

CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2007 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT CHAPPEL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE STREET, CHAPPEL.

In the Chair: Cllr. Mrs. S. Chamley.
Present: Cllrs. Mr. R. Belcham, Dr. K. Baker, Mr. C. Cordingley,
Mr. T. Crozier, Mr. N. Ingram & Mr. P. Neubauer.
Clerk: Mr. K. Butcher.
Also Present Mr. A. Clover, (ECC), Mr. P. Chillingworth (CBC) and six
members of the public.

07/023 PUBLIC FORUM

A request was made for more copies of the Agenda to be available for members of the public. Questions were asked relating to the speed of vehicles crossing the Village Green, and what had happened to monies raised in previous years by precept that had not been spent. Council was informed that various road signs were missing within the Village, and an expression of thanks for the new play equipment was voiced.

07/024 COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL /ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Essex County Council Councillor Tony Clover distributed copies of a letter from Jackie Millward (ECC) relating to the Village Green to all Councillors and the Clerk. Councillor Clover commented on the issue of unauthorised parking on the Village Green and informed the meeting of forthcoming site meetings at which Parish Council representation would not be allowed. He further informed the meeting that any further communications regarding VG113 between Essex County Council and Chappel Parish Council must be via himself.

Colchester Borough Council Councillor Peter Chillingworth addressed the meeting and reminded Council of the Litter Pick planned for 24th and 25th March. The current issue of "The Courier" carries an article about Planning. There is to be a meeting of M.P.'s to discuss the issue of "Deeds of Release" for Trustees of Millennium Greens countrywide.

Essex County Council Councillor Tony Clover left the meeting.

Formal Council Meeting begins.

07/025 WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The meeting commenced at 8.04 p.m. with all Councillors and six members of the public in attendance. There were no apologies for absence received.

07/026 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

07/027 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY MEETING.

The minutes were discussed.

RESOLUTION 12/07 THAT THE DULY ADJUSTED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 14TH BE ACCEPTED AS BEING A TRUE RECORD.

Proposed: Cllr. Belcham. Seconded: Cllr. Ingram. For: 5. Against: 0. Abstentions: 2.

Cllr. Baker passed a minority report to the Clerk. Cllr. Baker questioned the minute 07/017 and arising from discussion Cllr. Chamley read part of a letter she had received from Ms. Hallam at Essex County Council. The letter confirmed that the letter sent by Lloyd Simpson and dated 4th December 2006 had not been created until 9th January 2007 and was therefore fraudulent. Cllr. Chamley informed the meeting that investigations into this, and other apparent irregularities, were continuing. Cllr. Crozier was asked to tell the meeting the source of his information regarding the alleged visit of Cllr. Chamley to County Hall but declined beyond stating that it was “an unimpeachable source”.

07/028 CHAIRMAN’S BRIEFING

Cllr. Chamley informed the meeting that the new play equipment had been installed. Mr. Bernard Sibthorpe had retired as Chairman of the Village Appraisal Group and was thanked for all his hard work. A new Chairman had been appointed – Mr. Christopher Alexander.

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 11th April, and the Annual Parish Meeting on April 16th.

07/029 CORRESPONDENCE

All mail received by Clerk has been notified to Councillors. The Clerk brought four items of correspondence to the attention of Council:

Consultation on Model Code of Conduct – it was agreed that this document would circulate between Councillors.

Essex Playing Fields Association – it was agreed that Chappel Parish Council would join the Association at a subscription rate of £25 per annum.

Audit Commission re Lubbock Fine – it was agreed that no response would be made thus allowing Lubbock Fine to continue as external auditors.

Colchester Borough Council – Gender equality Scheme Consultation – it was agreed that this document would be circulated between Councillors.

07/030 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Six invoices were presented by the Clerk to be approved for payment:

Village Ranger. 15 hours work at approved rate.

Playquip Leisure Ground work to play area £255.32 + £44.68 VAT = £300

Essex Playing Fields Association – Annual membership - £25

Iain Farquharson refund - Neighbourhood Watch purchases - £70 + £5.25 VAT =£75.25

K. Butcher - Fourth Quarter Salary at agreed rate.

Colchester Borough Council - Street lighting charges - £318.02 +£55.65(VAT) = £373.67

Also approved for payment:

Just Lamps – maintenance contract – 17 lamps at £18.18 = £309.06 + £54.09 VAT = £363.15

Colchester Borough Council to repay excess grant received – £14088.

Essex Playing Fields Association – Annual subscription £25.

RESOLUTION 13/07 TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT AS LISTED, FOR PAYMENT.

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

07/031 PLANNING MATTERS:

The Clerk informed Council that application F/COL/06/2078, Elm Cottage, Spring Gardens Road had been withdrawn..

Applications F/COL/07/0331 by Mr R Price, Elm Cottage, Spring Gardens Road, a proposed single storey extension and first floor front extension had been received. This was a resubmission of application F/COL/06/2078. Council were informed that immediate neighbours were more content with this application. It was agreed that no objections be raised against the application as long as any affected neighbour had been fully consulted.

Application F/COL/07/0333 Mr/Mrs J Markwood, 1 Beechams Cottages, Spring Gardens Road –for a timber raised deck to rear of extension had been received. Council were informed that an immediate neighbour, Mr. Catchpole, had concerns about this application and it was agreed that the Clerk would make a site visit, preferably speaking with Mr. Catchpole, before submitting comment on behalf of Council.

RESOLUTION 14/07 THAT THE CLERK MAKE COMMENT TO COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL AS DIRECTED BY COUNCIL.

Proposed: Cllr. Belcham Seconded: Cllr. Baker For: All.

07/032 MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

Four questions had been received from Cllr. Baker:

1. I would be obliged if I could receive costings for the following :-

- i. Removal and disposal of creosote impregnated posts on the playing area.*
- ii. A full financial breakdown, that comprises an ongoing audit trail for the play equipment e.g. money raised and from what source, itemised costs of equipment and how expended, (I believe that cheque numbers etc., are required with full dates) a final target of money to be raised and how much is to come from a private source/sources.*

Cllr. Chamley responded saying that the posts from the Play Equipment had been removed with no cost to the Council. The Clerk had obtained cost estimates for an audit trail from the internal auditor who had indicated £75 for a trail constructed at the time of the normal audit or £100 for a “stand alone” audit trail. No decision to instruct the Auditor to proceed was taken.

2. I would like to know the date and resolution number when Cllr. Ingram was made project manager of the play equipment project since the resolution in May 2006 said all projects were under the aegis of full council. I would also like to know when I officially ceased to be grant funding co-ordinator as from 2005.

Cllr. Chamley answered saying that all decisions regarding the play equipment had been taken by full Council.

3. Please can all members of the council have a properly tabled report on election procedures for the forthcoming elections. It is clearly insufficient to use terms such as 'purda' which are meaningless without qualification.

The Clerk distributed a circular from EALC that detailed general procedures for the forthcoming election. More detailed information was expected from Colchester Borough

Council. The Clerk informed Council that the nominations had to be made by Noon on 4th April.

4. In relation to my 4th question I would like an assurance that no council member, his/her partner, member of family or friend is proposing to organise any social event in Chapel prior to the election.

Cllr. Chamley answered saying that most planned events would not be affected by the election but where there were concerns these should be raised with Colchester Borough Council.

No reports had been received from Councillors.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

-Date and Time of next Meeting – Wednesday 11th April 2007 at 7.30pm

Approved minutes of previous Parish Council meetings may be inspected by arrangement with the Parish Council Clerk.

SIGNED CHAIRMAN**DATE**