

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Those Present:-** Councillors Francis, Newbery, Baber, Freeman, Brookes, Reeves and Price along with their clerk Marilyn King, District Councillor Jones, and seven 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 Baber proposed that they be signed as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Reeves and unanimously agreed.

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

**5. To receive the chairman's report on the parish perspective.**

The Chairman reported that it has been a busy year for the Parish Council.

Having taken ownership of the old telephone kiosk which now houses one of the two defibrillators, this will be added to the assets of the Parish Council.

We have updated our Standing Orders and Code of Conduct, and have appointed Councillor Brookes as our flood warden.

We have attended meetings with the Forest of Dean District Council officers over odour from a local pig farm, Broadband and the affordable housing site at Henry Hook Close in Chapel Lane, which is progressing on schedule.

An action plan has been instigated in conjunction with the Forest of Dean District Council to include all parties to alleviate the problem.

26 planning applications were discussed and decisions made on them.

**6. To receive the clerk's financial report.**

The clerk reported that £9000.00 was received as the precept and £310.00 as a community grant.

Queen Elizabeth 11 medals were purchased and given to school children who live in the parish to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at a cost of £226.40.

There was a slight increase in the hire of the school room for meetings.

The clerk's salary has remained the same for several years.

Grants of £125.00 to Bulley PCC and £125.00 to Churcham PCC have yet to be paid towards the upkeep of both churchyards. Cheques for both of these will be signed at the May meeting.

6.2 Councillor Baber proposed that the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return be approved, this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

6.3 Councillor Newbery proposed that the Accounting Statement for 2016/17 of the Annual Return be approved, this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously agreed.

6.4 The internal audit has been completed to the auditors satisfaction with no errors reported.

## **7. To receive County Councillor's Report**

During the past year Councillor Robinson has continued to push for a faster broadband service with additional Government and County Council funding, as well as engaging with the Highways Agency to investigate a shared footpath and cycle route along the A40 from Highnam roundabout to Churcham Garage.

He has supported a County Council task group looking to improve access to the Forest of Dean, and as a result a feasibility study into a third river Severn crossing is being carried out.

## **8. To receive the District Councillor's Report.**

Councillor Jones reported that he had been involved in the exception site for affordable housing site at Henry Hook Close in Chapel Lane Churcham, and instigated an enforcement notice on the owner of the Old Methodist Chapel in Chapel Lane in respect of the land grab and fencing which is too high.

He is currently dealing with the problems caused by pig odour from the farm in Chapel Lane with environmental services.

Councillor Jones has looked at the problem of signage at Churcham Garage. This garage site is due for refurbishment in May as Euro Garages have taken a lease on the site, so signage will be altered as this progresses.

## **9. To receive the Police Report.**

PC 2000 Rob Mortimer's report stated that there were 16 incidents of anti-Social behaviour in Churcham Parish in the past year, this was a 75% increase on the previous year.

There was a slight increase in criminal offences of which 25 were reported.

There was a slight increase in public safety incidents of which 43 were reported.

There were 22 reported road traffic incidents reported, which is a slight increase on the previous year.

A total of 115 incidents were dealt with by the Police from April 2016 to April 2017.

**10. To receive the Village Agent's Report.** No report was submitted.

## **11. To consider planning applications notified by the Forest of Dean District Council.**

11.1 J Harper & Sons, Henry Hook Close Chapel Lane Churcham: - P0485/17/FUL. Variation of Conditions {02} approved plans, {04} hard and soft landscaping, {09} root protection and {10} approved protection to allow amendments to footway crossing and landscaping/trees of planning permission P0247/16/FUL. Councillor Freeman proposed that these plans be approved, this was seconded by councillor Newbery and unanimously agreed.

11.2 Ms C Shepherd, School of the Lion Main Road Churcham: - P0024/17/DISCON. Discharge of Conditions {07} and {09} low carbon emissions scheme of planning permission P1474/14/FUL. Councillor Price proposed these conditions be approved, this was seconded by councillor Reeves and unanimously agreed.

