

CHETNOLE AND STOCKWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 March 2017 in Chetnole Village (Meeting Number 7 – 2016-2017 council year)

Present: Councillors O Pope (Chairman), G Ratcliffe (Vice Chairman), S Darley, M Gallimore, W Henry, J Hume, J Meier

In Attendance: Mrs S Woodford (Clerk)
Cllr M Hall (DCC)

Public Forum

Mr Paul Fairhurst referred to a planning application he is to submit, he has applied previously but withdrawn the application. He offered members site of the plans and explained his reasons for applying. The application is not yet available to the council for comment, but members were grateful for the advance notice and availability of the paper plans.

7.1 Apologies for Absence: All present

7.2 Minutes of the Meetings held on 11 January 2017

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Hume, seconded Cllr Gallimore and agreed unanimously – that the Minutes be signed as a correct record.

7.3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Ratcliffe declared an interest in item 5.1 as he is the applicant.

7.4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meetings held on 11 January 2017

7.4.1. Cllr Ratcliffe referred to Item 7.9 – Flood Warning signs. He requested from the Environment agency that the warning flashed be amended to simply ‘flood’, but the Agency were not prepared to change it. The mechanisms have been altered slightly and it is hoped that it will now work more efficiently.

7.4.2 Cllr Gallimore asked if new gate mechanism had been fitted onto the gate from Mrs Walkers paddock into Back Lane. The Clerks said she understood this was in hand.

7.4.3 Cllr Hume referred to the depth gauge at the Ford which is providing an inaccurate depth reference. Cllr Ratcliffe has referred this matter to DCC who will investigate the problem.

7.5 Planning:

7.5.1 WD/D/17/000127 (Full) Winnowings, Mill Lane, Single Storey rear extension – under consideration.

7.5.2 WD/D/16/000194 The Old Forge, Mill Lane. It was noted that this application has been under consideration by WDDC since July 2016 and is still undetermined. The Clerk and Chairman have been in touch with Cllr Legg (WDDC) who has prompted the officers at WDDC and the Chairman of the Development Control Committee and established that there are delays due to a lack of a consultee response from English Heritage.

7.6 Finances

7.6.1 Accounts for Payment (See Appendix A for details)

It was resolved to approve payment of £ 532.26 in total from the PC Current Account and £0 from the Playing Field Management Team Account.

Total assets at 11 January 2017: Parish Council £8,061.56
Playing Field Fund £2,240.02

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Meier, seconded Cllr Owen and agreed unanimously to approve the accounts for payment and balances recorded.

7.7 Grants and Donations

No requests for grants had been received

7.8 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had received correspondence from the Flower Show Committee with regard to the Parish Council taking on the role of selecting the candidate for the Sybil Howard Community Award. Members had been circulated details of the origins and criteria and agreed in principle. It was suggested that the Candidate should be selected each year at the July meeting of the Council, the Council members having received advice from residents on who they may wish to nominate, although the ultimate decision would rest with the Council. The award would then be presented at the annual Flower Show. This will be added to the agenda for the Annual Statutory meeting to be confirmed as an official function the council may undertake.

7.9 Reports from Members on other bodies

7.9.1 Flood Warden – Cllr Ratcliffe

An incident took place on 7th February when a van was washed down the river at 7.30 am and was not towed out until 7.30 pm, the driver was uninjured. Cllr Ratcliffe had contacted the firm for which this driver works and established that the employees had been advised not to use this route and to ignore the advice of their satellite navigation systems. The driver in question is no longer employed by the company.

7.9.2 Home Watch – Warning to residents to be wary of people knocking on doors and attempting to sell merchandise and asking to be invited into the house.

7.9.3 Boyles Trust – Mr Bob Owen submitted the following report:

- A new formal tenancy of School House at an increased rent is in place for six months, which means the tenancy expires at the same time as the tenants are able to confirm that their jobs permit them to remain in Yetminster. The expectation is that in September a new 12 month tenancy will be agreed.
- Boyles has invested the proceeds of the second building plot into a longer term plan designed specifically for use by charities. The financial future of Boyles can thus be regarded as secure for the foreseeable future. The retained sums plus the income from the various tenancies; School House, the Gallery, the hairdressing salon and the paddock, ought together be sufficient to make grants as required and have enough left for emergencies.

7.9.4 STAG (Sherborne Transport Action Group) – Mr Owen also reported on its recent meeting as there was no council representation:-

- STAG was advised of the creation of the 'Friends of Chetnole Halt'.
- A report was given at the STAG meeting by DCC on the tendering process for the school and subsidised bus services, the result of which should be announced shortly.
- The South West Trains franchise may well be let within six weeks, with inauguration planned in August.
- Assurance has been received from senior Great Western staff that the Heart of Wessex Line Guide will be kept available at Bristol Temple Meads. This is important in promoting the line, as the Great Western short form timetable which is the only one covering the line, other than the general Great Western timetable, shows very few stations after Frome, even leaving out Yeovil, let alone the halts.

7.10 Highways Issues

7.10.1 Cllr Darley expressed concern that the excavation near the corner of the Stockwood Road is still open. Clerk to report.

7.10.2 Cllr Henry mentioned the poor state of the 30 MPH repeater signs with many either missing, broken or buried in the hedge. Having been advised that DCC no longer supply these signs, the Clerk agreed to look into either the reinstatement of the existing signs or alternatives.

7.10.3 Potholes in Neals Lane, although DCC have promised to resurface Back Lane and Neals Lane in the summer of 2018, there is still concern that the surface of Neals Lane is in exceptionally poor condition and needs more urgent repair. Members suggested a team of volunteers take on the job or employ a contractor to carry out the work. Cllr Matt Hall noted that all potholes over a certain size are repaired by DCC. Clerk will discuss with DCC.

7.11 Changes to the Bus Services affecting Chetnole and Stockwood

Members were in receipt of a document released by DCC explaining the proposed reductions to the bus service in the Chetnole area. Although members were concerned by the loss of service to the village, it was agreed that the buses are poorly used so it is hard to justify their continuation. Nonetheless those affected by the withdrawal of the service will suffer as a result. It was noted that there are other forms of local transport such as ‘Dial a Ride’ and the ‘NORDCAT’ bus. The Clerk will establish what alternative services are available.

7.12 Footpaths

Cllr Darley that new pedestrian will soon be installed at either end of Foys field, the existing stock gate alongside at the Foys end.

7.13 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Ratcliffe gave a brief report on the progress of the plan, pointing out that a map of the proposed plan area is on the wall of the Village Hall and the formal application has been submitted and is presently under review.

The Steering Group has engaged a planning Consultant to assist with the plan and a grant application is to be prepared and submitted and the Chetnole Access Project is actively looking at improvements to the station access working with Network Rail.

7.14 Matters requiring the attention of the Council

Cllr Ratcliffe confirmed that the Litter Pick will take place at the end of March. Concern was expressed about the limits of the Parish Council insurance policy, which ceases to cover personal accident of either members or volunteers after the age of 75, although public liability cover remains in place. This caused an issue for much of the voluntary work done in the village as many of the volunteers are over 75.

7.15 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 10 May 2017.

Public Form

There was discussion on the Sybil Howard award and how the community might be consulted.

Ruth Sanford noted that there had been a flooding incident at the top of School Lane and she wished to thank Graham Turner for his speed and efficiency at dealing with it.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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Chairman