resolved: The Council supports this application as it provides for the re-opening of the original cross passage and will create an extension that is materially more in keeping with the remainder of the historic dwelling. They consider that a ground floor toilet facility is a necessary element of C21 living. The Council is therefore of the opinion that the application satisfies the DNPA Local Plan Policies GP2; HS9 and BL6.

c) 0776/07 18 Orchard Meadow, Chagford – resubmission of 0837/06

Proposed end of terrace three bedroom house.

Resolved: The Council strongly objects to the Application for the following reasons:-

1. The proximity of the proposed development situated within two metres of the existing 17, Orchard Meadow creates a serious loss of amenity previously enjoyed by this property in terms of privacy in the front garden and front bedrooms and side windows from windows on the front of the new dwelling; serious loss of light and shading to the side windows and high potential for noise and smell disturbance from the very close proximity of the proposed kitchen. The provision of the two parking places effectively blocks the rear entrance access currently enjoyed by No 17. As such the Council is of the opinion that the development does not satisfy DNPA Policy GP2.
2. The Council is of the opinion that the proposed two off-street parking places are inadequate and do not satisfy the requirements of DNPA Policy TF5. The Policy would require there to be 3 spaces (One semi detached and one Terraced house). The two spaces proposed are very narrow and access to them will be difficult given the parking arrangements currently enjoyed in this Close as shown in the attached Photo. As such this parking arrangement will provide additional danger to all road users and interfere with the safe movement of traffic. The proposed spaces are only different to the previous Application in that they are narrower than previously. The DNPA saw this as a reason for refusal with the previous Application.
3. The proposal is marginal against the DNPA guidance for affordable housing in that it remains larger than 80m². It is unlikely that a three bedroom house will ever be affordable to local people.
4. The development of No 2a orchard Meadow is not considered to be precedence as that development is smaller, did not cause any loss of amenity to any neighbours and provided for up to three off-street parking places with no disturbance to on-street parking.

The Council requests that if the DNPA Planning Officer/Committee is minded to approve this application that a formal site inspection meeting is held before they make a final decision.

d) 0700/07 2 Rushford Mill Cottages – Amended Plan for information

Proposed conservatory **Noted:**

- 205 DNP Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Development Plan Document Submission Version.** (Min 94;127 refers)
Cllr Bleakman reported that it had still not been possible to arrange a mutually acceptable date for meeting with Mr.Markham, DNPA Officer. **Noted:**
- 206 Dartmoor National Park Management Plan -** (Min 95; 128 refers)
Deferred from previous meeting
Resolved: No action required. **Noted:**
- 207 DNP Proposed Tree Works**
Cllr Coombe declared an interest in the following item and left the room.
- a) **Ref: BB/GS/27/12/3/07/13 Brook House, Chagford – Deferred from last meeting**
Correspondence received from the Trees and Landscape Officer, DNPA, indicating that they do not intend to impose a tree preservation order on these trees. **Noted:**
- b) **Ref: BB/BM/27/12/3/07/21 3, Manor Road, Chagford**
Fell semi mature holly.
Resolved: No objection.
- c) Ref: BB/HH/27/12/3/07/20 St Michael’s Church.
Proposed i) raise crown of mature lime; ii) remove epicormic growth from 2 sycamores.
Resolved: No objection.
- 208 Community Council of Devon – Local Housing Needs Report**
Two copies of the Parish Housing Survey were received for comment but it was recognised that all Members should have an opportunity to appraise the contents.
Resolved: i) The copies to be circulated between the Members and the matter be placed on the Agenda at the next meeting. ii) the Local Housing Officer be invited to attend a Council meeting to discuss housing needs.
- 209 Financial Matters**
- a) The second instalment of Precept in the sum of £11,500 has been received from the WDBC. **Noted:**
- b) Teignbridge CAB request funding.
Resolved: Refer to finance Committee
- c) The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on 22ND October 2007. **Noted:**
- 210 Public Convenience Inspection Report**
Cllr Davies expressed concern that the public conveniences were still not being closed at night and the lighting is left on all night. The Clerk advised the meeting that this matter had already been reported to the WDBC. It was suggested that the lighting should be operated by a sensor and the practice of locking the loos be discontinued. The Clerk also reported that the WDBC are not prepared to provide supplies of drinking water in any public convenience because of the risk of vandalism.
Resolved: The Clerk to discuss the proposals with the WDBC and report at the next meeting.
- 211 Jubilee Park Inspection Report**
Cllr Davies submitted a detailed written report on the findings of his inspection. The principal matters for attention were gate self closures and gate netting to prevent animal access. The fence along the top of the tennis court has been vandalised and the Health Centre hedge still needs cutting. Bolts are protruding beneath the walking bridge and swing seat chains show signs of wear. The Clerk confirmed that the seats and chains ordered for the swings have arrived and are about to be fitted. There is also a proliferation of “mice” and other graffiti on equipment and the willow shelter is in a poor state of repair. The Chairman explained that an attempt has been made by the young people’s committee to remove the graffiti but it has not been entirely satisfactory. The willow shelter is about to be repaired.

Resolved: The Clerk to make enquiries of the WDBC re a more suitable product to remove graffiti; ii) the Clerk to speak to Mr. Cox about the outstanding repairs necessary.

Arising: Mr. Sheridan has recommended the car park hedge needs to be cut back on the car park side and it will be quicker and less of a problem if he can obtain the services of a hedge trimmer at his expense.

Resolved: To approve the request subject to adequate insurance cover being obtained.

