

CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber,
South Lodge, Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood, on Tuesday 26th June 2012

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs Lyn Sutherland

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

*Denotes Member present

12/20 PUBLIC FORUM

There were 18 members of the press and public present

12/21 REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The report District Councillor Trevett was noted

12/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kipps

12/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12/24 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting dated 3rd April 2012 were approved as a true and correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

The following amendments were made to the Annual Parish meeting dated 8th May 2012 – The Chairman was not noted, Cllr Kipps was in attendance and subject to the these amendments the minutes were approved as a true and correct record, and duly signed as a true and correct record.

Annual Meeting dated 8th May 2012 – 12/09 – Cllr Mrs Sutherland was elected as Chairman, 12/10 Chorleywood West selected Cllr Khiroya as Vice Chairman. Subject to these amendments the Council noted the minutes of the Annual Meeting dated 8th May 2012.

12/25 MATTERS ARISING

Full Council meeting dated 3rd April 2012.

11/70 Office Lease – The Clerk confirmed that the lease had not been found but that an email would be circulated for volunteers to search the loft during the summer holidays.

11/78 The Clerk confirmed that the Jubilee flower bed would be completed by the Scouts when weather permits.

11/115 Oral Histories – it was agreed that an article should be placed in Chorleywood Matters asking for volunteers.

12/26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that training on the Councillors Code of Conduct would be taking place at Three Rivers District Council and urged Councillors to attend.

Village Day – The Chairman suggested a treasure hunt, using a parish map for the Councillors competition for Village Day. She asked Committee Chairman to come in and prepare the information boards for their committee. She also advised that she would be circulating a rota and asked Councillors to do a half an hour stint on the day.

12/27 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9

Cllr Eve asked the following question

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council on 11th October 2011 record:-

11/38 The Council resolved

*"That the Council review the conservation grazing scheme **and makes a new Application under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006.**"*

and

*"The Council made an official statement stating that they were committed to Conservation Grazing and asked that the item be referred back to the Open Spaces Committee **to commence with a new application.**"*

Could you please report what progress has been made to comply with the Council resolution and request?

It was explained that since these resolutions had been made the Council had decided not to use permanent fencing but to use temporary fencing throughout the whole scheme. A section 38 Application only applied to temporary fencing and was therefore no longer appropriate. The Council decided they would vote on rescinding these resolution, later in the meeting.

12/28 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Spaces 22nd May 2012

Recommendation – Grazing

Cllr Edwards advised the Council that when the common was given to the Urban District Council in 1921, within the deed it stated that fencing should be prohibited unless the land owner deemed it expedient. Cars are now frequent and it would therefore be expedient to use temporary fencing for the safety of the cattle. The law also allows for temporary fencing. Jack Dare's wish was to restore the common to its

pre-war state. There were only two viable alternatives, tree removal or to reintroduce grazing. He confirmed that the Council has sought legal advice and had received confirmation that the byelaws were legal and that horse riding was limited to the permissive horse track.

With regard to the size of the area, at the Open Spaces meeting of 15th September 2009, the members had received a presentation from Mark Carter from the Countryside Management Service, together with a map outlining the grazing area. This was the same area that was grazed in 2011. In the referendum held in 2009 it was stated that the Council wished to graze the whole of Larks Meadow and may look to extend the grazing area in the future.

Questions were raised regarding the costs of the project. It was noted that the cost of the referendum, the officer's time, legal opinion and the cost of the Section 38 application had not been included in the calculation. There were also minor omissions from the scheme including the water trough.

It was also stated that it would have been useful to have included the costs of the Cut and lift. The Chairman stated that the costs did not include any income that would be generated from the sale of the metal kissing gates or any grant funding that may be forthcoming.

It was confirmed that the bequest figure of funds received included the interest generated.

The areas of grazing were discussed – the proposed being the whole of Larks Meadow and the alternative being the area proposed by a local resident. It was noted that the area had been chosen initially as there were three different grassland habitats within the area and the benefits of grazing could be seen on all types of grassland.

