

CHARFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2014 commencing 7:30pm in the Main Hall at Memorial Hall, Charfield.

PRESENT

Parish Councillors: Mr M Rosher (Chairman), Mr I Kershaw (Vice Chairman), Mr I Williams, Mrs N Newns, Mrs J Law, Mr P Patterson and Mr M Cheskin

Clerk: Ms H Saunders

Public: 13 Members of Public

The meeting started at 7:30pm and a 2 minute silence was observed to remember all those that had lost their lives during WWI & II and the more recent conflicts.

10279/14 To note Apologies for Absence & Acceptance of Reasons

These were duly noted and accepted from Mr R Rawlings and Ward Councillor J O'Neill.

It was also noted that Mr S Kowalczyk had decided to resign as a councillor – and as such wasn't at meeting. The Chairman wanted to thank Mr Kowalczyk for all he had done during his time as a councillor and hoped to see him at Appeal Committee Meetings in the future. Clerk will advise council / parishioners of vacancy in due course.

10280/14 Declaration of Interest in items on Agenda

Clerk declared an interest in item 18 on agenda (min ref:- 10296/14) and will refrain from comment during that item.

10281/14 Approval of Minutes

It was proposed by Mr I Kershaw and seconded by Mrs N Newns and RESOLVED that minutes of meeting on 14th October be approved and signed by Chairman.

10282/14 Public Participation

There were 13 members of public present, Issues that they wanted to bring before Council were:-

Question about resignation of Mr Kowalzyk and if PC would still use the statement he helped prepare for the Gladman appeal. Clerk assured all present that this was the case – and as already mentioned Mr Kowalzyk could still sit on appeal committee.

There were several residents present that want to make concerns known regarding outline planning application for rear of 7 Horsford Road.

Concerns included:- issues with parking on the road – and how dangerous this would be. The possibility of this being further development on that side of Horsford Road as it would set a precedent. There are a number of trees in that garden, not sure if any of them have TPO's on – but it would be a shame to see them taken down.

It was also felt that although these are 'New, proposals – nothing has changed.....Still no ecological survey carried out. No provision for off street parking. This isn't infill – garden grabbing – Object.....(plus Developer took photo's from garden of No.2 Elbury View not issue for Parish Council but civil matter)....The way that No.7 will be reduced in size – and thus reducing larger housing stock in the village.....and the traffic enhancement that has been discussed within the outline application is actually for the wrong junction.

A resident from Longs View – wanted to raise concerns regarding the refurbishment of children's play area outside his house....

Neighbours met with Rachel from SGC initially and were told that they wouldn't continue with any works until further notice.....however – they are doing the work now. There is concern over the long mural on back of garage wall.....could lead to a reduction in value of property....

Concern that what they are planning is more than a toddler play area and it could attract crowds of teenagers.

It is also felt that the budget gone up – amount of money spending on refurbishment.....gone up from £10 - £15k....

Chairman responded stating that it is SGC – responsibility....so need to feed issues back with them....

Another resident living nearby said that they suffer with issues at the Dippy, etc. so concur that there will be problems.....

Mud – health and safety issues.....on the pathway....need to speak to Kevin and get this sorted first thing in the morning....

Increase in crime in Charfield – what is going on what is being done???Increase in police and step up in patrols.....in the area – it was addressed in SSCG meeting....

It is a concerning issue, as houses seem to be being targeted, etc.

Sean McKinnon is doing a lot more drive rounds....houses look empty and there are no cars or lights on...

Possibly link....canvasses around during the day.....Info is on our web site....twitter.....spread the message.....

Mr John Acton reported back to the PC on the hearing.....

It was a very unusual hearingnot at all like they used to be. SG rep by QC and appellants rep by a barrister....

Not conducive to taking part in discussion, but the Inspector was very good and allowed people to speak whenever they wanted to....

Don't know what they will decide – lot of questions were asked. Pointed ones to the appellant --- and one to SGC....

The question of the PSP DPD process arose and in end council gave barrister the responses...Explained it wasn't a public document...but it is now...

Site visit explained...¾ hour site visit on Thursday....

SG arguments on land availability and housing requirement pretty weak...

Barrister for appellant low key but v.good....only difference between this hearing and PI is no cross examination.....

The Chairman thanked Mr Acton for his report and for attending the hearing and for his advice / help. If there were no further issues Public Participation would be closed.....

10283/14 To note Clerks Report on Matters Arising (not mentioned elsewhere on agenda).

Clerk was going to report on work at Longs View Play Area - but this has already been mentioned and everything else should be covered on agenda.

10284/14 To comment on Planning Applications

PT14/3872/F | Erection of single storey side extension to provide additional living accommodation | 47 Underhill Road Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8TD

After due consideration it was agreed that there were no issues with this planning application.

PT14/4177/PNRR | Prior notification of a change of use from Retail (Class A1) to Residential (Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) | 14 Wotton Road Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8TP

After due consideration it was agreed that there were no issues with this planning application.

