

# CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 commencing 7.30pm in the Sportsman's Lounge, Charfield Memorial Hall, Charfield

## **PRESENT**

**Parish Councillors:** Mr M Rosher(Chairman),Mr I Kershaw, Mr P Patterson, Mrs Y Lloyd, Mr M Cheskin, Mrs N Newns, Mr P Birt      **Clerk:** Ms S Bailey      **Public:** four

**8564/09 Apologies for Absence** noted & accepted from Mrs S O'Neill & Mr R Hancock

**8565/09 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda** none

## **8566/09 Approval of Minutes**

It was proposed by Mr P Patterson and seconded by Mr P Birt and **resolved** that minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 are signed as a correct record.

**8567/09 Public Participation** none

**8568/09 Clerks Report on MATTERS ARISING from Previous Minutes** none

**8569/09 Feedback from streetlighting trial initiatives** Mr O Jenkins, Mr A Porter & Mr M King from South Glos Council attended to give an update on streetlighting trials. Charfield was thanked for agreeing to lend itself to the trials; lessons learned during the implementation are invaluable and there has been much interest from other parish & town councils. The Avon ring road will also soon be ready to start its switch off trial. Recent problems with variance in switch off times in Charfield have been due to the technology inside the lamps and how it switched off – it was supposed to be a photocell and clock but was actually a solar cell. This led to huge variances in switch off times. The scale of the problem became apparent when the nights started getting darker earlier. A new switch is being trialled in Woodlands Rd and will be extended to the other lamps in due course (every cell needs to be replaced). Other authorities nationally appear to be doing different things regarding cell technology – there is no clear winner – it is a case of technology trying to catch up with demand. The South Glos Team promised updates on the technology which could be put on the Parish Council website. Further discussions centred on different ways of controlling the clock (electric, solar or battery) but some methods would require too much investment for the payback period to be worthwhile, and also discussions on the cost savings overall to South Glos Council. The officers were thanked for their time in attending and answering questions.

**8570/09 Cooption of new Councillor** Mrs Judith Law introduced herself to Council giving details of herself and why she wished to become a Councillor. It was proposed by Mrs N Newns and seconded by Mrs Y Lloyd and **resolved** to co-opt Mrs Law as new Councillor to replace Mr F Carling. Mrs Law was given an information pack, after signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and was welcomed to Council.

**8571/09 Kickwall / tennis court wall** No representative was available from the tennis club to discuss a wall proposal. The Parish Council may consider the possibility of building a football/kick wall ( incorporating a basketball hoop) elsewhere on the play area, once the toddler area revamp is more underway. Remove item temporarily from agenda.

**8572/09 Proposed burial ground at Churchend & planning application** An update was given by the Clerk & Chairman on the preliminary results of the field dig by Absolute Archaeology. Photographs were viewed & discussed of the trenches on site. The full report will be available in about 3 to 4 weeks. It appears that this is the administrative last hurdle for the Parish Council to negotiate before the architect can submit plans for a planning application hopefully in January. The Clerk had received a telephone call from the daughter of a lifelong parishioner, who was very ill, begging for the early completion of the burial ground.

**8573/09 Play area working group / toddler area design** The Chairman gave a recap on the recent meeting with Michael Follett (South Glos Play Advisor) and his ideas for a more naturalistic play environment eg without any fencing or railings, using sand, more planting , wooden structures, tunnelling into the Mound, etc Such projects needed designing specifically and marrying up with any required items of manufacturer's play equipment. A mixture of a naturalistic design whilst still incorporating some play equipment with a train theme is preferable and the Clerk and a Councillor met with three natural play designers last week. The more interesting prospect is Jane's Pond and after discussions on the costs and proposals and construction timeframes it was proposed by Mr P Patterson and seconded by Mr I Kershaw and **resolved** to instruct Jane's

Pond to produce a design that would match a £30,000 budget – design cost approximately £350, & that the Clerk would arrange a meeting between the designers and Councillors for final input into the area's design.

*Action Clerk arrange meeting designer/Councillors*

**8574/09 Poppy wreath /Remembrance** It was proposed by Mr P Birt and seconded by Mrs N Newns and **resolved** that the donation under S137 be £40 to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. A good turnout by the village was noted.

**8575/09 Youth funding request** A request from the youth group was submitted for £1000 to cover winter activities and also for a grant of £1800 from the start of next financial year. Much discussion centred on the use of the funds and the origination of funds from Parish Council accounts at this difficult time of the financial year ahead of the budget in 3 weeks, and also considering the other demands for parish funds. It was proposed by Mr M Cheskin and seconded by Mr M Rosher and **resolved** to grant the remainder of the contingency fund of £150 now to the youth group for winter activities. Also it must be stressed to the youth group that parents should be approached to request contributions towards activities. It is understood that a local parishioner/businessman has begun a fundraising quest to raise money for the youth group's activities. The request for next financial year's grant will be considered at the budget meeting. A motion to be put on the agenda for December was proposed by Mr M Rosher and seconded by Mr P Birt and **resolved** that from this year's budget heading Public Enquiries of £5000, £500 would be reallocated to the youth group leaving the Public Enquiries budget at £4,500. This motion would then be adjourned until the January meeting in line with Standing Orders. The Clerk was requested to find out what contributions Wickwar Parish Council made to their youth activities. *Action Clerk*

**8576/09 Visit from Standards Committee** It was agreed to invite Mr J Acton to the January Council meeting.

**8577/09 Travel mileage allowance** The payment of travel mileage to Councillors whilst carrying out their duties outside the Parish was explained. It was agreed to keep this payment at 39.9p per mile.

