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CHURCHDOWN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2020 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Cllr Jane Attwood

Cllr Lt Col B J Barton-Ancliffe

Cllr Gill Blackwell

Cllr Mary Jordan

Cllr Noushien Khazeni-Rad

Cllr Richard Smith

Cllr Mrs Loraine Yates

Also, present: Miss G Connor (Clerk), taking Minutes
Mrs. D Bullock (Assistant Clerk)
Mrs. C Oswald (Parish Council assistant)

490 To receive apologies

490 Cllr Roy Nutting

490 To make any Declarations of Interest

490.1 Cllrs Gill Blackwell, Mary Jordan, and Richard Smith – **Planning Minute 492**

491 Public Participation

491.1 None

492 Planning

492.1 New

[Reserved matters approval \(access, layout, scale, appearance, landscaping\) for 5 residential units, public open space, and drainage infrastructure pursuant to outline permission 15/01149/OUT](#)

**Land at Twigworth Gloucester Gloucestershire
No observations**

[Reserved matters approval \(access, layout, scale, appearance, landscaping\) for public open space \(including formal sports area and MUGA\); changing room building and car park; and infrastructure pursuant to outline permission 15/01149/OUT 20/00472/APP](#)

**Land at Twigworth Gloucester Gloucestershire
No observations**

Change of use from an existing annexe to a self-contained dwelling.

49 Yew Tree Way Churchdown Gloucester Gloucestershire GL3 2SY
Ref. No: 20/00445/FUL

Objection

A Member commented that this development has commenced - the Planning Officer has been informed. A Member reported that there is no 'green notice' on site – a Member reported that the green notice was sent out last week.

Members expressed concern about the new traffic flow engendered by a new dwelling and the restricted parking in this area.

Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling.

The Homestead 22 Parton Road Churchdown Gloucester Gloucestershire GL3 2AD
Ref. No: 20/00242/OUT

Objection

Members endorse the comments of the tree warden submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council and object due to 'loss of habitat'.

'Google maps (aerial view) shows a considerable number of trees and hedgerow which will be affected. These need to be protected and/or enhanced. The Neighbourhood Plan for Churchdown (now enshrined in law and applicable to large and single developments alike) has policies which call for tree & hedgerow protection, plus building for wildlife e.g. integral nest boxes (widely available, easy for builders to install, facing North or East), hedgehog-friendly fencing, native tree & hedgerow planting. Although some of this is relevant for later, if the development gets outline planning permission, it should be addressed at this early stage. In any case, all developments should be a net gain for biodiversity.

Further the proposed development will compromise highways safety by adding another access point on to a busy road. This site is opposite a commercial business and on a main road to the village and several schools.

Erection of single storey front extension

7 Pelham Crescent Churchdown Gloucester Gloucestershire GL3 2BN
Ref. No: 20/00444/FUL

No objection

493 To confirm Minutes of Previous Meeting on 18th February 2020

493.1 The Minutes were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

494 To receive Clerk's Report

494.1 The Clerk's reported as follows – **Appendix A**

494.2 Encroachments

Clerks report 1.

A Member asked if we could carry out works on behalf of GCC (on the basis of Health & Safety) and then claim back the cost? [The Clerk asked GCC to carry out these works on 19th May & 15th June 2020].

The Vice Chairman suggested that this may be a difficult process – it would be best to submit an urgent request to the Local Highways Manager in the first instance regarding all overhanging hedges and trees requiring immediate attention. If the works are not completed, then the Council can take a view.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that Members forward any other areas of concern to the Clerk, quotes for proposed work to be tabled for Full Council.

494.3 Playground Repairs

Clerks report 4.

The Clerk outlined the works required and tabled the following quotes for repair –
Appendix B

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the quotes are not accepted due to the high cost.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain alternative quotes for these repairs.

A Member asked if the deterioration was down to poor workmanship initially?

A Member suggested contacting the manufacturer of Wet Pour for advice on the best repair method.

495 To consider Safety Inspection Report by John Hicks – Appendix C

495.1 The report was tabled for Members and all findings accepted.

495.2 A Member asked about a word omitted from the report on the ‘twister unit’ at Oakhurst Close. The Clerk was asked to check on this piece of equipment.

496 To receive reports on Parks/Play Areas

496.1 Churchdown Park – Councillor Roy Nutting

No report

496.2 Chapel Hay Rec – Councillor Jane Attwood

The Parish Council act in the capacity of Trustee for this amenity.

