

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council  
held at Endecott House on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Davies; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Mrs Milton; Parrott; Sampson; Ms Thorn. Mr S. Belli (Director of Planning, DNPA) (Minutes 213 & 214 only)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Coombe; Geering; Perryman

**In attendance** The Clerk, Mrs P. Stone.

**213 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**214 Mr Stephen Belli, Director of Planning, Dartmoor National Park Authority**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Belli to the Meeting in his capacity as Director of Planning and invited him to speak concerning the role of the National Park in the future of rural Communities.

Mr Belli began by giving details of his previous roles; beginning with his training from the age of 17 to the present day, he had served councils in Monmouth; South Somerset; the Brecon Beacons National Park and latterly at Sidmouth. He declared a strong preference for working in a National Park environment with a keen interest in conservation and the built environment. His aim is to provide a service that is fit for purpose and acts as a catalyst for the National Park as a whole.

Mr Belli explained that he was interested in learning the extent that electronic information technology was used by Parish Councils and how the DNPA could support this with an improved service. A questionnaire is being prepared for release to Councils in a few days time. He also aimed to have a more effective enforcement service, as a follow up on approved plans was as important as the initial approval. He suggested that PCs would have a large role in this activity.

With regard to the Local Development Framework, he expressed the need for Parish Council feed back and the need for consultation.

He advised that there would be a conference with Parish Councils on the 16<sup>th</sup> November that would include information on the Government's financial settlement. [The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had asked Cllr Davies together with the vice chairman and himself to attend]. This would be followed, in February, with a conference and workshops on the Development Control process.

Cllr Sampson asked if it would not be more beneficial to hold the conference after the forthcoming elections in May 2011, as it was likely that there would be a significant turnover of Parish Councillors. He replied that he would take this back to the Park Authority for consideration.

The Chairman asked for clarity on the logic applied by the DNPA with respect to the proposal to create areas of 'historic setting adjacent to the Conservation area boundary in Meldon Road. It was explained that the Conservation Area Status was more applicable to urban areas, whereas Historic Setting Status would be applied to rural areas where development would have a detrimental affect on the adjacent conservation area

Mr Belli was informed that the Council understood the policy and procedures applicable to 'conservation' areas but felt that no such policy or procedure had been development for 'historic setting', It was their opinion that the DNPA was trying to 'put the cart before the horse' with their proposals to create such areas at this time. Further more, there had been no real consultation on the introduction of this new designation. The Clerk had tried to obtain more information from the Historic Buildings Office but had been advised that there was no more information available. Mr Belli then advised the Council

to write to register its concern and he will speak to the Officers concerned on his return to the office.

Finally, the Chairman advised Mr Belli that the Council representatives had been pleased with the constructive meeting, held some 5-6 weeks ago, with the National Park team to discuss the Chagford Design Statement and its relevance to the Local Development Framework. It was understood at that meeting that the DNPA intended to use Chagford as a case study for a design training and agreed that the Council would be debriefed regarding to general conclusion reach during the session. Mr Belli advised that the training had been very broad brushed but he would ask Mr Markham to produce a short briefing on the subject.

There being no more questions, the Chairman thanked Mr Belli for his attendance and informative feedback.

## **215 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed subject to an adjustment to the name of Mr Ian Mortimore in line 3 of Minute 193 to read Dr Ian Mortimer.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **216 Parking Problems Stannary Place (Min 188 Refers)**

Cllr Bleakman reported concerns of the residents and owners of properties in the vicinity of Stannary Place with regard to irresponsible parking causing obstruction and inconvenience to the residents.

**Resolved:** All affected local residents and property owners to be invited to a meeting with the Council's Traffic Management Group to discuss the issues possible remedies. The meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November commencing at 7.30pm.

## **217 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

There were no Councillors Questions.

## **GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPOTS**

### **PLANNING MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT CONTROL MATTERS**

#### **218 Development Control**

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the planning group inspection committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October attended by Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman), Davies and Mrs Milton.

