

CHAPPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, AT 7.30 P.M.

IN THE CHAIR: CLLR. MRS. S. CHAMLEY.
PRESENT: CLLRS. MR. R. BELCHAM, MR. R. JONES, MR. A. LANGLEY,
MR. P. NEUBAUER, MR. C. CORDINGLEY AND MRS. H. LEFTLEY.
CLERK: MRS. V. BURROWS.
ALSO PRESENT: CLLR. P. CHILLINGWORTH, CLLR. J. TAYLOR FROM WAKES COLNE PARISH
COUNCIL AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

10/113: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr. Chamley welcomed everybody to the meeting.

THE FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING WAS SUSPENDED AT 7.31 P.M. TO ALLOW:

10/114: PUBLIC FORUM.

Concern was expressed at the road closure notices which had been put up in The Street advising that the road was going to be closed for 27 weeks from the 20th September. The Council's understood that the road bridge was not going to be closed initially, as the footbridge needed to be installed first, however Cllr. Chamley would contact Mr. Clive Woodruff from the Bridges Department at Essex County Council and report back at the next meeting. Cllr. Chamley advised that from the 20th September the school bus which takes the Wakes Colne children to the primary school was going to be picking them up half an hour earlier and the children who attend Stanway School had to be on the Wakes Colne side of the bridge to be picked up by the bus at 8 a.m.

It was suggested that the diversion route be displayed on the website. Staying on the subject of the bridge Cllr. Jim Taylor from Wakes Colne Parish Council advised that he was going to ask the Bridges Department at Essex County Council if the new footbridge could be called the Wakes Colne Footbridge. He explained that a conversation had taken place at the Village Fete with Mr Woodruff and his colleague about the name and this had been suggested as the road bridge is called Chappel Bridge. Therefore, so as not to get confused, it was considered important that both structures had a different name. Cllr. Chamley asked the members if they had objections to this and none were expressed. At Wakes Colne's meeting the previous week, it had been suggested that when the repairs are completed there should be an opening ceremony. The members thought this was a good idea and asked for it to be put on the agenda for October.

Cllr. Taylor spoke briefly about the Community Speed Watch (CSW) advising that they would be active on the 10th September and that the Police still had not been in touch about the training.

10/115: COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCILLOR.

Cllr. Chillingworth spoke briefly on the following issues:

- The Courier. The members were asked if they had received a copy, three members had via the post at a cost of 40p and this was considered an expense that could be avoided in the current climate. It was generally felt that the system was not working and Cllr. Chillingworth agreed to look into it and report back.
- Revenue Grant. A meeting had taken place earlier in the week with Cllr. T. Dopson where all the Parish Council's comments had been discussed in connection with this issue. Suggestions to compensate the Parishes for the loss of the grant had been to re-vamp the Section 106 money, no cap on the precept i.e. the individual parish could raise the precept by whatever percentage they need to. On that point, it was considered inappropriate to push the problem over to the Parish by asking them to raise the money from the electorate.

- Severalls Lane traveller site had missed its deadline so it would now have to be referred back to planning.
- Marks Tey Railway Station. The 2.4 million improvements had now started and as it was a permitted development, no planning permission was needed.

THE FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING WAS RE-OPENED AT 8.10 P.M. TO ALLOW:

10/116: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

None.

10/117: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – MEETING HELD 14TH JULY 2010.

Resolution: 10/043. That the draft minutes that had been circulated prior to the meeting be approved as being a true record of the meeting held on 14th July 2010.

Proposed: Cllr. Neubauer. Seconded: Cllr. Belcham. For: 6. Abstain: 1.

10/118: CHAIRMAN'S BRIEFING.

This month the Chairman had circulated the briefing on e-mail. See attached report. In addition, the allotments were discussed at length due to the Anglian Water issue. It was noted that some of the allotment holders had abandoned their plots or for personal reasons were not able to look after them. It was suggested that a formal meeting was called ASAP and that this item needed to be on the Agenda for October.

10/119: CORRESPONDENCE.

All mail received was on public display and the Clerk had e-mailed information throughout the month

10/120: FINANCIAL MATTERS.

1) Funds Received: None

2) Three invoices were for consideration:

V Burrows: Clerk's salary & expenses at agreed rate. 40 hours worked from 8th July – 2nd September

Village Ranger: 17 hours at usual rate for July & August (2 Invoices)

Resolution: 10/044. That all of the invoices as detailed above be approved for immediate payment

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

3) CIF Funding – Essex County Council:

The Clerk had read in the Making the Links magazine that Essex County Council was offering match funded grants of up to £15,000. It was suggested that maybe the Council could apply for some money for the coppicing or to do further work on the Orchard. Although the timescales were short, it was agreed to have a look at it and put on the agenda for October.

4) Audit Commission Letter and Amendments:

The Clerk advised that the Audit Commission had been in touch and requested further information regarding the 5% intermediate audit. The Clerk had completed the work and the Chairman was asked to sign the amendments.