The Council considered the recommendations
Cllr Mrs Sutherland proposed from the Chair and
The Council
RESOLVED

That, the Council was committed to reintroducing grazing on Chorleywood Common. This was carried 13 in favour with three abstentions.

And following legal advice the Chairman proposed the following resolution

The Council
RESOLVED

That, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the 1921 conveyance of the Common by JH Batty to Chorleywood UDC, the terms upon which the Council deem it appropriate to permit fencing on the Common are that (i) any such fencing is in accordance with Part 3 of the Commons Act 2006 and (ii) rights of access shall be provided and notice of carrying out exempt works shall be given in accordance with the Works on Common Land (Exemptions) (England) Order 2007.

This was unanimously approved.

The Council
RESOLVED

To rescind the decision to apply for a Section 38 application under the Commons Act 2006 for permanent fencing.

This was carried with 12 in favour and 4 against.

The Chairman proposed that the Council should graze the whole of Larks Meadow – the same area as grazed in 2011.

Cllr Mrs Hayward proposed an amendment to graze Larks Meadow but to proceed with the alternative area; this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Preedy.

This amendment was not carried there being four in favour, 10 against and two abstentions.

The original proposal was then voted on and carried as follows with a recorded vote asked for

11 in favour Cllrs Mrs Boatman, Edwards, Green, Miss Howell, Mrs Jarrett, Khiroya, Mrs Lantree, Mrs Sutherland, Watkins, Mrs White and Mrs Worrall.
And five against – Cllrs Eve, Liley, Morris, Mrs Hayward, and Mrs Preedy,

12/09 Play Trail on Chorleywood Common – Clarification was required from DEFRA to advise if natural play would be considered a structure on the common.

12/19 Four Year Vision - The Friends of the Common newsletter had asked for volunteers to come forward to be trained by Mr Cattle in carrying out butterfly surveys, which would be carried out during the summer.

It was agreed that the Play area working party would be invited to the presentation from TRDC with regard to the proposed play provision in Chorleywood.

Policy and Resources 29th May 2012

There was a difference of opinion as to the contents of these minutes – it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting

12/29 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Committee

RESOLVED

To accept the accounts for payment

Parish Council £62,174.48

Chorleywood Village Halls £11,159.08

12/30 APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2012

The Chairman wished to congratulate the staff, on their efforts in re negotiating contracts, and the ability to obtain grant funding which had resulted in the brought forward figure being near £18,000 greater than the previous year. She felt they had done a very good job.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the accounts statement be accepted as presented

This was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously approved.

12/31 THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 – THE AMENDED STANDARDS REGIME

Members considered the detail of the draft Code of Conduct produced by the Local Government Association and NALC.

The Council

RESOLVED

That they adopt the Local Government Association's version of the Code of Conduct.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Lantree, seconded by Cllr Mrs White and unanimously approved.

12/32 FOUR YEAR VISION

Cllr Lantree presented the four year vision; she stated that this was an organic document which would need reviewing from time to time. A few minor amendments were noted.

The Council

RESOLVED

That subject to a few minor amendments that the Four Year Vision be adopted.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Lantree, seconded by Cllr Mrs White and unanimously approved.

The Chairman wished to offer a vote of thanks to Cllr Lantree for an excellent piece of work.

12/33 CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE DAY

Cllr Mrs Lantree confirmed that the Fun Run was approximately one mile.

Cllr Mrs Boatman wished to officially thank Mike Fields for his help with the photographic competition, and also the sponsors who made the competition possible.

The inclement weather was discussed and

The Council

RESOLVED

That if Village Day cannot go ahead on 14th July due to the weather, that the event would be moved to 8th September 2012.

This was proposed by the Chair and unanimously approved.

12/34 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded for agenda item 16 and they are instructed to withdraw, but the minutes should publish the resolutions in the main report.

