

CHIEVELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Chieveley Parish Council held at the Chieveley Recreational Centre, High Street, Chieveley, Newbury, Berkshire on Tuesday 8 January 2008 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr R Crispin	Cllr Taylor	Cllr Hamlin
Cllr Cowan	Cllr Friend	Cllr Ramsay
Cllr Spence	Cllr Fidler	

In Attendance Mrs T Snook (Clerk), 1 member of the public

1.01.08 Apologies and Acceptance of Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cole who will be late for the meeting. This was unanimously accepted.

2.01.08 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 December 2007 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2007 were unanimously agreed as a correct record of the meeting and the Parish Council resolved to sign them.

3.01.08 Declaration of Interest by Councillors on the agenda items listed

None

4.01.08 Planning Schedule and Planning Issues (Appendix I)

4.01.1 Terra De Ouro, Curridge Road, Curridge 07/02603/HOUSE New Access

The Parish Council objected to the application on the following grounds: -

Existing access is adequate and can be adapted to meet the needs to be met.

The Parish Council commented that there is concern it will set a potential precedent for back land development

4.01.2 26 The Green, Chieveley 07/02680/FUL Two storey side and single storey rear extension

The Parish Council objected to the application on the following grounds: -

Size and impact of the extension

Compromises the scale and character of the layout and design of The Green

Over development of the site

**4.01.3 Acres of Fun, Priors Court Road, Chieveley 07/02585/FUL
To extend both nursery and preschool facilities and provide an out of school club facility. Storey and one quarter building slightly separated from existing dwelling**

The Parish Council raised no objection to the application but commented that: -

A condition should be applied to prevent it turning into a residential dwelling.

Request that West Berkshire Council ensure that adequate parking provision is made for new staff and visitors.

The Parish Council confirmed there were no objections or observations for the remaining planning applications listed on the Schedule. The Parish Council approved the Planning Schedule.

Cllr Cole joined the meeting at 8.05

5.01.08 Recreational Centre Ground Maintenance. To receive an update on the information requested and received from Cllr Hamlin. To discuss and agree action.

Cllr Hamlin confirmed that two meetings had taken place to discuss the ground maintenance and play facilities in the Recreational Centre's ownership. The Parish Council had requested a 5 year maintenance and cost plan from the Recreational Centre for the play facilities and Councillors had received this information for consideration.

The Chieveley Recreational Centre are now requesting funding support from the Parish Council based on the Cost of Maintaining the Children's Playground Plan tabled. The Chieveley Recreational Centre also request that the Parish Council continue contributing £2,000 per annum for the grass cutting. Should the grounds be rented out then the funds provided by the Parish Council for the grass cutting may have to be reviewed.

The Chieveley Recreational Centre will remain the owners, managers and the retain the responsibility for the grounds and play areas but seek financial support from the Parish Council for the maintenance, repair and replacements for the play facilities on an annual basis as outline in the plan.

Cllr Hamlin reported that the Recreational Centre's priority was to safeguard the building and plan for its future and eventual replacement. The centre/hall can support itself as it is revenue generating. The playground does not generate any revenue.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council have the power to provide funding support to the Recreational Centre, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Recreational Facilities S19. BALC have confirmed this is correct. Funds provided towards the future replacement of items will have to be ring fenced in the Chieveley Recreational Centre's accounts and expenditure clearly recorded. A discussion took place.

It was proposed by Cllr Hamlin, seconded by Cllr Cowan and the Parish Council resolved to provide the 60% cost per year requested and indicated on the Recreational Centre's Five Year Plan for the children's play area. This was unanimously agreed. Subject to annual ratification.

The Parish Council requested that all funds provided in the future in line with the Cost of Maintaining the Children Playground Five Year Plan need to be ring fenced in the Chieveley Recreational Centre's accounts so a full account of expenditure for audit purposes can be provided on request.

For budget purposes the Parish Council agreed to provide £3,900 towards the costs of the playground maintenance, repair and replacement programme and continue providing £2,000 per annum for the grass cutting for 2008/2009. Should the playing fields be rented out then the grass cutting contribution will be reviewed.

