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Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 16th July 2019 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Allan, Cllr Best, Cllr Marchant, Cllr Mikelis, Cllr Newham, Cllr Richards, Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Welsh, ESCC Cllr Bennett, District Cllr Draper and A Stevens (Locum Clerk).

Four members of the public were present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.
No apologies for absence were received.
2. The Chairman invites Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.
Councillor Goss declared a personal interest in item 15 on this agenda.
3. Minutes of 21st May 2019 Annual Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.
Councillor Goss and the Clerk have checked their notes on this meeting and agreed there was no need for an amendment. The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the Meeting.
4. Minutes of 18th June 2019 Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.
The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2019 were agreed by all and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
The meeting was then suspended to allow the Public to express a view or ask a question about any item on the agenda.
There were no questions from the public on this occasion.
5. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes 18th June 2019 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:
There were no Clerk or Councillor reports arising from the minutes dated 18th June 2019.
6. Councillor Reports:
Cllr Draper (WDC) said;
 - He has called in planning application WD/2019/0085/F and as a result it is due to be considered by Members of the Planning Committee South at their meeting on 18th July. He said the agent has registered to speak and he asked the Parish Council to

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represent the applicant. Councillors discussed this in more detail in the Planning Meeting which followed this Meeting.

- Wealden is to publish its Climate Change Report shortly. The Plan has been drafted to fit in with the Government's plans for the country to be carbon neutral by 2050. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC) said;
 - An opportunity has arisen for ESCC to suggest improvements to railway stations. Berwick Station has been awarded £30000 following the disruption faced last summer. Full details can be found on www.passengerbenefitfund.co.uk. Please contact County Councillor Nick Bennett on Cllr.Nick.Bennett@eastsussex.gov.uk with any suggestions.
 - He attended the Local Government Association Conference last week. The Green Paper on Adult Social Care and Health is due.
 - ESCC has to find another £34m worth of cuts over the next three years so it is continues to lobby Ministers.
 - He has established an Environment Board, comprising energy and other utility and infrastructure companies The Board is Chaired by the Environment Agency and it is a function of SELEP. Its priority work areas are food waste, and renewable energy. The Board will shortly publish its new Environment Strategy.
 - Electric cars may not be the solution to the pollution problem because pollution is not just about emissions, it is also about tyre wear.
- In answer to councillor's questions, County Councillor Bennett said;
- He will take the suggestion to erect a footbridge across the railway line at Berwick forward to the appropriate Officer at the County Council.
 - The A27 Reference Group is looking for a new Chair following Maria Caulfield MP's, announcement that she is not in favour of a new off line dual carriageway. County Councillor Bennett said he is not either.
 - The improvements in RIS 1 are still going ahead.

7. Correspondence:

- 7.1 ESCC parking and permit charges: ESCC is consulting on proposed changes to parking and permit charges and is inviting our comments on these. It may be that these proposals will not directly affect the parish but our comments are still invited to help inform the consultation. As part of their commitment to reduce harmful vehicle emissions across the county and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, the proposed permit prices will take into consideration engine sizes and the vehicle's CO2 emissions. Vehicles emissions can be checked by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax-rate-tables>. If the proposed changes are implemented, some permit prices will reduce, some will stay the same and some will increase. The rise in permit prices would be the first increase for more than a decade. ESCC is also consulting on proposed changes to the on street pay and display parking charges in Lewes, Eastbourne and Hastings. Off street parking charges are not affected by this consultation. Details of the proposed East Sussex Parking Charges changes are published on their consultation hub, please visit: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/parking-charges> Please complete the online survey and comments box at the same link. The consultation opens on 1 July and closes on 17 August. If the proposals are agreed, we expect the changes to come into effect in early 2020.

Councillors Mikelis said he had problems accessing the site so County Councillor Bennett agreed to take the matter up with the County Council.

