

**MINUTES OF CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017
IN CHILTHORNE DOMER VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT:

Mr P Rowsell, Chairman	Mr H Tasker
Mr N Preston	Mr M Batstone
Mr J Hinds	Mr K Woodman

Mrs J Roundell Greene
Miss E Meecham (Acting Clerk)
Three members of the public
Mr Matt Frost (Boon Brown Architects)

OPEN SESSION – Mr Frost reported on progress of the scheme first presented to the Council six months ago regarding the development of land off Vagg Lane. The Ecological surveys have been completed with no species found. Footpath use has been agreed by SSDC. He shared the new illustrative layout which shows 28 dwellings in total, 8 two bedroomed, 14 three bedroomed and 6 four bedroomed. Four plots are single storey following discussions with SSDC planning. The applicant is hoping to submit the plans within the new few weeks. There were some queries raised regarding both the access onto Tintinhull Road and the proximity of the gas main to the site. Mr Frost told the meeting that there would need to be further discussion with Highways consultants but a roundabout on Tintinhull Road was probably not feasible as part of this scheme. There were also some queries regarding the cost of affordable housing.

- 1) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mrs J Ferguson, Mrs I Meecham (Clerk)
- 2) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
- 3) **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Following amendments to show that Mrs Ferguson has attended the meeting the minutes were agreed and signed.
- 4) **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Mr Crabb did not attend the meeting.
- 5) **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Mrs Roundell Greene reported that there has been lots of excitement regarding the reopening of Westland Leisure Centre. She discussed Council Tax and Housing benefits and told the meeting that penalties are being introduced. She also informed the Council that SSDC are going through ‘Transformation’ but it is hoped that no difference will be noticed by the public although staff numbers will be cut during the process. There was some discussion regarding the trees felled alongside the Western Relief Road to allow for the forthcoming new road works. In total 89 trees have been cut down but they will be replaced with large(ish) saplings. Mr Batstone commented that the TPO on the trees had been worthless. Mrs Roundell Greene told the meeting that the planning application for Oaklea will be going to committee on 26th May. There is no comment as yet from planning. Mrs Roundell Greene told the Council that it was very important to have representation at the meeting. She will chase Chris Cooper, Street Scene, for a reply regarding the dog bin. There was some discussion regarding who is responsible for the allotments. Mrs Roundell Greene will check with SSDC.
- 6) **COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS-** None
- 7) **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
 - a) Receipts – minor interest payment.
 - b) Payments – the following payments were agreed: Clerks Salary, HMRC.

c) Somerset Credit Union – as there was some disquiet regarding the scheme it was agreed to defer for the time being.

8) PLANNING MATTERS

Applications: 17/01056/LBC 1 Castle Cottages, Main Street, Chilthorne Domer - the carrying out of internal alterations to create a first floor bathroom and alterations to ground floor in kitchen and bathroom to form a WC – No comments.

17/00813/FUL Oaklea, Tintinhull Road, Chilthorne Domer – The use of land to form 3 no. pitches for mobile homes and the erection of 1 no. utility/washroom block per pitch. There have been some further comments by the applicants published on the SSDC website. Following some discussion regarding this it was agreed to provide a further response, as below, by the Parish Council to SSDC:

Following comments posted on SSDC planning website, the Parish Council wish to make these further comments in reply:

Highway Comments

SCC Highways have assumed from the application that the occupants will be the same family members as those living on the site as at present. They seem to have ignored the size of the proposed buildings relative to the existing caravans. The proposal is for at least a further three bedrooms, and possibly six, to those existing in the caravans at present. There is therefore the potential for a considerable intensification of the use of the exit and egress onto Tintinhull Road, with no visibility when leaving the site to the left. The comments received confirm that SCC Highways consider this accommodation to be ancillary to the main dwelling, it clearly is not.

Planning Policy Comments

These comments assume the occupants are nomadic. They are quite clearly not, therefore the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment does not apply.

