



CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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

Members Present: Mr R N Potter (Chairman), Mr I Cox, Mrs S Finch, Mr J Harrison, Mr R James, Mrs N Lethbridge, Mrs H Bessemer-Clark, Mr G Miller, Mr W Hackmann and Mr. R Prew

Apologies: Mrs V Pakenham-Walsh and Ms L Reason Mr M Breakell was unable to be present.

Prior to opening the meeting the Chairman reminded members that the Precept meeting will take place on 9th December at 8.00pm in the Corner House.

1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting.

Mrs Bessemer-Clark proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record, this being seconded by Mr Harrison and agreed nem con.

2. To deal with matters arising.

Xmas Lights Switch on is scheduled for 3rd December.

Working group considering litter and related issues have met once. Further meetings are scheduled.

Hedge near Bowls Club has been cut, Watery Lane to follow once over hanging boughs are removed (impede tractor).

Wigwell hedge planted by WODC has been cut badly by them. Report to Mr Dalby.

Slippery surface on sluice bridge at Mill Field being dealt with.

Remembrance Parade. Those who attended were thanked as was Mrs Lethbridge for laying the wreath.

Management of sand bunker (Flooding). The Clerk reported the conversation he had had with Mr Spurs where the officer had said that if Charlbury TC did not take responsibility for the bunker etc that it and not WODC would be responsible for any problem arising. The Clerk considered this unnecessary intimidation and suggested that those liable to flooding be asked to hold keys etc. This was supported. Clerk to contact WODC with proposal but ask that any key holder is for Charlbury only.

3. Declaration of Interest

Mrs Lethbridge declared an interest in application 09/1430 and took no part in discussions relating to it.

4. To sign orders for payment / receive report.

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

5. To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

A number of leaflets, related to planning matters, produced by WODC were circulated to those present as they were considered useful in framing planning comments.

The following plans were considered:-

09/1476 Erection of self contained annexe. The Grange Woodstock Rd.

1. We do not think that this is an annexe to the existing dwelling but rather a new (additional) house on this site.
2. If consent is granted can its occupancy be conditioned to the occupancy of the Grange (i.e. to prevent establishment of a separate dwelling)
3. Otherwise no objection

09/1430 Erection of agricultural workers dwelling for a temporary period of three years at New Barn Farm, Enstone Rd

1. There is insufficient independent evidence from experienced and qualified sources to support the need for an agricultural workers dwelling on this site.
2. Could an independent viability report be considered from a qualified expert by the District Council.
3. Can a site visit be recommended to committee.
4. Any consent for a temporary dwelling may set a precedent and expectation for a permanent dwelling in the future.
5. The site, with a temporary dwelling, has been operating for several years without consent.
6. We object to this proposal and ask that it go to committee
7. Previous observations on applications for this site stand.

Planning Results

09/1164 Erect conservatory to rear elevation at 7 Hone Court Pooles Lane

Permitted

09/1288 Removal of existing workroom and replace with new single storey rear extension at 22 Little Lees

Permitted

Tree Works

Ascott House, Wychwood Close
Charlbury Cemetery, Pound Hill

Fell on hawthorn and one lilac
Remedial tree maintenance

3 Mount Pleasant Cottages, Dancers Hill	Fell one flowering cherry
5 Hill Close	Reduce one ash by 25%
25 Ditchley Rd	Fell one leylandii

6. To deal with Correspondence.

Routine correspondence was dealt with at the Planning and Correspondence meeting on 23rd November with the clerk instructed accordingly.

The following was brought forward:-

OCC Salt Bins. The original list of requests, for bins at key locations where icy roads were a problem previously had been considered by OCC in light of their policy on this matter. Agreement was given to the siting of three bins. Following discussion it was agreed to proceed with these with the Clerk seeking to negotiate additional bins at Pooles Lane and Fiveways.

B R Consulting Mr Hackmann proposed that the Council continue with Mr B Rollason as internal auditor this being seconded by Mrs Lethbridge and agreed nem con.

Charlbury Pre School Grant application. This was dated 18th November and therefore considered ineligible as the Council had published the need for applications to be received by October 31st. Remind the applicants of this and regret the late arrival. The retention of the rule and therefore the refusal of this application was proposed by Mrs Lethbridge seconded Mrs Bessemer-Clark and agreed F8 1A.

PTR Consultation by OCC Mrs Bessemer-Clark reported that documents were being sent to all consultees.

7. To consider affordable housing

A copy of the update to the Housing Needs Survey had been circulated to all members. The Clerk explained that a copy had been sent to Mr Ede together with contact names for approved WODC partners for affordable housing development. Mr Ede will meet these and keep the Town Council in 'the loop'.

8. To receive reports with reference to Charlbury

County Councillor Mr Neil Owen reported as follows:-

He is a member of the children's committee

The County Council is presently in the process of budget setting.

100 jobs to be shed next year as part of savings needed.

Central Government grants will be lower than normal.

Attempts will be made to keep 'front line' services going.

Cuts to services are being discussed.

Mr Owen confirmed that where necessary he will fight any local cuts. He answered a number of questions.

District Councillors Mrs Chadwick reported on her own and Mr Beakells behalf as follow:-

Marriotts Walk is now open and proving to be successful.
Tourism Plan for 98-2008 is being relaunched with the brand Oxfordshire Cotswolds which works well.

Climate change working party recommendations are being implemented

£2,000 has been given to Volunteer Link-up.

WODC are giving a grant to ORCC to provide a Rural Housing enabler.

A review to help businesses in West Oxon is being undertaken (Will Barton)

Mrs Chadwick answered a number of questions re LDF and its progress or otherwise.

9. To consider ad hoc grants.

Applications were presented by the Clerk.

Mrs Finch proposed the following:- That the following grants be considered:

Volunteer Link-up	£200.00
Oxfordshire Woodland Project	£100.00
Witney & District CAB	£200.00

This was seconded by Mr Miller and carried F10 A0

Cheques to be prepared for December meeting.

10. To consider Sustainable Charlbury bid for funding

The dates by which bids are required have been changed and accordingly SusCha will be better placed to provide information for the December meeting of Council. Agenda item for December.

11. To consider Street Lighting Report (from October)

The Clerk had circulated a report at the October meeting and went on to outline the four proposals contained within it. The Chairman pointed out that at the public meeting OCC had made it clear that there was no time limit for a response.

There was considerable discussion on the general theme of lights being off and the fact that there were nearby towns where lights would remain on whilst others had agreed to the proposed turn off period. There was concern at the lack of fairness in the process and the fact that OCC had taken a 'laissez faire' view rather than imposing a minimum reduction in all areas where lighting was installed.

Mr Hackmann proposed that no action be taken at present until further information and answers could be obtained from OCC this being seconded by Mr Miller and carried F9 A1.

12. To consider Chairmanship and Procedures

The Chairman outlined his reasons for the inclusion of this item. There was considerable discussion and it was resolved that reports could be either written or verbal and that would enable key concerns to be highlighted and dealt with as necessary. There was a need for a disciplined approach to meetings and pre reading of minutes, agenda and reports. Reflective meetings will take place twice per year in March and October. Meeting must end at 10.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.41pm.