

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 9th February 2010 commencing 7.30pm in the Sportsman's Lounge, Charfield Memorial Hall, Charfield

PRESENT

Parish Councillors: Mr M Rosher(Chairman), Mrs J Law, Mr P Patterson, Mrs Y Lloyd, Mr M Cheskin, Mrs N Newns(from 7:35) Mr P Birt, Mr R Hancock(from 8:30) **Clerk:** Ms S Bailey **Public:** Mr D Small, Ms R Sayeed

8641/10 Apologies for Absence noted & accepted from Mr Hancock who would arrive later.

8642/10 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda Mr M Cheskin commented that he would not discuss Cemex due to customer relationship.

8643/10 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Mrs J Law and seconded by Mr P Patterson and **resolved** that minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2010 are signed as a correct record after a minor amendment.

8644/10 Public Participation Mr Small & Ms Sayeed contributed information in the youth section below.

8645/10 Clerks Report on MATTERS ARISING from Previous Minutes None.

8646/10 Youth club activities with Reehana/ possibility of cleaning names on War Memorial / ideas for future of youth group in Charfield Mr M Cheskin gave an outline of how Wickwar dealt with youth in its village. The Parish Council merely grants £250 p.a. The youths have their own Hall facilities and are very successful with 2 groups meeting 3 times per week with 2 sessional workers and some attendees are from Charfield & Wotton. Youth numbers are similar to Charfield. They have one spare night for the facility.

Responding to strong Councillor concerns that the youth bus may not be returning to Charfield, Reehana agreed it was very sad and due to funding cutbacks & re-organisation which was still being reassessed. This is particularly crucial since Safer Stronger Community Groups now have youth as their priority and yet the facility has been taken away by South Glos Council. The idea of the youth group using the main hall was discussed in some detail. Mr D Small the Memorial Hall Chairman said that although the Hall Committee supported in principle the group using the Hall it had concerns that the improved facility may be abused and this would deter future bookings which were starting to improve. Also storage was a problem as well as the fact that the Brownies used it until 7pm. Facilities at the primary school were mooted as possibly being available outside school hours. It was agreed that Reehana would liaise more closely with the Memorial Hall Committee to effect a solution for the youth group in the summer months & continuity thereafter.

Mr D Small outlined a health and safety assessment undertaken for the Memorial Hall recently and also thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the improvements to the changing facilities in the Sportsman's Lounge area which would likely cost about £10,000.

Reehana Sayeed & Mr D Small left the meeting

A discussion was held on the cleaning of names on the war memorial. It was agreed that Mr M Cheskin would do a small trial area clean and report back.

Action Cllr Cheskin

8647/10 Proposed burial ground at Churchend & planning application The planning application has been registered and is now available to view on website. A few comments have been received which are available to view on line. Registration was slightly delayed due to the architect needing to supply gate details – handouts given to Councillors. It is now imperative that working group meetings are held to discuss both the fee structure and the proposed regulations. It was agreed to meet at the Tavern informally on Wednesday 3rd March 6:30pm to discuss regulation requirements.

Action all Councillors –working group

8648/10 Streetlighting trial Clerk noted that since the proposed meeting was cancelled in early January, a second meeting was held on short notice last week. The Minutes from this confirmed that the trial will formally end from June, and may then be fully adopted. Switches in lights are due to be replaced over the next few weeks. A representative will speak at the Annual Parish meeting on 27th April. Next streetlighting update with South Glos Council will be on Tuesday 13th July.