This was unanimously agreed.

6.01.08 S106 Orchard Garage Contribution. To receive information from Cllr Crispin. To discuss and agree action.

The Clerk and Chairman reminded the Parish Council that West Berkshire Council had sent the Parish Council the S106 Public Open Space contribution for Orchard Garage before any formal request has been made. The Parish Council need to consider whether the contribution should remain in their accounts or be returned to West Berkshire Council.

The Chairman confirmed a letter from the Chieveley Village Hall and Recreational Centre had been received dated 6 January 2008 asking if S106 money was available to assist with tarmacing the car park area near the old tennis courts.

The Clerk confirmed that should the Parish Council accept the S106 money a formal agreement had to be entered into with West Berkshire Council and the money ring fenced in the Parish Council's accounts so all forms of expenditure was clear for audit purposes. A discussion took place.

The Parish Council agreed that feedback from the Parish Plan would determine expenditure on public open space in the Parish for the future and S106 money would be used to meet the community requirements.

To spend S106 money on the car park by the old tennis courts is premature and should be considered in the similar timeframe as the Multi Use Games Area project, which will involve large vehicles, access to the old tennis court area for the works.

It was proposed by Cllr Crispin that the Parish Council accept the S106 contribution. Seconded: Cllr Cowan This was unanimous. The undertaking required by West Berkshire Council is to be actioned by the clerk. **Action:**
Clerk

7.01.08 Parish Plan Update

The Chieveley Parish Plan Steering committee are preparing questions for the Parish Questionnaire. The draft questions will be copied to West Berkshire Council Heads of Department. Members of the Parish Plan team will be attending a meeting with West Berkshire Council representatives at a Parish Plan surgery on 23 January 2008. The surgery provides the opportunity to come in and see West Berkshire Council Officers. The questionnaire is due to be distributed late spring.

The Parish Council will receive a copy of the draft questions for feedback prior to the distribution of the questionnaire.

It is hoped that the feedback generated from questionnaires will be presented to the community early Autumn.

8.01.08 Precept and Budgets for 2008/2009. To give consideration to the precept and budget proposal and agree action. (Appendix II)

The Chairman confirmed that a preliminary meeting with the clerk has taken place to discuss the budget and precept for 2008/2009. Copies of the forecasted year end for 2007/2008, Budget and Precept proposal for 2008/2009, Summary Sheet, and outlined grants proposals with notes had been provided prior to the meeting for Councillor's consideration and information. Cllr Crispin asked the clerk to answer any queries and confirm points to be noted.

The Clerk confirmed that the 2007/2008 year end forecasted reserves are higher than originally forecasted in January 2007. The following factors have contributed to this: -

West Berkshire Council required Parish Councils to budget for a full election cost of £1,500 for 2007/2008. Chieveley Parish had an uncontested election hence the costs were substantially reduced to £100. £1,400 returned to reserves. Outstanding audit fee of £1,178.17 returned to reserves as advised by the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that guidance dictates that a Council has no legal power to hold reserves other than those for reasonable working capital needs or for specifically earmarked purposes.

The Parish Council holds a good reserve. The Parish Council needs to ensure that identified funds are spent in a reasonable timescale or identified projects earmarked for the funds held.

The S106 fund of £14,636.25 increases the overall funds held by the Parish Council. This fund has to be accounted for separately and only spent on Public Open Space enhancements and improvements in Chieveley.

The Chairman, Cllr Crispin, confirmed the precept proposed was £25,000. This represented £21.66 per Band D household for 2008/2009.

A reduction of £2.49 per Band D household from 2007/2008. £2,500 from Fund/Reserves proposed to be used to subsidise the precept for 2008/2009.

It was proposed by Cllr Crispin, Seconded by Cllr Hamlin and the Parish Council resolved to request a precept of £25,000 and for the 2008/2009 Budget to be accepted. The clerk is to inform West Berkshire Council.

Action: Clerk

9.01.08 West Berkshire Council Admissions Policy 2009/2010

The Parish Council have received information from West Berkshire Council that indicated local schools are classed as Curridge, Chieveley and Hermitage in this policy.