PT14/4171/O | Erection of 2no. dwellings (Outline) with all matters reserved. (Resubmission of PT14/2390/O). | 7 Horsford Road Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8SU

After due consideration and taking into account what local residents / neighbours thoughts were and councils previous comments to earlier application it was agreed to OBJECT to this outline planning application. There was concern over one of the tree's that is believed to be subject to a TPO and fact that proposed building is so close to roots. There was concern over access and parking.....and reduction in amenity space for 7 Horsford Road.

PT14/4247/TRE | Works to 1no. Willow tree to semi-pollard reducing height by 6.10m, reduce lateral branch length by 50% and thinning canopy by 25%, covered by SGTPO 07/11 dated 21st June 2011. | Charfield Congregational Church Wotton Road Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8SR

After due consideration – it was resolved to OBJECT to these tree works. Councillors agreed that some work was needed to be carried out – but a reduction in height of 6m+ and reduction in branch length by 50% was felt far too extreme.

10285/14 To note Planning Decisions

PT14/3803/PNA | Prior notification of the intention to erect an agricultural building for the storage of machinery and fodder. | Middle Huntingford Farm Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8EY. NO OBJECTION

PT14/3518/F | Erection of two storey side extension to form additional living accommodation. | 16 Willow Close Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8UD. APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS

PT14/3412/F | Erection of single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation. | Clovers The Drive Charfield Wotton Under Edge South Gloucestershire GL12 8HX. APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS

10286/14 To note any other Planning Matters

Planning enforcement issues at site next to the Tavern, builders working on Sunday's and also the ridge height of the garage (detached) being built closest to the Sidings appears to be too high.

It was discussed that once enforcement complaints go in – we don't hear much / get updates – Clerk to find out why and what process should be.

10287/14 To receive report from Planning Appeal Committee

Minutes of the last Planning Appeal Committee Meeting (held on 16th October) were circulated. It was agreed that it would be good to have another meeting prior to 6th December 2014. Clerk mentioned the Budget – and fact that to date not too much money has been spent – but it could be if Parish Council / Committee decided to ask someone to speak on their behalf at Inquiry in January that this budget could be exhausted and if so would need to look at building it back up in coming years and this would need to be taken into consideration at Budget Meeting of full council in January.

The Chairman invited Mr John Acton to speak – as he is a member of planning appeal committee....he felt that it was too late at this stage to instruct a legal brief....and that it would be just as advisable for Chairman or Vice Chairman to represent the council.

10288/14 To approve statement of evidence for Planning Inspectorate re Charfield Green Inquiry

All councillors had read the report that had been sent out – and were happy with it being put in as statement of evidence. There were a few tweaks that Vice Chairman suggested – these will be emailed to Clerk to incorporate. It was proposed by Mr P Patterson and seconded by Mrs N Newns that subject to minor changes made by appeal committee at their forthcoming meeting – statement was alright to be sent to Planning Inspectorate.

10289/14 To approve response to S Glos Council regarding PSP DPD

Councillors had read reports, seen the responses to S Glos Summer Consultation and had a chance to think about best way forward. It was unanimously agreed that response should be that Council wished to see a 'Rural Exception Site / Scheme' investigated by S Glos Council in order to provide the type of housing that the village wanted to see. They felt it difficult to identify an area for this – as they don't own land....and there wasn't that clear an indication from summer responses (as rate was so low). Clerk to respond to Strategic Planning Department and liaise with them regarding the way forward. The Local Green Spaces were also discussed....and it was agreed that Parish Council endorsed the extra ones that were put forward following the summer consultation.

10290/14 To receive Burial Ground Report

Clerk reported that the tree (native cherry) is ready to be planted, and this will be done by family in next couple of weeks. Clerk also reported that all work has been completed by KLH in readiness for winter.

10291/14 To receive Youth Group Report

Mr M Cheskin reported that group is going from strength to strength....issues with behaviour are being dealt with and grant submitted to S Glos PAF will be determined on 3rd December 2014.

The group will also be putting a grant request into the Parish Council to be considered at their budget meeting in the New Year – as such it was felt that some of the young people that attend may want to do a small presentation to Parish Council in December? This will be confirmed. Clerk will attend the Forum in 3rd December.

10292/14 To receive Village Plan update / action report

To confirm that their next meeting is scheduled for 13th November 2014. No further comments at this time.

ACTION CLERK

10293/14 To receive a CUGUC update

As mentioned at last meeting congratulations to the team – as they have been awarded a silver pennant at the S W in Bloom Awards in September in Trowbridge. Clerk would really like to get hold of a photo of the award ceremony – so that something can be placed on website. It was also noted that S Glos Council had cleared the area at top of Charfield Hill (by Nursery) as this is going to be one of the teams next projects – ‘The Lookout’.

10294/14 To note Litter Pick (8th November 2014)

Due to the torrential rain, etc. the Litter Pick was cancelled.....Clerk has black sacks and litter pickers at meeting should anyone want to do some litter picking in own time (it was noted that Mr P Patterson and Mr I Williams keep Churchend Lane clear) and Mr J Acton took some bags away. It was comforting that there didn't appear to be as much rubbish around – and again this is testament to the hard work of CUGUC team – as it is felt this is having an effect.

