



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of Charlbury Town Council held on Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Corner House.

Members Present: Mr R N Potter (Chairman), Mr J Harrison, Mr R James, Mrs V Pakenham-Walsh, Mrs H Bessemer-Clark, Mr G Miller, Mrs S Finch, Mrs N Lethbridge and Ms L Reason,

Apologies: Mr W Hackmann, Mr. R Prew and Mr I Cox. District Councillor Mr Breakell was unable to be present.

Prior to opening the meeting the Chairman reported that he has attended an event at Chipping Norton Theatre. He went on to say that the Allotment Committee would meet on April 8th at 7.00pm at Oxpens and the meeting to inspect trees at the Cemetery would be on 22nd April at 7.30pm. The meeting to consider roles of Charities would be on agenda item for April in order that the purpose and scope could be decided along with dates. Any Councillor expenses to be submitted to Clerk.

1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting.

Mr Harrison proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record, this being seconded by Mr James and carried nem con.

2. To deal with matters arising.

The following was reported:

Meeting with First Great Western will be on April 1st at the Station at 8.45am

Local Tidy up – Gareth Miller has arranged a tidy up for Saturday 4th April and would welcome support from other members. He was thanked for organising this.

Expo 2009 was successful

Wigwell AGM had taken place and the committee thanked for their efforts.

M/s Reason and others had looked at the site of Nine Acres where a dog mess was thought to be a problem but found the area clean. Some dog litter bins need emptying. Mrs Chadwick to take up with WODC.

Chairmanship and procedures to be an agenda item for April.

3. Declaration of Interest

Mr Harrison declared an interest in street lighting and took no part in the discussion on the letter from OCC. Mr Potter declared an interest in agenda item 4 as a cheque recipient and planning application 09/ 0292 and took no part in the matters.

4. To sign orders for payment / receive report.

The accounts due for payment were circulated and explained. Mr Miller proposed that the accounts be paid this being seconded by Mrs Lethbridge and agreed. Accordingly cheques were signed by three Councillors.

5. To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

The following plans were considered:-

09/0252 /P/FP Construction of walling to bound area intended for use as burial ground for ashes and formation of new pathway at St Marys Church

1. We are concerned at visual impact of this proposal within the curtilage of a listed building in the central part of the Charlbury Conservation Area.
2. Whilst the need for this is understood it appears that there are other locations within the churchyard which may be more suitable and of less visual impact.
3. Materials need to be carefully selected to preserve the integrity of the Churchyard.
4. Can this application go to committee please.

09/0292/P /S73 Removal of condition 5 of permission 06/2064 to allow the stable and workshop building to be used for purposes in connection with the approved use of the site as riding stable. (Retrospective).

- 1 We have no objection.

Tree Works

Fell or reduce one ash tree at 9 Ditchley Rd

09/0018 Amended Description. Noted

6. To deal with Correspondence.

Routine correspondence was dealt with at the Planning and Correspondence meeting on 23rd March with the Clerk instructed accordingly. The following was brought forward:

OCC Bus shelter grant – changes to scheme and preferred supplier noted.

OCC Street Lighting and energy reduction. The proposal to be considered by the Street Lighting Committee and M/s Reason on April 15th at 8.00pm in the Corner House.

Mouchel Dean Pit – retention of facility – planning application. The Council strongly support the retention of this useful facility which encourages and facilitates recycling.

Mr Sulik Traffic issues – Dyers Hill. There was much discussion on this matter covering parking / obstruction and weight limits. There was generally a need for enforcement by the appropriate authorities. Meeting to be requested to consider

as part of a letter to OCC relevant officer. Mrs Pakenham-Walsh will take up the matter of parking and obstruction at the NAG meeting following promise by Police at the February meeting to address these issues.

Mrs Cairns Trees in Cemetery overhanging grave space. To be considered at inspection.

First Great Western Celebration event organised by CLPG. Vice Chairman, Mrs Bessemer-Clark and Clerk attended.

7. To agree an agenda for the APM

Following problems with the originally proposed date of 17th April it was agreed on a proposal from Mr Harrison, seconded Mrs Lethbridge that the meeting be held on May 1st at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall.

Agenda as previously. Date change to be publicised. Reports to be a maximum of 10 minutes to enable business to be transacted effectively.

8. To receive reports with reference to Charlbury

a. County Councillor:- Mrs S Haffenden reported as follows:

Dean Pit. Importance of retaining this facility acknowledged.

Better road maintenance to the site is being addressed. Budget set in February 3.75% increase agreed. Highway weed control has been reinstated (£600,000) Library and AE Centre in budget (£430,000 in capital budget for this).

b. District Councillors:- Mrs Chadwick reported as follows:

Sport Grant awarded to Cricket Club

Wychwood Project grant to be £25,000

Council audit had revealed some concern at vacancies in Planning and Accountancy.

LDF progressing slowly.

9. To consider issues related to icy roads and footpaths

This matter had been raised by Mrs Pakenham-Walsh and Mrs Bessemer-Clark. A copy of the questions raised was submitted to OCC (Paul Wilson Deputy Area Engineer North) and the replies read to members.

An article copied from a Barristers opinion published in a National Newspaper was circulated with the minutes. This explored the difficulties in interpreting the current legal position in respect of clearing snow and ice. There was considerable discussion on the subject with a common thread that some action was needed and that this was unlikely to come from OCC (the responsible authority) when severe events occurred as their resources were stretched at such times.

Taking due account of the legal advice circulated and the Councils insurers it was agreed that the Council would consider the purchase and siting of salt bins at strategic points to enable self help for residents.

Salt bin sites to be identified.

10. To consider affordable housing

Following letters sent on Councils behalf, by ORCC, to potential site owners one reply had been received. A meeting has to be arranged quickly and accordingly the Chairman, Clerk, ORCC Housing Enabler, Nicki Ball and Abbey Fettes of WODC planning met the site owner. It was established that this site was the one preferred by WODC and that the owner was willing to participate in the process and make the exception site available. There was adequate space to meet the 24 houses identified as necessary in the housing needs survey. Following discussions on potential partners it was proposed by Mr James that contact be made with Oxford Citizens Housing Association, WODC and ORCC in order to take the development issues further this being seconded by Mrs Lethbridge and agreed nem con. The process to include discussion seeking energy efficient homes of the highest standard possible.

11. To consider WODC document shaping futures

M/s Reason expressed an opinion that this document was devoid of a timetable, dates, objectives and means of measuring outcomes. As such it was of limited value. Should be considered as a guidance document only. She went on to say that Sustainable Charlbury is proposing the formation of a group to provide a climate change policy for Charlbury.

12. To consider a response in respect of the LDF core strategy

Copies of all documents and questionnaire has been previously circulated and any individual response encouraged.

The Clerk and Chairman have been through the documents and a response will be formulated and returned to WODC. Important issues are Car Parking, reductions in car usage. Support for town centre shops and rural shops generally.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.