Comments from Mr Lamb Senior

Mr Lamb Senior states that the application is for two mobile homes – the plans show three. He states the floor plans are for reference only – **THIS IS NOT AN OUTLINE APPLICATION**, once granted he could put anything on the site; 1/2/3/4/5/6 bedroom mobile homes if he wished. The application either needs to be outline or, if not, it needs to have exact plans for what is proposed. He further states that other items – boilers, washing machines etc. and therefore the proposed use of the outbuildings are just for reference, again, **THIS IS NOT AN OUTLINE APPLICATION**. He goes on to state that his grandson still regularly travels for work, unfortunately this cannot be a consideration as this happens in many families, no matter what their ethnicity. He further states that just because he no longer travels (**‘he has lived at Oaklea House for many years’**) does not mean he is not a Romany – no one is doubting this but the regulations (Department for Communities and Local Government, Planning policy for traveller sites, August 2015) clearly state any application for a permanent site by someone who does not travel will be considered in the same way as an application from the settled population rather than being considered under policies relating to travellers. Far from discriminating the Council should view the application fairly, as it would any application. His aspirations for his family are laudable but they are aspirations shared by many families, Romany or not.

Comments from Mr Lamb Junior

Mr Lamb Junior also confirms they are no longer travelling and have not for quite a number of years. He mentions several functions they would like to travel to, this would seem to be no different from other members of the community visiting friends and relatives, attending events or festivals etc. and, as such, should have no bearing on the application.

Other Parish Council Comments

If granted, in addition to the new buildings there is nothing to restrict other caravans being parked on the site making use of the facilities being provided by the proposed outbuildings or the current caravans making use of these facilities with additional occupants. There is no mention of the timescale for the current caravans to be removed permanently from site.

As with the Council’s previous comments, they strongly object to this proposal.

Decisions: None

Enforcement: None

9) CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE - None

10) TRANSPARENCY CODE – To be discussed at the next meeting.

11) DOG BIN – Mrs Roundell Greene will speak to Chris Cooper.

12) GRIT BIN – The grit bin by the Old Rectory was painted some time ago and is now looking very shabby. The owner of the Old Rectory would like to purchase a new one in green if the Parish Council would arrange installation. All Councillors were in agreement and the existing bin is to be moved to the village hall once Mr Hinds has checked with the committee. It was noted that the grit bin on Kings Hill is the old concrete type and seems to be within the hedgerow.

13) DEFIBRILLATOR – Mr Hinds told the meeting that the defibrillator has been ordered and should be delivered in approximately 2 weeks. Everything is in place for the electricity supply. There are 24 free training places and training will take place at the Recreation Trust on a Saturday morning between 9.30 and 12.30. Mr Woodman and Mr Tasker asked to be included. A call for further volunteers will be made in the newsletter. Following the first 24 to be trained all further training will be 'in house'.

14) BUS SHELTER, TINTINHULL ROAD – Ongoing.

15) HIGHWAY MATTERS

a) Pavement alongside A37 –It was reported that the Church have made a brilliant job of re-instating the pavement and it was unanimously agreed to send a letter of thanks to the Church. Following on from the site meeting there was some discussion regarding the provision of a dropped kerb at the end of the pavement with SCC agreeing to waive the licence fee. It was agreed to investigate costs further with a view to proceeding with this.

b) The road sign for Kings Hill – SSDC have the matter in hand – Noted.

c) There has been no reply regarding the loose manhole cover by Castle Cottages from Somerset Highways. Clerk to chase.

d) There has been no progress on the hedge cutting on Kings Hill. Clerk to chase Somerset Highways regarding them doing the works and charging Mr Hobbs.

16) VILLAGE HALL – Nothing further to report.

17) RECREATION TRUST – Mr Tasker reported that further works to the heating and ventilation in the skittle alley is planned.

18) ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS – It was reported that the Millennium seat is going green and badly needs cleaning.

NEXT MEETING – May 11,

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06pm.