

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday, January 14th 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Geering; Mrs Haxton;
Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Parrott;Perryman (after Min 287); Sampson.

In Attendance Ms Lemieux and the Clerk, Mrs Stone

Apologies for Absence were received from Ms Thorn.

286 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are reminded to declare any personal or pecuniary interest they may have in any item on this Agenda.

- a) Cllr Bleakman declared an interest in Min 288
- b) Cllr Geering declared an interest in Min 296a
- c) Cllr Mrs Haxton declared an interest in Min 294b
- d) Cllr Jeffreys declared an interest in Min 294b
- e) Cllr Sampson declared an interest in Min 294c

287 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 10th December 2007 were confirmed as a true record subject to an amendment in Min 263d, line 1 of the Resolution to read four reasons instead of two

URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION.

288 Standing orders were suspended to permit Ms Lemieux to report on the condition of the willow shelter in the Jubilee Playing Field.

Following complaints from the Parish Council about the serious state of the willow shelter, Ms Lemieux attended the meeting to state that the situation was being taken in hand and the current problem arose from the dry season experienced when the shelter was planted. She also stated that some of the young people were keen to assist in the recovery.

Resolved: To review the situation in the coming months after the willow had had time to thicken up.

Standing orders were resumed at this point.

289 HM Courts Service

A letter received from the Bench Chairman, Mary Seaton, indicated an overwhelming interest has been shown in their invitation for Chairpersons to attend the Court for an introduction to services rendered. The Courts Service is now proposing to attempt visits to various Councils later in the year. **Noted:**

MATTERS ARISING

290 Registrar Services (Min 202 refers)

Cllr Sampson informed the Council that this matter has been raised by the West Devon Borough Council with the Devon County Council who do not appear to realise the difficulties being experienced by persons needing to use the service. DCC Councillor McInnis is persevering at County level, in an attempt to secure an improvement in the service.

Resolved: i) To review the situation in March and ii) invite the WDBC Chief Executive, Mr. Incoll, to report on the matter at the Parish Assembly Meeting in April.

291 DEFRA – Ways to Tackle Climate Change (Min 261 refers)

Deferred from December meeting. In light of further consultations about to take place it was **Resolved:** To place the item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

292 Unauthorised Signs on the Public Highway

Ms Sue Kendall is to call a meeting of the Business Association but it is understood she has already spoken to various Members concerning unauthorised display boards on pavements. Unfortunately this has met with little or no response, nor have informal approaches made by the National Park Authority or the Highways Department. Attention was drawn to a new large Menu board on the wall of the Globe Inn; graffiti signs sprayed on the highways signs at Chagford Bridge and large number of plastic dog fouling signs at Cross Tree. The latter are not the official signs displayed by the dog warden.

At this point, attention was drawn to Cllr Davies kind offer to monitor and report on the dog fouling problem and his liaison with the dog warden in an attempt to improve the current situation. He was thanked for his endeavours and invited to keep the Council informed of his progress.

Resolved: Cllr Parrott to advise Ms Kendall that more serious action is required with regard to pavement signs; ii) the Planning Officer to be consulted about the sign at the Globe Inn; iii) Cllr Davies to post a notice in the Bulletin and report again to the Council next Month iv) Highways to be advised that informal requests to remove signs from the pavement has not been successful to date.

Arising: Cllr Perryman's inspection of the supposed dog fouling in the Jubilee Field proved to be fox excrement.

293 Gas Main Installation

Serious concern was expressed at the considerable deterioration of the road surface at Adley Lane caused by the increase of diverted heavy traffic. It was also reported that the traffic sign at Sands Gate needs to be moved further back from the junction to allow more time for traffic to approach the junction correctly. In addition, the quality of the traffic signs is in question as it is obvious that they are not standing up to the extreme weather conditions.

Resolved: The Clerk to inform the Highways Department of these matters.

COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

294 Planning Inspection Group

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the planning Inspection group meeting held on 10th January 2008 and attended by Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Davies; Jeffreys and Parrott.

a) 0982/07 Pound Meadow, New Street, Chagford

Demolition of part of a granite field boundary wall to widen the existing gateway to allow access for agricultural vehicles.