**8578/09 Discussion on the merits of a Parish Plan** Details were shown to Councillors and the benefits explained. Information was put into the circulation file so that Councillors could have a read before commenting at next meeting.

**8579/09 Correspondence –**

Four Towns & Vale Link Mtg Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 7:30pm Patchway / & request for Trustee members  
Parish Charter Working Group Minutes & next mtg Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 6:30pm Yate  
Potential Waste sites in Glos consultation online info

**8580/09 Items for Circulation.** The following items circulated to Members including:

Periodicals (CPRE etc)  
S.Glos Council - Parish Council Toolkit CD on Members, protocol, etc  
Newsletters eg Senior Citizens Forum, CVS etc  
Digital UK switchover outreach pack  
Letter re Forest of Avon Partnership cease  
Avon Wildlife Trust Review & Seed Appeal

**8581/09 Planning Applications**

PT09/5494/F (Piggery) Manor Farm Churchend Lane – installation of 1 no. conservation skylight and 1 no. velux window. Installation of 1 no. wooden framed window on east elevation. After due consideration Charfield Parish Council **resolved** to make no objection to this application, however the Clerk was asked to find out the terms of the original holiday let permission.

PT09/5526/F TreeTops Charfield Hill – erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and associated works. After due consideration Charfield Parish Council **resolved** to make no objection to this application.

PT09/5551/F Cosy Farm Swinhay Lane – change of use of buildings to residential to form additional living accommodation. After due consideration Charfield Parish Council **resolved** to make an observation to this application; it is deplorable that creeping development in this fashion by stealth is allowed. This property owner continues to make applications for lawfulness after the event in the hope that planning permission will be granted. At what point does the planning authority disapprove of this practice? This continues to make a mockery of the planning system by which others are supposed to abide, when such open flouting of the rules is condoned.

The Clerk was requested to chase up planning enforcement developments at Appletrees after the new wooden building was supposed to temporary to allow for the old building to be repaired.

*Action Clerk*

**8582/09 Planning Decisions** – the following permission was noted

**8583/09 Reports/Notices of Meetings**

Ward Councillor report - none.

Charfield Playing Field – Playground Inspection Report from Mr M Cheskin & Mr I Kershaw. Hedge needs trimming back around swings – Clerk to contact Memorial Hall Committee. The recent episode of fire being started by youths in the hexagonal shelter and police catching culprits & issuing ASBOS was explained. A new play inspection rota for 2010 to be issued to Councillors. *Actions Clerk.....*

Next inspection Mr P Patterson & Mr M Rosher.

Charfield Village Hall Management Committee. Latest report in circulation file.

At the Safer Stronger Groups meeting at Cromhall, funding for youth group was stressed; there may be some funding available from April now that it has been highlighted as an issue. Other issues raised were minor. Mr M Cheskin may possibly consider chairing the SSCG meeting.

**8584/09 Accounts** It was proposed by Mr P Patterson and seconded by Mrs Y Lloyd and **resolved** that the following are approved for payment:

Clerk salary & office expenses

Charfield Memorial Hall Mgmt Committee

Maintenance (litter) per week @ £20.00 15/10/09, 22/10/09, 29/10/09, 05/11/09 £ 80

Use of room 13/10/09 meeting £ 15

Smiths Plant Hire – 2 days digger for burial archaeologists – chq to S Bailey (paid by c.card)

Glos Wildlife Trust £25 annual membership

Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day-British Legion S137

Clerks' SLCC /GAPTC Networking event on 7th Dec Gloucester

South Glos Council dog bin emptying £68.40 + vat £10.26

1/7/09 to 30/09/09 £3.80 x 2 bins x 13 weeks

SLCC Regional Conference (Four Pillars Swindon) 1 day 3/12/09 £49.00 + vat £7.35

(Authorized in July but not paid until invoice arrived)

Youth Group funding grant from contingency fund

TOTAL £2929.78

**8585/09 Items To Be Raised By Members for future agenda or minor points**

The weekly car boot sale begun at the Memorial Hall may lead to car parking problems although it did not appear to be much of a success so may not become an issue.

Traffic calming measures/humps on Little Bristol Lane should be available soon for public consultation

Councillors views on making phone numbers available was gauged – consensus that such info be available via Clerk

*This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at approximately 10:03 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

8<sup>th</sup> December 2009