

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF CHEW MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held in the Old School Room on Tuesday 4 April 2017
At 7pm

Present Cllr Jon Wheatley, Chairman Cllr Nick Scholefield, Vice Chairman
Cllr Rodney Andrews Cllr Simon Jerrome
Cllr Andy Matthews Cllr Nick Hasell
Cllr Heather Montague Cllr Ian Cox
Ward Cllr Liz Richardson Cllr Paul Cornelius

Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Lynne Easton

Item 1 Chairman's Report to the Parish 2016-2017

CMPC has had a busy year and it is with regret that I record the loss of the late Cllr Doris Davies. Cllr Davies was a community Champion who sought no high profile of recognition for her sterling work. Doris cared for her own part of the Parish as well as the environment, litter, flowers and trees. Doris was a champion of local bus and library services and will be a difficult Councillor to replace.

CMPC continued to support the environment with street cleaning, litter picking and footpath maintenance. Volunteers were often seen undertaking these tasks along with those volunteers who undertook to provide and maintain floral and green space features throughout the Parish. Our thanks to all involved.

Cllr Andy Matthews with support from Cllr Lynne Easton undertook the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area to great effect, having undertaken public consultation, which involved local children. The site will be regularly inspected and maintained by BANES Council.

Resilience planning has been overseen by Cllr Lynne Easton and her excellent team of Flood Wardens and Volunteers. At the time of my writing this report we are awaiting the result of a nomination by the Environment Agency relating to the way Lynne and her team have met the challenge of flood incidents within the Parish.

Planning continues to be a key part of the work of the Council and is led by Cllr Nick Scholefield, many applications have been considered. The highlight has been the preparation and acceptance of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was the subject of a public vote of support.

Finance has been managed by the Parish Clerks under the guidance of Cllr Rodney Andrews. During the year we said goodbye to Donna McClelland and we sincerely welcome our new Clerk, Kirsty Headlong.

Affordable Housing continues high on the Parish agenda and the group leading on this, led by Cllr Paul Cornelius, have worked hard to achieve progress, but it is true to report that the process has not been that easy and

regrettably has the potential to create divides within the Parish. The latest site under consideration as past of an extensive site search has resulted in a very high level of public concern and prompts me to report a position statement as follows: -

Chew Magna Parish Council is fully committed to the provision of affordable housing to meet identified demand for particularly young persons wishing to get onto the housing ladder and remain within the Parish.

CMPC in acknowledging the shortage of suitable sites and expressed concerns of various sections of the community fully commits to lengthy, transparent and extensive public consultation and involvement in hopefully achieving its stated objectives of providing Affordable Housing within the Parish. (Such a process is likely to take a minimum of 12 calendar months).

CMPC accepts that feelings are running high due to its failure to clearly explain the process of site evaluation, and wishes to assure residents that prior to any decisions being taken, that are within the gift of the Parish Council, that full consultation will be carried out.

CMPC will formally request Officers from BANES to support and assist with these processes. We will also seek to broaden the membership of the Affordable Housing working group.

Finally, and when we are actually in a position to do so, prepare and publicise a network timeline for the project and be open about all matters other than those of a confidential legal or financial nature.

NB everyone should be mindful that developers may wish to act independently, of CMPC or landowners, in achieving their own objectives however we would hope/request that they join the process I have outlined.

I sincerely hope that this statement helps to alleviate concerns to a degree.

In summary I would wish to thank everyone within the Community for their help in supporting the Parish throughout 2016-2017 and wish you all well.

Jon Wheatley. Chairman CMPC

The Chairman read the report to the residents. He requested the full support of the Parish Council regarding the report. This was proposed by Cllr Jerrome and seconded by Cllr Matthews.

Item 2

Public Participation

Three residents addressed the Parish Council regarding the Affordable Housing Delivery at land off Tunbridge Close. They presented the Parish Council and residents present with a slide presentation to illustrate their objections against the proposed development. The presentation consisted of an introduction, history of previous flooding, the problems with run off and surface water and why they believed that SUDS will not work. The Parish Council also heard objections from other member of the Parish.

The Chairman assured residents that no decision has been made and that the Parish Council are listening to residents and that the process will not proceed without full consultation. He stated that the Parish Council will be taking time to evaluate and will be inviting others to join the Affordable Housing Sub Committee.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting Closed 8.00pm

Kirsty Headlong, Parish Clerk 10 April 2017