

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 5 June 2006
at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall**



Present: Councillors: Chairman, Mr J Swift, Cllrs Dr M Bird, Mrs P Pardoe, Mr P Tetstall, Mr K Bartlett, Mr G Vernon, Mr L Stockford, Mrs J Fox, Mr S Williams, Mr M Walford, Mrs E Mack, Clerk Mrs Y Scriven. Members of the public also attended.

1. APOLOGIES: None, all Cllrs were present
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 15 May 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Approved, except for additional item 7.14 and 7.15 below.
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: It had been suggested that those Cllrs who were also members of the Friends of the Village Association (FVA) should declare an interest where items are discussed where their membership might result in a conflict of interest. Further advice was being sought, but it was agreed that in order to be open as possible, a declaration of interest would be made.

Cllr Mr S Williams declared a personal interest in item 7.6 because of his Chairmanship of Wyre Forest District Council, and would take no part in the discussion or vote.

5. REPORT BY WEST MERCIA POLICE: Did not attend.
6. CLERK'S REPORT ON ITEMS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

6.1 Letter from Mr M Gibbs:

- Speeding along A450 Harvington: West Mercia Police have indicated that speed enforcement is only effective where appropriate engineering supports it and the speed limit is reasonable in the eyes of the majority of road users. Where road users view a speed limit as unreasonable, average speeds actually increase. Mandatory speed limits should not be used to solve isolated hazards. The Police consider that new speed limits alone rarely reduce average speeds. They conclude that in order for any reduction in speed limits and associated police enforcement activity to be effective, appropriate engineering works should be completed in the first instance. A copy of this letter had been sent to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) for comment. Whilst the Parish Council registered their disappointment with this situation, it looked unlikely that this matter would be resolved.
- Sponsorship of Mustow Green Island: Wyre Forest Highways Partnership (WFHP) believe that the island was not a suitable site for sponsorship as any planting would be ruined by HGV lorries over-running the kerb lines. The Parish Council felt this was a very negative approach, but did not feel they could take the matter any further.
- Council Tax Cards: Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) did not operate this type of scheme due to cost. A Girobank account to receive Transcash payments of council tax had been maintained last year, but the payers had to meet the cost. Not many people actually used this method of payment (less than 600 payments last year).

- School Transport Policy – Worcestershire Passenger Transport Group reported that the policy allows for transport assistance provided the walking distance is over the current statutory limit of 2 miles for the under 8's and 3 miles for older students. The policy takes into account the safety of the walking route, however only road traffic conditions are considered and the policy expects that pupils will be accompanied as necessary.

The Clerk was asked to forward these details to Mr Gibbs.

6.2 Letter from Mr H Grove

- Bungalow, Woodrow: WFDC reported that planning permission for this bungalow was granted on Appeal by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in January 1967. This followed the Refusal by Kidderminster Rural District Council to approve the application and the Dismissal of an Appeal by the Planning Inspector.
- Water discharge Tanwood Lane – Still awaiting response from WFDC Enforcement & Compliance Officer.

The Clerk was asked to forward these details to Mr Grove.

7. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

7.1 Wyre Forest District Revised Local Development Scheme: The Chairman stated that the Parish Council did not have sufficient knowledge about this to comment. It was suggested that the Planning Officer should be invited to a future meeting to brief Cllrs on the programme for planning policy formulation over the next three years.

7.2 Worcestershire County Council Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 – Waste Core Strategy – Preferred Options Report: Again the Parish Council would need to be experts to understand the full implications of this report, but previous consultations had been studied in detail and were generally considered to be appropriate. Documents are available for public inspection, comments to be received by 14 July 2006.

7.3 Wyre Forest District Council New Scheme of Delegation for determining Planning Applications: The Parish Council thought these changes were sensible and were happy to support them, but would have liked more time to consider the full implications.

7.4 Park Lane Harvington – Proposed Scheme for extending the footway: Cllrs requested a full survey to be carried out to ascertain how many people would use this footway and whether it was cost effective.

