

Chairman

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20<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr C Marchant, Cllr Luke, Cllr Strong, Cllr Richards, Cllr Tolhurst and the Clerk.

One member of the public was present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Newham, Cllr O'Hare, Cllr B Marchant and ESCC Cllr Bennett.

2. The Chairman will invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.

Cllr Goss declared a personal interest in respect of item 14 of these minutes, as he is the Chairman of Chiddingly CLT Limited.

3. Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 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 1933 hours so that members of public present at this meeting could speak.*

*One member of public commented on how well the parish council documents were presented, and easy to find on the website.*

*The meeting re convened at 1934 hours.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 not covered elsewhere in the agenda: there were none.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr David Watts (WDC) – not present at this meeting

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC) – had sent apologies for not being able to attend this meeting.

6. Correspondence:

## 7 Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 To consider the quote provided by Vince Fisher (who currently maintains the verge) for the works to Jubilee verge. Quote received: £800 to include the hire for a 1.8 ton digger, grass seed and labour. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed for Vince Fisher to carry out the improvement works to the Jubilee Field verge. **Action:** Clerk to advise Vince Fisher and request that he notify us when he is likely to start the works so that the Clerk can notify ESCC and also Cllr Goss can ask the resident to remove his cars from the verge during the works.

7.2 To consider the quote from Barcombe Landscapes for the cutting of the Jubilee Field grass during 2019. Barcombe Landscapes confirmed there would be no increase in price for this year. The price to mow the field is £50 x 12 cuts, and to trim the hedge is £120 x 1 cut. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed for Barcombe Landscapes to continue with this contract. **Action:** Clerk to advise Barcombe Landscapes.

8. **Jubilee Play Park** – no new issues to report.

9. **Jubilee Garden** – to decide upon the location for the new bench. Vince Fisher advised the parish council that he had located two concrete slab areas already within the Jubilee Garden. Cllr Newham checked this and the size of the bench and the concrete area to the left of the oak tree would be suitable for the bench. **Resolved:** the parish council agreed for the installation of the bench on the left-hand side of the tree. **Action:** Clerk to request that Vince Fisher arranges collection of the bench from Cllr Newham and deal with the installation/securing.

## 10 Councillor Reports:

10.1 **Village Shop** – update from Cllr O'Hare – not present at this meeting.

Cllr Richards asked the shop was doing. Cllr Goss advised that the shop manager post has recently become available and is being advertised for a replacement. At last year's AGM the finances were looking healthy

10.2 **Saturday Morning Market:** Cllr Goss: chatted to various parishioners, but no new issues to report.

*Cllr B Marchant to attend the market on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019*

## 11. Footpaths

11.1 Hoads Wood – Cllr Goss/Clerk. **Resolved:** after much communication between the landowners surrounding this area and ESCC Rights of Way team, it was agreed the Rights of Way will install hand rail(s) at this location to help keep users of the bridge safer. This won't resolve the problem of flooding but will make the bridge more visible to users.

11.2 Hale Green to Gun Hill – Clerk. It was reported to the Clerk that there were some boggy and unpassable areas on the footpath. This has been passed to Rights of Way team to assess.

11.3 Footpath 16, Gun Hill – update from Cllr Goss/Clerk. ESCC Rights of Way Team have been in contact with the landowner concerned, Mr Ray Nice. He delivered a copy of a letter to Cllr Goss that he had sent to ESCC. In that letter he claimed that members of Chiddingly Parish Council had advised him that there were no footpaths on his land. The Clerk and the Chairman can find no record of that, and Cllr Goss checked with Robin Symington (the previous Clerk) who also has no record. In any case any Clerk of this council could not have advised that the Parish Council do that, footpaths are the responsibility of ESCC. The Clerk has written to Mr Nice asking for names and dates of this advice, and to ESCC to say we have no knowledge of this advice.

World End Farm, Hellingly also contacted Cllr Goss to say that ESCC have put in marker posts and stiles for a footpath across land incorrectly. However, we have advised her that this is on Hellingly Parish area.

## **12. Highways**

12.1 Chiddingly location signs by the cricket field – to consider the costings of installing new name location signs – Clerk.

A new name sign will need to be paid for by the parish council. The Clerk received the quotation from Costain, as requested by ESCC. Costain quote:

£589 plus VAT. This includes £100 materials, labour costs £335, £125 'project overhead' and £28 head office overhead (Costain's costs for making the arrangements for the work).

The Clerk also contacted a local company (who made the Chiddingly Village Car Park sign previously). They could produce the 2 x signs for £126 + VAT. The Clerk would need to collect the item and would look for a volunteer to put the signs up. (They are to be attached to poles already there, holding the 30 mph signs). **Resolved:** The parish council reach a unanimous decision to go with the quote for £126 + VAT.

## **13 Financial Matters**

13.1 To approve the Bank reconciliations for January 2019. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the bank reconciliations for the current account, savings account and CIL account for January 2019.