Councillors agreed that although their residents are not directly affected by the plans they are concerned because parking in Lewes is already very expensive and the

changes will mean that parking in Eastbourne will now be too. Councillors agreed to comment on the proposals individually.

7.2 East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service has recently published its Annual Plan 2019/20 and wanted to share this with us. The Annual Plan includes information on the strategic direction of the ESFRS, outlines their key priorities for the next few years and provides information on what they have achieved and their plans for the year ahead. This Plan will be published on their website at www.esfrs.org. Councillors agreed to comment on these plans individually.

7.3 Removal of public telephone boxes. In the past British Telecom has carried out consultation exercises to remove public payphones within Wealden District and another such exercise is now being carried out. The telephone kiosk opposite Drapers Store/Six Bells is on the list for removal.

Wealden District Council (WDC) have asked – the following for their return form:

- *'If we agree to the telephone box being removed – in your response please state **Agree***
- *If you object to the telephone box being removed – in your response please state **Disagree** and importantly, state **your reasons for objecting** as outlined in the Ofcom letter and BT's letter dated 30th April 2019 which are attached within the pdf.*
- *If you wish to adopt the telephone box - in your response please state **Adopt** and provide **your contact details** so that BT can contact you'.*

As WDC will need to send the response back to BT by 12 September 2019, the Parish Council has been asked to have its comments back by **Friday, 30th August 2019**.

Councillors noted the telephone kiosk has not been used in the last twelve months and agreed that unless residents want it to stay, it should go. Councillor Goss said he will ask residents for their views in the village magazine.

8. Jubilee Field Verge – Whilst some jet patching has been carried out, the worst corner still needs attention. The Locum Clerk will see if the Clerk has had a response to her email.

Councillors also discussed whether or not to have a wildflower meadow there but agreed it would contradict their past decision to keep the area tidy.

9. Jubilee Play Park – consideration of the Play Safety Ltd play area inspection report and resolve to agree any improvements required– Councillors discussed the report and **resolved** to;

- Replace the seats to the swings.
- Fit a rubber buffer allowing a 12mm gap on the smaller gate.
- Leave the swing's chains as they are because they still meet the requirements but mean more children can use them.
- Remove the latch and fit a spring instead so the gate closes automatically.

The Locum Clerk will ask the Clerk to instruct Mr Fisher to carry out the repairs. It was also noted that the new 'no dogs' signs have now been fitted.

10. Jubilee Garden – Cllr Goss confirmed that instruction has been given to the contractor to remove the old notice board and the bench.

11. Councillor Reports:

11.1 Village Shop – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

11.2 Saturday Morning Market: Councillor Welsh attended the Saturday Morning Market. He said it was well attended but he would have liked to have worn an identity badge so people knew he was a councillor and could approach him. Councillor Goss agreed to organise one.

12. Footpaths – Councillors reported a broken stile in the parish. It is understood the landowner has plans to remove the stile.

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Councillor Best reported a recent incident in the woods. A group of youths pointed guns at and scared a young resident. Councillors agreed to be extra vigilant and will ask dog walkers to do the same. Any future incidents should be reported to the Parish Council and Sussex Police.

The footpath at the side of Birch Cottage, Muddles Green is still very overgrown and tricky to pass. The Locum Clerk will ask the Clerk to chase up ESCC Rights of Way.

13. Highways:

13.1 Chiddingly location sign by the cricket field – Cllr Newham went to fit the sign but needed more brackets. The Locum Clerk will ask the Clerk to order some more. Cllr Allan said he would like to take over responsibility for Highways. Cllr Newham said he was happy to hand it over. There were no objections.

13.2 To discuss the Highlands Lane ‘rat-run’ and the response from Cllr Bennett with regards to the enquiry submitted – Chiddingly Parish Council had previously asked Highways to make Highlands Lane one way to see if it will help stop the Lane being used as a ‘rat run’. Highways said they will not support the request. Councillors discussed other ways to control vehicle speeds and traffic movement and thought it might help if they have ‘welcome’ gates and/or a Speedwatch Team. This will be an agenda item for the next Full Council Meeting.