##### **a) 0497/10 Mill Pond, Chagford (plus amended plan)**

Proposed installation of biomass boiler in existing garage/workshop with associated flue

**Resolved:** Subject to the flue being painted black, the Council has no objection to this application.

##### **b) 0498/10 Mill Pond, Chagford – Listed Building Consent (plus amended plan)**

Proposed installation of biomass boiler in existing garage/workshop with associated flue

**Resolved:** Subject to the flue being painted black, the Council has no objection to this application.

#### **Matters arising from previous meetings**

#### **219 Chagford Conservation Area (Min 194 refers)**

Cllr Sampson reviewed the details of the proposed new conservation area boundary and the classification of the Chagford extension as an historic setting. He stated that in his view, the National Park seemed to be at cross-purposes and although the principle seems

sensible, further guidance is needed. It is difficult to understand why the fields off Meldon road were chosen and it is difficult to accept the designation of that area.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to write to the DNPA [Mr McKay] expressing the Council's strong reservations on the DNPA current procedure regarding the introduction of 'Historic Settings'. Copies of the letter to be sent to Ms S. Goodchild; Mr J. Young; Mr M Date, (DNPA) and Cllr J McInnes.

**220 DNPA Meeting with Parish Councils etc**

Invitation received from Chairman DNPA to discuss budget cuts etc. Meeting to be held at Parke on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010. As agreed previously Cllrs Mrs Hill, Davies and Bleakman would represent the Council.

**221 DNPA Forum**

Notice received of a meeting to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Agenda items sought.

**Resolved:** i) The Clerk to forward a request for information as to how the conservation area (Historic Setting) has been determined; ii) Cllr Parrot to attend.

**222 CCD Annual Conference and AGM**

Cllr Mrs Hill was congratulated on her appointment as a Trustee for the next 3 years. Cllr Mrs Hill then reported her attendance at a meeting held in the presence of the Princess Royal, as President of the Rural Housing Development, to promote the need for affordable housing. The meeting was held at Wolfardisworthy on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Attention was drawn to the ever-increasing ageing population compared with to the decrease in the younger element and the problems that would arise from this imbalance by 2021.

Councils are advised also to be aware of the increasing effects of climate change that is taking place rapidly. These facts should always be taken into consideration in any forward planning.

Two local affordable housing sites were inspected. One was a good development of 18 houses and in nearby High Bickington, the DCC had donated an agricultural holding for development. 12 years down the line, this is now making a considerable and desirable impact on the area. Cllr Mrs Hill expressed the intention of visiting this site to determine what lessons can be learned from it for Chagford.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hill for her enterprise. **Noted:**

**GENERAL PURPOSES & POLICY MATTERS**

**223 DALC Empowering Communities in Devon**

Cllr Mrs Hill expressed the view that the meeting held at the Ockment Centre, Okehampton on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010, had been very interesting in that it dealt with an outlook covering the next 40 years. Participants came from such bodies as the Met Office and EDF who dealt with the possible effects of climate change to 2050.

Once again, it was stressed that these factors could not be ignored and must form part of any decisions taken by local government for the foreseeable future.

Cllr Mrs Hill was thanked for her report on this important subject. **Noted:**

**224 WDBC Strategy Group Review of Parking Charges**

Notice has been received to the effect that car-parking charges are to be reviewed at a meeting of the WDBC on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

**Resolved:** The Council to be represented by Cllrs Bleakman & Mrs Hill. Cllr Mrs Haxton offered to attend if Cllr Mrs Hill was unable to attend. Cllr Parrott would advise the Business Association of the event and attend as a member of that Group. Cllr Sampson would be present as WDBC member

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**225 Requests for Grants**

**Okehampton Community Transport – Ring & Ride.**

**Resolved:** Refer to Finance Committee

**226 Memorial Garden**

Mrs J. Anderson submits cost of plants, compost etc for maintenance of the memorial garden.

**Resolved:** Approved for payment

**ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

**227 Environment Group Report**

a) In the absence of Cllr Coombe, it was reported that the water butts on the memorial garden had been installed. **Noted**

b) **Cross Tree Site.**

The Cross Tree area is in need of attention and leaf clearance before the Remembrance service on Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolved:** The environment group to meet on site at 2pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November to clear the site.

c) **Woodland Trust Tree Donation**

Following an advertisement by the Woodland Trust in July, the Chairman had registered the Council's interest in acquiring trees which were being given free of charge. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had just received an e-mail indicating that 60 shrubs/trees had been allocated and these would be arriving the following day. In view of the fact that the top of the Devon Bank had been eroded away in Jubilee Field, it was decided the environment group should consider how the trees were to be used.

