

CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

MRS. L. J. SMITH
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4 HOME FARM
TEBWORTH
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
BEDFORDSHIRE LU7 9QD

Dear Councillor,
THE NEXT MEETING OF CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 18th, 2014 at 7.30pm AT CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL.

Lesley Smith, Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. OPEN FORUM
3. TO AMEND AND SIGN MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18th, 2014 MEETING
4. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
5. POLICE MATTERS
6. REPORT from WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION
7. MATTERS ARISING FROM FEBRUARY 18th, 2014 MINUTES
8. POINTS RAISED from JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 CORRESPONDENCE
9. FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
10. ACCOUNTS-a) Cheques for Signature b) End of year accounts
11. TO DISCUSS TEBWORTH POND
12. TO DECIDE MILLENNIUM and COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS
13. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED
14. TRAFFIC CALMING REPORT
15. PLANNING REPORT
16. HIGHWAYS REPORT
17. WEBSITE REPORT
18. TO FINALISE ARRANGEMENTS for the 2014 PARISH ASSEMBLY
19. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA
20. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MINUTES of the Meeting of Chalgrave Parish Council held on Tuesday, February 18th, 2014 at Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Tebworth at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. K. Green; Cllr. D. Hampson; Cllr. R. Mence; Cllr D Osborn; Cllr Parry (Chairman); Cllr. M. Wells; Ward Cllr. M. Versallion; Clerk.

Public present: 0

Committees

Planning	Cllr Hampson-Chair 877149	Cllr Osborn 0776862150	Cllr Brown 876148
Footpaths	Cllr Green-Chair 874107		
Website	Cllr Green 874107	Cllr Wells 877098	Mr S Gatward
Traffic Calming	Cllr Wells 877098	Cllr Brown 876148	

Responsibilities

Cllr Brown	Fly tipping			876148
Cllr Mence	Parish Plan	Street lights	Buses	874516
Cllr Osborn	Highways liaison	Grass cutting	Police Liaison	07768621850
Cllr Parry	Highways liaison			07831605600

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S. Brown.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the January 27th, 2014 meeting were amended, approved and signed as correct by the chairman.

3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. POLICE MATTERS

a) Crime figures: January 1st-January 31st, 2014.

Crime Type	Details
Burglary in a dwelling	Between 24/1/14, 15.45hrs & 25/1/14, 11.20hrs. Entry & exit via front door. No witnesses or CCTV. Scenes of crime actioned by police.

b) Anti-social behaviour. No incidents reported during December and up to January 31st, 2014.

5. TRAFFIC CALMING REPORT

This item was brought forward as Cllr Wells had to leave immediately afterwards.

- a) Speed Watch.** Cllr Wells reported that all the relevant papers had been signed and sent off to set up Speed Watch. He is arranging to meet with PCSO Juliet Wright before the training day. The volunteers will try to go out in March to carry out a Speed Watch.
- b) Toddington Parish Council.** Toddington PC has sent details of uncovered lorries travelling along Leighton Road. These would have passed through Tebworth on their way to Toddington. Cllr Wells will inform PCSO Juliet Wright.
- c) A5-M1 Link Road.** Cllr Wells has received correspondence concerning the potential nuisance which will be caused by the bypass being built. Wingfield residents are receiving a letter from a 'No Win No Fee' company offering to represent them in order to acquire compensation. The PC agreed that it should have no involvement and it was up to individuals if they wanted to take up the offer.

6. REPORT from WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION

- a) **CBC Budget.** For 2014/15 was approved on Thursday February 13th, 2014.
- b) **Precept.** Cllr Parry said that no Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) was forthcoming from CBC in the next financial year and it was one of the few local authorities that has not passed it down to town and parish councils. Cllr Versallion explained that CBC could not afford to do so due to the government reducing its funding by more than a quarter.

Cllr Parry pointed out that on the Council Tax Bill 2014/15 it will appear that the PC has raised its portion of Council Tax by 1.5% even though the amount requested is the same as 2013/14. Also the PC has received letters from residents in the past complaining that the tax had gone up. Cllr Versallion replied that the government has not awarded the £800,000 CTSG to CBC as a ring fenced amount. He agreed to follow up on the Council Tax Support Grant.

MV

- c) **Gypsy and Travellers' Sites.** Cllr Parry is pleased that there is a debate in parliament currently, initiated by Andrew Selous MP, and it is good that there is now a definition for 'Travellers'. There is a perception that there is one set of planning laws for Gypsies and Travellers and another for the settled community. Cllr Versallion replied that Eric Pickles and Brandon Lewis have made statements which have no teeth in Planning Law, therefore the law needed to be changed.

The Gypsy and Travellers' Plan is part of CBC's Local Development Framework (LDF). Recently CBC has identified a few more sites. The LDF is due to be approved by December 2014/January 2015. CBC had assumed 2.5% growth rate in the Gypsy and Traveller population. However other LDFs have been rejected when quoting 2.5% so CBC is considering 3%. Cllr Versallion assured members that CBC is doing everything it can to reduce Gypsy and Travellers sites in Bedfordshire.

- d) **Houghton Regis North 1 (HRN1) and Green Belt.** Cllr Green asked what the process was for redrawing the Green Belt boundary and would there be a consultation should that occur. Cllr Versallion replied that if a local authority wants to amend the Green Belt, then it is best practice to consult but not compulsory. The East of Leighton Buzzard (E of LB) development is a case in point. Cllr Green then asked at which point land ceases to be Green Belt. Cllr Versallion replied it will be at the point when the LDF is approved. However if an LDF stipulates that land is Green Belt it will be protected from speculative building.

Cllr Green informed members that GAPP wrote a letter to Eric Pickles asking him to call in the HRN1 and E of LB applications. However HRN1 has already been approved. The E of LB application has not been considered yet. Cllr Versallion informed members that the E of LB application will be considered at the CBC Planning Committee meeting on Friday, February 28th, 2014. GAPP wants to ask for HRN2 to be called in.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM JANUARY 27TH, 2014 MINUTES

- a) **Disturbance/Activity** on the night of Saturday 25th towards Tebworth approaching from Wingfield. No response from the police as to the cause. Clerk to follow up.
Clerk
- b) **Meeting with PCC Olly Martins.** February 5th, 2014. Mr Martins stated that the number of PCSOs will increase this year by 10-15 and the number of police officers by 80.
- c) **Accident; Junction C193/A5.** The clerk has contacted Cllr Shadbolt, Chairman of Hockliffe PC, regarding the fatal accident in October 2013 and is awaiting his response. Ongoing. Clerk to follow up.

Clerk

- d) **Fly Tipping.** The gas bottle on The Lane, Tebworth has been collected. Barrels have been dumped in the dip on Chagrove Road. Report to CBC
Clerk
- e) **BATPC Strategic Plan.** The clerk has submitted a response to the questionnaire.
- f) **BATPC: Local Government Finance Settlement.** Update in correspondence.
- g) **Overgrown Leylandii** are blocking the light to bungalows in St Mary's Close. Ongoing.
- h) **Road Signs** around the parish are dirty. HW has asked for details of the signs requiring cleaning and their locations. Cllr Parry and the clerk to compile a list. **PP; Clerk**
- i) **Scots Pine: Hockliffe Road.** It is unclear whether there is a Tree Preservation Order on the tree. Clerk to contact the Tree and Landscape Officer to clarify. Ongoing. **Clerk**
- j) **Overgrown Trees; 23 Toddington Road, Tebworth.** The PC has requested the owner/letting agent, via the tenant, to cut back the trees. No reply so far. Ongoing.
- k) **London Green Belt Council (LGBC): Notes 166-January 2014.** The All Party Parliamentary Group on the Green Belt (APPGGB) is seeking responses from interested groups about how the GB is protected. Cllr Green has responded to both on behalf of the PC. His response to the APPGGB is in correspondence.
- l) **Clerks and Councils Direct-January 2014 edition.** Information on the removal of the requirement for two signatories on PC cheques
- m) **Litter Collection** around the parish is carried out every fortnight.