12/35 COUNCIL PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN AND THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

This paper was presented by Cllr Eve.

Cllr Watkins was concerned that politics would play a part if the role of Chairman and Vice Chairman was left to an open voting system. He felt that the party with the majority could elect members to these positions which could cause ill feeling. He suggested an alternative that would run on a strict rota system with the five wards with each ward selecting the vice chairman in succession, showing the council could work together to the benefit of the Parish.

The suggestion of succession was discussed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman standing for two years each; however this may be onerous with the ex-officios attending all meetings for up to a four year period.

Those who had served in the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman considered it a benefit having served as Vice before becoming Chairman and this gave some succession and they were able to gain experience.

The voting onto committees was discussed, as at present the Clerk asks for the nominations prior to the meeting in order to get the paperwork together. Some considered this to be undemocratic. The Clerk advised that this procedure was carried out firstly to ensure that every Councillor sat on at least one committee, and that there were sufficient councillors to sit on each committee. If there was open voting on the night it could be that every councillor wanted to sit on a particular committee, standing orders then state that a vote is taken and the member with the least vote is struck off, this system continues until there are the right number of members to sit on the committee, in the case of Chorleywood it could mean that eight rounds of voting may be necessary to get the committee elected.

It was suggested that each Councillor should be asked for their nominations in advance of the meeting, and that this be circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

After further debate the Council voted on the following resolutions put forward by Cllr Eve and seconded by Cllr Liley, with each resolution having a recorded vote.

1. That the Council abandons the points system for the selection and election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council (and by implication, the Chairman)

This vote was carried 11 in favour – Cllrs Mrs Boatman, Eve, Green, Hayward, Mrs Miss Howell, Mrs Lantree, Liley, Morris, Mrs Preedy, Watkins and Mrs White
And five against being Cllrs Edwards, Mrs Jarrett, Khiroya, Mrs Sutherland, Mrs Worrall.

2. That the Council adopts the normal election procedure of open nomination followed by open voting at the Annual Meeting.

This vote was carried with eight in favour being Cllrs Mrs Boatman, Eve, Mrs Hayward, Miss Howell, Liley, Morris, Mrs Preedy, Mrs White,
Seven against Cllrs Edwards, Mrs Jarrett, Khiroya, Mrs Lantree, Mrs Sutherland, Watkins, Mrs Worrall
One abstention Cllr Green.

3. That the Chairman is eligible for re-election

This vote was carried 15 in favour with Cllr Green abstaining.

4. To aid transition a the Annual Meeting in May 2013, that the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Khiroya becomes Chairman for 2013, that the Vice- Chairman for 2013 is elected by the new procedure and as from May 2014 both posts are filled according to the new procedure.

This was unanimously carried.

5. That appointment of Committee Membership is by open nomination and open election and open election at the Annual Meeting.

This vote was not carried with four in favour being Cllrs Eve, Liley, Morris and Mrs Preedy.

Those against were Mrs Boatman, Edwards, Green, Mrs Hayward, Miss Howell, Mrs Jarrett, Khiroya, Mrs Lantree, Mrs Sutherland, Watkins, and Mrs Worrall

Cllr Mrs White abstained.

6. That, Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Council abandons the points system for the selection and election of the Vice-Chairman of the Council (and by implication, the Chairman)

That the Council adopts the normal election procedure of open nomination followed by open voting at the Annual Meeting

That the Chairman is eligible for re-election

To aid transition at the Annual Meeting in May 2013, that the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Khiroya becomes Chairman for 2013, that the Vice-Chairman for 2013 is elected by the new procedure and as from May 2014 both posts are filled according to the new procedure

That, Standing Orders be amended accordingly

Having taken these votes it was then proposed that with the exception of the ex-officios, no member should sit on more than two committees. It was agreed that this debate should be moved to the next meeting.

12/36 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.54pm

These minutes have been checked by the Chairman.

Signed agreed via emailDated16th August 2012.....

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

SignedDated.....