

CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY 2006
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, CHAPPEL AT 7.30 P.M.

In the Chair: Cllr. Mrs. S. Chamley.
Present: Cllrs. Dr. K. Baker, Mr. C. Cordingley,
Mr. T. Crozier, Mr. N. Ingram & Mr. P. Neubauer.
Clerk: Mr. K. Butcher.
Also Present Cllr. Peter Chillingworth and ten members of the public.

06/01. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies were assumed for ECC Councillor Tony Clover.

06/0. CBC/ECC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT/POLICE BRIEFING

Cllr. Peter Chillingworth addressed the meeting and apologised for missing the previous meeting. He informed the meeting that the grant from CBC had increased approx. 11% over last year to be £3543. This was despite a cut in the budget received by CBC and increased demands to cover the increasing costs of employee pensions and waste services. It was possible that there could be some redundancies at CBC but that might be achieved via "natural wastage". A rise in Local Council Tax of about 2.5% was currently being forecast by CBC, whilst the estimate for ECC was much higher.

It was also reported that the recent planning appeal re the proposed Travellers Site at turkey Cock Lane had been refused and a new application for a different location had been made. It was confirmed that the Traveller Site at the Hythe was officially closed but had not yet been cleared of the most recent residents.

06/02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

There were no declarations.

06/03. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

It was agreed that in section 05/63 the phrase "having received a letter from the Charity commission to this effect" be deleted.

RESOLUTION 01/06. TO ACCEPT THE AMENDED MINUTES AS CORRECT.

Proposed Cllr. Baker. Seconded Cllr. Crozier. For: 5 Abstention: 1

06/04. CHAIRMAN'S BRIEFING.

Cllr. Chamley informed the meeting that the closing date for nominations to fill the vacancy for a Parish Councillor was the following day.

On Monday 16th January a joint meeting of Wakes Colne and Chappel Parish Councils was planned and it was expected that Cllr. Clover would be in attendance.

The new bank mandate had been accepted by the Alliance and Leicester Bank.

A letter had been received from D. Green informing the Council of the forthcoming Show in the Village Hall on 24th March at 7.30.

06/05. CORRESPONDENCE.

A list of all correspondence received by the Clerk had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

The Clerk gave details of a letter received from EALC that requested a resolution be passed by Council. After discussion the resolution was proposed.

RESOLUTION 02/06. ALL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL AND EALC MUST BE VIA THE CLERK, OR CHAIR OF COUNCIL, UNLESS FULL COUNCIL HAS APPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR AND EALC, FOR FACT FINDING PURPOSES ONLY.

Proposed Cllr. Neubauer. Seconded Cllr. Ingram. . For: 4 Against: 2 Cllrs. Baker and Crozier.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to EALC asking for the full detail of the Service Level Agreement.

The Clerk confirmed that all Councillors were being informed of all mail received and was asked about the level of e-mail communication received. The Clerk informed the meeting that he was receiving many e-mails, many of them being long and complex and that an excessive amount of his time was being used in replying. He considered some content of the messages received inappropriate, possibly libellous, including various unsubstantiated accusations against himself.

06/06. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

RESOLUTION 03/06. TO SIGN THE CHEQUE FOR THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PAYMENT OF RENT TO THE LEVINGS CHARITY IN THE SUM OF £115. CHEQUE NUMBER 001301.

Proposed Cllr. Chamley. Seconded Cllr. Cordingley. . For: 4 Against: 2 Cllrs. Baker and Crozier.

Other Financial matters:

An unsigned Cheque in favour of Chappel PCC in the sum of £500. (Approved at previous meeting.) Cheque number 001306.

Invoice from Village Ranger in the sum of £84. Cheque number 001307.

RESOLUTION 04/06. TO SIGN REMAINING CHEQUES FOR OTHER APPROVED PAYMENTS.

Proposed Cllr. Chamley. Seconded Cllr. Ingram . For: 5 Abstentions: 1

The Clerk reviewed the draft Budget and various amendments were agreed. The Clerk agreed to circulate the revised Draft Budget to Councillors, also the resultant suggested figures for the Precept form.

RESOLUTION 05/06. TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT BUDGET, AS AMENDED BY COUNCIL ON 11TH JANUARY 2006, AS A BASIS FOR THE PRECEPT APPLICATION FORM.