Wherever possible and to support other initiatives a child will be placed in the catchment school or the school of the parents choice.

Over subscription criteria in the policy helps ensure local children within the catchment area of a school are given a level of priority for places and evidence of residence in the catchment area is required.

The Parish Council agreed that the policy seems supportive of local and MOD (Denison Barracks) children generally.

10.01.08 Announcement concerning the closure of Denison Barracks. To receive information from Cllr Crispin

Cllr Crispin reported that Richard Benyon MP had found a Ministerial Statement entitled 'Defence Programme to Rationalise and Integrate the Defence Intelligence Staff Estate' containing the news that Denison Barracks is to be vacated and sold.

West Berkshire Council has confirmed they have been notified of the closure. The Parish Council has not yet received any written notification from the MOD. Richard Benyon MP has written to the Minister, Bob Ainsworth, to ask for a meeting to discuss what the Government will be doing to mitigate the effects of the loss of this base to the local community and will keep Chieveley Parish Council informed.

The Parish Council asked the Parish Clerk to write to Bob Ainsworth MP to ask for timescales and assurances that the future of the site will be subject to full consultation. **Action: Clerk**

The Barracks is an important part of Chieveley Parish Council's community and has some excellent facilities including all weather facilities and dog agility that would be sad to lose. Cllr Cole asked if this could be a future consideration and to see if the facilities could be kept for the community.

11.01.08 Clerks Report including correspondence

11.01.1 Downland Area Forum

The Clerk reported that's the Downland Area Forum will be taking place on 9 January 2008 at Compton Village Hall, Compton from 6.30pm. Transport in Rural Areas is an agenda item.

11.01.2 Northfield's Road Markings

The Clerk reported that Terry Richards at West Berkshire Council had been able to confirm that there had been painted roundels outside Thornfields in Northfield's, which have not been reinstated since the recent resurfacing works. He has informed Andrew England. The replacement roundels have been ordered with the contractor but the road surface needs to be dry and free from salt before the new markings can be put down.

11.01.3 Curridge Wastelands Charity

The Clerk tabled a letter from the Clerk to the Trustees advising the Parish Council that the Parish Council nominees are due for renomination at the end of the four years term by 21 August 2008.

Nominative Trustees, Mrs Jean Main and Mr Eric Friend have expressed their willingness to serve again.

12.11.07 Report of the Responsible Finance Officer, Cheque Signing and other financial matters

A copy of the Financial Statement with 2007/2008 Financial Year Budget figures and a Receipts and Payments summary were provided for Councillor's information.

It was proposed by Cllr Crispin and seconded by Cllr Taylor and the Parish Council resolved to pay the accounts for January 2008. This was unanimously agreed.

Payments

Cheque No	Payee	Description	Amount
554	D Carter	Bus Shelter Cleaning Dec	£ 40.00
555	T Snook	Clerk Fees	£ 591.49
		Allowances and expenses	£ 24.03
Total Payments for January			<u>£ 655.52</u>

Receipts

BACS	Royal Bank of Scotland	Business High Interest Account Interest Payment	£ 178.40
	Royal Bank of Scotland	Treasurers Account Interest payment	£ 133.68
Total Receipts for January			<u>£ 312.08</u>

Financial Position as at 8 January 2008

Receipts for year to date including April precept received	£ 27,063.07
S106	£ 14,636.25
<u>Less payments for year to date</u>	<u>£ 18,993.94</u>
Sub Total	£ 22,705.38
Add balance carried forward 31/03/07	£ 14,468.78
	<u>£ 37,174.16</u>

13.01.08 District Councillor's Report

13.01.1 Manor Lane, Chieveley

Cllr Cole reported that West Berkshire Council would be starting work on the drop kerb by the end of February.

13.01.2 S106 Contributions for Chieveley Parish

Cllr Cole reported that a request for a full breakdown of S106 contributions for Chieveley Parish had been made. A copy has been provided to the Parish Clerk and a query raised regarding the Hillier Garden Centre single dwelling contribution.

