

# Churcham Parish Council

**Clerk**  
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**The Minutes of the meeting of the  
CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Churcham Primary School  
On the at 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Those Present:** - Councillors Francis {Chairman} Newbery, Freeman, Brookes, Price and Reeves along with the clerk Marilyn King, County Councillor Robinson and ten members of the public.

**1. To receive apologies for absence.** Councillor Baber tendered his apologies.

**2. To record any Declarations of Interest by members in items to be discussed.**

Councillor Price declared an interest in item 5.2 and left the meeting while the planning permission was discussed.

**3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting.** Councillor Reeves proposed that the minutes be approved as a true record of events, this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

**3.1 To approve the minutes of the May meeting.** Councillor Newbery proposed that the minutes be approved as a true record of events, this was seconded by Councillor Reeves and unanimously agreed.

**4. To consider matters arising from those minutes.** There were no matters to discuss.

**5. To consider planning applications notified by the Forest of Dean District Council:-**

5.1 The Trustees of Churcham School: - New Vehicular Access to existing School House Main Road Churcham,

Subject to resolution of land ownership by parties involved councillors approved this application.

5.2 Mr D Price, The Oaks Oakle Street Churcham: - Erection of a side extension. Councillors unanimously approved this application.

5.3 Smart Farms, Stone End Farm Main Road Churcham: - Prior approval for change of use from agricultural building to B1 use. Councillors discussed this application and a decision was made for unanimous approval.

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

6.1 Ms A Paul, Meadow Walk Solomons Tump Huntley: - Two storey extension and alterations to dwelling. Full permission was granted.

6.2 Mr E Barnard, Duncombe Barn Lake Lane Churcham: - A Planning Appeal decision for the proposed removal of an existing agricultural barn and building a new house was dismissed by an Appeal Inspectorate.

6.3 Two Rivers Housing: - Erection of 7 dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping and planting of a new community orchard. Permission was granted subject to completion of planning obligation of unilateral undertaking to secure the provision of 100% affordable housing for persons with a local connection to Churcham Parish.

## **7. Clerk's Report.**

The mobile library will be in the bus lay-by near Churcham School between 2.30pm and 4pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> September and the 19<sup>th</sup> October.

32 Broadband Surveys have so far been sent back to the clerk out of 258 printed.

## **8. To receive Councillor's Reports.**

Councillors reported that the footpath between Stone End Farm and the RSPB reserve is overgrown, and also the footpath between Sainthill and the School. The clerk was asked to contact Highways England to get it cut back.

It was reported that the damaged bollards in Oakle Street still have not been replaced and that a large pot hole needs repair near the bollards.

The clerk was asked to contact Gloucestershire Highways.

The chairman thanked Bob Tovey and Sam Hall for repairing two stiles on the footpath between the A40 and Lake Lane.

County Councillor Robinson stated that he will continue to work with the Forest of Dean District Council and the Government to try to get funding to improve the broadband speed in this parish.

He also discussed the blue bag scheme that will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> August. Most of the residents will have had a blue bag delivered when their refuse was collected this week. It is important not to use the bag before the 1<sup>st</sup> August as the refuse collectors will not be ready to accept the change of system before then.

Councillor Robinson stated that Highways England are holding a consultation asking for comments regarding the A40 through the parish. He will send a link to the clerk from them.

Shared access for cyclist and footpath users was one idea put forward as well as quiet tarmac to be installed if they are making improvements to the highway, this would be beneficial to many residents living alongside the A40.

We are awaiting a response from Highnam Parish Council regarding their support.

## **9. Financial Matters.**

Councillor Newberry has completed a financial check of the parish council accounts and agreed that everything is in order.

Invoices for approval: -

9.1 Mrs M King £2187.04 office expenses and salary.

Councillor Freeman proposed that the above cheque be signed and this was seconded by Councillor Reeves and unanimously agreed.

The balance of the two bank accounts after the above cheque is processed will be £11485.23p.

## **10. Correspondence received.**

10.1 Mr Brennan: - Suggestion that public toilets be provided in Lay by near Church Lane.

In his opinion by installing toilets in this lay by would bring long term problems to the village that would be difficult to resolve.

10.2 Mr Powers asked for several jobs to be completed in Bulley Lane, from a blocked up drain to damaged signage.

County Councillor Robinson reported that these jobs could be done under the Lengthsman Scheme. Should any other small jobs be required to be completed if residents pass the request on to the Clerk she will pass the jobs on to Councillor Robinson.

10.3 Dawn Morgan, Flood Risk Engineer for the Forest of Dean District Council: - Riparian Ownership Issue.

The watercourse between the sewerage works and Bulley Lane which runs behind some properties in Springdale is in need of maintenance. Properties that border the watercourse have a legal obligation to maintain them, as do the landowners.

The clerk delivered a copy of this letter to the residents in Springdale whose properties border the watercourse. Councillor Brookes will walk the watercourse and see what the problems are.

### **11. Public Question Time.**

A local resident asked why two of the houses in Lake Lane have been put up for sale by Two Rivers Housing when there is a need for affordable houses in the parish.

Councillor Robinson told the meeting that in order to build new houses some money will come from government sources but that Two Rivers have to put a proportion of the money required, so they will sell off up to 50 properties in their ownership as they become vacant to build 100 properties in the area that they cover. Rural properties are easier to sell than town ones. The new ones that will be built will be the right size for the need in that area.

Councillors understand that there is a cap on rent, and that excess bedrooms are not funded. If a tenant is living in a three bedroom house but only needs two bedrooms then Two Rivers cannot fill a vacant tenancy.

The parish council asked the clerk to contact Two Rivers to voice their displeasure at the selling off of the two houses in Lake Lane.

A local undertaker warned residents and councillors about a national company selling prepaid funeral plans.

Should residents be considering this type of plan they are advised to contact any funeral director directly to discuss their requirements.

Several local people have come across problems with some funeral plans recently.

The assembled meeting were told that the parking of vehicles in Bulley Lane near the Chapel of Rest is on land owned by the local funeral directors.

As a local employee their staff need parking facilities.

Highways staff have agreed with the funeral director that the land does belong to his business.

One resident voiced his concerns regarding the proposed driveway at the School House, stating that in his opinion it will cause more problems for parents dropping children off and collecting them.

### **12. Any other business.**

There was no other business to discuss.

**The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm**

**The date of the next meeting is to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

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