

**Minutes of the Meeting of Chilton Parish Council held on Wednesday 29th July 2009 at
8.00pm in the Village Hall.**

Present:	Mr I Thompson Mr F Dumbleton Mrs M Launchbury Mr B Morris Mrs A Swannell	Chairman
	Mrs M E Morris	Clerk
	Mr S Lilley Mrs M Turner Mr R Waite PCSO D Clements PCSO G Kirby	County Councillor District Councillor District Councillor Area Beat Officer Area Beat Officer

3 members of the Public

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Garrett and Mr Broad.
2. **Declarations of Interest** None
3. **Area Beat Officer's Report**
PCSO Clements said that there had been no reported crimes in Chilton in the past month. Farmers in the area had been alerted to the possibility of theft of vehicles from farms.
UKAEA have complained about the speed of vehicles at the Manor Court junction. The speed checks with SID are continuing but only a couple of speeding vehicles have been picked up. The monitoring of the junction will continue. OCC say there will be no change to the speed limit.
4. **Open Forum**
 - (i) Mrs Hillier reported that the fence between the playing field and Mr Bethel's field had been cut. Mr Thompson will check the damage.
 - (ii) The path between Lawson Lane and Crafts End has been partly blocked by fallen tree and ivy. Also the path between Elderfield Crescent and Hillpiece has had some garden refuse left in it. Mr Thompson will check.
 - (iii) The light outside no9 Hillpiece is out and obscured by a tree. The Clerk will report it, phone number for reporting lighting faults to be put in the Chronicle.
 - (iv) Mrs Hillier complained that the footway surface in Elderfield Crescent was in a very poor condition. The Clerk has already reported it but will report it again.
5. **Minutes** of the last Meeting were signed as a true record.
6. **District Council Report**
 - (i) Mrs Turner reported that she is still trying to find out more information from the Legal Department on the progress of the Section 106 agreement attached to the Chilton Field planning application.
 - (ii) The Tree Officer said that this year there is nothing on the chestnut trees that will cause any problems.

- (iii) At the recent Local Stakeholder Group meeting Duncan Rogers gave a report for Goodman's. It was also noted that the Site is on a heightened security alert.
- (iv) Mrs Turner asked if information on the work that the Anchor Staying Put Scheme does could be put in the next Chronicle. It was agreed.
- (v) Mr Waite reported that he will now be responsible for Commercial Services which includes Waste, Building Control, Direct Services, Emergency Planning, Reprographics, Grounds Maintenance, Transport and Car Parks.
- (iv) The Vale Council is taking part in a national campaign and has joined forces with Keep Britain Tidy to tackle the problem of drivers throwing rubbish from their vehicles.
- (vii) Although there have been a few problems, the new refuse collection service is working well and South Oxfordshire District Council are now in the top 5 authorities for recyclables. Village Halls, Churches and Charity Shops are classed as domestic for waste purposes and therefore receive the three bins.
- (viii) The Energy Saving Trust is working in partnership with the Vale of White Horse District Council to offer households a free personal home energy report.
- (ix) Next year's Council Tax Bills -The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) has warned that new accounting rules for Councils will push up council tax bills by 3% next April, over and above any other increases including the effect of inflation and other rising costs.
- (x) Adults aged 50 and over will be able to access free Nordic walking courses in the Vale District thanks to a successful bid to Age Concerns Big Lottery funded "Fit as a Fiddle" wellbeing programme.
- (xi) On Wednesday, 22nd July the Vale of White Horse District Council was given Green Flag status for the restored Victorian Abbey Gardens in Abingdon.
- (xii) The Southern Oxfordshire LEADER has secured £1.89m and the North Wessex Downs LEADER £2.5m to spend on supporting the rural economy of the areas between 2009 and 2013.

7. County Council Report

The Chairman welcomed Mr Lilley, the new County Councillor. Mr Lilley said that he would chase up the work on the footway at Elderfield Crescent. The Clerk to give him the details. The County Council is anticipating that Government money over the next two years will diminish, so there are to be cutbacks of £60 million over the next five years. Front line services will be ring fenced but everything in the "back offices" will be looked at and reviewed, the unions are co-operating with the proposal. The Council has a £980 million per year turnover.

There has been a drop in income from developments because money is not coming in from Section 106 payments. There is a 3 -5 year moratorium on the development of Great Western Park at Didcot.

Mr Lilley is on the Safe and Strong Communities Scrutiny Committee.

There is a shortage of retained firemen and there will be various recruitment events held at Didcot over the next few months.

