

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12th January 2009 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 Mr P Birt, Mr R Hancock(from 7:35) **Clerk:** Ms S Bailey **Public:** Mr J Acton, Mr Swallow

8615/09 Apologies for Absence noted & accepted from Mrs S O'Neill

8616/09 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda none

8617/09 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Mr P Patterson and seconded by Mrs N Newns and **resolved** that minutes of meetings held on Tuesday 1st & 8th December 2009 are signed as a correct record after a minor amendment

8618/09 Public Participation Mr Swallow of Station Road gave his views on the proposed traffic calming measures in Little Bristol Lane; the use of Station Road as a rat run would be intensified; everywhere should have a 20mph limit not just Little Bristol Lane; the petition was just a few residents and not Chadra; only one of the accidents appeared major with the other two not known much about and these appear also likely to be able to happen anywhere; limit needs to be enforceable by police to have any effect. Mr Acton also commented on the potential for damage to the underside of vehicles from the sleeping tables. Other road such as outside the Garage/Railway Tavern are in more need of such calming measures as the children get off school buses and race across the road. Justification for accidents needs to be ascertained.

8619/09 Clerks Report on MATTERS ARISING from Previous Minutes Nat West has returned the bank mandate for more signatures. War Memorial to be discussed on next agenda – possible help by youths to clean names. Cllr Cheskin gave a summary of his findings when completing the Open Spaces document requested by South Glos Council and distributed his findings to all and any amendments were discussed.

8620/09 Standards Committee visit / Mr J Acton Mr Acton explained that the Committee was visiting all Parish & Town Councils to highlight the principles of the Code of Conduct and explain the role of the Standards Board. Two areas which often lead to problems are 'lack of respect for others' or discrimination, and the failure to declare personal or prejudicial interests – Mr Acton explained the difference between the latter.

A brief history was provided of the Standards Committee set up at South Glos Council in 2001, now having 15 members form originally 6 due to extra work passed back from the Standards Board and complaints being dealt with locally. From May 05 to Aug 09 there were 81 complaints against councillors and 70 were Town or Parish Councils (45 were from 3 councils). Mr Acton asked how the Standards Committee could better engage with local councillors and ideas were sought. A draft new Code of Conduct will be out shortly and new training will hopefully be available thereafter. After a few questions Mr Acton was thanked for his instruction and time.

8621/09 Proposed burial ground at Churchend & planning application fees After a brief working group meeting with architect, a final design and access statement was produced and sent to Councillors. Any amendments were discussed. Plans of proposed burial ground for the planning application were also discussed in detail and the planning process explained. Much site plan work also needs to be done after the permission is granted, however it is crucial that the application is underway as soon as possible. Therefore it is proposed by Mrs J Law and seconded by Mr P Patterson and **resolved** by all that the burial plans and design statement and application fee of £335 be approved. The architect has donated much time to this and the Parish Council are very grateful and anxious not to cause extra unnecessary work.

8622/09 Feedback from streetlighting trial initiatives Clerk has requested that a South Glos representative talk to public at the Annual Parish Meeting on 27th April. The supposed review January meeting was rescheduled by South Glos officers. Clerk has passed on request for an official end date to the trial. No new lighting complaints received.

8623/09 Play area working group / toddler area design Jane's Pond met with working group for instruction on final play design ideas 10th December. Design to be produced for February meeting approval & questions.

8624/09 Youth funding request. Motion to vire £500 from Public Enquiries budget heading After discussion the virement proposed by Mr M Cheskin was seconded by Mrs Y Lloyd and **resolved** by all. Questions were asked as to whether the youth group had an evening structure or plans for activities. Clerk to request that Reehana pops into next PC meeting. Cllr Cheskin still to follow up on ideas with Wickwar youth. *Action Cllr Cheskin*

8625/09 Attendance approval – Cllr Law at New Cllr training £25 March 2010 evening Emersons Grn, Cllr Cheskin at Green Infrastructure 18th Jan Thornbury, Clerk Power of Well Being training Gloucester 4th Feb £35, also new Cllr training 10-4 Highnam 24th Feb availability The attendance was proposed by Mr P Birt and seconded by Mr P Patterson and resolved by all.

8626/09 S.Glos consultation on Little Bristol Lane traffic calming measures The measures proposed by Mouchel were discussed in detail and it was proposed to object on the following grounds:

- a) There appears to be no justification as to why it is needed. Exactly what were the alleged accidents and how did they happen? Were they proved to be a result of driver negligence or other factors?
- b) Why did South Glos Council not approach the Parish Council when this alleged residents petition first appeared. The Parish Council had no knowledge of such a petition until approached with this consultation. The petition was also not from the Charfield Residents Association (Chadra) but a group of individuals. Surely South Glos officers should have checked facts before commencing such a costly traffic calming proposal?
- c) How has South Glos Council judged the effectiveness of such speed humps? Have they a proven track record in other areas of the country? If so where is evidence? Where is the justification for 6 ramps in such a short length of carriageway?
- d) Such drastic traffic calming measures will exacerbate any speeding problem in other areas of the village such as Manor Lane, Underhill Road and Station Road as frustrated drivers use alternative routes as a rat run, particularly past the primary school which is operating a walk to school policy.
- e) Would South Glos Council propose to allow parking on the ramps? The ramps are shown with double yellow lines thus taking up parking spaces and possibly leading to cars parking further along and increasing the amount of traffic weaving.

