

Churcham Parish Council

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

**The Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the
CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Churcham Primary School
On the 16th August 2016 at 7.30pm**

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

1. To receive apologies for absence. There were no apologies.

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

There were no declarations.

3. To approve the minutes of previous Meetings.

Councillor Reeves proposed that the minutes of the July meeting be signed as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Brookes and unanimously approved.

4. To consider matters arising from those minutes.

4.1 A councillor reported that the damaged bollards in Oakle Street were replaced recently, but several were damaged once again a short time later by a large farm machine.

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

5.1 Ms C Shepherd, School of the Lion, Main Road Churcham: - P0889/16/FUL Erection of two bungalows.

Councillors discussed this application at length, with the owner of the site being allowed to discuss the application with the assembled parish council before a decision was made.

Although not against planning for two bungalows on the School of the Lion site councillors raised concerns regarding the size and the proximity to the grade two listed building adjoining the site.

If the proposed bungalows been set further back away from the listed building councillors may have reached a different decision.

Councillor Newbery proposed that this application be refused in its present form, this was seconded by councillor Brookes and unanimously agreed.

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

6.1 Smart Farms, Stone End Farm Main Road Churcham: - P0721/16/PR3PA Prior approval for change of use from agriculture to B1 use. This application was refused.

6.2 Mr D Price, The Oaks Oakle Street Churcham: - P0675/16/FUL. Erection of a single storey side extension {Demolition of existing green house and re-siting of oil tank}. This application has been granted full permission.

7. Clerk's Report.

The footpath from Lake Lane to the A40 running alongside the school and playing field will be cut by volunteers sometime during the next two weeks.

The clerk told the meeting that the amount of litter in the lay by near Church Lane was unacceptable. She had personally collected 5 bags of litter and removed them recently, but was unable to complete the job as several Lorries were parked in the way.

The Street Warden Rob Carpenter has volunteered to litter pick the rest.

Councillors asked the clerk to find out what sort of licence the owner of the hot food van is trading under, and if any conditions regarding keeping the lay by clear of refuse is in place.

The clerk has been trying to get the Forest of Dean District Council to supply and empty a litter bin in that layby for several months.

8. To receive Councillor's Reports.

The clerk was asked to write to Brian Jones the District Councillor for Churcham, as he has not attended a parish council meeting May. Councillor Jones had been having some health issues for some time before that.

A Councillor reported that a white van with Highways Agency stickers had been in the area asking residents if they would like their drives tarmacked. This was reported to the Police as Highways Agency staff do not lay tarmac for private customers.

The trustees of the school are looking for a resident to take on the responsibility for an 8 foot by 6 foot shed that used to be in the school house garden. Tables and chairs belonging to the parish are stored in there. One of the trustees will move the shed and contents once a new home is found for it.

Councillors will ask around the parish and report back at the next meeting if a secure place can be found. It was reported that a large pothole needs filling in Bulley Lane by New Cottages, and tarmac needs replacing in Bulley Lane below Pigeon House Farm.

Also the road surface on the A40 by Lobstock Lay by needs some attention.

The Chairman told the meeting that the "My Churcham" group is now live on the Churcham website, and he encouraged residents to have a look at it and get involved with the groups.

He asked the clerk to find out if "My Churcham" signs can be added below the village signs on the A40.

9. Financial Matters.

9.1 Aon Insurance. An option to save an additional 5% by agreeing to a three-year long term agreement saving £19.79p was discussed.

Councillor Reeves proposed that the clerk should accept this option on behalf of the parish council, this was second by Councillor Baber and unanimously agreed.

To record the balance of the two bank accounts.

On the 15th August the balance stood at £11485.76p.

Councillor Freeman proposed that a cheque be signed for £376.06 for Aon Insurance, this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

10. Correspondence received.

10.1 Clive Reynolds a Development Manager for the Forest of Dean District Council clarified procedures for holding Sites Inspection Panels and calling matters to committee.

The Parish Council is not allowed to decide if planning application are sent for committee decision as opposed to a delegated decision. The chair of planning in discussion with officers determines which sites to visit.

Parish Councils will continue to be invited to any Site Inspection Panel visit to an application in their area.

Councillors were unhappy regarding this as they have local knowledge, and should be able to ask for a committee site visit if they think it is appropriate.

10.2 Minsterworth Parish Council responded to a letter for this Parish Council and it was suggested that an exploratory meeting with Churcham be held when our survey is completed.

The Chairman will contact Minsterworth Parish Council to discuss broadband problems.

Mr Nigel Steele has produced a map showing the download speeds though out the parish after collating the evidence from residents who filled in the broadband survey.

10.3 Ben Watts a Principle Planning Officer with Gloucestershire County Council reported that Churcham Parish Council's response to the Road Investment Strategy Programme regarding the shared cycle path/footpath proposed from Highnam roundabout to Churcham Garage has been added and the outcomes to the consultation will be responded by Highways England later in the year.

10.4 Community Heartbeat Trust: - Councillor Price proposed that an application to formally adopt the old telephone kiosk be signed on behalf of the parish Council, this was seconded by Councillor Reeves and unanimously agreed.

10.5 Gloucestershire Rural Community Council reported that any parish council that wishes to complete an emergency plan can now do so with the help of an online toolkit.

10.6 Mr & Mrs Cholefco of Beauchamp House raised concerns regarding the proposed planning application for two bungalows on the adjacent School of the Lion Site.

Having been unable to discuss the application with Andy Byham the planner dealing with the application due to his being on holiday Mr Cholefco urged the parish councillors to seriously consider the application.

11. Public Question Time.

No resident took up this option.

12. Any other business.

There was no other business to discuss.

**The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40 pm
The date of the next meeting is to be held on the 20th September 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