

Chiddingly Parish Council  
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Chairman

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19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Newham, Cllr Luke, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr O'Hare, Cllr Strong, ESCC Cllr Bennett, WDC Cllr Ann Newton and Clerk: Claudine Feltham. Six members of the public were present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.  
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C Marchant.  
Retrospective apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Richards.
2. The Chairman invited Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.  
No declarations of interest were made.
3. Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017, Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.  
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

*The meeting was suspended at 1934 hours for members of the public to speak:*

*Brendan Welsh – spoke with regards to the possible skate park at Glebe Field.*

*He has compiled a survey that will go to all houses within the parish.*

*Cllr Luke offered to go onto a committee for the skate park.*

**Action:** *The Clerk will speak with the Parish Council insurers and see what considerations need to be made with regards to insurance for a skate park. The Clerk will obtain a list of all addresses within the parish for Brendon. Action: Cllr Goss will speak with PCC with regards to arranging the meeting about the covenants.*

*The meeting re opened at 1945 hours.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Ann Newton (WDC). Cllr Newton advised that due to other commitments she would not be able to attend Chiddingly's Annual Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017.

The current contract for refuse collection with Keir is being dissolved in June 2019, by mutual agreement. WDC and other parties will now be starting the process to find a new contractor.

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC). Cllr Bennett did not have any issues to report, and invited questions. Cllr Luke advised of the terrible condition of Highlands Lane.

Cllr Bennett will also continue to liaise with Highways about Stalkers Lane.

Cllr Goss advised the parish council that a meeting with the new Highways Steward being planned.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Wealden District Council; new conservation areas.

Cllr Newton advised the meeting that a huge exercise had been undertaken for the new conservation areas in the district, as it had been many years since this was last completed. New areas within the district have been identified and designated. The findings will go to Secretary of State. There is still a great deal of work to be carried out on this.

Article 4 on conservation is also possible, should we wish. This provides the Council with powers in specific cases to withdraw the benefit of permitted development status granted under the General Development Order. WDC will work with each town and parish council to move forward with this.

Cllr Goss: At the last consultation on conservation area, the parish council advised that we did not wish for a new conservation area in Muddles Green as all the important buildings were already covered with Grade II listings, so we couldn't see what would be gained by taking newer properties into this conservation area.

Cllr Newton advised that the whole area was considered and Muddles Green did meet the criteria.

6.2 Correspondence from concerned resident Rupert Cutler to Cllr Goss with regards to increased volume of traffic and dangerous driving within the village.

Cllr Goss advised the meeting that Mr Cutler was very concerned with regards to motorcycles, lorries and vans being driving reckless and up to 60 mph – verges are being eroded where drivers are going onto them. He commented that there are riding schools, a campsite and walkers regularly on this road. Recently he had a car try to over-take him when driving at 30 mph.

The parish council has previously asked about Nash Street and The Street. Highways responded saying that they carried out a traffic survey on the stretch of road between the centre of the village and Muddles Green – when realised most traffic doing 40 mph they suggested a 40-mph limit! The parish council has requested a 30-mph limit.

Concern was also raised about traffic coming off the A22 and cutting through the village.

Is there anything else that we can do?

Cllr Goss advised that we had recently asked Highways to carry out a survey – they said they would charge approx. £450. The parish council is now arranging to conduct a survey with

volunteers from the village. The idea of this is to show the volume and peaks of traffic movements on this Highlands Lane.

A member of the public asked if a 20mph limit could be arranged for the area around the 6 Bells.

Cllr B Marchant comment that many villages have a 20 mph limit around where there is a school.

Cllr Bennett suggested that it would a good idea to set up a meeting with Ian Johnson from Local Relationships Traffic Scheme.

Cllr Bennett advised that the issues could become worse as developments go up the A22 corridor – some people will choose to take short cuts. However, when driving to Chiddingly today Cllr Bennett has witnessed to two vehicles driving very badly – then saw them parked at houses within this village.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting with Traffic Safety and/or Ian Johnson from Local Relationships Traffic Scheme.

