

# Chitterne Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January  
At Chitterne Village Hall

Present: Chairman, Aileen Fenlon, Alan Sprack, Maureen Sprack, Mike Lucas, Paul Pike, Barry Ricketts (clerk).

Apologies: Charles Horsfall, Mike Davies.

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m.

**100/48 Declarations of interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

**100/49 Minutes of the last meeting.** Acceptance of the Minutes of the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> October prop. Mike Lucas, sec. Paul Pike

**100/50 Actions arising.** The following actions arise from the minutes:

- Mike Lucas to prepare draft letter for parishioners to send to Andrew Murrison M.P. Enquiring cost of recent works to the Knook Road and St Mary's Close bridge and asking why these projects have a 'higher priority' than the provision of footpaths for the dangerous sections of the A390 passing through the centre of the village.
- Alan Sprack to advise Eileen Carter on the foundation necessary for the memorial chair to be sited on the sportsfield.
- Clerk to contact builder re a commencement date for the works to the St Mary's Close entrance to the sportsfield. *(This has been done, failing further freezing weather, the work will commence at the end of January.)*
- Clerk to ascertain insurance position re parking on the sportsfield. *(We are covered for public liability, with the usual waiver regarding damage to vehicles and theft of vehicle or contents, which is at the driver's own risk. While we are not strictly required to display a notice to this effect, it would do no harm and perhaps such a notice could be displayed on the new St Mary's entrance, when finished. There will be a requirement for us to complete a Risk Assessment for all events held on the sportsfield as of this new insurance year [June 1<sup>st</sup>] and the insurance position re vehicles should be made clear in that. A template for the Risk Assessment will be enclosed with our new policy documents. As a matter of general interest, our insurance cover will go up by 3% this year.)*

**100/51 Adjournment for County and District Reports.** There were no County or District reports. However, Dist.Cllr. Christopher Newbury has sent an email (circulated) which discussed the ways in which villages and minor parishes might be represented in the deliberations of the new unified authority. The parish clerk voiced his suspicions that the amount of 'consultative' activity being devolved to the parishes might have the effect of increasing the amount of hours worked by parish clerks with no corresponding benefit to their parishes. He pointed out that in recent months the volume of such correspondence, response forms and requests to send delegates to consultative meetings had increased significantly. The value to Chitterne in becoming involved in such activity was unclear at best, non-existent at worse. It was decided that the clerk should:

- obtain the terms of reference of 'Area Boards'
- ask Cllr Newbury how Chitterne may be 'kept in the picture' without too much involvement in superfluous local political activity.

**100/52 Planning applications.** The granting of permission for the applications submitted on behalf of Venn House and the Roundhouse was noted.

**100/53 Correspondence.** The correspondence between Dr Murrison and the Dept of Transport on the subject of satellite navigation systems continues. The letter from Mr Colin Milne to Cllr. Aileen Fenlon was tabled and Mr Milne's interest in a possible future vacancy on the Parish Council, should one

occur, was noted. It was suggested that the Chitterne website might be linked to the county council parish newsletter: '4ward'.

**100/54 Orders for Payment.** The bill for printing Jan. Chit-Chat (£39.25) was approved.

**100/55 Clerk's report.** Clerk has completed the conversion of accounts to the spreadsheet format provided by our internal auditors, only to find that the numbers do not add up correctly! He has returned the sheet to the auditors with the request that they rectify the error. The current balance in the Nationwide Business Investor account, which now holds all Chitterne's funds is £9174.52; outstanding and un-presented cheques amount to £201.85.

**100/56 Budget.** Clerk circulated the final draft of the budget for 2009. It was agreed that there will be no increase in the amount set aside for clerk salary, other than the 2½% increase in the hourly rate agreed nationally. Any excess hours worked will be agreed by the parish council and drawn from the general reserve. Accordingly, the proposed budget was accepted and will be submitted to WWDC for the precept to be levied. At £5,914 the 2009/10 budget is just £251 more than the previous year, caused mainly by increases in insurance, audit charges and the cost of bought-in services.

**100/57 Any Other Business.**

- Clerk has asked the Parish Steward service to concentrate on the drains and clamps into the 'Cut' to minimise the risk of flooding this year. The Unimog machine has been requested in order to deal with the clogged ditches at the Tilshead end of the village.
- Clerk reported that someone had broken into the parish noticeboard, removed the minutes of the last meeting and discarded them in the passage way beside the Hall. It was pointed out that the parish council has a statutory duty to display the minutes to all villagers. If individuals have an issue with the minutes, the correct procedure is to take it up with a parish councillor or the clerk. This will be covered in Chit-Chat..
- Clerk discuss the distribution of the Neighbourhood watch newsletter with Mr Knyvett and Mrs Robinson.

**100/58 Date of next meeting.** February 9<sup>th</sup> , 2009. Subsequent meetings of the Parish Council will take place according to the attached schedule. There will be no meeting in August 2009.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Signed..... Date.....