Charfield Parish Council supports measures to calm traffic however does not see these ramps as the solution. Also it is not clear how a 20mph restriction could be enforced. All residential areas could benefit from a 20mph restriction and not merely Little Bristol Lane.

8627/09 Spare set of keys to be cut for Main Hall at Memorial Hall for PC use £11.70 This was proposed by Mrs Y Lloyd and seconded by Mr R Hancock and resolved by all.

8628/09 Rota for Spring Clean Day Sat 20th March 10-4pm A couple of names were added to rota – more are needed and an e-mail requesting help will be sent by Clerk to all Councillors.

8629/09 Consideration of insured asset values prior to insurance renewal Asset register and values was circulated to Councillors prior to meeting. The discussions may be time-consuming and need to be reviewed by working group prior to next meeting at which insurance renewal will most likely be due.
Action Clerk/Cllr Cheskin

8630/09 Letter of support for Wotton Pool against removal of SDC funding It was agreed that the Clerk draft a letter to Stroud District Council to object to the proposed cut in funding.

8631/09 Discussion on the merits of a Parish Plan Due to work commitments the Chairman was unable to attend the recent Chadra meeting – another to be arranged soon 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

8632/09 Emergency Continuity Plan (Mrs Law) – postponed until February agenda

8633/09 Comments on West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Pre-submission document by 1st March -put into circulation file for any comments at next meeting in February

8634/09 Correspondence – none

8635/09 Items for Circulation. The following items circulated to Members including:

- Periodicals (CPRE etc), Newsletters eg Senior Citizens Forum, CVS etc
- Cricket club thank you grant letter
- Memorial Hall thank you grant letter
- Archaeology Report Churchend proposed burial ground

8636/09 Planning Applications – after due consideration it was **resolved** to make no objections to the following applications:

PT09/6045/F 2 Woodlands rd – erection of first floor link side extension over existing garage to form additional living accommodation.

PT09//5976/F 21 Station Rd – change of use of land from agricultural to include erection of detached garage with loft above and construction of new access

PT09/6011/F 41 Manor Lane, erection of two storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation

8637/09 Planning Decisions

Permit - PT09/5494/F Piggery Churchend – installation of 1 no. roof light. Installation of 1 no. wooden framed window on east elevation

Refusal - PT09/5526/F TreeTops Charfield Hill – erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and associated works – development not dense enough..... After much discussion it was agreed to write to South Glos Planning Department to complain about this decision .The design was sympathetic to the site, suited the village setting it was designed for, and would have provided sustainable living within the community. They appear to have refused this on the grounds of preferring to see a denser development of the site, namely two properties instead of one, which would have been totally out of keeping with the setting, would have lead to overcrowding of the site and would have lead also to a detrimental impact on the streetscene. We wish to know what policy or planning statements in particular were being used to refuse this application. We would like explanation of these policies in detail, and giving comparable examples of where they have refused rear garden applications due to the requirement for higher density development. Councillors need to have an understanding of approach regarding density of development and methods of interpretation of these guidelines because it will undoubtedly have an impact upon any future comments which the Parish Council may want to make regarding proposed new housing development.

Permit - PT09/5551/F Cosy Farm Swinhay Lane – change of use of buildings to residential to form additional living accommodation

Permit - PT09/5839/F 20 Hawthorn Close Erection of single storey side extension to form kitchen and utility area.

8638/09 Reports/Notices of Meetings

Ward Councillor report - none.

Charfield Playing Field – Playground Inspection Report delayed due to adverse weather conditions. Next inspection Mrs J Law & Mr R Hancock

Charfield Village Hall Management Committee, no reports have been forthcoming lately – Clerk to ascertain why.

Safer Stronger Community Groups Meeting Thursday 28th January at Charfield Memorial Hall. Cllr Cheskin to chair these meetings commencing the one after.

8639/09 Accounts It was proposed by Mrs Y Lloyd and seconded by Mr P Birt and **resolved** that the following are approved for payment:

Clerk salary & office expenses

Charfield Memorial Hall Mgmt Committee

Maintenance (litter) per week @ £20.00 10/12/09, 17/12/09, 24/12/09, 31/12/09, 07/01/10

Use of room 01/12/09 08/12/09 meetings

South Glos Council – Charfield Youth Group extra activities funding

South Glos Council Planning Application Fee for Burial Ground

TOTAL

£1688.04

8640/09 Items To Be Raised By Members for future agenda or minor points

Comments were made about the ineffectiveness of the new heaters in the Main Hall

Mr Hancock asked about the new priorities at SSCG – Clerk to re-send e-mail.

This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at approximately 9:55 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 February 2010