

CHEDDON FITZPAINE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 18 April 2013
AT 7.00 pm
MEMORIAL HALL, CHEDDON FITZPAINE

Chairman Denise Webber welcomed approximately 30 parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 May 2012 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman. There were no Matters Arising.

Invited Speakers were introduced to those present.

Chairman's Report – D Cllr & Parish Chairman Denise Webber

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked retiring Parish Councillors David Langford and Kathy Musgrave for their hard work on the Council. Two new Parish Councillors, Phil Thomas and Chrissie Willment had been Co-opted. Phil Thomas has also taken on the role of Footpath Officer and thanks were given to Lyn Bridges for her work in the past.

The Chairman reported that the following points:

- Parish was moving forward into the 21st Century with the new website now operating
- The new 30mph between Cheddon Lawns and Goosenford installed March 2013
- Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) expected on two sites in Parish
- Clerk Training ongoing. Accounts now produced on Excel
- 32 Planning Applications in 2012.
- Hestercombe Drive, conditional approval to re-opening drive for pedestrians/cycles
- Green wedge between Waterleaze/West Monkton successfully defended third Appeal
- Section 106 money from development at Manor Farm Barns Upper Cheddon approx. £16,000 to be spent on play equipment within Parish.
- Suggestions for services/facilities provided by the Parish Council were requested on hand-outs under headings *Keep, Improve, Provide*

Police – PCSO Scott Windsor

PCSO Scott Windsor attended and reported there has been reorganisation by the Police within the region. PC Andy Beake previously covered the southern area of the Parish but his responsibility now includes the whole of Cheddon, Staplegrave, Kingston St Mary, and Priorswood. Scott had recently taken over from PCSO Tony Wearmouth. Two new PCSOs will shortly take over in the southern area. All contact details will be available on the website and notice boards. Of 48 calls to GT009 area in the preceding month, only three related to cheddon.

Points raised by Parishioners:

- Flytipping: ongoing problems in Maidenbrook Lane
- Hestercombe: recent vandalism (previously reported to Police)
- Waterleaze: parking problems on pavements, road corners, with caravans, and lack of access of emergency vehicles
- Cheddon School: ongoing problems with parking outside the school

PCSO Windsor promised to look into each situation.

Crown Estate – Mr Alastair Deighton

Alastair Deighton, Crown Agent at SmithsGore reported changes in how the Crown derives its income. The new arrangements commenced in 2010 have come into effect. Information is available on the Crown website giving the overview of the organisations structure. There are three divisions, Rural/Urban/Coastal, and new management heading the team.

Points specific to the Parish include:

- **Nerrols** outline planning permission given conditional consent December 2012
- This includes the Section 106 money that the developer makes for the planning permission.
- Crown Agents now talking to Developer about the detail of the next phase.
- Phase 1 building is expected in 2014 up to the Bat-line.
- 20m wide hedges have/are being planted to protect bat colonies
- **Flooding Problems** have resulted in poor harvests for farmers
- *Wessex Water* had not endeared themselves following the installation of the reservoir in Kingston St Mary Parish. Strong words had been exchanged and a meeting on 18.4.13 found WW contrite. On-going discussions to settle outstanding issues continue between WW/Crown/Tenant farmers.
- *Roadside Ditches* – For past 40 years SCC Highways had cleared these. Responsibility is now reducing, adding further cost to farmers and landowners. It is an on-going issue of contention in recessionary times.
- Renewable energy/sustainability is increasingly being considered
- A lease has been granted to Stoke St Mary Cricket Club, enabling them to have a ground in their home village for the first time in several decades.
- Cheddon Forge: re-let to Josh Leighfield . Everyone is encouraged to support this business, e.g. for ironmongery work.
- Points raised by parishioners: Drainage problem on land near Barbers Mead /SUDs – Sustainable Urban Drainage
- Possible solution to flooding includes underground storage containers to allow controlled runoff after rainfall. This has to be balanced with what house-buyers are prepared to pay.
- Cllr Waymouth spoke of the importance to the Crown Planning Consultants of designs for Estates and sought assurance that high standards and sustainability would be adhered to in the future. Past mistakes and tarnished reputation is unwanted by all parties.

Hestercombe Gardens Trust (HGT) - Mr Philip White

Philip White, CEO of Hestercombe, reported:

- A horrendously wet 2012 which considerably impacted on visitor numbers.
- The legal negotiations between SCC and HGT to take over H House began in February 2013.
- The Fire Service moved out March and SCC in April 2012. House is now a furniture 'store'.
- New tenants are '1610' (Somerset Leisure Group) who manage 'Active Hestercombe' providing camping/outdoor activities.
- Shortly the Guild Hall School of Music will provide a Centre for Young Musicians centring on the SW for people up to 18 years.
- HGT is in discussion with the Local Enterprise Partnership to provide a Rural Skills Hub. It is important that the House is self-supporting and sustainable.
- There is a plan to open the main rooms to the public using exhibitions linked with the landscape, and on the first floor possibly an Art Gallery in partnership with a National Collection.
- The planning application to open up the drive received conditional approval earlier in the year and the Crown is now in negotiation with the tenants of the land. No other major plans are proposed.
- The Community Advisory Board, Chaired by Cllr Marcia Hill (Trustee of HGT) met for the inaugural meeting in February. Notes of the meeting are posted on the Cheddon website.