**Resolved:** The Environment Group to report to the December meeting.

**Matters arising from previous Meetings**

**228 Provision of additional Grit Bins (Min 199 a) ii Refers) – Clerk**

An e-mail received from Highways Department re the provision of additional grit bins indicated that they were unable to supply and fill any additional bins. The Council had made a request for extra bins and identified sites where they were needed following an invitation from Cllr McInnes to do so. It has also been noted that no road salt has been deposited on Waye Hill and this usual occurrence has obviously been overlooked.

**Resolved:** i) The Clerk to e-mail the Highways Department thanking them for their reply and reminding them of their previous commitment to supply a new bin at Nattadon Road and replace the damaged bin at Grammers Lane; the email to be copied to Cllr McInnes. ii) The clerk to advise Highways of their failure to supply salt bags at Waye Hill

**229 Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge**

The Clerk reported that only the owners of land could apply for registry to be considered to be a QEII field. That being the case' she referred the matter to the Trustees of O'er Hill; forwarded the details obtained, in order that they could determine whether they wished to proceed. **Noted:**

**230 Public Convenience Inspection Reports**

Cllr Bleakman drew attention once again to the rank armour in the gent's loo, probably arising from the floor. Cleaning still appeared to comprise of drenching the floor with a bucket of water. The cleaner has been observed using a very inadequate mop to dry the floor that invariably, was left very wet. The amount of time spent for cleaning was minimal and clearly insufficient. It had also been noted that that the ladies loo floor was completely dry indicating that it had probably not been cleaned.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to notify the WDBC that there appears to be no quality control where this service is concerned and to ask for a copy of the specification issued to the Contractor for tender.

**231 Jubilee Field Inspection Report**

Cllr Bleakman remarked that Mr Pell had made an excellent job of cutting the car park hedge.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to thank Mr Pell for a job well done.

**232 Exercise Watermark**

A national flood exercise is to take place in March 2011 and communities are advised to validate their flood plans and register to participate. A community pack has been produced to assist planning a response.

**Resolved:** Refer to environment group.

**CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**233 Chagford Bulletin** (Min 207 Refers)

Cllr Bleakman was happy to report that the Chagford Bulletin has been revived by a team of volunteers and it is hoped the first publication will take place by the end of November. **Noted:**

**234 Service of Remembrance**

Members were advised that they were required to inform the Clerk if they intended to attend the Remembrance Day Service and to meet at Cross Tree at 10.40am to process to the war memorial. The service would be followed by coffee at Endecott House.

**Noted.**

**235 Chief Executive WDBC**

Mr David Incoll outgoing chief executive of WDBC and South Hams District Council is to retire on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010. During his stewardship the combined services have saved more than £1.5million in 3 years and been measured among the top 20 of 350 councils in the country this year.

**Resolved:** The Clerk to write to Mr Incoll expressing the Council's sincere appreciation of the support and encouragement received during his 12 years of service and wishing him well in his retirement.

**CORRESPONDENCE & E-MAILS RECEIVED**

**236 WDBC – Supplies of Rock Salt**

Details received of rock salt suppliers for parish council purchases

**Resolved:** To be referred to the environment group.

**237 Chagford Recreational Trust**

Letter of thanks received for installation of dog bin. **Noted:**

**238 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were approved for payment

		£
a)	Direct Debit – Talk Talk – Broadband Services	40.24
b)	3440 Royal British Legion – poppy wreath (Min 208c refers)	25.00
c)	3441 Mrs P. Stone – October salary	719.55
d)	3442 Mrs P. Stone – October post; electric; computer	31.74
e)	3443 Mr B. Pell – Jubilee Field Maintenance 07/10	260.00
f)	3444 WDBC – empty 1 litter bin 1/4/10 – 30/9/19	48.27
g)	3445 WDBC – empty 7 dog bins – 1/4/10 – 30/9/10	285.95
h)	3446 Mrs J. Anderson – plants and materials for Memorial Garden	30.00
i)	3447 Mr J. Messling – repairs to gates and fencing Jubilee Field	100.00

**239 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED**

The following publications were made available to Members

- a) West Devon Community & Voluntary Newsletter – Autumn 2010
- b) Senior Council for Devon – Everyone’s Tomorrow – October 2010.
- c) Teignbridge CAB – Annual Report 2009/10.
- d) The Standards Committee – Agenda 26/10/10.
- e) The Playing Field – Autumn 2010.

**240 Part 11 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)**

**241 Jubilee Park Hedge/Fence Tender** (Min 198a refers)

**Resolved:** To defer consideration of the tenders to permit further consideration of the nature of the hedge and the extent of the work required.

**The meeting ended at 9.35**  
Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....