

**MINUTES OF BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AT THE BRIMSCOMBE AND THRUPP SOCIAL CENTRE ON**  
**TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30PM**



Present: Cllr W Harvey Chairman  
 Cllr A Grant  
 Cllr R Martin  
 Cllr G Russell  
 Cllr Mrs N Russell  
 Cllr Mrs J Trayler

In Attendance: County Councillor Chas Fellows  
 District Councillor Mrs Peters

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from District Councillors Mrs Young and Whiteside and Parish Councillors Mrs Acock, Mrs Dalby and Watson

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were none

**3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

The Minutes were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**4. YEW TREE WAY PLAYING FIELD PROJECT.**

(a) Cllr Mrs Trayler gave the following report:-

*“Wonderful news. June Pritchard phoned me on Friday to say that we have now got planning permission to go ahead with the Sports Facility.*

*Earlier I had phoned Tony Hemming – who is acting for us to get the contract to start work on the field – to thank him for being at the school meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. He told me that Jim Clapham had played a significant part for the successful outcome.*

*Jim and I had worked together on fund raising. He volunteered to take the responsibility for setting up a Charitable Trust for the money raised. At the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> he had suggested that this be used to get the tress on the boundary wall into shape. He has been in touch with a contractor to do this work. He told me that Hayley Fearnside has subsequently phoned him asking for details of the Charitable Trust. Subsequently we got the planning permission.*

*I think it would be very appropriate to write a letter to Jim thanking him for all his hard work.*

*I have informed David Drew, Charles Fellows, Martin Whiteside, Sally Dillon former Head Teacher, Geoff Sibley former Chairman of the Parish Council and Robin Hunt former Parish Clerk. Incidentally Jim and I have written to all who donated to give them the good news”*

June went on to read a draft interview she would like to give to local radio when the field finally opens.

Cllr Grant confirmed that following the recent site meeting at Yew Tree Way the tress within the boundary would be maintained by the County with contributions from the Charitable Trust set up for Yew Tree Way. The Parish Council could contribute to the Charitable Trust in future years in order to assist with the costs. The Chairman thanked Councillor for his help on the project. The Clerk confirmed that Winterbothams Solicitors had been instructed in connection with the Lease and Grant of Licence and they were in receipt of all documentation in order to proceed. Cllr Martin enquired whether Gloucestershire County Council had any plans for the vacant field on the A419 which had previously been used by the School. Councillor Fellows suggested that once Yew Tree Way had been signed and delivered the Parish Council should make a bid for the vacant field before it was sold and used for development. Cllr Grant advised that the history of the use of the field went back 30 / 35 years.

## **5. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

(a) District Councillor Mrs Peters gave the following report:-

*“Since the last Brimscombe & Thrupp Parish Council, meeting I have attended an intensive First Aid course with relevance to me as a qualified Walk Leader, a Voluntary & Community Action Trustees’ meeting, finance training. I have represented the Stroud Valleys Project on the Council for Voluntary Service for 6 years; the CVS came under the umbrella of the VCA about 3 years ago. I am now Trustee of VCA that runs the Ring & Ride and Volunteer Car Service.*

*I had a telephone call from a concerned Brimscombe resident on Monday 28 December. Apparently some masonry had fallen down from Cleeve House, and Mr Haydock was worried about the state of the building, which in part belongs to SDC. I met with Mr Haydock, a resident at No.4, and Simon Broad, tenant at No.3, Officers from SDC and C J Roberts—building contractors at Cleeve House on 5 January. It has been agreed to shore up frost damaged masonry with a scaffolding tower and netting! Some work also has to be done to the shaling stonework on the west side of the No.2. This property has been empty for over 16 months. The property is Grade II listed; remedial work is exempt from lengthy permission if*

*it is to protect the structure. The Cabinet Member for Housing is looking into the long term arrangements for the Council's ownership of Cleeve House's 2 flats.*

Cllr Mrs Peters also advised that a timetable was still not displayed at the new Bus Stop on the A419. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up. **ACTION: CLERK**

Cllr Mrs Peters also confirmed that she had not received a reply from the Cabinet Member of Housing on Cleeve House.