Resolved: No objection: In coming to this decision, the Council has accepted that for the proper management of this agricultural field it is necessary to gain access for a tractor and trailer. There being no other legal access, this is sufficient reason to allow the removal of the minimum length of wall.

(Cllrs Mrs Haxton and Jeffreys declared an interest in the following item and took no part in this recommendation)

b) 1009/07 Northfield House, Chagford

Proposed construction of a new garage

Resolved: No objection

Cllr Sampson declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

c) **0001/08 26, The Square, Chagford**

Proposed reinstate previously demolished chimney on end elevation

Resolved: No objection

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the planning inspection group meeting held on 9th January 2008 attended by Cllrs Bleakman(Chairman); Davies; Jeffreys and Parrott.

d) **0004/08 Princeps, Manor Road, Chagford**

Proposed link extension between dwelling and annexe and alterations to garage.

Resolved: -No objection.

295 Enforcement Notice Ref: ENF/0255/07 – Land at Middle Drewston Farm, Chagford

Regarding: Unauthorised building works, including construction of a large mono-pitched shed and a lean-to barn extension with domestic appearance. Notice received that the action has been withdrawn following an application being received. **Noted:**

296 Grants of Conditional Planning Permission – Noted

Cllr Geering drew attention to his interest in the following item

a) **0862/07 Broadalls Farm, Chagford**

Proposed demolition of two existing buildings and erection of livestock building (252sqm)

b) **0866/07 Chagford Primary School, Chagford**

Proposed replacement of outbuilding with store and bike shelter.

c) **0860/07 5, Rivervale Close, Chagford**

Proposed addition of new porch roof and removal of existing entrance balustrade.

d) **0901/07 Proper Job, Crannafords Business Park, Chagford**

Proposed photovoltaic array on covered slate roof

297 Refusal of Planning Permission

0776/07 18, Orchard Meadow, Chagford

Proposed end of terrace, three bedroom house. **Noted.**

298 Chagford Conservation Area - Tree Works – Millaton House, Chagford

Proposed felling semi mature spruce (Norway Maple)

Resolved: Since it was not clear from the plan which tree was to be felled the Clerk was requested to seek further information and report to the next meeting.

299 Financial Matters

a) To report that the WDBC grant received in the sum of £1,551.00 was an interim sum and further monies will follow. (Min 272e refers) **Noted:**

b) **Whiddon Parishes**

Request for funding for churchyard maintenance

Resolved: Refer to the Finance Committee

300 Public Convenience Report

The Clerk reported that she had received information from the WDBC that they had received assurances from the Ring of Bells that the loos would now be locked at night on a regular basis. The electric lighting timing was now being controlled by a photoelectric cell. **Noted:**

Arising: Cllr Davies, however, reported speaking to the cleaners at 7.30am on Saturday morning, when the loos were found to be in a very bad state because they were not locked and the hand wash was unusable. The cleaners indicated that they would make a special call if they were found in a bad state at any time.

Resolved: The Clerk to speak to Client Services about the current situation.

301 Jubilee Park Inspection Report

Cllr Geering was able to report that apart from some items still outstanding, the top hedge needs cutting back and the swing chains are showing signs of wear. 2 small bags

of litter were collected and the litter bin had been emptied. There was much evidence of mole activity in the banks and the health centre hedge continues to be a problem, not least because the litter accumulating beneath the hedge, cannot be reached properly.

Resolved: i) The Clerk to invite Mr. Brackenbury to assist with mole clearance; ii) 2 litter pick sticks be purchased to reach litter otherwise unobtainable.

302 Environment Committee

- a) Reports were received of animals straying from a field in Westcott area, opposite Linden Spinney. It was noticed that the field hedge was not in good repair. The Clerk expressed concern to the owner of the animals in view of the increased traffic on the diversion route and the need to avoid fatalities.

Resolved: The Clerk to inform the Highways Department of the problem and invite them to inspect the hedge.

- b) To report unsatisfactory conditions left by children in skate park and further deterioration of willow shelter.