7.5 Web-Site: The Chairman stated that whilst Mr H Grove had been instructed to design and manage the web-site for the Parish Council, no remuneration for this work had been suggested and he could not therefore recommend payment of the initial set up fee suggested. A proposal was made to this effect which was seconded, and was carried by 9 votes with 2 abstentions. It was agreed that alternative costs quotations would be obtained for comparison. In addition, an account of £50 plus VAT to renew registration of the web-name domain was also deferred pending receipt of alternative quotes.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to express the Council's appreciation of the spirit in which Mr Grove had undertaken the work and managed the site.

7.6 The Council's Charter: Whilst not completely happy that member Councils would follow the spirit of the Charter, it was felt that it would be better to be part of the organisation and thereby be able to influence changes. A proposal was made to sign the Charter, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

- 7.7 Charter 88 – Support for Campaign for a modern democracy: This was an Appeal in support of small shops, which concluded that unless urgent action was taken many high streets would be dead within ten years, with the resulting decline of local economies and communities. It was unanimously agreed to support this initiative.
- 7.8 Finalising New Bank Mandate: Remaining Cllrs who so wished signed the Mandate which would be forwarded to the Bank.
- 7.9 Adoption/Amendment of Standing Orders: These had been previously circulated and it was unanimously decided to adopt them without change.
- 7.10 Police Restructuring – Consultation Document: Cllrs Mrs Mack and Mrs Fox had studied the document and gave a detailed report. It was agreed to register objections to the proposed amalgamation of West Midlands, Warwickshire, Staffordshire and West Mercia Police, which it was felt would be a retrograde step and would undermine operational efficiency. As part of previous consultations at the end of 2005, there had been an overwhelming rejection of the proposals throughout local government and the wider community. WFDC had already registered its objections. A resolution was made which was unanimously agreed to write to the Home Secretary of State registering a strong objection to the proposals.
- 7.11 Local Authority Byelaws in England – Discussion Paper: Cllr Mr Swift reported that this proposed legislation could not apply specifically to some communities. They indicated a shift of some responsibilities to District, County and Parish which central government found difficult to manage. Enforcement would follow legislation. It was evident that changes would be made in the future which would give local communities more powers and responsibilities. The discussion paper required answers to specific questions, which had been drafted by the Chairman, and it was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that these should be sent to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 7.12 National Association of Local Councils – Report of the Chief Executive: Cllr Mr Swift reported that this document was related to the previous item and discussed radical reform of local government and some of the responsibilities would be devolved to the Parish Councils. Spending by Parish and Town Councils had doubled in the last six years, which indicated that they were already undertaking a greater role in local government, but this was likely to increase with devolution. £27 million pounds was available for the organisation of this community project. Good practice would be required with appropriate legislation and funding to follow.
- 7.13 Draft Action Plan: Mrs D Dolley addressed the meeting on behalf of the Steering Group and outlined their responsibility for the on-going development of the Action Plan and proposed Village Design Statement which would follow. She stressed that no fundamental changes to the original survey had been introduced in the draft Action Plan, but some new or amended initiatives had been included where evidence was available to indicate these were required. The draft Action Plan was available on the web-page and a period of consultation had begun. The Parish Council felt that in order to involve the whole community the draft Action Plan should be sent to everyone on the Electoral Role, and agreed to provide the necessary funding for this, as well as utilise the services of the FVA for distribution. It was agreed that this would be done, and the meeting of the Steering Group to finalise the Action Plan would be delayed until the end of July. Once adopted by the Parish Council, and after consultation with other local authority groups, the Steering Group would remain in place to monitor its progress.

Affordable Housing: Some Cllrs stated that they believed the original survey had been flawed and should not be adopted by the Parish Council. Mrs Dolley stated that items A5, A6 and A7 had been adjusted to reflect these concerns.

A discussion took place about the decision of the previous Parish Council and the contents of a newspaper article and the identification of need, and it was agreed that this was going over old ground which should be put behind us now.

A proposal was made that the Council should not be bound by the decision of the previous Council on affordable housing, they would not raise the matter themselves, and would deal with any future application on its own merits. This proposal was seconded and unanimously adopted.