212 Environment Committee

- a) Granite Troughs (Min 181b refers) Future maintenance of granite troughs and trees in the square is under review at the current time and will be reported at the next meeting

Noted:

- b) Memorial Garden The granite wall on the memorial garden is now complete. It has been necessary to lift paving slabs on the site because of damage from underlying cotoneaster roots. The bench seat has been displaced and will be stored by kind permission of Cllr Geering. The thorn tree is in need of some curtailment and this matter can be addressed when the planting takes place. As yet, no estimate has been received for phase 2 of the hard landscaping.

Resolved: Cllr Davies to make enquiries re estimates from sources known to him.

Arising: Messrs Robinson Plant has submitted an account in the sum of £5,422.63 for building the wall which was approved for payment. The Clerk has indicated a receipted account will be forwarded to the DNPA and WDBC for Grant purposes. **Noted:**

213 West Devon Parking Strategy Group

Cllr Sampson detailed new proposals for car park charging in the Chagford Car Park as outlined in a meeting of the parking strategy group held on 18th September 2007.

Present charge rates are 20p for ½hour; 60p for 2 hours; £1 for 4 hours and £1.50 for all day parking. These will now be adjusted to 30p for 1 hour; 60p for 2 hours; 90p for 3 hours; £1.20 for 4 hours and £1.50 for all day.

The site of the existing parking ticket meter was considered inappropriate for those using the Health Centre and a second meter would be beneficial. It was also felt necessary that more up-to-date machines were used. There is to be a phased increase in the cost of season ticket charges over a period of 2 years. **Noted:**

214 Devon Association of Parish Councils AGM – 29th September 2007

Cllrs Jeffreys & Sampson began their report by complimenting Cllr Mrs Gay Hill on her appointment as Vice-President of the DAPC. A presentation by the Police Authority extolled the merits of the Community Support Officers. The afternoon was set aside for workshops. Cllr Sampson attended a workshop dealing with the Code of Conduct which he stated was very informative and beneficial. Cllr Jeffreys attended the workshop on rural housing addressed by the Rural Housing Enabler. Ms Sue Southwell. Her discourse dealt mainly with the availability of land. **Noted:**

215 Chagford Business Association (Min 176a)

- a) Information received from a joint meeting with the Chagford Business Association indicated that the Christmas lighting would be put up on the 25th of November and there would be 2 late night shopping events on December 7th and 11th; the former taking the form of a festival with additional attractions. Under new financial arrangements, the lighting would be owned by the Parish Council but installation would take place under the control of the Business Association. **Noted:**

- b) A letter received from WDBC re a request for funding for lighting the Market House, was refused. **Noted:**

216 Clerk/Chairman's Report

a) Remembrance Day Service

The Remembrance Day service is to be held on Sunday, 11th November 2007. The Chairman expressed his regret at not being available to represent the Council and it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Sampson should read the lesson in church and Cllr Perryman lay the poppy wreath at the memorial. Members are to meet at Cross Tree at 10.30am, prior to the service. **Noted:**

b) The Clerk informed the meeting that maintenance cover on the photocopier had expired and on enquiry, the original company had ceased operating in that capacity. She was referred to Messrs Dacoll in Scotland who quoted a call out charge of £220 per visit. Subsequently, Messrs Dacoll offered a 12 month contract (in house service) for £56 + vat.

Resolved: To renew cover for 12 months and in the mean time make enquiries about a replacement copier.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

217 West Devon Borough Council – Alcohol, Public Entertainment & Late night Refreshment Policy Consultation

Draft Policy received from WDBC .

Resolved: To lie on the table.

218 Devon County Council – Lengthsmen

a) Notice received on intended visits by the lengthsmen on 5th October 2007 and 7th January 2008. **Noted:**

b) **Devon In Touch** – Stakeholder Event 8th October 2007. **Noted:**

219 DEFRA – Ways to Tackle Climate Change

A guide provided by DEFRA offers advice to Parish Councils on how to tackle climate change. Cllr Bleakman expressed his willingness to discuss details with Defra on ways the Council might co-operate. It is understood funding is available for agreed projects.

Resolved: Cllr Bleakman to prepare a paper for circulation to Members prior to the next meeting.

220 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Letter received indicating departure of Sector Inspector Ian Milligan and secondment of Inspector David Hammond as Sector Inspector for West Devon. **Noted:**

221 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment

a)	3024	Mr. J Sheridan – Jubilee Park Maintenance – September	231.25
b)	3025	Mrs P. Stone – September Salary	641.65
c)	3026	Mrs P. Stone – September post; electric; computer	30.74
d)		Direct Debit – Tiscali broadband services	27.81
e)	3027	Cllr Coombe – purchase frames for beating the bounds posters	3.98
f)	3028	Wickstead Leisure – Supplying swing seats and chains	144.53
g)	3029	Robinson Plant Ltd – rebuild granite wall – Lower St Memorial garden	5,422.63
h)	3030	Mrs P. Stone – reimbursement for Dell printing products	94.96
i)		Direct Debit – BT line rental	46.94
j)	3031	Cllr R. Sampson - travel allowance to DAPC AGM & Link meeting	21.60

222 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED.

The following publications were made available to Members

- a) DAPC Newsletter – September/October 2007
- b) Devon County Council
 - i) Monthly News Roundup September 2007
 - ii) Devon Talk – Autumn 2007
- c) West Devon Community Services – Newsletter Autumn 2007.
- d) Dartmoor Access Forum – Annual Report 2006
- e) DNP Agendas – 5th October 2007.
- f) Teignbridge CAB – Annual Report 2006/07.

The Meeting Closed at 10.08pm

Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....