8649/10 Play area working group / toddler area design Jane's Pond promised the plans in January however they were delayed – they were supposed to arrive in post last week but have not; the Clerk passed around small A4 copies after e-mailing the plans to Councillors. The general thought is that the design does not meet the brief given and a meeting is

needed urgently so that the timescales already tight do not falter completely. Clerk to reply highlighting the following points:

- The Parish Council is particularly underwhelmed by the proposals and feels that they do not adhere very closely to the brief given at the meeting on 10th December. Indeed Jane's Pond e-mail of 5th January stated that they had mislaid their notes and this would be evident from the design produced. Councillors feel that it is important to meet very soon to discuss where matters have gone wrong.
- There is virtually no new play equipment apart from a dish roundabout. It was stressed that there was to still be some new play equipment but within a naturalistic setting. It is hard to see where any new play value has been introduced apart from going through a tunnel.
- The possible signal box from the wooden current slide tower is not clear since this structure is condemned with rotten wood. There is no indication of how this could be achieved or its play value.
- Jane's Pond was asked to extend the play area forward with a mound and/or planting to delineate boundary with field. This has not been done. Instead a new mound has been turned 90 degrees taking away valuable flatter play area. Also it was said that fencing on this side of the play area was not required after guidance from Michael Follett from South Glos Council who spoke to us on naturalistic play design representing the open landscape. Yet it is showing as fenced?
- Toilet block on plan is not representative of the site and needs reassessing. Also, is it safe practice to have any play facility out of sight of the toddler parents the other side of the tall mound.
- The main mound steps to existing slide which are in a poor state and dangerous to walk up when wet have not been addressed.
- Although a picnic bench was not requested it is certainly possible although one fails to see how this reflects a railway theme..... Also what is the flat concrete area in front of the picnic bench?
- What happened to the excellent idea of a speaker system through a tube echoing platform announcements which was discussed?
- Modifying the swings was discussed to incorporate a large dish swing instead of the two toddler cradle seats – what happened to this idea?
- The area behind the toilet block at the corner by the car park entrance was not part of the brief.
- It is not clear how the sand will be contained within the sleepers and also how much sand play value/quantity/space there will be?

8650/10 Attendance of Cllr Cheskin at Frome & Ladden Vale Link Group 10am Thurs 11 Feb This was proposed by Mr P Birt and seconded by Mrs N Newns and **resolved** to approve attendance.

8651/10 Update on S.Glos consultation on Little Bristol Lane traffic calming measures Mr P Birt outlined in detail a meeting held with Mouchel, Sandra O'Neill and Mark Shearman from South Glos Council which discussed the reasons for the measures and indicated that a smaller scheme may be possible with 3 tables instead of 6. After much deliberation the Parish Council has resolved to continue its objection to raised tables along Little Bristol Lane. It does support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit along this road and considers that this should be enforced with more regular police monitoring over a period of time. The Parish Council feels aggrieved that it did not know of this scheme much earlier and that it did not have an opportunity to consult with & explain to South Glos Council that there are other areas of the village such as Manor Lane and Underhill Road which also require 20mph limits and where traffic calming is more urgently required than in their proposed locations. Furthermore, the accidents cited as necessitating action have not been proven as speed related. Although Council thanks them for their efforts in meeting recently to air views, the fact remains that such a scheme should not have got this far without the knowledge and local advice of the Parish Council.

8652/10 Consideration of insured asset values prior to insurance renewal Asset register and insurance values were discussed. Various items were judged to be on the insurance schedule unnecessarily and Clerk is to obtain another quote after their removal with also the addition of the oak noticeboard. The asset register can be further discussed next meeting.

8653/10 Dog bin request for Woodlands Rd Following a resident's request for a new dog bin opposite 52 Woodlands Road and a Chadra article requesting dog bin facility in the Farm Lees area, the Clerk obtained location details of all dog bins in the village and showed councillors the map of sites, and explained the charging structure. Given the number of dog bins already, Councillors felt that this high expense was unnecessary and furthermore not in the budget for the next financial year. Clerk is requested to involve dog warden to advise on matters in Woodlands Rd.

8654/10 Discussion of a Parish Plan Due to work commitments the Chairman was unable to attend the recent Chadra meeting – another is arranged for 25th February to explain to Chadra the benefits of a Parish Plan and how the community

must be involved. Jacqui Ward from South Glos Council will speak on subject at our Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Action Chairman

8655/10 Emergency Continuity Plan (Mrs Law) – remove from agenda as advice notes not available.

8656/10 Rota for Spring Clean Day Sat 20th March 10-4pm List is now complete, clerk to e-mail confirmation to all.