- (b) District Councillor Whiteside tendered his apologies and submitted the following report:-

*“Corresponding with the PO about getting a rapid resolution to the Brimscombe PO closure. One option being looked at is to have the PO as a counter within the newsagent. It seems that such an arrangement would be able to do almost everything the current PO can do except road tax. One advantage would be that the PO would be open during shop opening hours - I think about 6.30am - 8pm. A PC view on this option would be helpful.*

*I spoke at the Development Control Committee and we managed to get the 20 Bourne lane additional house application rejected, contrary to the officer advice. Expect another appeal!*

*I have emailed the Planning Department urging them to agree the minor amendments to Yew Tree Playing Field without delay.*

*I arranged a meeting with the Cabinet member for housing and the head of Housing asset management to visit Hazel Court. We agreed that the conditions the tenants are living under there are not acceptable. I will keep the pressure up for a rapid decision; this may involve re-housing and redevelopment of the site. It would be good to have a PC view on this at some stage.*

*I have not yet seen the draft Development Brief for Brimscombe Port - I will continue to pursue this and keep you informed.”*

- (c) District Councillor Mrs Young tendered her apologies and submitted the following report:-

*“Due to the extreme weather many of the Councils meetings have been postponed and rescheduled for the latter part of this month. This has been a very difficult time for refuse and recycling, I have been kept up to date with the changes to collections and I would hope that you have, if not please let me know.*

*Martin and I finally met together with Officers of the Council to discuss Hazel Court. This will form part of the Housing Asset Management Strategy as required by the Audit Commission, and will report to Cabinet in June. I will be having discussions with Officers as to how we take these particular properties further.*

*The last Council meeting approved rent increases on council dwellings and garages at 1.97% which is below that recommended by Government of 3.1%. I would recommend you watch the web cast of the meeting as the explanation for the reason for this is complex. At this meeting it was also announced that Council Tax would rise by 1.9% which is believed to be the lowest in the County. The final announcement will be in February.*

*Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or points you would like to raise.”*

## 6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Fellows gave the following report:-

*“Good site meetings at Yew Tree Way playing field. There was still a need to keep pressure on all parties until the project has finally been delivered. My thanks to Allen for attending the recent meeting and to June for all of her hard work over a number of years. Planning consent has been given and clears the way for the project to go forward. A further meeting is scheduled to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> February to agree fencing details. I also asked whether any other matters such as legal needed to be completed. At the time of writing this report I had not received an answer.*

*Gloucestershire County Council will be setting the Council Tax with an increase of just 2.3%. For the second year running the lowest increase ever set by the County Council. The budget will include additional support for Children and Young People and Adult Care. With the annual changes in the demography of the County it is difficult to calculate the funding required specifically for Adult Care. The Highways budget will see a small increase to continue the Highways network improvements.*

*The County Council has estimated that the recent bad weather has caused £5 million pounds of damage to the network. In order to repair the damage as quickly as possible the gangs repairing pot holes has been increased by 30% to 70 gangs. Repairing 500 pot holes each day compared to the normal 150. Whilst the Inspection Teams are working flat out identifying post holes in need of urgent repair it is still helpful for the Parish Council to report pot holes to Highways that could cause injury or damage.*

*Gloucestershire Police Authority will be consulting on the Tax Increase which was set at 2.9% last year as part of the three year Medium Term Strategy.*

*My apologies for the next meeting. I have another commitment I cannot change.”*

The Chairman advised that he understood that the Police around the County would be receiving a new full uniform and he felt that this was a waste of public money. Cllr Fellows advised that he was not aware of this but would investigate it further.

## 7. CANAL / PORT REGENERATION

- (a) No update was received
- (b) The recent email received from Paul Coupe in reply to our letter was discussed. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to David Hagg inviting him to attend the next meeting to discuss the Parish Council’s involvement in the development brief for Brimscombe Port. If he was unable to attend it could be suggested that a few Parish Councillors attend his office to discuss. Cllr Russell confirmed that he would speak to David Hagg.