- There is a full programme of events for 2013 with a Summer Fete planned for the beginning of June. Illumina, the light event will be repeated over two weekends in September. Assurance was sought that this did not disturb the protected European Lesser Horseshoe Bats. It is understood that bats eyesight is poor and the 'subdued light' used for the event is similar to moonlight. (In towns, street lights draw insects together and bats would be drawn to the insects not the light).
- A question was raised over the use of the driveway, and assurance was given that it will be used for pedestrians and cycles and not as a main thoroughfare.
- It is envisaged that Shuttle buses in the form of electric buggies will transport visitors and no Visitor's Centre will be built.

TDBC Planning Officer – Mr Bryn Kitching

Mr Kitching had been invited to give guidance and advice on Planning Matters. These included questions relating to the planning application at Nerrols Farm for 650 houses. Outline planning had been received at the end of 2012. Land will be sold in phases to Developers and when planning applications come in the Parish Council can comment. These applications are known as Reserved Matters and deal with the detailed design. The constraint is protecting bats. Offset planting has begun at the southern part of the area of hedges to keep bats away from the new development; this has to be established before certain phases of building can begin.

The Northern side of Taunton is protected from development as a 'Green Wedge', as is the area to the east of Waterlease. The latter was successfully defended by TDBC Planners which went to Appeal in October 2012. There are no plans for allocations of houses in the Cheddon village. There was discussion about National Government relaxing current planning laws.

Questions were asked about the following:

- Energy Conservation measures for older buildings and related heating cost. Each is judged on merit and Inspectors weigh up the balance.
- Viridor Headquarters. Observations were made about the appearance of the new building. Two more corner blocks will be added.
- Parking at Waterlease. 0-4 cars can be on a site relative to the original application and location.
- £250 Travel Voucher is normally proposed on new Developments to offset the use of cars. This is to encourage residents to cycle or use a bus pass.
- Drainage at Nerrols was discussed, and Section 106 sets a 'principle of scheme' for drainage.
- Gypsy/Traveller sites. TDBC has to provide 22 pitches over the next five years.
- Primary School/local shops at Nerrols are included in the Section 106 agreement.

Primary School – Mr Nick Arnold, Acting Deputy Head Teacher

Mr Arnold has been in post for four days and was warmly welcomed at the meeting. The School has recently been placed in Special Measures and has been through a tricky period. Sally Evans is the Acting Head Teacher covering nearby Spaxton and together they have put an Action Plan in place for the next few months.

Comments include:

- The Staff are brilliant
- The Children are disciplined
- Ofsted judgement was that the School was 'not performing'
- Maths is to be developed
- HM Inspector will visit every six weeks
- Pledge by Mr Arnold 'to give his All to the Children'

- To increase interschool visits/external activities
- Summer Fair will be held on 22 June
- Academy status will follow as it is unlikely to remain a Voluntary Controlled Church School.
- Catchment areas were discussed.

St Mary’s Church

Rev Geoff Boucher spoke of the Church during the past year.

- Services took place at the usual seasonal time
- Prayers were said as expected
- Pastoral Care Group meet regularly
- The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee was great
- There is a good team of people all doing their job covering for the lack of Church Warden
- New Churchwarden, Joan Osmond, was reelected at the recent PCC meeting.
- Gibby Swaine was thanked for her wonderful music and it is regretted she has moved away
- 2012 – four weddings/three funerals.
- 2013 – six weddings planned, and often Receptions held at the Memorial Hall
- Remembrance Day – It is hoped to provide a service to mark the occasion in 2013
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Memorial Hall – Mr Dick Macey, Chairman

Mr Macey reported the following points:

- Extra car parking space had been requested, partly taking the strain off Hestercombe..
- The contractor had undertaken the main work to extend the car park recently.
- Wide variety of groups, including disabled groups use the facilities
- The facilities offered at reasonable rates promote the Hall and everyone is encouraged to promote and use the building
- A good relationship with Hestercombe has been established through the Community Advisory Board which dispels rumours spreading.
- Mr Macey is prepared to spearhead the idea to provide extra car parking on the school site, possibly using neighbouring land. There is common consensus amongst all parties and villagers that this is urgently needed to prevent serious accident on the road where poor visibility exists.

The Meeting formally closed at 9.00 pm.

Conversations and information continued to be exchanged over drinks and refreshments for the following hour.

J Pearson
 Parish Clerk
 April 2013

Signed by the Chairman as a true record
Denise Webber

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3 April 2014

Date: