

Churcham Parish Council

Clerk
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**Minutes of the meeting of the
CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Churcham Primary School
On 16th June 2015 at 7.30pm**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those Present: - Councillors Reeves, Price, Baber, Freeman, Newbery and Francis along with the clerk Marilyn King. Also attending were Councillor Robinson, 4 members of the public and Mr Gary Sutton a youth worker working in the forest area.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Brookes and District Councillor Jones.

2 Declarations of Interest by members in items to be discussed. There were no declarations.

3. Minutes of previous Meeting had already been circulated. Councillor Francis proposed they be signed as a true record, this was seconded by councillor Newbery and unanimously approved.

4. Matters arising. A councillor asked the clerk to find out how many fatalities had occurred near the Birdwood Crossroads and the proposed new care home at Sunnyside, so that she has the correct information when attending the planning committee site visit on the 23rd June.

5. Mr Gary Sutton a qualified youth worker in the area discussed his idea of setting up a youth club in Huntley. He has been offered the use of the village hall at Huntley free for a trial period of 6 to 12 months on a Monday evening. The session would be for a maximum of 32 children age from 6 to 16 years. He asked the council if they would match fund a donation of £1200.00 which he has been promised from Huntley Parish Council, or in fact any donation to help him set this up.

Councillors said they would make a decision at a meeting in the future, but that they had not budgeted for any extra expense on top of the day to day expenses of running the parish council.

The cost of 2 qualified youth workers per session would be £50.00. Councillors discussed this idea in depth. One councillor told Mr Sutton that there is already a youth club in Longhope that will close if a new leader is not found and perhaps he should look into running that one and building it up.

Councillor Robinson said he would discuss with Mr Sutton the possibility of grant aid.

Councillor Price told Mr Sutton that there are three other clubs that children in the parish use on a Monday evening, so his idea would clash with them. She asked if it was not possible to hold a youth club on another evening of the week.

Mr Sutton said he would consider that, but that he could only use Huntley Village Hall for free on a Monday.

Planning Applications: -

5.1 Mr Syla, Birdwood Valeting Centre: - Erection of a 1.8 metre fence to north boundary.

Councillors thought that the fencing would not be in keeping with the area, and were unanimously opposed to the idea.

6. To confirm planning decisions by Forest of Dean District Council/Gloucestershire County Council.

There were no planning decisions.

7. Clerk's Report.

The clerk reported that a total of £2670.47 in donations and raffle ticket sales has been banked to date for the fundraising for two defibrillators.

The siting of the second proposed defibrillator was discussed. The clerk was asked to find out costs of insurance and maintenance of the old telephone kiosk on the A40 near Bulley Lane in Churcham.

Councillors discussed if they should purchase one defibrillator now and another when all the money was raised.

It was decided to wait until the September meeting to make a decision, when more money will have come in from the raffle ticket sales and possible donations.

One councillor offered a large donation to boost the defibrillator appeal fund.

The clerk reported that the Local Highways Manager Brian Watkins has organised the completion of the resurfacing of Bulley Lane ending at Birdsend Farm is now programmed for the 9th to the 15th July.

One councillor would like extra tarmac laid on Bulley Lane by the entrance to Lake Lane where vehicles are driving off the tarmacked area of the lane and causing ruts. The clerk will ask the highways manager if this is possible.

8. Councillors Reports.

Councillors discussed an untidy area in the parish. It was decided that councillor Freeman will discuss the parish council and resident's concerns with the owner.

Councillors discussed problems that are occurring at Churcham Garage.

The school bus owned by George Young's Transport is trying to turn in the road by the garage and reversing out onto the A40 at around 4.10pm and is in danger of causing a serious accident. The clerk was asked to contact the owners of George Young's Transport to inform them.

One councillor stated that the grass needs cutting on the central reservation on the A40 by the roundabout at Highnam.

County Councillor Robinson told the meeting that he would only be able to attend every third parish council meeting at Churcham due to other commitments.

Councillor Robinson told the meeting that he would set up a Facebook page for the parish council to put their agendas and minutes on.

Councillor Price will take some photographs and put them on it.

A resident would like the parish council to set up a cycle path from Highnam roundabout to the Forest of Dean.

The district councillor will discuss the idea with Highnam Parish council.

There are places through Birdwood where it would be impossible to install a cycle way due to the width of the available land. The cost would probably be prohibitive.

Councillor Francis reported that some of the public footpaths need some refurbishments. He will inform the clerk where they are and she will inform the correct people to get them cleared.

9 Financial Matters.

9.1 It was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Francis and unanimously agreed that a cheque for £2422.32 be signed for Mrs M King for clerk's salary and office expenses.

10 Correspondence received: -

10.1 Forest Sensory Service donation appeal. No extra money is available to make a donation.

10.2 Community Transport Partnership Forest Routes Survey. The clerk supplied the meeting with the email address for anyone who wants to comment to do so.

10.3 John Bellwood. Lake Lane sign has still not been replaced. The clerk has spoken to Chris Johns an asset manager at the forest of Dean District Council and a replacement sign has been ordered and should be in place within 10 weeks.

10.4 Councillor Brian Robinson informed that Active Together Grants could be applied for. They are aimed at increasing adult and child activities or healthy eating initiatives.

There are also grants available for the age group 11 to 25. All enquiries to Councillor Robinson on 07887951661.

10.5 Code of Conduct Training for parish councillors has been arranged on Monday 6th July at the Council Chamber at the council offices in Coleford at 6pm.

11. Public opinions.

No one took up this option.

12. Any other business

There was no other business.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm

The date of the next meeting is on the 21st July 2014.

The clerk's working hours are Wednesday 10am – 12pm, 2pm to 4pm

Thursday 10am – 12pm, 2pm – 3pm

If any urgent item needs to be discussed by councillors or residents in between these times I can be contacted by telephone only on 01452 750451