8657/10 Comments on West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Pre-submission document by 1st March - no comments to be made.

8658/10 Appointment of Mr Selkirk as internal auditor on 13/14 May for a fee of £70 This appointment was proposed by Mrs N Newns and seconded by Mrs Y Lloyd and **resolved** by all.

8659/10 Approval of Clerk annual membership renewal to SLCC for £95 This renewal was proposed by Mrs N Newns and seconded by Mr M Cheskin and **resolved** by all.

8660/10 Approval FY2009/10 end Jan budget report After a request to show current bank details at the bottom of the sheet this report was proposed by Mr P Patterson and seconded by Mr M Cheskin and **resolved** by all to approve.

8661/10 Correspondence

ALCA letter explaining subscription changes and special meeting 18th March

S.Glos letter explaining Govt Draft National Policy Statement for New Nuclear Power Station at Oldbury – response deadline 22Feb

S.Glos letter requesting new contacts for voluntary litter pickers

8662/10 Items for Circulation. The following items circulated to Members including:

Newsletters eg ALCA & various other periodicals & leaflets

8663/10 Planning Applications

PT09/6110R3F Charfield Primary School – erection of shed to store childrens' play resources. After due consideration it was **resolved** to make no objection

PT09/6099/F - Land at Upper Huntingford – prior notification of the intention to erect an agricultural building for the storage of fodder & machinery. Response time expired. Previous response was submitted again.

PT10/0060/F Land Adjacent St James Church, Churchend – change of use of land from agricultural land to land for use as a burial ground. Erection of shelter and entrance gates. Formation of hardstanding. It was **resolved** to make no comment on this application however individual comments were encouraged.

8664/10 Planning Decisions noted

Permit – with conditions - PT07/0573/F Wickwar Quarry – extension of existing limestone quarry through progressive extraction in a northwards direction and associated planting & landscaping

8665/10 Reports/Notices of Meetings

Ward Councillor report - none.

Charfield Playing Field – After January's delayed play area inspection report, inspection comments were forwarded by Mrs N Newns & Mrs Y Lloyd, and then also by Mrs J Law & Mr R Hancock. The steps climbing the mound slide were noted as being slippery; this is being addressed with the redesign of the toddler play area. Next inspection Mr M Cheskin & Mr P Patterson.

Charfield Village Hall Management Committee – latest Minutes in circulation file.

Safer Stronger Community Groups Meeting 28th January at Charfield attended by Clerk & Mr P Patterson. Cllr Cheskin to chair these meetings commencing March – a very informative and well attended meeting with the fire service and police present, and also the youth group being the priority subject.

Mr M Cheskin attended the Strategic Green Infrastructure Event which was a very informative way of assessing open & green corridors in the whole area and their importance. Allotments and rain water harvesting were highly discussed.

8666/10 Accounts It was proposed by Mrs Y Lloyd and seconded by Mr R Hancock and **resolved** that the following are approved for payment:

Clerk salary & office expenses		
Charfield Memorial Hall Mgmt Committee		
Maintenance (litter) per week @ £20.00 14/1/10, 21/1/10, 28/1/10, 4/2/10,	£ 80	
Use of room 12/1/10 meeting	£ 15	
SLCC annual Clerk membership		
S Glos Council emptying dog bins 1 st Oct-31 st Dec 2 bins x 13 weeks @ £3.80		
ALCA New Cllr course Mrs J Law 4 th March Emersons Green		
GAPTC Clerk training Gloucester 'Power of Well Being' (agreed Jan mtg)		
	TOTAL	£901.69

A refund of £80 has been received from South Glos Council in respect of overpayment for burial planning application

8667/10 Items To Be Raised By Members for future agenda or minor points

none

This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at approximately 9:35 pm.

Ongoing Matters; Manor Lane Landscaping, File Storage of Deeds (action Mr M Rosher), Registration of The Pound, New Burial Ground, Streetlighting Reduction, Toddler play area revamp

Chairman

9th March 2010