

Churcham Parish Council

Clerk
Mrs Marilyn King
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Minutes of the meeting of the CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Held at Churcham Primary School On the 19th April 2016 at 7.30pm

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those Present: - Councillors Reeves, Price, Baber, Freeman, Newbery and Brookes along with the clerk Marilyn King and 3 members of the public.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Francis, and District Councillor Jones.

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

3. Minutes of previous Meeting. Councillor Price proposed the minutes be signed as a true record of events, this was seconded by councillor Newbery and unanimously agreed.

4 Matters arising. The road surface in Bulley Lane by the new cottages was reported to Gloucestershire Highways and a manager agreed that bollards should be put on the corner to stop vehicles making the bend wider and undermining the road surface. He will put the job into the programme of work. With regard to the flooding of Bulley Lane between Colliers Elm Farm and Birds End Farm a highways manager will discuss the problem with the land owner with regard to him digging out the ditches. The parking on the footpath and grass verge in the entrance to Bulley Lane opposite the car wash has improved after many complaints. The Police were informed and they have visited the owners of the Car Wash and the Car Sales opposite to discuss the problems.

5. Planning Applications.

5.1 Mr Fisher, Huntsman's Meadow, Oakle Street Churcham Retrospective application for the siting of a mobile home. Erection of a porch to mobile home and the change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage. Amended Application. Councillors voiced no concerns over this amended application.

5.2 Mr Mills, Daian, Lake Lane Churcham: - Alterations and extension to dwelling including raising of the roof {Renewal of consent}. Councillors thought that this application was a speculative planning application and the new property would be out of character within the area.

If this application was granted it would alter the character of the building as it stands now, After a vote, 4 councillors were against the application and two councillors supported the application.

5.3 Mr T Jones, Solomon's Tump Farm Solomon's Tump: - Erection of a garage/store. Councillors approved this application.

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

6.1 Mr J Wheeler, Bulley Farm, Bulley Lane Churcham: - Single storey side extension. This application was granted full permission.

6.2 Smart Farms, Stone End Farm Churcham: - Erection of a building to be used for a farm workshop and storage of ancillary equipment at Barnaby Grange. Full permission was granted.

7. Clerk's Report. The clerk reported that the dropped kerbs and tactile paving by the bus shelter opposite Sainthill Lane has been completed as has the repair to the pavement by halfway bridge which was damaged by tractors driving in and out of the long field.

8. Councillor's Reports.

Councillor Price reported that the damaged bollards in Oakle Street have still not been replaced. The clerk was asked to contact Gloucestershire Highways.

The promised bollards on the grass verge between Church Lane and the Layby have still not been erected. This would stop vehicles damaging the verge when they stop at the hot food van, when they should be parking in the lay by.

Councillor Reeves would like the Forest of Dean District Council to provide toilet and hand washing facilities in this lay by using the money that the owner of the hot food vehicle pays for a licence.

Councillors asked the chairman to write to Roger Blowey the Chairman of Minsterworth Parish Council, and the Chairman of the County Council to ask them for support and ask them to put pressure on BT for faster Broadband for Churcham.

Councillors asked the clerk if it was possible to get a monthly report from Mr Nigel Steele on how many people read the Parish Council website.

Councillor Reeves raised concerns about the road surface on the A40 westbound either side of Highnam Roundabout. She was asked to contact Highnam Parish Council as this area was not under Churcham Parish Council remit.

9 Financial Matters.

9.1 Councillor Newbery proposed that the annual Governance Statement 2015/16 of the Annual Return be approved, this was seconded by Councillor Baber and unanimously approved.

9.2 Councillor Brookes proposed that the Accounting Statement 2016 of the Annual return be approved, this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

9.3 The Internal Audit has been completed and will now be forwarded to the External auditor.

9.4 The balance of the two bank accounts after the two cheques below has been processed will be £4361.08.

Cheques signed were.

9.5 Mrs S Fowler £50.00 for Internal Audit.

9.6 Tower Mint £271.68 for Queen Elizabeth 11 90th Birthday Commemorative Medals to be given to all children under 18 years of age living permanently in the parish on the 15th March 2016.

10. Public Opinions.

A resident of Lake Lane thanked the parish council and the clerk for the work they have put in on behalf of the parish in the past year.

Councillor Newbery also thanked the clerk on behalf of the parish council for all her hard work and support during the past year.

11 Correspondence received: -

11.1 Churcham and Bulley National School Trustees: - Out of hours booking fee.

The trustees of Churcham and Bulley National School resolved to increase the booking fee for the hire of the school room to £20.00 per meeting starting on the 1st April with a second increase to £22.50 with effect from 1st April 2017.

The increase has been prompted by an increase in Insurance Premium Tax from 6% to 9.5%, and the adoption of the National Living Wage for incidental cleaning.

There has also been no commensurate decrease in electricity costs.

11.2 Anne Bryson, Treasurer Forest Edge News Parish Magazine.

The treasurer of the magazine thanked the parish council for their contribution of £100 cheque towards the honorarium for the editor of the magazine. Due to the fact that the magazine has a new editor and someone else managing the advertisement's and sales the magazine is making a reasonable profit and as a result it was felt unnecessary to accept the cheque and it was returned to the clerk.

11.3 Councillor Brian Robinson: - Broadband. Councillor Robinson has raised the slow broadband with the leader of the County Council Mark Hawthorne who confirms that phase 1 of Fastershire which aimed to connect 90% of the county to fibre broadband is nearing completion and now moving on to phase 2 to increase the coverage. Properties not covered by phase 1 will be considered under the next phase.

11.4 FODDC: - Improvements for Newent. The latest £144,000 phase of work will replace uneven, damaged kerbs and footpaths and continue up to St Mary's Church.

12. Any other business. There was no other business to discuss.

**The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm
The date of the next meeting is the 17th May 2016**

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