There is to be a special Cabinet Meeting to decide who will be the operator of the proposed incinerator, prior to planning permission being granted.

Mr Lilley is the Bus Champion for Oxfordshire so will make sure the X32 is kept running.

8. Planning

(i) Applications Considered by the Parish Council

Proposed extension of MRF and Waste Transfer station Prospect Farm UPT/3451/15-CM

The Parish Council does not object in principal to this application but does have several areas of concern.

(i) Size

The proposal is to extend the existing waste transfer site by 1.99 ha; such a large increase in size is likely to have a visual impact in an AONB.

(ii) **Security and Lighting**

If vehicles and fuel are to be stored at the waste transfer station, property security will be an understandable concern of the management and increased security will be needed. This will require additional lighting and it is very important on the upland parts of the AONB to keep light pollution to a minimum and this criterion extends well beyond impact on neighbouring properties. It is therefore extremely important that light intensities, duration, upward and lateral visibility are kept to an absolute minimum. This may mean storage of additional vehicles in covered lit roofed bays to minimise light spillage.

(iii) **Chalk Grasslands**

The grassland restoration scheme is a needed general restoration procedure. But it should be pointed out that the northern part of the proposed area also receives all the surface water drainage from Chilton, both the pluvial (stormwater) runoff from paved areas and also occasional foulwater from permitted discharges from the sewage pumping station under flood conditions. There is a fall from Dene Hollow but nevertheless the drainage gradient must be maintained across the northern section, which was originally the upper reaches of a natural bourne (dry valley) draining northeast towards the Vale at Upton. It was noted that there used to be badger sets and lizards in the cutting. As the proposed grasslands area is adjacent to a footpath it would be beneficial to the public if public access was available once the area was completed with its future protected by a conservation covenant.

(iv) **Access**

The Council is extremely concerned about light vehicle access via South Row. The improvement of Downs Lane should be an opportunity to route **all** traffic, including employees' cars, into the premises via the A34, and away from the lane off South Row, which is a footpath well-used by villagers out walking dogs or for exercise. This should apply to all employees including those who live in Chilton. The Council wishes to see this as a condition attached to any planning permission granted.

Application for demolition of Fairlawne, The Store and associated outbuildings. erection of two detached dwellings with detached double garage, parking and access off South Row. Fairlawne South Row. [CHI/6625/1](#)

The Parish Council was disappointed with the bland designs of these two houses and has the following comments to make:

- (a) Dormer windows are a feature of many existing properties in Chilton. Most vernacular dwellings have the distinctive 'Lockinge' or 'Lady Wantage' style of dormer. One has been successfully replicated in the extension of Malt Cottage, Main Street, currently being built.

These vernacular dormer windows are all above the eaves, rather than the through-the-eaves design in the proposed houses. Through the eaves has the disadvantage that the breaks in the gutter caused by each window result in multiple unsightly down pipes.

The three through-the-eaves dormer windows in the current proposal would result in each house having four down pipes on the front elevation.

Therefore the design should be altered to vernacular above-the-eaves dormers.

- (b) The full width of the highway verge on the west side of South Row that flanks these 2 sites should be protected. The highway width of this ancient drove road is in the Chilton Inclosure Award, and should be respected.

- (c) The flat roofed porch of plot 2 is ugly, it should be replaced with a porch similar to plot 1.

- (d) This is a very visible site from the surrounding AONB and there should be retention of the tree array along the entire western boundary to provide visual screen to both neighbours and users of the AONB on the higher downland to the south.
- (e) The Store plot (no.1) should have a more modest house on it (possibly 2 bedrooms only) as the footprint of the existing building is smaller. Also two Councillors felt that the house on plot 2 should be moved a little to the south to give plot 1 more privacy. This unusual site offers the opportunity for 2 houses of quality design to be built rather than the bland design presented and so the Council objects to this application in its present form.
- (ii) Applications in Circulation
Circulated to Planning Committee
Application for proposed ground floor rear extension, loft conversion including new dormer windows and front extension. New detached garage 45 Crafts End CHI/20929
Retrospective application for erection of chiller pump enclosure Land adjoining Building R46 RAL. CHI/20899
- (iii) Mr Thompson said he had met with Mr Richardson and discussed the Council's concerns regarding the Waste Transfer station.

9. Matters Arising

(i) Chilton Field

Mrs Le Cointe has replied to the letter sent to Mr Duffield. "The final draft of the Section106 has been circulated and should be completed very shortly. I can also confirm that the agreement contains all the elements approved by Committee in September 2007." The full text of the letter has already been circulated.

