

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2008 commencing 7.30pm. in The Sportsmans Lounge, Charfield Memorial Hall, Charfield.

PRESENT

Parish Councillors Mr.P.Ashford (chair), Mrs.N.Newns, Mr P Birt, Mr F Carling, Mr M Rosher Mr R Hancock
Clerk Mrs S Bailey **Public** 4 members of public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Y Lloyd, Mrs S. O'Neill, Mr I Kershaw

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Mr J Acton and seconded by Mrs N Newns and resolved that minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 24th April 2007 are signed as a correct record and it was also proposed by Mr P Birt and seconded by Mrs N Newns and resolved that minutes of a Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 28th August 2007 are signed as a correct record.

2 THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr P Ashford explained the workings of the Parish Council and highlighted accomplishments over the past year. Three new councillors joined the Parish Council after local authority elections last year. Representation is continued on outside bodies such as ALCA, National Schools Foundation, School Governors, Memorial Hall Committee, and SGlos Environmental Group. Regarding planning there have been a number of contentious applications such as flats on the corner of Little Bristol Lane, building in back gardens on Wotton Road, and Cemex quarry extensions – thanks is extended to Mr J Acton for his invaluable advice concerning the latter of these. The Council is looking at the play area as a whole this year with a view to its revamp over the years to come. A strategy will be developed relating to the type of new equipment needed, its financing, and ways to combat continued vandalism. At Manor Lane the new bench, bin and noticeboard have been welcomed and are in constant use. Discussions are talking place with Chadra to provide a village map for the centre portion of the noticeboard. Good progress has been made regarding a new burial ground at Churchend after positive Tier 1 & 2 Environmental Surveys. Our thanks to the Tortworth Estate for the kind donation of this land. Exchange of documents is taking place with solicitors, and on the ground scrub clearance is beginning shortly.

3 FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK

Copies of the unaudited financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2008 were available to members and the public, along with budget information for the coming year.

The Precept for the year was £18,400 a rise of 5% over the previous year and this was largely due to burial ground investigations costing £1,800 and funds being set aside to build up a capital sum for replacement play equipment. Other income totalled £6554 and consisted mostly of vat recovered, interest income and £3570 in grants for the Manor Lane refurbishment of bench, bin and noticeboard. Other than this there has been no major spending – mostly being a ‘knuckle down’ and preparation year in anticipation of spending projects in future years. Other spending was in the form of grants to local organisations; the Memorial Hall received a grant of £3000 towards security improvements. It will also receive a grant of £3000 this coming year towards gents toilet refurbishments and new seating in the main hall.

Major spending plans over the next few years will focus on replacement play equipment (together with external fundraising) and burial grounds costs consisting of surveys, solicitors, groundworks, planning & establishment.

4 GUEST SPEAKER FROM SITA – STEPHANIE DUNN Community & Education Liaison Officer

SITA have the contract from S.Glos Council to operate the recycling, waste collection and sort-it centres. Landfill is filling at an alarming rate, with heavy fines for over production of waste. Therefore SITA has introduced the waste hierarchy:

- Prevention
- Minimisation
- Re-use
- Recycling
- Energy recovery
- Disposal

40% of waste is recycled in S.Glos which is quite good compared to Bristol at 32%, Bath at 40% and N.Somerset at 31%. There are 400 local authorities in the UK and only 60 achieve over 40% with the Lincolnshire at the top with 65%. Scotland has the worst areas. 37 councils recycle less than 20% with one at only 11%. There is tax on landfill over a certain amount of £30 per tonne along with the cost of transport and also fines. 88,000 tonnes go to

landfill each year and 66,000 tonnes are recycled. There are two transfer stations in S.Glos where waste is bulked up into 22 tonnes trucks which make 24 journeys per day. S.Glos has decided to concentrate on the prevention & minimisation strategy to reduce waste. Research shows that £500 is wasted per household in food thrown out each year. Although some waste biodegrades it produces methane when squashed & compressed and special indoor composting facilities are needed – SITA are trying to get permission for one at the moment. S.Glos has no plans to collect plastic bottles since these only comprise 3% of waste produced, but food waste is 40% of the average bin bag and thus is being targeted. Of our council tax per annum £95 goes on recycling. A good website called www.lovefoodhatewaste.com teaches people all about food waste.

The government is slowly providing industry with incentives to reduce packaging waste at source. Schools teach waste recycling as part of the national curriculum and Stephanie does much work with local schoolchildren at assemblies etc. The destination of recycled materials is;

- green glass to Portugal from Avonmouth
- clear glass to Doncaster or Harlow (clear becomes food jars & brown becomes Budweiser bottles)
- steel & aluminium cans to Birmingham where they are melted down and sold on the open market
- batteries to Birmingham where they are dismantled
- cardboard to South Wales large composting facility
- clothes & shoes to Birmingham where they are sorted into sizes of male/female/adults/children then shipped to Africa, 3% of clothes are unusable and are shredded & made into energy blankets
- plastic bottles fill ship return journeys to the Far East which would otherwise travel empty

The above is only a brief synopsis of a very interesting talk with many questions and answers.

5 ITEMS RAISED BY ELECTORS FOR THE PARISH.

None raised.

The chairman thanked members and residents for attending the meeting and SITA for providing an interesting report. Refreshments were enjoyed.....

This concluded the business of the meeting, which closed at 8.35p.m.

Chairman – April 2009.