## 7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Jubilee verge – Installation of bollards - Cllr Strong. The Clerk read out an email from East Sussex Highways with regards to the spacing of the potential bollards. 'Whilst I understand the reasons for the Parish Council wanting to install the bollards as close together as possible, with the new parking facilities and drop off scheme, the level of vehicles needing to park on the highway should be minimal. With spacing of only 2m, the number of bollards required increases significantly and therefore increases on-going maintenance costs (who will be responsible for their maintenance out of curiosity?). Having them spaced so closely together can also create a visual wall for drivers which could decrease their chance of seeing anyone who might be on the verge behind the bollards. I appreciate that they aren't as tall as some other bollards/reflector posts (such as the ones on the bend), however we need to ensure that visibility for drivers is kept to a maximum. We must also ensure that if people are walking/using the verge, there is adequate space for them to cross between the bollards. 2m will allow for this, but does not leave much room to manoeuvre'.

Cllr Goss advised that they wish to see the outcome of the new car park and car park extension prior to giving the parish a licence to install the bollards.

Cllr Luke: today the new school car park was used. They were also using the field at the top of the car park, and this left only two cars were parked on the road.

Cllr Goss advised that they field at the top of the car park could only be used during dry weather.

Cllr Newham asked can we go back to Highways and say can we proceed with bollards anyway?

**Action:** Clerk to speak with Marisa Hayes and try to arrange a meeting with her and someone from the traffic safety team. Then could discuss the issues of speeding and the bollards at the same time.

Cllr Newham enquired about the price for cutting the grass on the Jubilee Field and verge, as believed the price for the verge to be excessive. Cllr Strong advised that the specification for the verge cut was different from that of the field.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Newham details from the contract and the prices quoted.

Cllr Newham is happy to act as liaison with this contractor.

*2018 hours two members of public left the meeting.*

7.2 Dog Waste Disposal Unit – Clerk. **Resolved:** the dog bin is being installed by Vince Fisher later this week, next to the gate at Jubilee Field (on the field side)

7.3 Chiddingly Festival vintage car display/parade – Cllr O’Hare. The Chiddingly Festival is having a classic car display on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September (when the beer festival is on. One Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> they would like for the vehicles to set on up Jubilee Field and do a parade through the village and up to the beer festival. Consideration could also be given for the school car park to be a start point for the parade. **Resolved:** the parish council agreed that they would be happy for the Jubilee Field to be used if weather/ground conditions permitted so. Cllr Strong would need to inspect the Jubilee Field 24 hours prior. Action: Cllr O’Hare to speak with Chiddingly Festival with regards to the possibility of using the school car park as an alternative.

#### 8. Jubilee Play Park

8.1 Play park gate – Cllr Strong. The closures have been fitted. They have been fitted in a way to not slam closed – so to prevent injury to any child.

9. Glebe Field – Cllr Goss. *As discussed at the beginning of the meeting, actions for Cllr Goss to chase PCC and the Clerk to speak to the insurance company.*

10. The paddock at Glebe Field. The current tenant wishes to renew the lease, and has offered for the paddock to be harrowed and rolled at her own expense.

Members of the parish council and public discussed whether this space could be used as a play area for children, rather than be rented out. Resolved: the parish unanimously resolved that due to the timing of this, the Glebe Field will be made available for the current tenant for the period of 6 months. **Action:** Clerk to deal with the contract and advise that we would be happy to accept their offer of harrowing and rolling the field.

*2030 hours 2 members of the public left the meeting.*

#### 11. Councillor Reports:

11.1 Village Shop – Cllr O’Hare. Nothing to report.

11.2 Saturday Morning Market – Cllr Newham. Nothing to report. The next Saturday morning market takes place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and Cllr O’Hare is to attend.

#### 12 Highways

12.1 Speeding in Highlands Lane – traffic survey – Cllr Goss. Approximately 6 people had volunteered for this. This will be a traffic count at 5 minute intervals. Times to be confirmed.

**Resolved:** the parish council reach a majority vote for Cllr Goss to go ahead with this survey. Cllr B Marchant asked about Community Speed Watch. Cllr Goss advised that the parish council considered this previously – the police advised them that the only place suitable in village for this was on the Burgh Hill Road (for traffic coming from Golden Cross into Muddles Green). The police said it wasn’t safe to do it anywhere else in the village.

12.2 Request for meeting with Highways Steward (requested on 21<sup>st</sup> March) – Clerk. The new Steward for our area is John Godfrey and is now in post. He can meet anytime other than 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> May. **Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting between Cllr Strong and John Godfrey.