- 7.14 Post Boxes: It was noted that postal collections had been reduced to one per day.
- 7.15 Black Country Consortium: A consultation document was circulated for discussion at the next meeting.
8. Items for General Information
- 8.1 Guide by Ofcom on removing public phone boxes: Noted. It was stated that the phone box by the school in the Village was a Listed Building and could not be removed.
- 8.2 Wychavon District Council: Adoption of Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement: Noted.
9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. Wednesday 24 May 2006 at 7.30 p.m. Minutes of the Meeting were approved. It was agreed to publish these in full in the Parish Magazine.
10. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman suggested that the meeting room should be re-organised so that members of the public could face Cllrs during the meeting. It was also agreed that meetings would start at 7.30 p.m. and the first 5 minutes would be allocated to questions from the floor, before commencement of the Agenda items.
11. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING OUTSIDE BODIES:
- 11.1 Village Hall: Would be closed for redecoration, repairs and tarmacing of the car park during August. Fund raising would continue during the year.
12. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: None.
13. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS: Cllrs Mr M Walford and Mr P Tetstall would attend AGM on 7 June.
14. FINANCIAL REPORT
- 14.1 Receipts and Payments.
A schedule of receipts and payment was tabled and approved for payment, as follows:
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| <u>Section 137</u> | |
| Wednesday Club Outing | £150.00 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | |
| Diane Malley – Internal Audit | £100.00 |
| Mr Gardiner – Cuprinol Bus Shelter | £ 95.00 |
| CC Village Hall – Room Hire | £67.00 |
- Receipts and Payments Schedule
Current balance on Treasurers and Deposit Account was £34,992. The clerk was authorised to transfer funds as required to the Deposit Account.
- 14.2 Report on Internal Auditor: The audit had been carried out without comment. The internal auditor suggested that wherever possible three quotations should be obtained for services which range between £100 and £1,000. It was also suggested that a Risk Assessment should be carried out before commissioning any works.

- 14.3 Risk Assessment: Formal approval of previously circulated Risk Assessment, which was on-going.
- 14.4 Annual Return and Declaration: The necessary declarations were made and the accounts approved for forwarding to the external auditor.
- 14.5 The statutory audit notifications had been posted on the Village Notice Board.
- 14.6 A draft of a letter to the external auditor regarding Parish Council reserves was approved.
- 14.7 Financial Regulations: Were adopted without change.
15. ALLOTMENTS:
- 15.1 Letters from Humberts re gates and fencing: These had been previously circulated and suggested that the gate at Fisher Lane should be set back from its present position. Cllr Mr S Williams felt that to avoid additional cost and to improve security the new gates should be in the same position. It was agreed that gates and replacement fencing would be fitted at both ends of the allotment site and Cllr Mr L Stockford was asked to obtain quotations.
- 15.2 Report on proposed use of remainder of land: This item was deferred until the next meeting.
16. BURIAL GROUND:
- 16.1 An application for burial of cremated remains was approved.
- 16.2 Cllr Mr Bartlett reported that the grass had not been cut and he would welcome suggestions about the formulation of a management plan. A review of fees was deferred.
- 16.3 Quotation still awaited for relaying slabs and 'green' waste bunker.
17. LENGTHSMAN SCHEME
- 17.1 Cllr Mr P Tetstall reported on a meeting with WFHP and Mr Waldron, the proposed new Lengthsman. Protection clothing and signs would be provided and a schedule of work would be drawn up. A contract of employment would be prepared. The Clerk would check whether the Lengthsman was fully covered by the Parish Council insurance, and if not whether the Parish Council could cover the cost of Mr Waldron taking out his own insurance, to avoid having to give Mr Waldron Employee status. It was agreed to pay £10/hour for this work, up to a maximum of the agreed sum of £2,000 from WFHP and £910 from the Parish Council, this sum not to be exceeded without formal resolution.
18. HIGHWAYS ISSUES: Parking outside The Pound at Bluntington whilst work is being carried out.
19. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: As above, Dial A Ride.
20. DATES FOR DIARY: As per Agenda.