

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Monday 6 December 2010
at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall
at 7.25 p.m.**



Present: Chairman – Cllr J Swift, L Stockford, W Mack, Mrs J Fox, R Pugh, D Thomas, K Bartlett, G Vernon, Mrs P Pardoe, M Walford, R Green

In attendance: District Councillor Mr S Williams and Clerk Mrs Y Scriven. Members of the public.

The Chairman gave a tribute to Sandi Holding who had lost her fight against cancer. Sandi had served on the Parish Council for several years and later as Footpaths Warden where her work on the parish footpaths had been appreciated by everyone. Condolences were extended to her husband Geoffrey for his sad loss and one minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** 4.1- Cllr R Green (Personal Interest) 5.6 Cllr Mrs J Fox (Personal Interest) 5.5 – Cllrs K Bartlett, M Walford (Personal Interest)

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time.

Dr Dutton representing Fold Lane residents spoke in support of their application for a contribution towards the cost of re-surfacing and drainage work on Fold Lane (Item 5.10).

The meeting re-opened.

3. **MINUTES:**
 - a) Minutes of Meeting held on 1 November 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
 - b) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1 November 2010 were accepted.

4.1 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

4.1.1 The Chairman reported that following representations by the Parish Council, the proposed Tactile paving and dropped curbs outside the village school would not proceed.

4.1.2 The Chairman and Clerk had attended a meeting at the Robin Hood public house with the licencees and the representative of the owner in an attempt to find a solution to the residents concern about noise and current objections with regard to a planning application for an outside bar and changes to the licence. The meeting concluded that the Robin Hood would hold a public meeting with a view to explaining the proposed intentions following rejection of the application by the District Council. However, the proposed meeting did not take place and an Appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate.

4.1.3 The Chairman had received complaints about an approach by the clerk to the PCC regarding distribution of the Parish Magazine and it was evident there had been some misunderstanding. A meeting had been arranged with the Chairman of the PCC to clarify the situation.

Cllr G Vernon stated that he would like to progress this matter further at the next Parish Council meeting, the Chairman asked Cllr Vernon to frame a proposal for the agenda..

4.2 **District Councillors Report**

Cllr S Williams reported that at an Extra Ordinary District Council meeting held on 1 December it had been resolved to adopt the Strong Leader model for Corporate Governance, thereby ruling out a Mayor for the District. The Cabinet had already decided not to change the cycle of elections for the District Council. The Local Development Framework Core Strategy would be adopted and implemented, and in rural areas any development of 6 houses or more will be required to deliver 30% affordable housing.

The situation with regard to deposits in Iceland are that of the original £9m invested, £2.7m has been returned and a further £350,000 is expected next year. The position regarding Landbanksi, where the District Council has £3m deposited is expected January/February 2011.

5. **CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION**

- 5.1 **Affordable Housing:** A public consultation on the proposed 4 affordable properties on the site of the garages on the Green, Chaddesley Corbett, had been well organised and attended, with constructive comments from members of the public, mainly concerned with the loss of parking. A report was awaited from the District Council.

It was noted that a new Local Connection Policy had been adopted by the District Council which should ensure that anyone who applied for a property in the Parish, who had a local connection, and who met the required criteria, would receive priority. Home Choice Plus is issued weekly and gives details of properties to let, a copy of which is available in the Post Office.

- 5.2 **Engaging with the Youth of the Parish:** Following a meeting of the Working Group it had been agreed to initially prepare a leaflet to spotlight opportunities for young people to go out with the January newsletter, and a letter would be sent to organisations and groups seeking their participation. Volunteers to form youth groups, youth club, scouts, etc. would be welcome.

It was proposed that two new Community Notice Boards should be provided, one by the Bus Stop on Briar Hill and one on the Green. The clerk was asked to obtain quotations.

- 5.3 **Winter Services:** Following representations to the County Council, it had been agreed that grit bins would be placed at the entrance to Briar Hill, The Green, bottom of Hemmingway and at the entrance to the village from the A448. The Lengthsman would also assist with snow clearance on primary routes such as access to the village shops and surgery and residents would be encouraged to spread grit themselves and report low stocks or damage to the County Council via the Hub.