(After 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and ideally not on a Monday or Wednesday.)

#### 13. Village Car Park

13.1 Replacement noticeboard on recycling centre fence – **Resolved:** Cllr Newham has very kindly offered to repair the current noticeboard.

#### 14 Defibrillators

14.1 Gun Hill Defibrillator. **Update:** The defibrillator is in place at The Gun, in a prominent position on the bar, until the telephone kiosk is adopted and refurbished.

- 14.2 Adoption of telephone kiosk at Gun Hill – Clerk. **Update:** The contract has now been received. **Action:** Clerk to complete the contract and return to BT.
15. Financial Matters - Clerk
- 15.1 Approve the Bank reconciliations for March 2017. **Resolved:** full council reached a unanimous decision to approve the bank reconciliations for March 2017.
- 15.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list. **Resolved:** full council reached a unanimous decision to approve cheques 102105 to 102111 totalling £1496.44 for payment.
16. Annual Governance Statement. To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare the annual governance statement.
17. Annual Accounting Statements. For full parish council to consider the Accounting Statements.
- 17.1 Resolve that full parish council approve the Accounting Statements. **Resolved:** All members of Chiddingly Parish Council acknowledged their responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the statement of account. Chiddingly Parish Council confirm, to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the council's statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 that Section 1 (the annual governance statement 2016/2017) had been adhered to. Page 2 of Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- 17.2 For the parish council to approve the accounting statements for 2016/2017 and the Responsible Financial Officer and Chairman to sign the annual Accounting Statements. **Resolved:** The full parish council approved the accounting statements of the Annual Return for 2016/2017. Page 3 of the Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.
18. Annual Grants. Resolve to approve the wording of the survey to seek views of the parishioners. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision to approve the wording of the survey. The survey will be available online throughout May for people to complete. The results will be considered in June. Cllr Goss requested that all members of the parish council encouraged as many people as possible to complete the survey.
19. Possible extension of the school car park – update from Cllr Goss: are awaiting to hear from Chris Forsey about the new plans for the car park extension. Action: Cllr Goss to attend the school to monitor drop off and pick-ups with regards to parking.
20. Annual Parish Assembly (23rd May 2017) – to confirm topics for discussion and finalise plans. Topics to be considered are: The skate park, the resilience plan, grant survey. Cllr Goss has also invited Mr Penrose to come and speak about his plans for Willets Farm. **Action:** Clerk to ask WDC Cllr Newton if anyone from WDC could attend the Annual Assembly and talk about the Local Plan, the new conservation area, and the implications specifically to Chiddingly. **Action:** Clerk to arrange for the posters to advertise the Annual Assembly. Wording to include: 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017. Changes in planning and conservation, possible skate park, your chance to raise any local issues. **Action:** Cllr O'Hare to arrange beer, Cllrs B Marchant and Luke to arrange wine, Cllr Goss to arrange food/nibbles.

Cllr Goss updated the meeting about Willets Farm. Mr Penrose approached Cllr Goss as he would like to speak with someone from the parish council about his intentions for Willets Farm, prior to public consultation. Cllr Goss explained to the parish council that if he were to speak to Mr Penrose about this then it would purely be on a personal basis, and not the opinion of the parish council, and confirm how the parish council could not express their opinion until the application was formally received via Wealden District Council.

Cllr Strong and the Clerk are not sure that such a meeting should take place prior to the formal application submission.

Cllr Newham, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Luke and Cllr O'Hare all felt that it would be a good opportunity to speak to Mr Penrose. Cllr B Marchant offered to attend with Cllr Goss.

21. Planning application: [WD/2017/0575/O](#)

Location: Land to the rear of Terra, The Dicker, Lower Dicker, BN27 4BY.

Description: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of one detached dwelling.

(A previous application was submitted for this location, and withdrawn: [WD/2016/2332/O](#)).

Response to Wealden District Council: the parish council voted 5 in favour, 2 against, to recommend approval for this application.

22. Any items for inclusion on next month's agenda:

End of year finance report - Clerk

Parish Council banking arrangements – Cllr Tolhurst

The meeting closed at: 2120

- *The next planning meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The Annual Parish Council meeting (and planning meeting) will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017*
- *The Annual Parish Council Assembly will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017.*