(ii) Crafts End Green

A reminder has been sent to Wates.

(iii) Benches

The new benches have been installed on the playing field and there have been several favourable comments.

(iv) Chilton Active Weekend

Mr Thompson reported on a successful weekend. The Chairman of the Vale, Cllr. Alison Rooke visited on the Sunday. The Council thanked Mr Thompson for all his hard work in organising the weekend.

10. Finance

(i) Expenditure Cheques

Mrs Morris -June salary, mileage, wine for Auditor	348.53
Thames Water - Allotment water	11.73
L.Rees - programme for Chilton Active	40.00
LexisNexis - copy of Charles Arnold Baker	72.45
Broker Network - insurance Chilton Active	198.00
Mr Morris - mileage to collect programme	5.60
Berinsfield - June grass cutting	236.23
L Rees - Chronicle 353	51.39
Mrs Morris - July salary & expenses	295.00
Total	1258.93

Petty Cash

7 Weeks litter clearing

70.00

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| (ii) | <u>Receipts</u> | |
| | Mrs Hillier - Land rent | 146.25 |
| | Mrs Hillier - Charity Land rent | 23.25 |
- (ii) £3,000 has been transferred from the Deposit a/c to the Business a/c to cover the cost of the benches.
- (iii) The Annual Return has been sent to the External Auditors.
- (iv) The VAT return has been completed and sent off and also the Annual return to the Charity Commission. A paper on the history of the Charity Fund was circulated.
- (v) The Local Council Review subscription renewal is due it was agreed to renew it.

11. Playbuilder Report

Mrs Swannell reported that the Constitution for the sub-committee had been discussed and some amendments made. The amended Constitution to be circulated to the PC for approval. The contract from OCC had been received, there was a minor amendment, Mrs Swannell to contact OCC. Once the Constitution and Contract have been approved, the PC will sign the Contract.

Following the public consultation during the Chilton Active Weekend the six designs were short listed to three and the final design is Wickstead's, the Committee are contacting Wickstead's re the design as the overall cost is too high. As the grant is being paid to the Parish Council, it was agreed that the Council would pay the VAT and the Clerk will reclaim the VAT as soon as possible after payment. The Clerk will work with Mr Maughan who is the Treasurer. A separate Parish Council bank account will be set up for the maintenance of the equipment. This will be funded partly by fund raising and partly by a grant from the Parish Council.

Mr Morris suggested that the Parish Council should consider giving a lump sum to pay for landscaping. It was proposed that the Parish Council supplement the £46,000 grant with a small sum of up to £5,000 payable from capital reserves. This proposal will be decided at the meeting on 19th September.

12. Village Hall Management Committee Report

Mr Morris reported that an extra shelf has been put up in the storage cupboard for the Scouts. The decision whether to keep the phone is still under discussion. The question of the use of drapes in the Hall has been resolved; a series of hooks will be put onto the wooden pelmet and hirers will be able to hire drapes from a specified company. Financial - Main a/c £1413.02, Business a/c £5955.87 (this includes the Social Fund) Hirers deps £0, Petty Cash £36.36

It was noted that no bills had been presented yet for Chilton Active; it is still being sorted out.

Future dates - 11th Dec OTTC, 12th Dec Scouts Christmas Dance.

13. Play Equipment Inspection

Mrs Swannell reported that she had cleared up broken glass and other rubbish that had been left in the various "dens" around the edge of the field. There was nothing to report on the equipment. Next inspection, Mr Broad.

Mr Willoughby had re-glued the tiles. The traverse ropes for the Horizon unit are no longer available, however the metal ropes are still safe it is only the covers that need replacing. A suitable way to cover the ropes will be investigated. The spring dog is also no longer made by SMP, it was suggested that the dog be removed and refurbished. Mr Morris will ask Mr Cooper if he can do it.

14. Correspondence

From the circulated list it was noted:-

- (i) A letter had been received from UKAEA updating the Council with regard to speed of cars past Manor Court.
- (ii) Nicholsons had written offering services for a Duty of Care Tree survey. Mr Thompson and Mr Morris will re-visit the survey they had carried out in 2006.
- (iii) Community plans information was given to Mr Thompson.
- (iv) Mr Dumbleton complained that the Chronicle had started with a lot of complaints. It was explained that there had been a large number of complaints since the last meeting, the largest number regarding dog fouling.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.20pm.