

**MINUTES OF CHURCHSTOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2015**

Present: Councillors: Roger Hind – Chairman  
Steve Mammatt  
Eddie McLaney  
Yanine Tarr  
John Woodley

S.Hams District Councillor: Ian Bramble  
Devon County Councillor: Rufus Gilbert

Apologies: Councillors Geoff Stewart  
Paul Williams

**1. WELCOME**

The Chairman, Cllr. Roger Hind welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. MINUTE S OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2015**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman Cllr. Hind.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Street naming – Cllr. McLaney asked how strong the feeling was regarding the use of the Reeves name. Cllr. Stewart had sent an email to the Clerk asking for this to be brought up at the meeting that a number of people had approached him that whilst they would be in favour of Dennis Reeves they would not like this associated with David Reeves as he sold the land to the Lidstone's for the Potato Processing Plant. Cllr. Bramble reported that he had asked the Street Naming Department to explain when the Policy of not using people's names had been discussed and at what meeting and when. To date he has not had a reply. The feeling at the meeting was that we should pursue this further and insist that we are able to choose our own name. There are instances around the area of people's names being used – Jeffrey's Meadow Frogmore, Scotts Close Churchstow, Cookworthy Road, Ilbert Road, Helmers Meadow to name but a few. Sue to write a letter to the Street Naming department and if necessary to appeal their decision.

**4. PRESENTATION BY DAVID COHEN**

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Mrs. Cohen. David had been called away because his mother is ill and may not have long to live. This presentation may be done at the next meeting.

## **5. REPORT FROM CLLR. BRAMBLE**

Cllr Bramble reported with regard to the Potato Processing Plant, Richard Martin has been able to appoint a Planning Consultant to give a report on the Planning Application – this was more hard hitting than the legal one. Cllr. Hind has had sight of this report.

Cllr. Hind asked Cllr. Bramble his opinion regarding the appeal in the High Court regarding the High Street in Totnes and the Highways Department. The Council continually told the Highways department that their legal costs were £12,000. At the appeal the representative for the Highways department was rude to the judge. The judge awarded costs to the Business people affected. Roger asked, what right have the Highways department had, to not take any notice of what local people wanted and to spend “our money” on appeals.

Cllr. Bramble reiterated that the Consultation period for “our plan” has been extended until September 15. There have been many questions from members regarding the housing numbers the Council have produced.

With regard to the Transformation 18 programme – they are losing more staff than anticipated as so many have opted to take early redundancy. Planning is short staffed as is IT and with fundamental new hardware and software being introduced, agency staff have been employed. There will be temporary delays in providing some services but this will only be temporary. This will eventually result in substantial reductions in the costs of providing council services and a recurring level of +£3 million p.a. which will be beneficial to council tax payers.

We have put in place interim measures “Our Plan” and “Connect” strategy. Cllr Hind asked if Malcolm Elliot was taking early redundancy. Cllr. Bramble replied that he was still working and did not know whether he would definitely be leaving.

He felt that those who have worked long enough to take their pension are leaving now with a significant index linked pensions. In 2-3 years the pension offered would start at a lower level. A lot of people will take lucrative consultancy work.

## **5. REPORT FROM CLLR. R. GILBERT**

Lollipop men – school crossings – now saved.

Devon County Council Council Tax will go up by 1.99% which is 44p per week on a Band A property. Roads will continue to be gritted as have been – no cut backs for next year.

Buses – X93 Kingsbridge - Dartmouth. There will be no buses on summer Sundays and Public Holidays.

Grit Bins – Will be filled for another year. Cllr. Hind reported that Churchstow does not have one.

Libraries – Our nearest is Kingsbridge. Will be outsourced called “Spinning Out”. This will give a saving over two years of 1.5 million in payment of Council Tax. The cut backs have proved to have some good as it has driven efficiencies.

Coles Cross – This has been a mess, a big problem with land owners. Has now been cleared and is open.

Cllr. Hind asked Cllr. Gilbert his opinion of the changes regarding the High Street in Totnes.

Cllr. Gilbert commented that the vast majority of people, 9 out of 10, a mixture of business and the public would have liked to keep the changes. The public demonstration was to keep them even though there was a traffic congestion at the bottom of town.

## **6. PLANNING APPLICATION**

11/0348/15/F – Support - this was due by 9<sup>th</sup> March but Planning agreed that as the Council would not be meeting until 11<sup>th</sup> March they would accept the results the following morning after the meeting.

11/0364/15/F – Support

11/0480/15/F – Support

## **7. STREET NAMING**

This was dealt with under “Matters Arising from previous Minutes”.

## **8. UPDATE ON POTATO PROCESSING PLANT**

As Cllr. Stewart was away, Cllr. Bramble gave an update under item 5

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Hind had received the account from MJ Hallett for the Hedge trimming in Pump Lane for £120.00. It was considered to be rather high and Cllr. Hind was going to speak to him regarding this. He did comment that the daffodils were looking good and we could at least see them due to the hedge trimming.

Cllr. Stewart had passed on the account in his absence from Parrott and Parrott who completed the internal audit before it went to the Auditors Grant Thornton. Their charges are £162.00. Grant Thornton doesn't charge for an audit of under £10,000.00.

Cllr. Woodley referred back to the Planning Permission regarding the Woodland Burial Site commenting that The Parish Council had supported the original Planning for a Pig Rearing farm not long ago.

Cllr. Woodley informed the meeting that the new Parish Priest The Reverend Daniel Hartley will be licenced at Loddiswell Church on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and Cllr. Hind, as Chairman of the Parish Council Would be receiving an official invitation.

Cllr. Mammatt enquired as to why the new Housing project had slowed down, Cllr. Hind said that there had been a few issues and these had now been resolved and it was back on track.

Cllr. Hind had received the Election Pack and suggested that we had a separate meeting to complete these forms and this has now been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> March at 8 pm in the Vestry room at the Church House Inn.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm in The Vestry Room at The Church House Inn.

Cllr. Hind thanked those that attended and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Approved and Signed: ..... Date:.....