

**.Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Chagford Parish Council
held at Endecott House on Monday, 14th March 2011 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Bleakman (Chairman); Coombe; Davies; Mrs Haxton; Mrs Hill; Jeffreys; Mrs Milton; Perryman (after Min 355); Ms Thorn; Mr. M Date and 1 member of the public
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Geering; Parrott; Sampson

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs Stone.

354 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Coombe declared an interest in Mins 385 a&b.

355 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 14th February 2011 were confirmed as a true record subject to a spelling correction to the name of Mr Adnitt in Min 324

356 Visit by Mr M Date, DNPA Member

The Chairman welcomed Mr M Date to the meeting and proceeded to introduce members of the Council. Mr Date, a member of the Dartmoor National Park Authority thanked the Council for the opportunity given to him to address issues arising from the impact of current budget cuts. He stated that the 21½% reduction in the DNPA budget to date, plus the uncertainty of the effects of inflation had led to a reduction in full time staff from 104 to 70. Some valuable and long standing officers had taken early retirement or redundancy. Volunteers from associations such as the Dartmoor Preservation Association and the Dartmoor Society were helping to “bridge the gap”. Measures being considered to offset the financial shortfall included charges for car parking and letting spare office space not being occupied by the reduced numbers of staff. Reduced staffing levels are resulting in reduced income for pension benefits. A recent DEFRA questionnaire produced a low response but the results indicated there are too many members of the DNPA (currently 22). It was suggested that 14 would be adequate.

Mr Date touched on the subject of election of Parish representatives and suggested that it was not in the Parish interest to elect them on the basis of presenting a CV but that it would be more democratic for Parishes to interview prospective candidates at their meetings before opting for their choice of candidate.

Planning plays a major part of the DNPA activities for which they receive 90% of the revenue of application fees. He stressed the importance of Parishes giving positive views to support the recommendations made by Parish Councils.

The Chairman thanked Mr Date for the interesting information which has been **Noted:**

MATTERS ARISING

357 Royal Wedding (Mins 291; 319 refer)

Arrangements for the beacon to be lit on Meldon for the Royal Wedding celebrations on April 29th is to be organised by Cllr Coombe; Cllr Mrs Hill and Peter Rich (National Park ranger) under the direction of Cllr Perryman. Attention was drawn to the need for advertisements for the event.

Resolved: i) The beacon to be lit by a couple who are to be married the following day;
ii) the event to be advertised in the bulletin.

358 Community Safety Forum (Min 318 refers)

Cllr Ms Thorn informed the meeting that the safety forum she attended on 10th February at Ivybridge, was a very interesting meeting. The discussions gave an insight in how the

partnership worked with people through neighbourhood watch; the alcohol abuse programme; domestic violence support and anti social behaviour measures. **Noted:**

359 Police Authority Conference – circulated.

Cllrs Mrs Haxton and Davies expressed disappointment with the organisation of the Police Authority Conference held at the Exeter Conference Centre on 16th February 2011. The venue and the sound system were inadequate but the workshops worked well. The Chairman (Mike Bull) raised objections to the pending Police Reform. He made the point that all 19 members (10 Councillors & 9 independent local people) of their Police Authority did not support this bill.

Workshop topics concerned i) raising public confidence; ii) improving police performance; iii) achieving value for money and listening and responding to communities.

At the very end of the day, each delegate was given an electronic score pad to enable immediate feedback on key issues during the day. It appeared to astonish members of the Police Authority that 29% of the delegates supported the new Police Reform Bill before Parliament, 55% did not and there were 16% undecided.

Delegates were informed that a full feedback report would be made available to Parish Clerks within two weeks. In spite of the Clerk's telephoned enquiries, no such report was received. **Noted:**

360 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

There were no Cllrs Questions.

GROUP/REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLANNING MANAGEMENT

361 Development Control Matters

Cllr Bleakman reported the recommendations of the planning inspection meeting held on the 11th March 2011 and attended by Cllrs Bleakman and Jeffreys

0090/11 4 Valley View, Chagford

Proposed alterations to existing house to form a second storey.