10295/14 To note Remembrance Day Parade / Service (9th November 2014)

Despite lower numbers due to 1st Woodend being in Cromhall this year – the sun shone, PA System worked, villagers paraded and service went really well. Good that the Police turned up to help...Thanks to all those that ensured the smooth running of the event.

10296/14 To approve donation to Alexander Hosea PTA for use of PA System

It was proposed by Mr M Cheskin and seconded by Mr I Williams that a donation of £25 be made to Alexander Hosea PTA for the use of the PA System on Sunday 9th November.

10297/14 To agree date for Clerks Annual Review

It was agreed that this would be done prior to December's meeting – Chairman and Vice Chairman to carry review out.

10298/14 To note / comment on number of Rough Sleepers in Charfield

This is an annual survey carried out by S Glos Housing Dept, they like to build up a picture at certain time (November) each year – as to whether anyone is sleeping rough around the authority. Clerk to respond accordingly for the night in question (Thursday 13th November 2014)....

10299/14 To note opening of Grant Applications (NHB / PAS, etc). by S Glos Council and to agree any application

Clerk has emailed this around to village organisations – but was wondering if there was anything that the council would like to apply for? After a brief discussion it was decided that a PA system would be a good idea – as it could then be used by other village groups and it would save having to borrow one each year for remembrance. Could also use it at Annual Meeting, etc. Clerk to look into cost of this and sort out grant application accordingly.

10300/14 To note and comment if necessary on following consultations by S Glos Council

- Community Engagement 30/11/14. Clerk to respond to this – stating that wanted to see SSCG in Charfield Ward remain – and were happy to help as it is a useful meeting for village and don't think it would be as effective if it was incorporated into other forums. From Charfield (being a rural community) don't feel Priority Neighbourhoods require as much funding – and don't understand how some meetings can cost so much to service.
- Flood Risk Management Strategy. Mr M Cheskin agreed to take this away and to respond to it on behalf of Parish Council.

10301/14 To note Correspondence

Other than normal correspondence / circulars from NALC, ALCA, SLCC and S Glos the following was noted:-Invite from S Gloucestershire Council Chairman for Community Award Nominations. It was agreed that due to the impact that the group have had on village over the last year – and their recent silver pennant that CUGUC should be nominated. Clerk to sort this out.

10302/14 To note following Circulation items

All items emailed out....

10303/14 To receive reports of Meetings (not already mentioned)

- a) Ward Councillor O'Neill – nothing to report.
- b) Charfield Playing Field – no new issues, there was some minor vandalism to train, and wetpour should be repaired in next month. We haven't filled sandpit up this year – and agreed that would wait until next spring now...Kevin is going to trim some of the lower branches on the trees between swings and SMP Play area.
- c) Charfield Village Hall Committee – clerk had received a note from Hall Chairman – giving an update on situation with work in Sportsman's Lounge (for which they have earmarked the precept money)...he wanted to reassure councillors that work is planned – but has taken longer than anticipated due to investigating where the damp problems have come from, etc. The Chairman will attend meeting in December to give a report on plans for 2015.
- d) Any Other Meeting Reports – Mrs J Law reported on Environmental Forum that she attended, there are some wild flower seeds being held by S Glos Council that may be of some use up at Burial Ground – Pauline Wilson is the lady to contact. Mrs J Law will forward on names of assistant tree wardens for info. Mr Parkhill has put in retrospective planning for work in Tortworth down by M5....and he has plans for a Microbrewery as well. Mr Fen Marshal is happy to give talks / guided walks on Glow Worms....-Mr M Cheskin reported on the last SSCG Meeting....issues in Charfield included recent break ins....these have led to an increased police presence in the village and PCSO's are giving advice to people – as to how to secure homes / make them look as if someone in when not... Most of the other issues were for Cromhall / Tortworth....although it is interesting to note the work that is planned at junction with Tortworth school that will hopefully make that area a little safer....Minutes available on line should anyone wish to see them and next meeting is scheduled for end Jan at Tortworth Estate Offices....

10304/14 To receive October's Accounts and approve October's cheques for payment

Clerk answered a couple of queries regarding the accounts and it was proposed by Mr M Cheskin and seconded by Mrs P Patterson and it was agreed to pass cheques for payment once accounts had been signed off by Chairman.

10305/14 Minor Items raised by Members or for Future Agenda's

Hedge along Devil's Lane – by where calves are being housed....need to chase enforcement up....

Query re the mobile home that has been placed next to where barn conversion is planned at Churchend Lane, feel it is going to be more permanent....keep an eye on.

House on Wotton Road (Old Rectory) that is having wall repaired, builders making a mess of verge.

Clerk has notified S Glos Council of Mr Kowalzyk resignation and will let councillors know process in due course.

This concluded the business of the meeting which closed at approximately 2155hrs

Chairman

9th December 2014