8. **POINTS RAISED on DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Council Tax Support Grant.** Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State DCLG, is disappointed that some local authorities are not passing on the CTSG to town and parish councils. It was **agreed** to write to him to ask if anything was being done to put the requirement into law.
Clerk
- b) **NALC: EU VAT Rules for the Public Sector.** The European Commission is reviewing the VAT regime. This could have an impact on the Memorial Hall. Information has been passed on to the Memorial Hall Committee
- c) **Signatories to the Chalgrave PC Bank Account.** It was **agreed** Cllr Wells looks into the process for adding extra signatories to the PC account. Ongoing. **MW**
- d) **Local Area Transport Plan.** It was **agreed** to write to CBC to ask what it had achieved on the Plan to date.
Clerk

9. **JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- a) **LGBC: March Agenda.** In correspondence.
- b) **CBC: Emergency Planning. Flooding.** Information in correspondence.
- c) **Tower Mint. WW1 Remembrance Medals.** Details in correspondence.
- d) **Voluntary and Community Action. February Newsletter.** In correspondence.

10. **ACCOUNTS**

- a) **Cheques for Signature.** None this month.
- b) **Portable External Hard Drive.**

Cllr Wells declared a prejudicial interest. He owns Chalgrave IT Solutions Ltd.

The members **agreed** to the clerk's request for a portable external hard drive for the PC's computer. Cllr Wells will obtain quotes. Ongoing.
MW

11. **TEBWORTH POND**

Cllr Hampson has a site meeting on Friday, February 21st, 2014 with a representative from a company specialising in pond clearance. Cllr Parry will also attend. Work is planned as soon as the weather improves and at the optimum time for wildlife. The PC has received

letters from residents concerned about the state of the pond. Ongoing.
PP

DH:

12. MEETINGS ATTENDED

All relevant minutes in correspondence.

13. PLANNING

- a) **Solar Farm.** A planning application for a solar farm to the east of the A5120 Dunstable Road is likely to be submitted. Cllr Parry met with the landowner recently to discuss the proposed application. There are two points of access, one of which is from Featherbed Lane. The PC will request that the contractors resurface the road should the application be granted.

Cllr Hampson said that CBC has no planning guidelines regarding solar farms. The government's stance is that applications such as this cannot be ruled out as long they are acceptable overall. The clerk has given general information on solar farms to Cllr Hampson.

- b) **Gypsy and Travellers Local Plan Pre-submission. 2014 Consultation** runs from 17/2/14 -31/ 3/14. Information in correspondence.

14. HIGHWAYS

- a) **Potholes.** The Chalgrave News will include a request for residents to report potholes to HW and keep a record of the reference numbers so that the report can be followed up.
- b) **Drains** have coped reasonably during the wet weather. The gulleys have been cleaned out recently. However the water level in Tebworth Pond is high and there is water on the road adjacent to it again. Cllr Green also reported that the drain outside his property and the one near Tythe Farm are full up.
- c) **Parkview Lane.** Although water is collecting at the entrance to Parkview Lane it clears well under normal circumstances now.
- d) **Queens Head Entrance to The Lane.** Cllr Green reported that some of the potholes had been filled in. However the work carried out was not good and the condition of the road is worse now rather than better. Clerk to contact Amey.
- e) **Rubbish and Litter.** The PC has learnt that the contractors will not collect items out of ditches for Health & Safety reasons. Cllr Osborn informed the PC that roadside litter will be collected on February 27th and asked members to check for litter on February 26th.

15. PARISH ASSEMBLY 2014

- a) **Date:** Tuesday April 22nd, 2014

- b) **Catering:** Cllr Hampson will purchase the food.

16. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

Parish Assembly; Millennium and Community awards.

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 18th, 2014 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed by Chairman.....

Dated.....