**ACTION: GR**

## 8. FINANCE

- (a) Accounts for payment. The following accounts were presented for payment:

### January Payments

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Clerk (Salary/Office/Expenses)                           | 537.97   |
| Handyman (Salary)  | 247.13   |
| Income Tax & NI Contributions                            | 179.08   |
| Severn Trent Water (Allotment Water Bill)                | 104.79   |
| Mr C Nash (Allotment Hedge Cutting Costs)                | 100.00   |
| Cooper & Son (Refurbishment of Brewery Lane Bus Shelter) | 3,094.65 |
| Petty Cash   | 95.49    |

**Total Invoices for payment: £4,359.11**

### February Payments

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Clerk (Salary/Office/Expenses) | 537.77 |
| Handyman (Salary)              | 247.33 |
| Income Tax & NI Contributions  | 179.08 |

**Total Invoices for payment: £964.18**

The accounts were approved for payment.

- (b) To consider applications for grants and donations. The following S137 donations were agreed for payment:-

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau                          | 200.00 |
| Petra Fellow (Youth Club)                              | 250.00 |
| Time & Place (Working to save young lives on the road) | 50.00  |
| Hedgehog Hospital                                      | 50.00  |
| Grand Village Fete                                     | 200.00 |
| Thrupp Primary School                                  | 150.00 |

**Total £900.00**

## 9. PLANNING

- (a) Applications and decisions by Stroud District Council. A schedule of Parish Council recommendations and decisions by Stroud District Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Council discussed the details.
- (b) Stroud District Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). This was discussed and it was advised that a Core Strategy Meeting will be arranged by SDC where Members can raise issues and concerns.

**10. PARISH PLAN**

This was discussed. Cllr Russell suggested employing a professional to update and complete the Parish Plan. There are funds held in reserve for the Parish Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Russell would source some possible candidates for this project. **ACTION: GR**

**11. BRIMSCOMBE POST OFFICE**

The recent closure of the Post Office was discussed. The local corner shop had been approached with regards to operating a franchise. The postmaster at Uplands had also been approached with a view to taking on the Post Office but had declined the offer. It was agreed that a Public Meeting be called as soon as possible to discuss further. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact David Drew to check his availability to attend a Public Meeting within the next few weeks and would also try and arrange for the local press to be present.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**12. MISCELLANEOUS**

- (a) To receive the GRCC Emergency Plan Template and to consider setting up a working group. Cllr Grant took the pack and advised he would have a look at it. The Clerk was requested to obtain a CD of SDC's emergency plan. **ACTION: CLERK**

**13 COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

- (a) Cllr Grant advised that the Chairman and himself would conduct a Grit Bin Survey around the Parish. **ACTION: AG / BH**
- (b) Cllr Martin advised that the Football Club had enquired what plans the Parish Council had for the Youth Shelter situated on their land. It was agreed that this would be put on the next Agenda to discuss further. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (c) Cllr Martin confirmed that the Football Club may be interested in maintaining the vacant field on the A419 previously used by the School for their Sports Facilities in return for being allowed to use as an overflow for parking on match days.
- (d) Cllr Martin also advised that a wall on Thrupp Lane had fallen over. It had been cordoned off. Cllr Martin would let have the Clerk further details in order that she could advise SDC of the collapse. **ACTION: RM / CLERK**
- (e) The Chairman confirmed that the draft Map of the Parish was okay but he would like the Footpath numbers included. The Clerk would refer it back to the creator to see if this was possible and if he would be able to produce the size needed. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (f) Cllr Mrs Russell footpath opposite GK Joinery needed clearing as it was unusable. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform SDC. **ACTION: CLERK**

- (g) Cllr Grant advised that the fence around the recycling in the lay-by in Thrupp had not been repaired. The Clerk would contact SDC to request the repair. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (h) Cllr Russell advised that the footpath opposite Stafford Cottage to Great Orchard on the A419 needed clearing and repairing. The Clerk would advise Highways.  
**ACTION: CLERK**

#### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 at 7.30pm at Brimscombe and Thrupp Social Centre.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35PM**