**CHEDISTON AND LINSTEAD GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting was held on Monday 16 March in the Chediston School Rooms at 7.30 pm

**MINUTES**

1. The Chairman welcomed Councillors and member of the public. Those in attendance were: Graham Downing, Janet Heath, Mark Titchiner, Terry Tooze, Paul Starks, Joanna Wareham, John Ibbott and Roger Wilkinson.
2. Sheila Clifford sent her apologies.
3. Jo signed the Declaration of Interest in relation to Item No 9 on the Agenda.
4. The minutes of previous meeting held on 19 January were reported as a true and accurate account of the meeting and were duly signed.
5. Matters arising from the minutes: Item 6 – Grit bin has been examined and is not damaged. Pot holes in Church Road have been repaired but the quality of the repair is questionable.
6. Public Forum:- Members of the public spoke about the potential development of a new village hall – it was said to be an interesting design and something different for Chediston. There was concern that it may have a bearing on the proposed extension to the Church Rooms. 20 years ago it was proposed to extend the Church Room and the village has managed up to now without it be enlarged. The issue of car head lights shining into neighbouring homes was raised. It was accepted that car parking is a problem when events are held in the Church Room, that the heating needs attention and there is no fire escape. It was suggested that Chediston might not be big enough to support a new village hall. It was said that the proposed site was a landscape of special importance. It was reported that in 1993 the proposed site suffered a severe flood. The owners of Clare Cottage said that they were advised to add piers to their property to stabilize it. Annual Litter pick – Is anyone interested in supporting this by clearing ditches in the area? There are black bins and rubber gloves available – please see Janet at the end of the meeting.
7. Finance, Cheques were signed: £63.58 to pay for Clerks expenses, £22.50 for the hire of Linstead Village Hall and £24 subscription to Community Action Suffolk.
8. Planning – update on Clare Cottage: Planning Officer Chris Hardon said that he had written to the owners of Clare Cottage and would visit the site on Thursday 19 March to make sure that all permissions were in place.
9. Chediston Community Facility:- The Chairman told the meeting that he and John Ibbott, David Mantel (for the school room) and Rector Edward Rennard (from the Church) had met to discuss the proposals.

The group had no views about the Mill House development or the Farmstead proposals, as they were considered to be private commercial developments for sale or let and Suffolk Coastal DC planning department would consider applications in the usual way.

David Mantell outlined the plans that were being discussed for the extension of the Church Room which include, insulation, a side extension, new heating and lighting and a new fire exit. Rector Edward Rennard was keen to move this project on and the proposal for a new village hall was holding up the decision to go forward. He said that as we move out of recession building costs would increase so a decision was needed as Chediston could not support 2 village halls.

The Chairman reported on the findings:-

The facility would have to be owned by the village and also the land that is sits on. There would have to be an endowment in place to support the maintenance for the future. The development could possibly cost around £300K but may be eligible for some grant aid funding of some sort. It would only be viable if it attracted lettings from a wider area as it was questionable if the 200 strong community of Chediston will attract enough lettings. Was the proposed site the correct one for such a development? Rector Edward Rennard had said that it would not be viable to keep the school room if the new facility was built and it would be sold for redevelopment and this could lead to the Church becoming redundant as it would be more economic t hold Sunday services in the village hall..

It was agreed that an initial view should be taken by the Parish Council.

In summarising, the Chairman said that although the site was owned by Jo and Oliver, as a community we have to be assured that the facility is secure and belongs to the community. Therefore, we need to make sure that the maintenance issues are taken into account. He said that from the Public Forum it is noted that there is clearly concern about a second village hall for a village the size of Chediston and because of the implications for possible closing of the church it would be a good idea if anyone had strong support for the new village hall they should contact David Mantell or the Clerk and this would be passed on to Jo Wareham. Jo said she would not wish to pursue the village hall proposal if there was insufficient support from the Community.

1. Electronic Summons :- in accordance with new policy it was proposed and seconded that all Councillors could be summoned to PC meetings via e-mail.
2. Transparency Code:- in accordance with the new code, it was agreed that draft minutes would be placed onto the web-site within one month of PC meetings. Draft minutes would be circulated to Councillors prior to them being placed on the web-site to make sure there were no errors in reporting.
3. Parish Election 7 May 2015 – application forms for Councillors were handed out. Roger Wilkinson said that he would not be standing. A frequently asked question report was put into the circulation folder. The Clerk is to collect application paperwork and take it to Suffolk Coastal DC on 30 March 2015 at the allotted time of 9.30am. Notices would be put onto the Notice Boards on 23 March 2015.
4. Correspondence – Barclays Bank have sent details of changes to business customer agreements. A report from Sizewell Stakeholder detailing updates was placed into the circulation folder. Suffolk County Council sent a plan of parish boundary changes. The Suffolk Coastal Chairman’s Report was placed into the circulation folder.
5. Correspondence for circulation – Clerks and Council Direct magazine Election Advice bulletin Details of adopt a kiosk (telephone box) Scheme
6. AOB – Jo reported that she had had a meeting with Bob Clench of Suffolk Highways about the collapsing ditch outside The Farmstead and the ditch on the B1123 with the junction of Church Road. He suggested the ditch on the junction be dug out and made bigger. This work has been done and hopefully we will see some improvements in lying water. She said that Woodland’s had asked her to take down a dying tree on the B1123 and this also has been done. She took Mr Clench along to Town Farm Cottages and John Ibbot met with them and they discussed the concerns that the owner of Cottage number 3 had about the real possibility of his property flooding because of the poor maintenance of the watercourse. Mr Clench said that it was the responsibility of the landowner and the Council does not get involved in these matters but if the property did flood, he suggested the owners take photo-graphic evidence and send it to the Council and they would consider issuing an enforcement notice.

Concern has been raised about the road falling away around a manhole on the B1123 past the junction with The Green, Church Road. There was a suggestion that a sign be considered for Shop Row as the residents of these cottages had difficulty with post and people knowing where they were. It was thought that District Councillor Stephon Burroughes may be able to assist with this from his locality budget.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed ………G Downing……… Dated ……22 May 2015…………