

Chattisham & Hintlesham Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHATTISHAM AND HINTLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL MEETING ROOM AT 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY 14TH JUNE 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors: Stephanie Coupland (chair), Peter Eaton, Diane Chase, Frances Self, Robert Taylor, Ben Cox, Jill Warner, Robin Baldry, Margaret Taylor, Ted Wright

Parish Clerk: Samantha Barber.

District Councillors: Nick Ridley and Peter Jones.

Members of the Public: Eileen Damant.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Chris Leney, Ian Bryce, District Councillor Kathy Pollard

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 10TH MAY 2012:

Frances Self raised the point that an amendment needed to be made to the Pylon Report in Item 9, this was duly noted. The minutes were proposed by Diane Chase and seconded by Frances Self and were signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Peter Eaton declared an interest in respect of pylons.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 10TH MAY 2012:

Telephone Box Painting - Painting of the boxes is almost complete although the weather has not helped progress. Diane Chase spoke about getting a notice board put in the Chattisham box and will investigate.

C730 Speed Limit – At present there has been no update on the speed limit.

Playing Field - Margaret Taylor had kindly prepared the following - It has been proposed for us to contemplate having a multipurpose sports area built onto our existing playing field at Hintlesham. I believe that this would be an excellent usage of the 106 funds that have accumulated. The project would benefit both the young and old, both now and in the future. Initially we need the opinions and input from the Community Council and other committees/ interested bodies within the parish. I have requested 3 quotations, but I am still waiting receipt of the last one. A current approximate figure of £32,000 + Vat (which we would get back) has presented itself and includes the marking of various pitches and a chain-link fence. If this project meets the approval of the majority of people then we would have to seek further funding from government community funds and various other sources, because as it stands we have £12,000, and let's presume we can probably secure £10,000 from Babergh, that will leave a remainder of £10,000 for us to obtain. I have contacted Babergh as to whether or not planning permission is necessary.

Diane Chase asked whether quotes could be obtained for gym equipment. Stephanie Coupland had also received quite a lot of feedback which had been positive especially for gym equipment. Margaret Taylor was keen for a decision to be made of exactly what would be included within the multi use area however it was agreed to include the playing field as an agenda item for the July meeting which would allow more time for the Community Council to be consulted and involved with any decision. Funding will also need to be obtained from outside sources and Margaret Taylor has already begun to research this. Peter Jones will check with the planning department at Babergh about whether planning is needed.

School Admissions – The clerk had sent a letter to the education department about the admissions policy and the village school being full and not accepting children who had moved into catchment. Although a reply had not been received the clerk had spoken to Frank Stokely at SCC Education Department who had said that there was very little that could be done. Schools are under immense pressure as a ‘baby boom’ had meant there were more children after the same amount of school places and councils are not allowed to keep places in reserve for children who may move into the catchment area.

Lower Barn Road – The problem with the spring has yet to be rectified; the clerk will chase this with highways.

5. REPORTS:

District Council:

The Local Plan had been unanimously agreed through Strategy and will now be subject to consultation during July and August and following that there will be consultation on any alterations or amendments. Part of the plan includes houses which are to be built on land behind ‘The Post House’ and about 350 houses in Hadleigh. £1.3 million of savings are to be made this year in line with the budget. The next tier of staffing is currently taking place and there may well be redundancies.

National Grid – Cllr Nick Ridley spoke about how upset he was regarding the decisions announced by National Grid. A meeting of councillors is scheduled for 15th of June and it is still the intention to press for full undergrounding. Nick had looked at the costings which work out at four times the cost of overhead lines. A meeting with National Grid is happening on Thursday 21st June.

Nick Ridley spoke about getting local MP’s involved more and Peter Eaton mentioned that local MP Tim Yeo came to meetings regularly and seemed to favour undergrounding. Frances Self mentioned that it should be pushed for the shortest and most economical route is undergrounded.

Footpaths – The footpath behind Forge Garage is overgrown and Margaret Taylor will ask the owners of the garage to cut the path.

Buses – Ben Cox reported that night buses will be running again soon.

Affordable Housing – The Topographical Survey has been completed and has shown a couple of discrepancies on the boundary line where the wood is, these are currently being looked into. The ecology and soils surveys have been instructed. Discussions are under way with Highways with regard to the access road.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT:

The clerk had received from SALC a copy of the Suffolk model code of conduct which councils will be required to adopt. It was agreed to look at these in more detail together with the current standing orders held by the council. Stephanie Coupland will look for the computer files and if necessary ask Pat King the previous clerk if she has them on file, they can then be looked at in more detail before the July meeting.

7. EXPENDITURE:

There was no expenditure for this month.

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012 were approved and Jill Warner advised that these had been audited by Richard Davies and were now ready for submission to the auditors BDO Stoy. This was proposed by Peter Eaton and seconded by Robin Baldry. The Annual Governance Statement was accepted by the Parish Council for signature

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from House of Commons – MP Peter Aldous –in reply to the parish councils request asking Peter Aldous to take forward a bill on planning appeals.

Audit letter from BDO Stoy

9. TO CONSIDER RESPONSE WITH REGARD TO NAT GRID'S INTERIM CONNECTIONS REPORT:

Frances Self reported that at the last Forum meeting National Grid had stated that a decision about which parts of the route would be underground would then be followed by consultation about which route would then be followed. However National Grids actual announcement made it clear which was their preferred route. Frances explained on the map about the routes and areas of undergrounding. At the forum meeting National Grid said that they would propose three different alignments for each route. All of the relevant information would be available on-line or in the documents published by National Grid.

Robert Taylor said that the response to National Grid should be that the entire route be undergrounded.

Peter Eaton suggested that it would be better to wait until further meetings and community forums had taken place before a letter is drafted to National Grid with the Parish Councils response; however the consensus of opinion amongst councillors still remains that the route should all be underground and that is what should be requested.

Frances asked whether the map could be displayed in the hall in order that people understand what is proposed. It was also decided to put an item in The Link and on the website to encourage people to attend the drop-in sessions.

This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting

10. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF DOMAIN NAME FOR OLD VILLAGE WEBSITE:

Helen Rogerson and Peter Eaton had a conversation about how difficult it is to find the new Chattisham and Hintlesham website when searching the web. It was discussed that it may be easier to find if the old domain name was purchased and then linked to the new website. Peter Eaton will speak with Chris Leney.

11. PLANNING:

B/08/177/FUL

Charity Farm, the Street, Chattisham

Change of use of redundant farm buildings

Application Withdrawn

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Jubilee events were a great success and all of the medals were given out to the children

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING THURSDAY JULY 19TH