

CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber,
South Lodge, Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood, on Tuesday 7th February
2012

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs A Hayward

Councillors: * Mrs W Boatman * Mrs V Lantree
* T Edwards * G Liley
* Dr N O Eve * K Morris
* M. Green * Mrs A Preedy
* Miss P Howell * Mrs L Sutherland
* Mrs M Jarrett * S Watkins
R Khiroya * Mrs J White
R Kipps * Mrs J Worrall

*Denotes Member present.

11/59 PUBLIC FORUM

There were three members of the public present

11/60 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mrs Worrall stated that she felt that the Planning Committee would need to take advice regarding the changes to Planning through the Localism Bill as there was now an important set of rules and any misunderstanding of these rules could lead to criticism.

The reports from District and County Councillor Hayward and District Councillor Trevett were noted.

11/61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kipps and Khiroya

11/62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11/63 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11/48 Matters Arising – 11/40 ‘formally’ should read ‘formerly’

11/52 Accounts for Payment – the Council resolved to ‘authorise the schedule of payments’.

11/57 Review of Communication within the Council – 5th paragraph final sentence should read ‘Officers reported this in the relevant committees but they did not include all councillors.’

The minutes of the meeting dated 6th December 2011, were approved as a true and correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

11/64 MATTERS ARISING

11/51 Planning 29th November – Recommendation –Salt from Herts County Council

The Council were informed that the salt bin at the Ferry Car Park was still empty. Cllr Liley agreed to take this up with the Highways Department at Herts County Council.

11/65 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised there were no announcements.

11/66 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9

There were no questions under Standing Order 9

11/67 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The agenda should have stated reports had been received from the Play Equipment in Chorleywood 'Advisory' Committee

Chorleywood Village Halls 10th January 2012

11/039 Electricity Supply War Memorial Hall. Members of the Council reviewed the report from the Council's surveyor and after consideration

The Council

RESOLVED

To accept the tender from Company D for a cost of £4125.87

This was proposed by Cllr Eve, seconded by Cllr Liley and unanimously approved.

The Clerk confirmed that the PAT Testing had been carried out on all electrical equipment owned by the Council on 8th February 2012.

Cricket Club Advisory Committee 17th January 2012 – Cllr Eve advised that the Cricket Club were seeking funding from the EECB for the pavilion development, however the club had not as yet obtained any quotations.

Open Spaces Committee 17th January 2012.

Recommendation

1. Apprentice Scheme-

The Council

RESOVLED

To accept the recommendation that the Council enter into an agreement with the local agricultural college to take on an Apprentice Ranger for a period of two years.

If possible the apprentice be offered to a local resident.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Worrall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Lantree, this was carried with 14 in favour with one abstention.

11/89 Request from Veolia Water for a Borehole to be placed on the Common. –

The Clerk advised that the paperwork had been forwarded to the Council's legal representative for advice.

11/93 Report of the Grazing Working Party – Cllr Liley stated that a number of questions have been asked regarding the grazing which in his opinion needed to be answered. He wanted to know the total cost of the grazing project so far and also who

had authorised the erection of the permanent fencing. Cllr Mrs Jarrett stated that this would be addressed.

Cllr Mrs Worrall, stated that the working party had decided to contact all those people who had shown an interest in the grazing both those for and against the scheme to a site meeting so that officers and councillors could discuss the proposals. Once this had taken place meetings would be arranged to listen to concerns from residents and local organisations who had made comment to the planning application. Once these had taken place there would be a progress report issued to the Open Spaces Committee.

Policy and Resources 24th January 2012

Recommendation – Precept 2012/13

The Clerk advised the Council that the cost of the electrical work at the War Memorial Hall had not been accounted for within the precept calculations. If the Council put the precept up by the £6,000 allocated this would equate to an additional 98p per year to a band D property. She also reminded members that the internal auditor had commented on the current balance of the Council's reserves, which were currently under the recommended limit.

Cllr Liley stated that due to the current state of the Council's finances and the fact that the work to be carried out at the War Memorial Hall was essential there was sufficient reason to increase the precept. Cllr Mrs Sutherland agreed stating that it was not prudent to keep digging into the reserves. Cllr Eve suggested that perhaps the part of additional money required could be added to the precept and the rest be taken from reserves.

Having listened to the discussion, the Chairman stated that the internal auditor's comments were noted however she wished to propose that the precept be agreed as per the report and as the need for electrical work was historical the money should be taken from reserves.

The Council
RESOLVED

That the precept for 2012/13 be set at £341,850.00.

This was proposed from the Chair, and carried with eight in favour and seven against.

11/60 Current Recourses, Accommodation and the Four Year Plan – Cllr Mrs Worrall stated that she was disappointed the Accommodation project did not appear to be moving forward. She stated that a number of reports had been put before Councillors since July 2011 which appeared to be ignored. She voiced her frustrations at the apparent lack of progress.

Cllr Mrs White stated that the Members had to consider a difficult situation which would require brave decision, however the problem would not go away and any solution would have cost implications. It was suggested that the Council bring in an advisor. The Clerk stated that she could ask the Council's Surveyor to come to the office to give advice, which would not have any cost implications.

There was further discussion regarding the accommodation, it was suggested that the Bullsland Hall could be used for Council meetings. The Clerk advised that if the Bullsland were to be used there would be the need for internet access, parking and the licensing times for the building would also need to be considered. It was generally felt that this may be a possible solution and should be tried for the next Council meeting.

Cllr Mrs Worrall advised the Council that the window had been put in the Kitchen door and the new fire proof loft hatch had also been fitted.

The Council

RESOLVED

To note the report

That the next Full Council meeting should be held at the Bullsland Hall

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs White, seconded by Cllr Mrs Boatman and carried 14 in favour with one abstention.

11/68 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cllr Eve felt that the use of the words 'cancelled cheque' was inappropriate.

The Council

RESOLVED

To note the report

That in future the words 'Spoilt Cheque' be used instead of Cancelled Cheque.

11/69 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT SECOND INTERIM

Members considered the details within the audit report. The majority of items had been sufficiently explained by the Clerk however further work would be required on items R8 and R9.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Council should consider developing a formal risk management strategy.

That the current risk assessment excludes any assessment impact or likelihood of risks arising. Inclusion of these elements would enable the Council to prioritise resources toward the management of high impact/high likelihood and demonstrate improved value for money.

That these items would be considered at a future P&R Meeting.

This was proposed from the Chair and unanimously approved.

11/70 FOUR YEAR VISION

Due to the manner of discussion that was due to take place and the need for full and frank discussion

The Council

RESOLVED

To exclude the press and public and take the meeting into Confidential Business.

This was proposed by Cllr Eve, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hayward and unanimously agreed.

Members of the public were asked to leave, by the Chairman

Members discussed the questionnaire and went through the results in detail. There were areas where it was felt the Council should aim to improve, and other areas where it was felt that the Council was working well.

It was agreed that each committee should come up with up to five items for the Four Year Plan these would then be discussed at the next Full Council meeting and prioritised. It was also agreed that the Council should repeat the Questionnaire in six months' time and see if there was improvement.

11/71 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting having commenced at 8.00pm closed at 11.05 pm.

These minutes have been checked by the Chairman.

SignedDated.....

These minutes have been agreed at Full Council and signed by the Chairman.

SignedDated.....