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

- 1 Valley View is a small development of bungalows and a single storey church on the rising ground to the south east of the river Teign. It is the opinion of the Council that the addition of a second storey to this property will destroy the overall scale and layout of this area of Chagford and seriously diminish the quality of the vista of the town when viewed from the river footpath.
- 2 The proposed first floor windows in the south east and south west elevations will cause a serious loss of amenity (privacy) currently enjoyed by several properties in Lower and Southcombe Streets and particularly 10 Southcombe Street where both windows and the garden will be overlooked.

As such the Council is of the opinion that the application fails to satisfy the conditions of DNPA Core Policies COR 3 & COR4 section a)

362 DNPA Local Development Framework – Draft Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

Cllr Bleakman gave a preliminary report on the design guide but indicated that a further perusal was necessary to enable a report to be made before 21st April 2011

Resolved: This item to be placed on the April Agenda.

363 DNPA Sites of Historic Setting Category (Mins 256; 326 refer)

A letter received from the Historic Buildings Officer stated that a full report on this subject would be forwarded soon. **Noted:**

364 On Street Parking (Min 323 refers)

Cllr Bleakman explained concerns of the residents of Manor Drive expressed at a meeting with 3 representatives of the Council at a meeting held on 7th March 2011. The Chairman clarified the meaning of “Legal Obstruction” as provided by PC Wilson who was unable to be present.

The residents are concerned at difficulties being experienced by delivery lorries and the Refuse Collection lorries and the need for clear access for emergency vehicles.

Following a lengthy discussion, the resolution of the meeting was;-

1. That the Parish Council should be asked to apply to have Manor Drive included in the Restricted Parking Zone.
2. To convey to the WDBC Ward Member the general consensus of the meeting that the car park should be free, hence encouraging the working population to make use of the car park
3. To inform the Business Association the wishes of the residents of Manor Drive that their employees should be discouraged from parking along Manor Drive but should make use of the car park.

Resolved: The Clerk to invite a representative of the Highways Department to meet the Council to further the proposals.

GENERAL PURPOSES & POLICY MATTERS

New Policies – Policy Consultation Documents forwarded for consideration

365 NALC - A Community Right to Challenge

This is part of a Government attempt to shift power from Whitehall to local Councils. It enables bodies to express an interest in taking on services where it is appropriate to do so. The consultation opened on the 4th February and closes on 3rd May. Councils are urged to respond by 26th April 2011. Cllr Mrs Hill drew attention to this topic being discussed at the next DALC meeting on 21st March 2011.

Resolved: Cllr Mrs Hill to report the outcome of the next DALC meeting prior to a response being submitted

366 NALC – A Community Right to Buy Assets of Community Value

Communities are to be given the Right to Buy assets and facilities that are important to them such as shops; a library; a children’s centre; or perhaps the last remaining pub. Council views are sought before 26th April 2011.

Resolved: To await a report of the next DALC meeting before making a response.

367 Removal of Rural Skip Service

A letter received from DCC County Waste Manager gives notice of the termination of the rural skip service from 31st March 2011. DCC notices have been placed in the car park, however it was considered necessary to give further coverage to the matter.

Resolved: The Bulletin to be informed.

368 WDBC Parking Strategy

The WDBC parking strategy meeting held on 2nd March 2011 was attended by Cllrs Bleakman; Davies and Mrs Hill. The meeting concentrated on ways to increase the use of car parks without reducing costs to encourage more usage. There was little support from local business interests but attention was drawn to the efforts of Tavistock and Okehampton Business Associations who were promoting a “free after three” initiative

Hatherleigh Council is considering taking over the responsibility of managing their car park with the intention of removing all charges. What was not clear was how they are to reimburse the WDBC for car park maintenance.

