

**Minutes of the Tillside Parish Council Meeting
On Wednesday 14th November 2007 in Chatton Parish Hall Chatton
Commencing at 19.30**

Present: Neil Douglas (Chairman), Jim Railton, Duncan Ord, Alison Cutter, Bob Scott, Eddie Brown Joan Renner Daphne Pardoe & Mandy Nesbit
Bob Perris & PC Ian Miller

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Parish Councillor Margaret Waldie, & Mrs S Dodds
County Councillor Mr C Hallam-Baker

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Parish Councillor Alison Cutter declared a personal & prejudicial Interest on the school.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th September 2007 previously circulated were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 23rd October 2007 previously circulated were duly agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Min 197- Neighbourhood Watch- The Chairman welcomed PC Ian Miller to the meeting. PC Ian Miller advised the meeting that it is 2 years since he had attended but he was willing to attend Parish Council Meetings when he was required. There has been a lot of success with combating & dealing with crime. He reminded the meeting that he covers from Cornhill to Powburn and across to Chatton. He would like to raise awareness in the area and wondered if Chatton would be interested in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, this would mean that the Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch group would link to the Police. The Police would facilitate Neighbourhood Watch and they would erect signs. Parish Councillor Mr J Railton asked if this could cover the whole of the Parish. PC Ian Miller did not think this could be done, but he did advise he was currently setting up a database of e-mail addresses of all farmers in the Parish re- Farm Watch and the 2 together could work. The Chairman asked Bob Perris to include Neighbourhood Watch in the next Chatton News and then make progress. The Contact No for the local Police is 01661 861 313. Finally speeding in the village, there is not numbers of speeders going through the village but Ian agreed to carry out random checks.

Matters Arising- None

Min 198- Financial Statement

Bank Balance	£ 8026.53	
Including	£ 744.00	Donations for Fountain
	£ 500.00	Victorian Lamp
	£ 11.92	Interest
	£ 1484.85	Village on Line
	£ 58.00	Christmas Lights
	£ 30.00	Website adverts
	£ 5209.68	Parish Council (Includes £ 1750.00 Precept)
Halifax Account	£1120.58	

Min 199 – Accounts for Payment-

a) Mrs E I Hunter	£ 100.00	Clerk's Salary
b) BDO Stoy Hayward	£ 158.63	Audit Fees
c) D Cleworth	£ 50.00	Website

Min 200- Annual Audit- The Clerk advised the meeting that the External Auditors had completed the Audit and no issues were raised.

Min 201- Precept 2008/09- It was proposed by Parish Councillor Mr J Railton & seconded by Parish Councillor Mr E Brown to retain the current £3500 for the 2008/09 Precept. This was agreed.

Min 202- Correspondence:

- **J Railton-** Website advert
- **Chatton Gallery-** Website advert
- **Chatton Fishery-** Website Advert
- **C Roberts-** Refund £100 re School
- **Standards Board-** Town & Parish Standard
- **Community Foundation-** Fuel Poverty Bursaries
- **Defra-** Booklet on ways to tackle climate change
- **BBC-** CD on Sustainable Appraisal – Representations by 16th November
- **Chatton C/E 1st School-** Letter re School Governors
- **Local Councils Direct-** Newsletter
- **NCC-** Invite to Budget Consultation Meeting
- **NALC-** Handbook
- **BBC-** Poppy Appeal Poster
- **Standards Board-** Letter about adopting Code of Conduct
- **NALC-**Local Council Review
- **Community Action Northumberland-** Newsletter
- **BBC-** Request for Precept 2008/09
- **BBC-** Letter about Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2008/2011 comments by 30/11

- **Local Council Clerks-** National Training Strategy Booklet
- + Berwick Borough Council Minutes & Agendas

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Min 203- Website- Parish Councillor Mr B Scott proposed & Parish Councillor Mrs D Pardoe seconded to give Mrs D Cleworth a donation of £50.00 for her work on the Parish Council website. This was agreed.

Min 204- Code of Conduct- The Parish Council agreed to accept the New Code of Conduct.

Min 205- Fire Service- The Chairman advised the meeting that the Fire Service are willing to come check houses & fit smoke alarms free of charge. It was agreed to place the information in the Chatton News.

Min 206- Chatton Bridge- The Chairman raised concerns that the new signs have reduced the weight limit on the bridge from 26 to 18 Tons. It was felt this could be because it maybe a weak bridge. The Clerk is in contact with County.

Min 207- Fishnets- Parish Councillor Mr B Scott advised the meeting that he was willing to fill in the application form through the Recreational Sub-Committee as there is an interest for carpet bowls in the village and the school hall could be the venue. Parish Councillor Mr J Railton proposed that Parish Councillor Mr B Scott manage the project, the Parish Council agreed.

Parish Councillor Alison Cutter declared a personal & prejudicial Interest and left the meeting.

Min 208 (Min196)- Closure of Chatton 1st School- Parish Councillor Mr B Scott asked if Bob Perris could partake in the meeting, this was agreed. Parish Councillor Mr B Scott advised the meeting that 2 meetings had taken place this week the 1st was with the governors of which there is a dialogue on the current situation. The 2nd meeting was at County Hall with Trevor Doughty & Educational staff, the first point raised was the numbers game where the school proposed 2 pupils in 2010 this began in March and recommendation for closure was April. The numbers chart raised queries in such a way as the birth rates showed 6 out of 8 children are out of the catchment area whereas John Clark used the G P register, e.g. Sept 2007 one pupil whereas the G P data states 5. The worst case scenario was used and the process starts on 3rd December there will be a 6 week period of consultation. It was agreed there should be school and community meetings before the executive makes the decision. Bob Perris stated that the governors had agreed that the finances were not an issue as it is currently viable and there would only be a deficit in 2010. The cost per pupil is about £6k. Parish Councillor Mrs M Nesbit asked if this was value for money, how it would work with lack of pupils as there is little employment in the area. Parish Councillor Mr J Railton stated that County Council recognised the tension between the Parish Council & the

governors. Parish Councillor Mr E Brown advised the meeting that a good PR job had to be carried out and felt the Duke would possibly give support. Parish Councillor Mr D Ord stated the meetings will show if the village wants the school or not. Parish Councillor Mr B Scott stated that the school closure could affect the Post Office and the Church and emphasised a public meeting was urgent and a campaign of letter writing should be undertaken. Parish Councillor Mrs M Nesbit asked about the building it was agreed that it could be the centre of attractions and used as a community hall and it must be used. Parish Councillor Mr B Scott suggested that Alan Beith & Duncan Davidson should be contacted, this was agreed. Parish Councillor Mrs D Pardoe stated that the newsletter and leaflets will give a push. Bob Perris stated that we want to keep it open and that the school is asked to give projection & assumptions and the school's word will be taken. Everybody needs to give their local knowledge as to where the pupils are. Also the information pack for the Headship applicants was not good. The Chairman informed the meeting that a good Head will bring the pupils in.

Date of next meeting: 10th January 2008 at 7.30 p.m.
Meeting Closed 9.40 p.m.