Resolution: 10/045. That the Chairman signs the amended forms and that the Clerk sends them back to the Audit Commission before the deadline date of the 20th September.

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

10/121: PLANNING MATTERS.

- 1) **Application No: 101551. Turners, Swan Street, Chappel, Colchester, CO6 2EA. Erection of detached single cart lodge.** The meeting was closed to allow the members of the public to express their concerns regarding this application. These were as follows:
- ❖ The property of Turners on Swan Street is a listed building and it was noted that this should have been taken into consideration when validating this application.
 - ❖ Concerns over the confusion surrounding this application. It appears from the plans that the site has been divided, severing an historic bake-house from the main dwelling and as far as they were aware this has never been determined.
 - ❖ The main letter of the application sent from the planning department, refers to the "Erection of detached single cart lodge." After reading through the application form, the Council could find no mention of the proposed new access referred to on the design and access statements front page. After much discussion, it was felt that this was very confusing and misleading.
 - ❖ The Council noted that included in the original application details were plans not relating to the application of a new cart lodge, again this was felt to be misleading.
 - ❖ It was unclear as to why a new access had been applied for. The existing curtilage of Turners already has an access and this was felt to be adequate.
 - ❖ The application states "The cart lodge will provide additional parking to the property" the site already has a garage, albeit this is not shown on any of the submitted plans, so again this was considered to be puzzling.

The Council had concerns regarding the consultations with Highways and English Heritage, it was discussed that both parties may have considered the incorrect plans. It concerned the Council, that to accommodate the required splay as per Highways letter, a hedge, telegraph poles and a post box would need to be removed. The Clerk was instructed to submit comments by the 9th September reflecting the comments discussed above.

- 2) **Application No: 101641. Chappel Footbridge The Street, Chappel, Colchester. Construction of new footbridge across the River Colne in the village of Chappel. The footbridge will be built immediately adjacent to the existing road bridge, which has no provision for pedestrians.** Comments had already been submitted in respect of this application as the deadline date was over the summer recess.
- 3) **Application No: 101634. Primrose Cottage, The Street, Chappel, Colchester, CO6 2DD. Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of new 2 storey rear extension (resubmission of 100626).** It was noted that this application was still considered over development of the site. The members were concerned that the 4th bedroom was being called a study and also the parking was an issue. The Clerk was instructed to submit comments to the planning department reflecting issues discussed ASAP.
- 4) **Application No: 101739. 3 Spring Gardens Cottages, Spring Gardens Road, Chappel, Colchester. Demolition of existing flat roof extensions and existing conservatory and erection of new single and two storey extensions.** Council was concerned that the wrong drawings had been sent with this application. After having downloaded the correct drawings the members had no comments other than it looked vastly improved on the previous application. The Clerk was instructed to submit comments reflecting the members' comments.
- 5) **Application No: 101079. Toad Hall, Colchester Road, Chappel, Colchester, CO6 2AE. Proposed rear extension and new roof over property to form additional rooms within roof space. Approved Conditional.** It was noted again that the Planning Department at Colchester had not sent the Notice Decision through and the Clerk had had to print from the internet. The printed copy was available for the members to read.

10/122: MEMBER'S QUESTIONS.

No questions were received.

TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS / CLERK:

10/123: PROPOSED PARISH COUNCIL MERGER LETTER FROM CLLR. CHILLINGWORTH.

The meeting was closed (9.23 p.m.) to allow Cllr. Chillingworth to explain why he had sent the letter to both Councils. His reasons were personal, but he thought that in times of Government cut backs and spending reviews some considerable financial savings could be made. He had consulted with Joy Shepherd at the EALC who had advised that a referendum would need to be held if this matter was taken any further. Whilst the meeting was still closed, Cllr. Chamley consulted Cllr. Jim Taylor as to the view of Wakes Colne Parish Council. The motion to stay as they currently operate had been upheld, however it was minuted that it would be looked into again if the need arose i.e. if the Government forced the issue or financially the Council could not survive. The meeting was re-opened at 9.27 p.m. and further discussion took place. It was noted that several members had no opinion either way and that the Council should do what is best for the local electorate. It was suggested that a note be put in the Village Reporter to ask for feedback. It was considered prudent for both Councils to work together to cut costs on issues that concerned them both and it was agreed that this should be done regardless of other issues. Following this discussion, it was agreed that nothing should be done at the current time.

Resolution: 10/044. That the proposed Parish Council Merger is deferred until such times as circumstances demand that a merger should be reconsidered. In the interim, Chappel Parish Council would actively seek opportunities of working with Wakes Colne for some of its services for the benefit of the electorate.

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

10/124: Employed Clerk.

Cllr. Chamley advised that she had met up over the summer with Cllr. Jim Taylor from Wakes Colne to discuss this issue. The Clerk advised that she had been in touch with the HMRC and was going on a half-day course in October to find out more about becoming an employer. Issues such as National Insurance etc. needed further clarification.

10/125: Future Agenda Items / Speaker.

Allotments

CIF Funding

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Date of next meeting – 13th October 2010.

Signed Chairman:

Date: 13th October 2010