

CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER 2007
IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL, CHAPPEL AT 7.30 P.M.

In the Chair: Cllr. Mrs. S. Chamley.
Present: Cllrs. Mr. R. Belcham, Mr. C. Cordingley,
Mr. N. Ingram, Mr. T. Langley & Mr. P. Neubauer.
Clerk: Mr. K. Butcher.
Also Present No other persons attended.

The meeting commenced at 7.32.

07/128 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies had been received from CBC Cllr. Peter Chillingworth who was attending another meeting. Cllr. Chamley had received Notice of Resignation from Cllr. Sexton but no hard copy had yet been received – apologies were assumed.

The meeting was suspended at 7.34 to allow:

07/129 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no Public Questions.

07/130 COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCILLOR AND POLICE REPORTS.

The Clerk had received a written report from Cllr. Chillingworth which was read to the meeting:

It was expected that Essex County Council would be making funding available to Colchester Borough Council for Highway projects and Chappel Parish Council might wish to consider if there were any local projects that might merit support.

There would be no household waste collection Christmas week until the 27th. Colchetser now had a waste recycling rate of 36% - the highest in the Eastern Region.

The meeting recommenced at 7.39.

07/131 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Cllr. Cordingley declared an interest in Agenda item 07/135. Council was to consider making a Grant to the PCC, of which Cllr. Cordingley is the Treasurer.

07/132 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14TH 2007.

The draft minutes had previously been circulated to all Councillors for consideration. No amendments were required.

Resolution 54/07: That the draft minutes as presented be accepted as being a true record of the meeting held on 14th November 2007.

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

07/133 CHAIRMAN'S BRIEFING.

The Chairman spoke on various themes:

The pond had been improved by the felling/management of various trees and Cllr. Chamley had been advised to “throw some barley straw” into the pond to try and reduce the level of duckweed.

Mr Isley and Mr Parmee had been invited to attend the January 2008 meeting to talk about the Parish Field.

The recent work undertaken to clear under the Viaduct had been completed as part of an on-going maintenance schedule.

It was expected that the new play equipment from Proludic would be installed in January, commencing on the 14th.

Cllr. Chamley had attended the recent meeting of Governors of the Primary School to speak about Traffic Issues.

Cllr. Chamley expressed her thanks to all present, and others, for all the support and hard work over the last year to help improve the Parish.

07/134 CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk had previously notified all Councillors of mail received, and items were available for inspection. Cllr. Chamley read a letter concerning the Village Green, received from Ms. Millward of Essex County Council, to the meeting.

07/135 FINANCIAL MATTERS. PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL:

Various invoices and requests for financial support had been received. These were dealt with by four resolutions:

Resolution 55/07: That six invoices received be approved for immediate payment:

Pay claim – Village Ranger – 18 hours at usual rate

Iain Farquharson - £50 – Photocopy charges Neighbourhood Watch

R Tatum – Invoice re play equipment £120 + VAT (received via Cllr. Ingram)

Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall – Hire Invoice - £40

Guildhall Services grass cutting invoice £231 + VAT

Just Lamps – invoice (Mountview and Swan lamps) £86 + VAT

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

Resolution 56/07: That the invoice received from Proludic, for Play Equipment, in the sum of £21319 + VAT, be approved for payments in two parts:

The first part being £11319 + VAT payable when the Clerk is wholly satisfied that the equipment has been delivered.

The second part being £10000 + VAT payable when the said amount has been received, and cleared, from Cory.

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

Resolution 57/07: That a grant of £500 be made to the Wakes Colne and Chappel PCC to support the maintenance of the Parish Graveyard.

Proposed: Cllr. Langley Seconded: Cllr. Belcham. For: 5 Abstain Cllr. Cordingley (Conflict of Interest.)

Resolution 58/07: That a grant of £500 be made to the Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall.

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

07/136 PLANNING MATTERS.

There were no planning matters to discuss.

07/137 MEMBERS QUESTIONS.

No questions had been received.

07/138 TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008 – 2009.

An outline draft Budget had been prepared by the Clerk and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Clerk reviewed the draft document item by item and amendments were made where agreed. The final Budget for 2008 – 2009 is attached to these Minutes.

The Clerk left the meeting whilst his salary was discussed and was informed on his return:

The base salary will be increased to £3200 from April.

Also, and with immediate effect:

The Clerk is to record letters sent, and request reimbursement of associated costs.

Costs relating to the Clerks work, paper, inks etc are to be charged for.

When additional work is caused by way of enquiries by “Concerned Members of the Public” either to the Clerk, or third parties, time consumed in procuring responses is to be noted and claimed for at the appropriate hourly rate.

The Salary of the Village Ranger was also considered and it was agreed that this would be increased broadly in line with inflation.

Resolution 59/07: That’s the Clerks Salary and Terms of Employment be changed to reflect the changes noted in Minute 07/138. Also, that the Salary of the Village Ranger be increased to £7.25 per hour.

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

Resolution 60/07: That the Draft Budget, as amended by Council be accepted for the Year 2008–2009.

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

07/139 CLLR. CHAMLEY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Cllr. Chamley circulated a list of Training Courses that were available to all Councillors. Cllr. Chamley reminded the meeting that funds were budgeted to allow Councillors to attend Training Courses,

07/140 CLLR. BELCHAM: TO RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING RECENTLY ATTENDED “BRUSH CUTTER” COURSE.

Cllr. Belcham gave a short report on the brush-cutter course that he and Cllr. Ingram had recently attended. The new brush-cutter should be delivered to Council soon.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.08.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9TH JANUARY 2008.

SIGNED CHAIRMANDATE