

CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2007
IN THE VILLAGE 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 and
Mrs. M. Sexton.
Clerk: Mr. K. Butcher.
Also Present Mr. P. Chillingworth (CBC) and twenty nine members of the public.

07/115 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies had been received from ECC Cllr. Tony Clover. It was noted that Cllr. Sexton was not, as yet, present, but was expected to be in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed those present. In view of the presence of several young children it was agreed that the order of the meeting would be altered so that those present who wished could return to their homes as early as possible.

07/118 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Cllr. Ingram declared an interest in Agenda item 07/127 - traffic calming schemes by reason of his employment.

The Formal Council Meeting was suspended to allow:

07/116 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Peter Twyford asked questions relating to issues of road safety affecting children attending Chappel Primary School. A further forty signatures to a petition organised by parents of children at the Primary School were presented to join the one hundred and forty signatures presented previously.

Mr. Tom Crozier asked three questions regarding the need to make a further payment to Beachcroft, progress with the allotments, and actions being taken to make the Sports Field ready for use.

Mr Bob Wilson asked about street lighting in Chappel and received a progress statement from the Clerk.

The formal meeting recommenced at 7.52.

07/127 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION, AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES NEAR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The Chairman explained that Essex County Council Highways Department held responsibility for matters relating to traffic control and road safety of pupils at the Primary School. Cllr. Chamley outlined recent exchanges with Officers from Essex County Council Cllr Tony Clover and quoted from messages received. Cllr. Chamley confirmed that Chappel Parish Council shared the concerns of parents over the pedestrian access to the School, and the speed of vehicles passing by the School.

It was agreed that an offer to survey traffic flows and speeds should be accepted and a meeting with Officers of ECC arranged.

The formal meeting was suspended at 8.17 to allow CBC Cllr Peter Chillingworth to address the meeting regarding this Agenda item.

07/117 COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCILLOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Cllr. Chillingworth informed the meeting that:

The AGM of the Colne Valley Countryside Project had been postponed until March.

A consultation regarding Site Specific Options would commence mid November and run for six weeks.

A new scheme to provide a Duty Planning Officer at the Town Hall had started.

The formal meeting of Council restarted at 8.25.

Cllr. Sexton had arrived at the meeting toward the end of the discussion of item 07/127 and declared an interest in the item as a Chappel Primary School Governor.

07/119 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – MEETING HELD OCTOBER 10TH 2007.

The draft minutes had previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Resolution 50/07 That the draft minutes be confirmed as a true record of the meeting held on October 10th 2007.

Proposed: Cllr. Belcham. Seconded: Cllr. Langley. For 5 Abstentions 2 (Cllrs Ingram and Sexton – absent from previous meeting).

07/120 CHAIRMAN'S BRIEFING.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Councils submission for support had been agreed and that a brush-cutter was to be obtained. Cllrs. Ingram and Belcham had been accepted onto a brush-cutter course.

Progress with getting the Football pitch match ready was outlined. A response from Mr Bedford is awaited regarding the availability of the players to undertake a "stone pick".

The new play equipment had been ordered from Proludic and installation was expected to start during November.

The next Joint Parish Council Meeting was planned for November 28th.

The arches of the Viaduct had been cleared.

07/121 CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk confirmed that all Councillors had been informed of mail received. Attention was drawn to two items of mail, both relating to a public consultation regarding the future of health services in Essex.

07/122 FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk presented four accounts for payment approval:

Just Lamps – maintenance parts - £13.90 + VAT

Colchester Borough Council - Street Lighting £221.09 + VAT

Village Ranger – September Pay Claim - 18 hours at agreed rate.

Beachcroft – Solicitors services £182.10 + VAT

Each account was considered in turn and all approved. However it was noted that there were several lights in the Village that had been inoperative for some time and it was agreed that the Clerk would not send the payment due to Colchester Borough Council until the invoice had been discussed, challenged and hopefully amended.

Resolution 51/07 That the four accounts, as detailed on the Agenda, be approved for payment subject to the proviso above.

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

07/123 PLANNING MATTERS.

An application - number 072692 – Mr McGregor – 2 Myrtle Cottages, Swan St., for a replacement garage and shed was considered in detail. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a standard letter of comment raising no objections or concerns but requesting that all neighbours who might be affected by the application be consulted.

07/124 MEMBERS QUESTIONS.

No questions were submitted.

07/125 TO CONSIDER OPTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARISH FIELD.

Cllr Chamley gave a brief history of the Parish Field and outlined various options that had been suggested for its use. Correspondence had been received from both Essex Biodiversity and the River Colne Countryside Project indicating that funds may be available to plant “rare breed” fruit trees on part of the site to produce an orchard, with the possibility that local families could be invited to “adopt a tree”. It was suggested that it would be helpful to receive a presentation from Richard Iley.

Resolution 52/07 That Richard Iley of the River Colne Countryside Project be invited to address Council at the December meeting regarding possible uses and development ideas for the Village Field.

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

07/126 TO CONSIDER REGARDING MAINTENANCE WORK REQUIRED ON THE VILLAGE POND.

Cllr. Chamley informed the meeting that she had been in contact with Network Rail and they had declined the offer to help with the maintenance of the pond. However a representative from Essex Bio Diversity had offered to share the costs, estimated at £1000, in clearing the pond and had advised that the work would best be completed before Christmas. It was agreed that the work should be undertaken subject to the qualifications and insurance cover of any contractor being approved.

Resolution 53/07 That the Village Pond be cleared as a joint exercise with Essex Bio Diversity, at a total cost of £500 to Chappel Parish council.

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

07/127 TO RECEIVE INFORMATION, AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES NEAR THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

This Agenda item had been considered earlier in the meeting.

Then meeting closed at 9.22 pm

Date of next meeting - 12th December 2007.

SIGNED CHAIRMANDATE 12TH DECEMBER 2007.