

Churcham Parish Council

Clerk
Mrs Marilyn King
Birdwood Villa Farm
Birdwood
Gloucestershire
GL19 3EQ
Tel: 01452 750 451
Email:
Birdwood.villafarm@virgin.net

**Minutes of the meeting of the
CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Churcham Primary School
On the 19th January 2016 at 7.30pm**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those Present: - Councillors Reeves, Price, Baber, Newbery, Brookes, Francis along with the clerk Marilyn King. Also attending were County Councillor Robinson, Hilary Lyon the Village Agent and one member of the public.

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

3. Minutes of previous Meeting. Councillor Baber proposed that the minutes were approved as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously approved.

4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Planning Applications. Mr E Barnard, Duncombe Barn Lake Lane Churcham P0865/15/FUL The erection of a dwelling and removal of existing agricultural barn. An appeal has been lodged in respect of this application after it was refused by the Forest of Dean District Council Planners.

6. To confirm planning decisions by Forest of Dean District Council/Gloucestershire County Council. Mr R Bullock, Birds Nest Springdale Churcham P1617/15/FUL: - Conversion of existing roof space, extension to rear and creation of off road parking. Full permission was granted.

7. Clerk's Report. The clerk reported that with regard to the proposed affordable housing site in Chapel Lane Birdwood a couple of issues have delayed submission of a planning application. Firstly, it appeared that the owner of the Chapel has erected fencing around the perimeter of the grounds and encroached onto highway land. A highways consultant has visited the site to look into the extent of the land grab to measure the distance from the fencing to the highway to see if Gloucestershire County Council would accept a slightly narrower footpath, and it has been confirmed that they would. Drainage infiltration tests came back poor for the site, and a drainage engineer is looking into alternative solutions.

Assurances were given that there are viable solutions, however Two Rivers Housing are waiting for the results before deciding on the best course of action.

The owner of the land Mrs Linda Langrish has agreed to extend the Longstop date on the contract, this will enable Two Rivers enough time to get the remaining information, and they will submit a planning application in February.

Architects are finalising the layout/design.

7.2 It has been reported that Parish Councils with an annual expenditure of under £25,000 will not be subject to an external audit in 2017 however, an Annual Return will still have to be prepared and published on the website.

Each parish council will still need to have an external auditor in place just in case of queries.

8. Councillor's Reports.

Councillor Price asked for support to get faster broadband for the parish. The clerk was asked to get all the telephone numbers of all households who would benefit from increased speed and pass them on to County Councillor Robinson who would discuss the problem with Paul Coles the regional manager for the south west to see if/when superfast broadband could be brought in. If any resident would like their telephone number passed on please contact the clerk Marilyn King on 01452 750451.

A local resident told the meeting that she had been informed that the Minsterworth telephone exchange could not be upgraded to accept faster broadband.

The clerk was asked to get the marker posts that have been damaged in Oakle Street replaced by Amey Highways. Problems occurred when the A48 was closed due to an accident recently and large vehicles were trying to pass one another damaging the verges and banks.

The footpath from Lobstock to Sainthill need some work the clerk was asked to discuss the problem with Highways.

Councillors agreed to update the emergency plans at the next meeting to cover areas of flooding.

Councillor Francis told the meeting he is in the process of setting up an initiative group called My Churcham to foster interaction between groups and will hold a meeting in March, the date has yet to be decided.

Councillors discussed Bulley Lane once again where subsidence is causing problems by new cottages. Gloucestershire Highways have put new tarmac down by residents are not happy with the outcome. They say the road needs to be completely rebuilt in that section. The clerk will discuss the problems with a highways manager.

Visibility at the bus stop at Stone End is still causing problems for residents catching the bus. The clerk will discuss the problem with Highways England.

Village Agent Hilary Lyon told the meeting that residents who wear hearing aids can get them serviced at Sheppard House Onslow Road Newent on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10am to 2pm. To book an appointment please telephone 01452 372999.

County Councillor Robinson discussed fracking in the forest area, but in his opinion it is probably not viable.

9 Financial Matters. The clerk reported that she had banked £445.00 received from GAPTC Transparency Fund to cover the cost of website design and training, and that £35.00 has been donated towards the cost of upkeep/battery replacement for the defibrillators from the collection box at the Kings Head Public House. The balance of the two bank accounts today stands at £5861.18.

10. Public Opinions. No one took up this option.

1 Correspondence received: -

11.1 Mr C Baston would like to see bollards or plastic edge markers placed at the end of the lay-by near Church Lane as vehicles are parking on the grass verge to be near to the hot food van causing ruts. The chairman will discuss the problems with the owner of the fast food vehicle.

11.2 Deb Cook a Volunteer Coordinator for the Foresters' Forest HLF Programme is looking for volunteers for wildlife, pond and waterways surveys. She can be contacted on 01594 822073 or by email at contact@fyaf.org.uk

10.3 Mr D Brennan stated that the two defibrillators in the parish are a great asset and thanked councillors and the clerk for all their hard work getting them installed and for organising the official opening on the 16th January.

10.4 Amey Gloucestershire Highways 2016 Highways Guide was discussed.

12. Any other business.

The chairman thanked the clerk on behalf of the parish council for all her hard work raising money for the defibrillators, and also councillor Newbery for refurbishing the old telephone kiosk.

**The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.
The date of the next meeting is to be held on the 16th February.**

The clerk's working hours are: -

Monday 10am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm

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