11.3 Smart Farms, Stone End Farm Churcham: - P0502/17/FUL. Erection of a building for B1 use on existing business park site. Councillor Brooked proposed this application be approved provided that it is in

the curtilage of the business park, this was seconded by Councillor Reeves and unanimously agreed.

**12. Planning decisions notified by the Forest of Dean District Council** No planning decisions have been received.

**13. To receive the clerk's report.**

The clerk had nothing extra to report.

**14. To receive Councillor's reports.**

Councillor Baber agreed to visit all parishioners in Chapel Lane, part of Bulley Lane, Springdale and the A40 from Chapel Lane to the Kings Head Inn to talk with residents and ask them if they are affected by odour from the pig unit in Chapel Lane.

They will be offered an Odour Nuisance Record which should be filled in on a day to day basis and submitted to the Environmental and Regulatory Service at the Forest of Dean District Council.

Councillor Reeves suggested that an item could be put in the parish magazine to tell residents to collect a nuisance log from the clerk if they are affected by the pig odour.

The siting of a caravan in a field off of the bridleway in Bulley is causing concern. It has been reported that it is being lived in without planning permission. District Councillor Jones will discuss this with the enforcement officer at the Forest of Dean District Council.

It was reported that a farm in Church Lane had recently been targeted by thieves in a Ford car, with chain saws and a lawn mower having been stolen.

Councillor Baber reported that the damaged bridge in Oakle Street will soon be repaired.

**15. The balance of the two bank accounts is £5394.00.**

**16. Correspondence received.**

16.1 Mr Powers reported that Westmoreland Care are the new owners of Millers Orchard and Brooklands Care Homes. The clerk was asked to contact them regarding the odour and effluent seeping into the nearby stream from the septic tank at Brooklands.

16.2 Councillor Robinson has met with Highways England to discuss the possibility of accessing a specific pot of government funding designed for shared footpath/cycle paths. The Parish council will be updated at a future meeting.

16.3 Mr Powers updated the Parish Council on activity at a field in Bulley.

16.4 April Paintain Operational Service Manager for Environmental and Regulatory Services at the Forest of Dean District Council sent odour log sheets to be filled in by residents affected by the pig odour coming from a farm in Chapel Lane. These sheets should only be completed by a person who is directly affected by the odour in their own home/garden and should provide as much detail as possible to assist an investigation, there will be odours from the farm so residents are asked to be reasonable when filling out the log sheets.

16.5 The booking fee for the use of the school room by the Parish Council for meetings will increase by 12.5% to £22.50 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

16.6. Mr Powers reported that the drainage problem at the junction of Bulley Lane/Lake Lane has been completed by Highways workers, although some spoil has been left behind. Mr Powers has offered to remove this. Parish Councillors thanked Mr Powers for his support.

16.7 Forest of Dean District Council have community grants available to groups who meet a certain criteria.

16.8 Electoral Review of Forest of Dean. An independent Local Government Boundary Commission is carrying out an electoral review. Local people are asked to email their views on this matter to [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) the consultation closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Public question time.**

Mr & Mrs Green who live at Briarways Main Road Churcham asked the Parish Council for their help regarding an enforcement notice they have received regarding the parking of a commercial vehicle they own at their property. They already have planning permission granted for this vehicle.

The chairman told Mr Green that the parish council was not aware of this problem.

District Councillor Jones has agreed to discuss the matter with a planner at the Forest of Dean District Council and an enforcement officer on behalf of Mr Green and to keep him informed.

Subject to the enquiries made by Councillor Jones, a parish councillor will undertake to visit Briarways to ascertain the issues and report back to the parish council.

**Any other business.**

There was no other business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

The date of the next parish council meeting will be the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

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 she can be contacted by telephone only on 01452 750451