- 5.4 **Parish Footpaths:** Advice had been obtained from the County Council which indicated that the footpath across the Point to Point racecourse should not be closed during meetings, and organisers would be asked to appoint a warden to escort pedestrians across the race course safely.

Many of the Parish footpaths had been cleared using the Probation service, and one bridge near Swancote Farm had been removed and the path re-routed because it was in a dangerous condition. A second bridge had been repaired but would need replacement by the County Council next year, but the estimated cost was considered excessive. The clerk was asked to obtain other quotations.

- 5.5 **Maintenance Work:** Residents had requested the pruning of conifer trees between the Holloway and the Green, but as these were on private land the County Council would not fund this work. Community Housing does not consider them dangerous and are therefore unable to carry out the work. It was suggested that a report should be obtained from the Arboricultural Officer at the District Council. Cllr G Vernon suggested we seek funding from 'Local Offers' via Community Housing.

Residents had asked for the removal of two redundant poles on the Green. It was suggested they might be BT poles and a request would be made to them for their removal.

Bollards and fencing at the end of Hemmingway were in poor condition. This was considered to be the responsibility of the District Council.

- 5.6 **School Flashing 20 mph Signs:** Cllr K Bartlett reported attendance at a site meeting at 8.15 a.m. with officers of Worcestershire County Council and the Conservation Officer of Wyre Forest District Council. The signs had been erected without consultation after a report from the crossing patrol officer of a potential accident. The County Council apologised for erecting the signs at short notice but were complying with health and safety regulations. Residents were particularly concerned at the impact of the signs on the Conservation area and residents properties and it was agreed they should be relocated. One sign would be placed nearer the entrance to the village from the A448, and the second would be placed near Harkaway House. However, the Parish Council would prefer the second sign to be placed on the bridge at the bottom of Briar Hill which would not be seen from any properties and would still be effective in reducing speed at the entrance to the village. Further representations would be made to the County Council, but in the meantime the signs would have to remain insitu. It was also proposed to change the colour and construction of the signs to make them less obtrusive. Some parents felt the signs were excellent and that any measures to protect the children should be supported.
- 5.7 **Community Payback Scheme:** The clerk submitted a report about a proposed pilot scheme to appoint the Probation Service to carry out maintenance projects at a cost of £150 day.
- 5.8 **Review of Polling District and Polling Places in the District of Wyre Forest:** A survey of polling stations had taken place and recommendations made to move Rushock and Stone Parish polling stations to Chaddesley Corbett in order to save money. The Parish Council had no objection to this proposal.
- 5.9 **Lengthsman Scheme:** Routine maintenance had continued, including extra works approved on the Green, Briar Hill and Malvern View to cut back vegetation from footpaths. An extra skip had been required to clear soil arisings. In future funding for this work might be available from 'Local Offers'. Work had also been carried out on the A448 – village to Fox Lane, Hemmingway, A448 at Brockencote and the Village. Empty grit bins would be reported via the Hub.
- 5.10 **Fold Lane:** An application had been received from residents of Fold Lane for a contribution towards the cost of re-surfacing the road and improving drainage. After consideration it was decided not to support this application.
6. **DATES FOR MEETINGS**
- 6.1 **Wyre Forest Area Association of Local Councils:** Meeting Tuesday 7 December – the Swan, Chaddesley Corbett. 7.00 p.m. Speaker Ian Miller, Chief Executive, Wyre Forest District Council.
- 6.2 **Parish Plan Working Group** – Tuesday 11 January 2011 at 7.00 p.m. Village Hall.
- 6.3 **Worcestershire Parish Conference** – Tuesday 12 April 2011.
- 6.4 **Joint Parish Forum/Wyre Forest Area CALC Meeting** – Wednesday 13 April 2011.
- 6.5 **May Day Celebrations** – Community Orchard – Monday 2 May 2011.
7. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CLLRS REPESENTING OUTSIDE BODIES**

- 7.1 **Police** – Meeting Wyre Forest Community Engagement Group – Wednesday 8 December 2010. A report had been received regarding youths on a motor bike speeding through the village which would be reported to the police.
- 7.2 **Community Housing Group:** Cllr G Vernon reported on attendance at the Area Committee meeting on 17 November, where a number of people expressed concern at the poor level of involvement. Two possible sources of funding had been identified and the clerk had written a letter to the officer responsible to see if financial help with projects such as notice boards, benches and trees could be made available.
- 7.3 **Wyre Forest Matters:** Cllr J Swift attended a meeting when it was agreed that a Forum was useful in helping to advance the Big Society, and identified key issues of mutual interest such as sharing of information, collaborative network, employment, environmental needs of a rural community, rural regeneration, voluntary and charitable organisations etc.

8. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 **“South Staffordshire Local Development Framework”** – It was agreed that the Parish Council no longer wished to receive information from this Council.
- 8.2 **“Local Transport Plan Consultation:** The Council received a report from Cllr D Thomas summarising the proposals which most closely affected Chaddesley Corbett. They include:-
- delivery of the Bromsgrove Rail Interchange
 - extending the cross-city rail line south to Bromsgrove
 - enhancement of Kidderminster rail station to deliver a ‘modal interchange’
 - enhancements to the A451 Kidderminster-Stourport route.
- The main emphasis is to improve connections and transfer between different modes of transport. It was agreed that the Parish Council response should be to support the proposals and provide additional feedback to underline the difficulties of rural access to public transport and urge the introduction of smaller and more sustainable vehicles for rural routes, reflecting the narrowness of rural roads and the typically lower numbers of passengers per vehicle.

Further consideration would need to be given to a draft document ‘Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy, and the clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the School Travel Plan for Chaddesley Corbett School.

It was also recommended that the Footpaths Warden should review the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a view to providing feedback to the Parish Council.

- 8.3 **Age Related Benefits:** Worcestershire Hub, The Pensions Service, Home Support Providers and Age Concern have launched an ‘age related benefit take-up campaign. It is estimated that up to 9 million older person households fail to claim all their benefit entitlements and this campaign will focus initially on rural areas. Local residents are encouraged to contact their local Customer Service Centre by telephoning the Worcestershire Hub in the first instance, on 01905 363948.
- 8.4 **Office for Civil Society:** Consultation on improving services for frontline organisations can be viewed on www.strongercivilsociety.org.uk

9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 9.1 **Annual Parish Meeting:** It was agreed to change the date of this meeting to Monday 16 May 2010 at 7.15 p.m.
- 9.2 **Tandy’s Lane Flooding:** A letter had been received from Mr Mark Garnier MP, in connection with a resident’s appeal for help with flooding issues in Tandy’s Lane. The Clerk had responded on behalf of the Parish Council with details of measures already taken to improve the situation, but indicating that the County Council would have to find a more permanent solution to the problem.

9.3 **Emergency Planning:** A meeting had been called for Wednesday 9 February and Cllr J Swift would attend.

9.4 **Diversion of Footpath 578 – Formerly Footpath 42:** An additional link footpath had been proposed by the landowner, which was agreed.

10 FINANCIAL REPORT

10.1 **Monthly Bank Reconciliation:** In future a bank reconciliation would be prepared monthly and submitted for approval at each meeting. The cash book spreadsheet and a copy of the appropriate bank statement would in future be submitted by e-mail to Cllrs J Swift and K Bartlett prior to the meeting.

10.2 The Clerk presented a schedule of payments and receipts which was approved.

Payments

| | | Amount £ | VAT £ | Total £ |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| W Waldron | Lengthsman Scheme | 534.00 | | 534.00 |
| CC Village Hall | November | 39.00 | | 39.00 |
| Severn Trent Water | Allotments | 13.89 | | 13.89 |
| AVG | 2 Years Anti-Virus Programme | 25.53 | 4.47 | 30.00 |
| Worcs CALC | Clerk's Gathering | 7.50 | | 7.50 |
| SLCC | Worcester Branch Meeting | 20.00 | | 20.00 |
| Lawrence Skip Hire | Skip Hire | 98.83 | 17.30 | 116.13 |
| CC PCC | Annual Subscription to Magazine | 350.00 | | 350.00 |
| | | <u>1,088.75</u> | <u>21.77</u> | <u>1,110.52</u> |

Receipts

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------|--|---------------|
| Internment of Ashes | Scott | 140.00 | | 140.00 |
| Inscription | Grove | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| Inscription | Strange | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| | | <u>200.00</u> | | <u>200.00</u> |

11. **NEW ISSUES and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** None

Date of next Meeting **TUESDAY 4 JANUARY 2010**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.