Proposed: Cllr. Chamley. Seconded: Cllr. Crozier. For: All

Arising from the discussion of the Draft Budget it was agreed that Mr. R. Barron be asked to cut the Hedge of the Parish Field, adjacent to the A1124 before the start of the official bird nesting season.

06/07. PLANNING MATTERS.

Application:

F/COL/05/2089 Holly Cottage, Popes Lane. – Alteration of First Floor Window to match existing. No concerns were expressed.

06/08. PUBLIC FORUM (*MEETING SUSPENDED*).

Mr. Sibthorpe informed the meeting that funding for the Village Appraisal had been received and thanked the Parish Council for their kind consideration of making a loan to enable the project to start. An estimated total cost of £780 was given.

A question was asked regarding a newspaper announcement that a fund-raising group had been established to raise monies to provide replacement play equipment on the Leving Land. Cllr. Ingram responded and confirmed that a properly constituted group had been established, but they were independent of the Parish Council.

Mr. Bedford expressed concern that progress with the Football Project was frustratingly slow and it was agreed that a meeting between the Football Club and Parish councillors would be planned for 1st February 2006. It was confirmed that a funding grant of £15 000 had been awarded by Colchester BC subject to match funding being raised. Cllr. Baker agreed to provide all relevant correspondence for members, and handed the matter over to the Chair and Clerk to be progressed.

06/09. MEMBER'S QUESTIONS (7 DAYS NOTICE IN WRITING TO CHAIRMAN)

Cllr. Crozier requested progress reports on four resolutions relating to:

An Audit Trail for the Millennium Green Trust. It was confirmed that a financial audit was completed by Lubbock Fine in 2001.

Ownership of the Village Green. It was confirmed that a letter regarding the formal ownership of the Green had been sent to Mr. Harvey in March 2005 but no response had been received.

Financial Accountability. The clerk confirmed that he could find no record of the Parish Council having formally adopted a set of financial regulations, that he had already taken advice and was adapting a model set of regulations to suit local circumstances and these would be presented to Council at the next meeting for consideration.

Telegraph poles used in the play equipment. It was confirmed that a letter had been received from Insurers permitting the time-constrained continued use of the current equipment. A copy of the letter would be produced and circulated as requested.

06/12. PARKING ON VILLAGE GREEN.

In view of the time and the importance of this road safety issue it was agreed that it be dealt with out of order.

The difficulties arising from traffic in Swan Street and Parking around the school were discussed. Cllr. Chamley advised Council of a meeting between herself, P.C. Alan Clothier and a representative of the Highways Department that is planned to take place on Monday 23 January.

It was pointed out that a letter relating to this issue, dated September 7th from Lloyd Simpson of ECC, had been received by Council but neither tabled or responded to. Cllr. Chamley agreed that the letter had not been tabled and apologised, but stated that she had sent a "holding" response on 12th September and would produce a copy of the response if required.

RESOLUTION 06/06. THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO ECC REQUESTING ADVICE, AND A SITE MEETING, TO RESOLVE THE ON-GOING SAFETY ISSUES RELATING TO TRAFFIC AROUND THE VILLAGE GREEN AND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Proposed: Cllr. Neubauer Seconded: Cllr. Ingram For: All

06/11. MAINTENANCE OF TRACK ON VILLAGE GREEN.

Cllr. Ingram suggested that for safety reasons remedial works should be undertaken to the track across the Village Green. Discussion ensued as to ownership of the track, the right to maintain the track and with whom the responsibility for any repairs might lay. It was agreed that quotations for costs be raised whilst responsibility was investigated.

RESOLUTION 07/06. THAT WRITTEN QUOTATIONS BE RAISED FROM THREE CONTRACTORS TO SUPPLY 18 CUBIC YARDS OF PEA SHINGLE DELIVERED TO THE VILLAGE GREEN.

Initially proposed by Chairman Chamley and rescinded after being reminded of her conflict of interest.

Proposed: Cllr. Ingram Seconded: Cllr. Neubauer. For: 4 Against: 2 (Cllrs Baker and Crozier)

It was further suggested that a meeting be arranged with Mr. Bob Jones.

06/10. TO REQUIRE MULTIPLE QUOTATIONS FOR EXPENDITURE ITEMS ONLY IN EXCESS OF £500.

In view of the intended presentation of formal financial regulation at the next meeting this item was deferred.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.25.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8TH FEBRUARY 2006.

SIGNED CHAIRMANDATE