

Churcham Parish Council

Clerk
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Minutes of the meeting of the CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Held at Churcham Primary School On THE 15TH March 2016 at 7.30pm

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those Present: - Councillors Reeves, Price, Baber, Freeman, Newbery, Brookes and Francis along with the clerk Marilyn King, County Councillor Robinson, District Councillor Jones and three members of the public.

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

3. Minutes of previous Meeting. Councillor Price proposed that they be signed as a true record, This was seconded by Councillor Brookes and unanimously approved.
The flooding of Bulley Lane between Colliers Elm Farm and Birds End Farm has been reported to Gloucestershire Highways by the clerk.

4 Matters arising.

The Environment Agency has looked into claims that effluent was leaking into the stream by Brooklands in Bulley Lane. Their findings are that no effluent is leaking into the stream, and any Cloudy water is due to silt.

5. Planning Applications.

5.1 Mr J Wheeler, Bulley Farm Churcham: - P0150/15/FUL Single Storey Side Extension.

After discussing this application Councillor Francis proposed that approval was granted, this was seconded by Councillor Baber and unanimously approved.

5.2 Smart Farms, Barnaby Grange Main Road Churcham: - P0137/15/FUL Erection of a building to be used for farm workshop and storage of ancillary equipment.

Councillors discussed this application. Councillor Brookes proposed that approval was granted, this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously agreed.

5.3 Two River Housing Land off Chapel Lane Churcham P0247/16/FUL erection of 7 dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping and planting of a new community orchard.

Councillors discussed this application at length and all were supportive as Churcham Parish has an Aging population and it is imperative that the demographics must include younger people just starting living away from home as well as young families which in turn would keep up the numbers of children attending the local school, there is a proven need for affordable accommodation for the younger age group.

The variety of properties on this site will provide a good mixture of housing for local residents or people with a connection to Churcham Parish.

Councillor Francis proposed that approval was granted, this was seconded by Councillor Newbery and unanimously agreed that it will be an asset to the parish.

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

6.1 Ms M Coopey, 4 Picked Acre Bulley Lane Churcham: - P1594/15/FUL Two storey side extension And single storey rear extension, alterations to existing porch. Full permission was granted.

7. Clerk's Report.

The clerk reported that she had organised the removal of fly tipped waste and litter from Pockets Layby recently.

The clerks spent 2 hours picking up litter in the layby near Church Lane, and picked up 8 bin bags full. Councillors all agreed that litter bins should be sited in Lobstock, Pockets and Church Lane Laybys, And emptied weekly by refuse collectors.

7.1 A risk assessment was carried out on the two parish council bank accounts. Councillor Baber Proposed that they were fit for purpose, this was seconded by Councillor Newbery and unanimously approved.

7.2 Councillors discussed the Financial Regulations, Councillor Newbery proposed that they were fit for purpose, this was seconded by Councillor Reeves and unanimously approved.

7.3 The Asset Register was discussed and Councillor Freeman proposed that the register be approved this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously approved.

7.4 The Parish Council Standing Orders were discussed and Councillor Brookes proposed that they be approved, this was seconded by Councillor Baber and unanimously agreed.

8. Councillor's Report.

Councillor Price reported that parking on the grass verges and footpath in Bulley Lane by the Birdwood Crossroads is causing a traffic hazard and restricting the road width.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Police and ask them to prosecute the offenders who park there while working at nearby businesses, or who stop to view the vehicles for sale at the local businesses instead Of parking on the sites.

As a last resort Gloucestershire Highways could be asked to put in yellow lines which make it illegal to park there.

Residents were asked to contact their service providers to try to ask why the internet speed is not good enough, and to write to their MP Mark Harper to ask for his help with an upgrade of the Minsterworth Exchange.

Business owners are losing a huge amount of money by not having a good broadband speed.

Churcham is a blighted community and not viable for many potential business owners due to the slow broadband speed.

The Chairman was asked to write to MP Mark Harper giving him the facts and asking him for support To get the Minsterworth Exchange upgraded.

The road surface in Bulley Lane just past Picked Acre going towards Bulley Church is still causing concern with the base of the road disappearing.

The clerk was asked to contact Gloucestershire Highways and ask for a proper job to be done.

The drain at the bottom of Church Lane is still blocked and water cannot get away, the clerk was asked To report the problem once again to Highways England.

The road surface on the A40 on Lobstock bend is failing, the clerk was asked to contact Highways England to report it.

County Councillor Robinson told the meeting that Churcham needs to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan which would help with planning applications and services.

Councillor Robinson was asked to investigate what will replace the bus service that travels down Oakle Street every Wednesday which is due to be axed, as it is a lifeline to many older residents.

9 Financial Matters.

9.1 Councillor Newbery proposed that a cheque for £171.59 payable to GAPTC for membership was approved this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously approved.

The balance of the two bank accounts after the above cheque is processed will be ££4682.76

10 Correspondence received: -

10.1 Tower Mint offered HM Queen Elizabeth 11 Birthday Commemorative Medal.

Councillors unanimously agreed to find out how many children are living permanently in Churcham Parish under the age of 18 with a view to giving them all Commemorative Medal. They will report

Back their findings at the next meeting...

10.2 A letter from Mr & Mrs Pope was read out regarding the amount of litter in Pockets Layby and The layby adjacent to Church Lane. The clerk has already organised a litter pick by Gloucestershire Highways staff.

10.3 Gloucestershire Police suggest security marking of tools, then if they are stolen it will be easy to identify them if they are found.

10.4 The Pride of The Forest Awards – Nominations must be received by 8th April.

10.5 FODDC : - From 6th April all dogs over 8 weeks old must be microchipped. Free microchipping is still available. Residents should contact the Street Warden Service on 01594 810000 as soon as possible.

10.6 FODDC: - The District Council freezes car parking and green waste licence charges was discussed.

10.7 Free First Aid Courses are available on 17th March at Salvation Army Broadwell Coleford.

10.8 FODDC Easter and Bank Holiday Waster Recycling Collections will run one day late , but will be collected on Good Friday if that happens to be your area collection day.

10.9 Two Rivers Housing: - an update regarding the proposed affordable housing site in Chapel Lane Was discussed. Statutory powers may have to be used by Severn Trent Water to access a garden Adjacent to the site to check drains.

10.10 Hilary Lyon our Village Agent is standing down on the 30th March and will be replaced by Sarah Davies, she can be contacted on 07810 630254.

The clerk was asked to send a card to Hilary thanking her for her input over the past 9 years and wish Her well for the future.

11. Public opinions.

A resident of Chapel Lane reported that the old Methodist Chapel is an eyesore and that the fencing Panels that have been recently erected are only legally supposed to be 1 metre high, and that an enforcement officer from the Forest of Dean District Council should be asked to make sure that the

Fence is put back to its original line and not as it is now encroaching onto the grass verge.

He stated that the proposed affordable housing in Chapel Lane will be an asset to the parish.

A resident complained that Bulley Lane was impassable due to flooding recently.

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

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm

The date of the next meeting is the 19th April.