Resolved: i) The Youth Group to be approached concerning their original promise to keep the skate park clean; ii) To discuss the condition of the willow shelter (see Min 288 above)

- c) Cllr Mrs Hill expressed concern that the rural skip service might not be able to access the car park in February as planned.

Resolved: The Clerk to draw Waste Management's attention to the difficulties of access during the road works.

- d) Turn Lake Leat is frequently overflowing in New Street, caused by the excessive amount of rain experienced recently and the sand traps rapidly filling up. Mr. Palmer recently cleared the sand trap at Long Park, but the problem is arising further up the line with large quantities of sand being carried down with the heavy rains.

Resolved: To discuss the problem with the Conservation Group and seek their assistance.

303 Chagford Business Association

When questioned, Cllr Parrott indicated that an account for the Christmas trees and lighting would soon follow from the Business Association. The Council was also informed that a further meeting was being arranged before the next Council Meeting. It was requested that the Business Association might like to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss possible liaison on various issues. **Noted:**

304 Clerk/Chairman's Report

- a) Empty Property – Valley View, Chagford

A recommendation was received that a property that has remained empty in Valley View for a number of years should be referred to the WDBC with a request that it might be acquired and used for rental purposes. It was recognised that the disposal of such property was in the hands of the Treasury Solicitor. In the meantime an increase in the number of rats in the area has been noticed.

Resolved: The Clerk to speak to the Environment Officer concerning pest control.

- b) **Workshop Unit, Easton Cross**

DNP report there is no obvious evidence that the workshop unit at Easton Cross is being used for residential purposes. **Noted:**

- c) **Chagford Allotments**

The Chairman as in receipt of copy correspondence, not addressed to the Council, from persons interested in acquiring part of the Allotment land and the provision of an alternative piece of land for allotments for the purpose of building a retirement home for the elderly.

Resolved: Since there is no serious proposal to consider the matter should lay on the table.

d) Vexacious Caller

The Chairman and Clerk informed the meeting that a vexacious caller is making numerous telephone calls in an endeavour to influence Council decisions. He has been advised to express his views in writing for the full Council consideration and report.

Noted:

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVE

305 Whiddon Parishes – Tinnens Fair 3rd May 2008

Details received of proposal to hold a Tinnens' Fair on 3rd May 2008. The fair will involve numerous stalls on various sites around the churchyard and other public areas, including a possible plant stall on Cross Tree for which the Parish Council permission is needed. It is hoped the Parish Council might contribute funds for the proceedings. The view was expressed that in principle the Council would wish to be helpful and would not object to a plant stall on Cross Tree. However, current funds are restricted in view of major expenditures currently budgeted for. Further details are required for consideration before any firm decision can be made.

Resolved: The Clerk to request more information and place the matter on the Agenda of the February meeting.

b) WDBC

Notice received from WDBC re Government Reduction in Rural Funding. This matter was considered to have serious implications and needed further consultation.

Resolved: The Clerk to copy the paper for circulation to all members and discussion to follow at the next meeting.

c) Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – Road Closures.

Attention drawn to new proposals for road closures for "Special Events". **Noted:**

d) Devon Countryside Access Forum

Recruiting New Members – Applications to be in by 29th February 2008.

Resolved: The details to be posted on the notice board.

306 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were approved for payment

a)	3055	Audit Commission – Audit fee for 2007	470.00
b)	3056	Chagford Jubilee Hall – Hire of Hall for Parish Design Meeting.	36.00
c)		Direct Debit – Broadband Services	37.15
d)	3057	Mrs P Stone – December salary	657.53
e)	3058	Mrs P. Stone – December post; electric; computer	26.64
f)		Direct Debit – BT Telephone account	50.97

307 PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- a) DNP Agendas 11th January 2008.
- b) NALC – Community Empowerment Awards
- c) Local Council Review – January 2008.
- d) DCC Adult Community Learning Services
- e) Devon in Touch – Monthly News Round-up December/January 2008.
- f) Devon Talk - Winter 2007.
- g) SW Protected Landscapes – Calendar 2008.
- h) Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2008.
- i) DAPC Newsletter – Jan/Feb 2008.

j) DCC Trading Standards Service – Information and Advice 24/7

The Meeting Closed at 9.37pm
Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....