Councillor Jane Attwood reported that the notice stating that the park is closed is still on the gate.

496.3 John Daniels – Councillor Karan Khazeni- Rad

No report

496.4 St Johns Park: Councillor Karan Khazeni- Rad

The Parish Council act in the capacity of Trustee for this amenity.

No report

496.5 Oakhurst Park – Councillor Mary Jordan

Councillor Mary Jordan tabled the following written report

(‘One children’s ‘baby’ swing is broken. The bolt has come out of the fixing suspending the chain. The bolt is still attached but the nut to secure it appears to be missing.) **

Councillor Mary Jordan thanked the Clerk for arranging for this repair to be acquired out so quickly.

The "Park Closed" sign has been removed from the gate leading to the play park but has been interwoven into the fence! It is not at all obvious in that position and there is nothing to stop children entering.

While at the park there were children playing in both areas and took very little notice when I told them the parks were closed. I would say in their defence most were playing on the new piece of equipment which is situated in the 'field' section and so, as people regularly exercise their dogs there, they are probably presuming it is acceptable to play on that piece of equipment.

No defects on other equipment.'

496.6 Shamrock Close Park – Councillor Noushien Khazeni- Rad

No report

496.7 Zinnia Park - Councillor Noushien Khazeni- Rad

No report

496.8 Tudor Mead Park - Councillor Lt Col B Barton-Ancliffe

No report

497 To receive the report of the County Councillor

497.1 County Councillor Ben Evans tabled the following written report: -

- Winston Road has received some emergency repairs. I have received complaints as to the quality of these and have taken this up with Highways. I have also started to campaign for full resurface outside school terms as it receives heavy traffic and is really poor.
- Cavendish Avenue - as above, including the complaints and me getting on to Highways
- Chosen Drive - as above but without the complaints!
- Innsworth Lane - outside the barracks - not my division but as above, minus the complaints
- Parton Road from Meadow Way to the library and from the CCA to the doctors are due full resurfacing, the former last FY (delayed due to covid and from my devolved budget) and the other this FY.
- The drains on Pirton Corner have been repaired. As of yesterday's, terrible rain they seem to be greatly improved
- Brookfield Lane pavement has been resurfaced from my devolved budget
- Cheltenham Road outside the new development has been repaired and pavement reopened.

The large Highways England funded project of putting in a cycleway in from Cheltenham to Gloucester - there is quite a lot of back and forth about the £10m budget for this. The latest I have heard is that they HOPE to go live with it to finish December 2021, but it is very dependent on a few different funding streams.

I have been directly involved in all the above repairs and schemes. As ever the majority of my work and time is taken up with such issues. I offer my thanks to our Highways Manager David Pritchett who is a professional ally to the village.'

Members thanked the County Councillor for his report.

498 To receive reports on street furniture and bus stops/shelters

498.1 None

499 To receive reports on Public Footpaths, Highways and Pavements including the

Environment Committee

Chairman 's Initials:

issue of parking on pavements and grass verges

- 499.1** A Member expressed concern about a trailer (and a caravan) that is often parked on a path in Sandfield Road.
- 499.2** A Member was pleased to report that overhanging vegetation /weeds on footpaths near to the golf course have been cut back.
- 499.3** A Member reported that a large section of the hedge on Frogfurlong Lane has been removed.
- 499.4** A Member reported that the PROW adjacent to the railway track behind the properties on John Daniels Way is very overgrown. The Clerk will report this to GCC.

500 To consider the reopening of Churchdown Skate Park

- 500.1** A discussion ensued regarding this issue.

The Clerk reported that many requests have been received via email and social media to reopen the Skatepark.

It was noted that many people have used the park in contravention of the notices displayed. Members and officers have been verbally abused when asking people to vacate the Skatepark.

The Vice Chairman explained that it has remained closed in accordance with government guidance which has been clear.

A Member reported that a senior officer at TBC has confirmed that the decision to reopen is entirely within the discretion of the Parish Council, as we own and manage this amenity.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Skatepark be reopened from 4th July 2020 with appropriate information & guidance on social distancing displayed on notices.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that other Play Parks open in accordance with official guidance and all necessary safeguards to facilitate social distancing for users. (e.g. reducing access to multiple swings that are closer than 1 meter).