The next meeting of the strategy group will be held early in June. **Noted:**

369 Eastern Link

Cllr Mrs Hill circulated a report of the East Link meeting held on 3rd March 2011 which dealt with such matters as the closure of Supply Zone and the recent crime statistics. Inspector Perry gave details of the Police reform which will see a reduction from four to three Inspectors for this area. The Police will be divided into three hubs, Crime, Response and Local Policing. Final details of the Police Reform will be released after 16th March.

The Chief Executive of WDBC gave a report on the proposed changes at West Devon. Some of the greatest savings as a result of budget cuts will be a greater convergence of services with more shared services at Officer level. The WDBC are undergoing a management review and are reducing the four directors to two and the 15 heads of service to 7.

The DCC budget has been cut by £55million creating an impact on the Youth service; School transport and the school meal subsidy. There is to be a reduction in the subsidised bus services and the Transport Officer will circulate the routes which are to be affected. **Noted:**

FINANCIAL MATTERS

370 Cllr Mrs Hill gave details of the Finance Group meeting held on 3rd March 2011 and reported that an account from the WDBC in respect of lido cleaning has not been received as yet.

The Clerk has obtained estimates of costs of printing the Parish Assembly Minutes and reports and these reflect a saving from previous years.

New regulations require all Councils to register employees with the HM Revenue and Customs for PAYE and National Insurance Contributions. The South Hams District Council has offered to provide a management service in this respect at a cost of £100 per annum to include provision of payslips and end of year returns.

The Royal Wedding beacon will require funds to meet expenses.

The Group continues to consider the need for the provision of a new burial ground and the need to replace some of the play equipment.

Resolved: i) To ring fence the sum of £400 for the beacon expenses; ii) To accept the offer of pay roll management from the South Hams District Council; iii) to approve payment of £3 postage to DALC for the provision of Good Councillor Guide booklets.

371 Provision of Broadband and Telephone Services – (Min 340 refers)

The Clerk circulated details of terms offered by BT for the provision of telephone and broadband services. The use of line rental and broadband services to cost £29.60 per month inclusive of free anytime calls including 0845 and 0870 numbers. A contract to run for 18 months. The first three months rental to be free of charge. The service to be activated on 22nd March. **Noted:**

72 Audit Commission – Appointment of Auditor

The Audit Commission advises that our audit service has been transferred to Stafford for 2010/11. **Noted:**

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

373 Jubilee Park Inspection Report

Cllr Mrs Haxton gave a good report of the condition of the Jubilee Park and stated it was being well used. It was particularly pleasant to see the spring flowers especially the snowdrops planted by Cllr Perryman. **Noted:**

374 Public Convenience Inspection Report

Cllr Mrs Haxton reported the public conveniences were satisfactory. **Noted:**

375 WDBC Toilet Review (Mins 301a; 333 refer)

Cllrs Bleakman; Davies and Mrs Hill met with representatives of the WDBC on 2nd March 2011 at the Tavistock Offices. It was a constructive meeting during which Chagford offered to make an increased contribution (£400) towards the maintenance of the loos. In addition it was proposed that a joint working group should be formed to consider the future maintenance and improvement of the toilets with appropriate sharing of costs.

The WDBC Officers are to refer the Chagford proposals to the next Committee meeting and report the outcome in due course.

Resolved: To await the report from WDBC

376 Macnamara seat (Mins 305; 335 refer)

Cllr Perryman visited the site of the seat in question and spoke to the farmer of the adjoining land. It became obvious that the seat was beyond repair.

Resolved: To abandon the seat, particularly in view of the new seat situated on Meldon provided by Moorcare.

377 Provision of additional grit bins (Mins 289; 228; 250a; 334 refer)

Cllr Coombe was pleased to report that the 5 grit bins provided by Cllr McInnes were now in situ. The larger bin at Nattadon Road is being swapped for the smaller one at the Catholic Church. The new bins are sited at Crossways; Thorn; Waye Hill; Washford and West Withecombe. Cllr Coombe was advised that the Council should make a request for a further allocation of bins in June.

Resolved: To place this item on the May Agenda.

378 Damage to skate board Park Bank (Min 336 refers)

The Chairman reported that some of the young people concerned with the damage to the skate park hedge have volunteered to help with the reinstatement. A meeting will be arranged with them at Easter. **Noted:**

379 Chagford Recreational Trust – Ponies on War Memorial Playing Field (Min 338 refers)

The Rec Trust has not provided the details and map requested to date.

Resolved: To defer until the details are received.

380 Chagford Leat

In the absence of Cllr Sampson, Cllr Mrs Hill had been entrusted to raise the matter of the dormant Leat Committee. It was agreed this is a matter for discussion with Parishioners.

Resolved: To arrange an open meeting after the election, which is to take place on May 5th 2011.

381 DNPA Sustainable Travel Workshop

e-mail received of details of sustainable travel workshop to be held at Parke on 17th March 2011 from 9.45am to 4pm

Resolved: Persons wishing to attend to notify the Clerk.

CLERK/CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

382 Carillion Telent – Road Closure Notice Min 340 refers)

The Clerk reported that attempts to obtain firm details of the proposed road closure in Lower Street and Southcombe Street in May had met with conflicting responses from Carillion Telent and the Highways Department.

Resolved: In view of the arrangements that will need to be undertaken to ensure traffic movement through the Town, Cllr Mc Innes be asked to speak to the Highways Department to clarify the situation.

383 Arrangements for the Parish Assembly Meeting

Cllrs agreed a duty programme for accommodating the Parish Assembly meeting.

Noted

CORRESPONDENCE/e-mails received

384 WDBC – Neighbourhood Watch Forum

Invitation received for participation in Neighbourhood Watch Forum to be held at the Watermark Centre, Ivybridge on Tuesday, 12th April 2011.

Resolved: Cllrs wishing to attend to notify the Clerk

Cllr Coombe declared an interest in the following two items and left the room

385 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

a) Draft Corporate Plan (2011/12 – 2013/14) Consultation

Resolved: The plan to be appraised by Cllrs Bleakman; Mrs Haxton and Mrs Hill.

b) Risk Assessment Exercise

Notice received of an exercise to take place at the Three Crowns Hotel on 16th March 2011 **Noted:**

Cllr Coombe returned to the meeting at this point

386 WDBC – Playground Funding

Advice received regarding a national programme of sponsored regeneration of play areas. Five local areas will be given a chance to win a renovation bursary of up to £15,000.

Resolved: The Council to forward an application for consideration.

387 Wales & West Utilities – Stakeholder Workshop.

Invitation received to attend a Stakeholder workshop at St. Mellion Resort on 24th March 2011 from 9.30am to 2.30pm. **Noted:**

388 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

£

The following accounts were approved for payment

a)	3466	Mrs P Stone – February salary	719.55
b)	3467	Mrs P Stone – February post; electric; computer	36.31
c)	3468	Cllr Bleakman – travel expenses to Planning conference	26.40
d)	3469	Cllr Jeffreys – travel expenses to Okehampton Police meeting	10.32
e)	3470	Cllr Davies – travel expenses to Police Authority Conference 16/2/11	34.45
f)	3471	DALC – postal charge for Good Councillor Guide leaflets	3.00
g)	3472	DALC – Conference fee – “making it work locally”	12.00
h)	3473	Cllr T Bleakman – Balance Chairman’s Allowance	100.00
i)	3474	Neat Ideas – toner for copier; minute folder; tippex	114.78
j)		Direct Debit – Talk Talk – broadband services (received 10.03.11)	34.26

389 PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RECEIVED

The following publications were made available to Members

a) DNPA – Agendas 4th March 2011

- b) Came & Co – Parish Council Insurance – Spring 2011
- c) DLC Newsletter – Mar/Apr 2011.
- d) Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2011.
- e) The Standards Committee – Agenda for 8th March 2011.
- f) Village Green – Spring 2011.
- g) S Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership – February 2011
- h) NHS 24/7 News update.

The Meeting Closed at 10.15pm
Confirmation of the Minutes

Dated.....

Signed.....