Councillors also;

- noted a recent traffic report on traffic movements in Nash Street recorded 468 vehicle movements. It was thought to be because there was an accident.
- Asked the Clerk to remind the PCSO not to divert traffic down Stalkers Lane when there is a road accident.

14 Financial Matters:

14.1 To approve the bank reconciliations for June 2019 – Councillors Mikelis and Allan said they do not understand the RBS system but the Clerk has agreed to explain it when she is better. All Councillors **resolved** to approve the bank reconciliations for June 2019.

14.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list) – Councillors **resolved** to approve and authorise the accounts payable to 16th July 2019. Cllr Goss pointed out that one cheque is for him but it is for the reimbursement of the on-line back-up annual subscription and has been charged at cost.

14.3 To acknowledge the RBS reports circulated by the Chairman – Summary Receipts and Payments and Cash and Investment Reconciliation – Councillors **resolved** to acknowledge the Summary Receipts and Payments and Investment Reconciliation.

14.4 Bank Mandate – Cllr Marchant provided his Barclays approved identification papers to the Chairman so that the process of having them added to the mandate can be continued. Cllr Newham will provide his next.

15 Community Land Trust – There has not been a Community Land Trust Meeting since the last Full Council Meeting.

16 Capital projects expenditure – The following have already been submitted as suggestions for capital expenditure;

Kerb along Jubilee Field verge -Cllr Newham

Electric car charging point in the village car park – Cllr Allan.

Upgrade of the footpath Between Muddles Green and Chiddingly.

Community Swimming pool at the school – Cllr Welsh

Adult exercise equipment and kids play area in Chiddingly outside Village Hall – Cllr Newham.

Councillors requested a report on each suggestion so they consider them in more depth.

Councillor Allan said he has already carried some basic research on electric car charging points. An ESCC report in February found 22% of those who responded (1365) said they already drive either electric or hybrid cars, 76% will consider buying one and 59% of those will consider buying one in the next five years. He said he has found two installers, grants are available and it might be possible to reimburse the village hall for the electricity used.

Councillors **resolved** that he can get prices, see how feasible it would be and find out what the benefits are. In the meantime Councillors will find out how often the point at The Gun is used.

It was also noted that the landowner supports the proposal to upgrade the footpath between Muddles Green and Chiddingly but said it might mean losing another footpath.

17. Village Car Park:

17.1 Noticeboards – The new public noticeboard has been fitted on the recycling centre fence in the village car park. The single notice board has not yet been fitted. The Clerk will find out why not.

17.2 To consider Andy Barnes' report on the trees around the car park and agree any necessary work – Councillors have seen and read Mr Barnes' Report and **resolved** that Mr Barnes can get advice from the Woodland Trust on how to deal with the ash die back. Cllr Welsh will get prices from three suitably qualified tree surgeons for the rest of the work.

18. GDPR and email – Cllr Goss said there is still an issue forwarding AOL to gmail. He hopes to be able to provide a complete review for the Full Council Meeting in September.

19. Policy review – Cllr Allan said he was not willing to review the policies on his own because he felt they are really a matter for the Clerk. Councillors resolved to set up a Working Party to review its policies, starting with the Standing Orders. The Working Party will consist of Cllr Allan, Cllr Mikelis and the Clerk. It was suggested the Standing Orders could include an index to make them easier to use. It was also noted that nothing in bold in the Standing Orders can be changed because it is a matter of law.

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

- To consider setting up a Speedwatch Team (13.2)
- To consider erecting white gates (13.2)
- Emergency Resilience Plan (the Plan is available to look at on the website).

- *This meeting closed at 9:10pm. The planning meeting followed the close of this meeting.*
- *The next planned Parish Council Meeting is to take place on 17th September 2019.*