It was noted that the gates at John Daniels Playing Field will be reopened on the completion of the installation of the height restrictor barrier which is due to be completed imminently.

501 To consider recommendations from Project Group Meeting 17th February 2020

501.1 Benches

To consider adoption of Churchdown Parish Council Bench Policy & Application form [Appendix D & E]

The Clerk clarified that the one - off payment of £150 at 5.1 is **per 10-year** period.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the revised policy be adopted with the following insertions*
*(*Boscastle Bench £215 and Kennington Bench £649 from Bropax be selected for the*

Bench policy. The Parish Council to order and install on receipt of full costs from the applicant. The applicant will arrange for a plaque to be purchased, engraved, and delivered to the Parish Council office for mounting on the bench.)

502 To receive and consider items of correspondence

502.1 The following correspondence was **noted**:

- Open Spaces Society
- Email Correspondence from TBC regarding Tudor Mead Safety Inspection [**Appendix F**]

502.2 For Action

502.2.1 Request for a new dog bin at Tudor Mead.

The Vice Chairman reported that he has carried out a site visit – the dog bin is sound but the lid quite rusted.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that a new bin is not necessary. A Member suggested removing the rust if possible. The Clerk will also look for replacement lids.

502.2.2 Request for cutting back of trees in St Johns Park

The Vice Chairman has attended St Johns Park to carry out a site visit. He reported that there are two trees to the rear of properties at number 9 Eastcott Way (a sycamore) and number 11 Eastcott Way (a silver birch). He reported that there are several trees growing in both gardens including Leylandii in the rear garden of number 9.

A Member observed that cutting a tree will not necessarily remedy any issues and could cause more problems. There is no statutory right to light and it is not the responsibility of the Council to carry out such work absent clear evidence from a surveyor or an arborist which is extremely costly.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the Clerk take advice from the Arborist at Tewkesbury Borough Council and/or Gloucestershire County Council.

Thereafter (and only if necessary) to request an opinion from a local tree surgeon.

502.2.3 Quote for 3 x quarterly inspections and 1 x annual safety inspections

John Hicks:	£396 quarterly + £396 annual (£ 1584)
The Playground Company:	£500 quarterly + £550 annual (£ 2050)
Louisa Hill:	£360 quarterly + £660 annual (£ 1740)
ROSPA:	£555 quarterly + £555 annual (£ 2200)

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to accept the quote from Louisa Hill.

The Clerk reported that the Playground Inspection company is carrying out the June inspection as previously agreed at Full Council in June (minute **488.1**)

502.2.4 Quote for installation of 2 taps at Tudor Mead (to include all labour and parts) – £500

A Member suggested that water butts be used – these can be attached to those plots with sheds.

A Member asked what the cost of the new taps would be to each respective tenant – there are 66 plots

The Vice Chairman explained that an annual rent review takes place which considers

all costs.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED that this quote be approved (by a majority of 5 votes to 1 against)

502.2.5 Request from Churchdown Panthers to use far pitch for under 12 matches on a Sunday 2 pm kick off.

A Member asked if Churchdown Park pitch could be used? Members noted that a programme of works has been carried out (The Football Association Pitch Improvement Programme) to bring the pitch back up to a good standard.

The Clerk explained that the main pitch is used by Churchdown Parish FC exclusively (as per the rent agreement).

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED that this proposal be approved in principle subject to the guidance issued on Covid-19 and holding football matches.

(The applicant suggested a rent of £15 per week)

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED that the rent be determined at the next meeting when a schedule of costs can be tabled for Committee.

The Assistant Clerk has a history of costs / payments since 2005.

503 Questions and Information

503.1 A Member asked if the wooden bench at John Daniels can be stained?

503.2 The Assistant Clerk asked if a Defib can be installed at Churchdown Park?
A quote had been obtained from the British Herat Foundation of circa £1000 +VAT.
The Assistant Clerk was asked to obtain 2 other quotes (as per CPC Financial Regulations) for Full Council on 14th July 2020.
A Member suggested also running a local training course.

503.3 A Member asked where the directional plate from the Topograph is. The Clerk will make enquires.

503.4 The Clerk asked if the rent for both allotment representatives rent be waived?
The Members felt that this was inappropriate but were asked to give further consideration to the matter and submit views at Full Council.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

CHAIRMAN