13.01.3 Flood Review

The draft report was presented earlier in the evening at West Berkshire Council. Cllr Cole has requested a copy to be sent to Chieveley Parish Council.

13.01.4 Bus Service Route 6 & 9

Cllr Cole reported that service 107 had been diverted to serve Chieveley in the morning and afternoon. However, if a resident wishes to travel from Beedon to the Downland Practice they have to go via Newbury. The matter will be raised at the Downland Area Forum on 9 January 2008.

14.01.08 Councillors' Reports (Information Only)

14.01.08 Block Drain

Cllr Fidler reported that there was a blocked drain at the junction of Crabtree Lane down to the Bunk and asked for this matter to be reported.

14.01.2 Overhanging Trees along Curridge Road

Cllr Ramsay reported that contact had been made with Simon Weaver at Weaver Buses to establish facts regarding the damage to the bus caused by overhanging trees along the Curridge Road. Three areas causing problems are by Arlington Grange, along the straight stretch past the W I Hall down past Curridge House and to the cross roads. Cllr Cole confirmed that double decker buses were unsuitable for rural areas but had to acknowledge were more cost effective. The clerk is to carry on making contact with the landowners responsible and to ask West Berkshire Council to check none of the trees are their responsibility.

14.01.3 Downland Patient Representatives Meeting 14 January 2008

Cllr Taylor invited Councillors to provide any feedback or information to be passed to the Downland Patient Representatives meeting. Cllr Taylor confirmed that the car park planning application had been submitted.

14.01.4 Orchard Park, Oxford Road

Cllr Hamlin raised concerns about the parking on the road and verge causing a visibility issue outside this site. Vehicles travel at speed long this stretch of road and it presents a safety concern. Cllr Cole confirmed this had been reported to Paul Goddard at West Berkshire Council. To be a future agenda item.

14.01.5 Footway, Curridge Road

Cllr Crispin confirmed he had reported to West Berkshire Council Streetcare that the surface was breaking up on the new footway along the Curridge Road. Overhanging bushes were also presenting a problem.

15.01.08 Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent (information only)

None

16.01.08 Date of the Next Meetings

Tuesday 12 February at Curridge W I Hall, Curridge at 7.30pm
Tuesday 11 March 2008, Curridge W I Hall, Curridge at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....

Planning Applications For the Parish Council Meeting on 8 January 2008

Appendix I

Planning applications for consideration

Planning applications can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website www.westberks.gov.uk under planning applications

Planning No	Type	Location	Description	Observation
07/02603	HOUSE	Terra De Ouro, Curridge Road	New Access	Objection
07/02680	FUL	26 The Green, Chieveley	Two storey side and single storey rear extension	Objection
07/02585	FUL	Acres of Fun Nursery	To extend both nursery and preschool facilities and provide an out of school club facility. Storey and one quarter building slightly separated from existing dwelling	No Obj/comment
07/02583	FUL	Acres of Fun Nursery	To provide storage facility for children's toys/bicycles etc	No objection
07/02567	HOUSE	19 Middle Farm Close, Chieveley	Loft conversion with dormer windows	No objection
07/02703	FUL	Snelsmore Farm	New American Barn and menage in adjacent paddocks (for private use)	No objection

Planning Application Decisions and Appeal Decisions Notification

Planning application decisions can be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website www.westberks.gov.uk under planning app

Planning No	Type	Location	Description	Decision
07/02154	HOUSE	16 Faircross Hermitage Thatcham	Replacement single storey side extension to form new utility and shower room	Approval
07/02236	HOUSE	Little Manor, Manor Lane, Chieveley	Two storey addition	Approval
07/01930	OUT	Hillier Garden Centre, Priors Court Road	Removal of existing single storey timber building and log cabin office and erection of combined single storey shop and office	Approval
07/02333	FUL	Priors Court School, Priors Court Road	Change of use from surface car park and construction of new dining facility and associated accommodation	Approval

For Information

06/02508	FUL	Home Farm, Arlington Lane	Demolition of existing residential building, erection of a new dwelling and new access to site	Appeal Withdrawn
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