13.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the payments for February 2019, cheques 102305 to 102308 refer and come to a total of £1082.

13.3 To acknowledge the RBS reports circulated by the Clerk – Summary Receipts and Payments and Cash and Investment Reconciliation. **Resolved:** the parish council acknowledged receipt of the reports and no questions were raised.

14. Community Land Trust – update from Cllr Goss: The CLT held its first AGM last week 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and elected its first Board, which is the same as the previous interim Board. The membership now stands at 95. Membership is still open, forms are available from the Company Secretary (Sue Skan).

Willets Farm: No progress on the planning issue. Cllr Goss understands that Tony Penrose intends to oppress ahead with an application for the cut back scheme involving 2 conversions and 7 new builds – with nothing for the CLT. Cllr Goss doesn't know when that application is due to be submitted. In the mean time Cllr Goss has written to Cllr Ann Newton (portfolio holder for Planning) and Cllr Sue Stedman (Chair of Planning Committee South) asking for their help and advice. No response so far, but I understand Cllr Stedman has been unwell. The CLT is seeking professional Planning Advice from a Planning Consultant recommended by Tom Warder called Claire Tester, though her initial informal advice is not hopeful.

Cllr Goss wrote to Tony Penrose and his Planning Consultant in the light of the recent successful appeal in Upper Dicker suggestion they submit the original plan, with six dwellings for the CLT but have no reply so far.

Cllr Strong asked why this plan has changed, Cllr Goss advised this is from a pre-application meeting with WDC. The new Local Plan does not transfer of traffic movements to be transferred from light industrial to residential. So Tony Penrose was advised to go with a reduced number of dwellings, and hence no allowance for the CLT.

Other Planning Consultants are saying that as WDC does not have a 5 year housing supply then they could try to anyway.

With a membership of 95, all of whom are broadly in favour of the Willets Farm plan, we would have the community support for such an application.

**15.** Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) expenditure – Cllr Goss has exchanged several emails with Amy McGowan of the Parents and Friends of Chiddingly School regarding a project there. They are thinking of having a ‘building’ to be used for some one-to-one time with pupils. The Clerk has made some enquiries with SSALC and Wealden regarding use of CIL funds to the school and it looks possible, so Cllr Goss has asked Amy to come back to the Parish Council with details of the project and costings for the parish council to consider.

**16.** Spring Clean – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Cllr Goss advised that Ruth McDermott had kindly volunteered to help.

Cllr Strong will cover Honeywick Lane, Parsonage Lane and The Street as far as Six Bells.

Cllr Goss will cover Thunders Hill and Rosemount.

Cllr Tolhurst – will cover part of Rosemount and Scrapers Hill in the vicinity of Ash Cottage.

Cllr Richards will cover from Rosemount to the bottom of Nash Street.

Cllr C Marchant will work with Cllr B Marchant.

**17.** Chiddingly School – to consider the costings for their Astroturf project and if approved, to agree for the materials to be purchased at the beginning of April 2019.

1) Parkers Building supplies

3x grab bags sharp sand @ £36.40 = £109.20 ex VAT

2) all from <https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/>

<https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/product/orlando-30mm-pile-3m-width/>

Size **7m** in length with **quantity of 2** £325.5 each incl VAT - total of £651.00

**14m** Geo-textile Weed Membrane <https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/product/geo-textile-membrane-heavy-duty/> Total cost £78.75

**3m** of <https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/product/seaming-tape/> total cost £3.75

1 tube of Adhesive at £7.95 <https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/product/glueadhesive-300ml/>

1 Glue Spreader at £4.99 <https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/product/glue-spreader/>

7 Packs of <https://www.forevergreenlawns.co.uk/product/oval-head-100mm-fixing-pins/> total cost £41.93

Cost from their website is £652 + VAT

TOTAL £761.20

The school have also sourced 5 tons of sharp sand and 18m worth of sleepers for free for the project.

**Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the purchase of these materials.

**Action:** Clerk to speak with the suppliers to see if they could provide and invoice us for the goods.

**18.** Sussex Police ‘surgery’ – update from Cllr Richards. He was surprised to be the only person attending the meeting, with Inspector Jon Gross at Hailsham Police Station.

- They are now producing a monthly newsletter.
- Also have a mobile police station which can be used.
- Katy Bourne has said she will recruit 800 new police officers, but she didn’t say that within this time 600 officers would be leaving.

- 14,000 people go missing in Sussex each year. 13,800 return, 200 are long term missing.
- A Police Officer and Nurse Practitioner have a vehicle to help with those who are mentally ill – which is better than 2 officers attending such incidents.
- Surprised to see how many police officers were in the station during the time of the meeting.

Cllr Tolhurst attended the Contact Centre opening today. Whilst visiting there was a report of a missing person too. 76 new members of staff being taken on in the Call Centre.

**19.** Annual Assembly – requirement to reschedule the date. Due the purdah rules in advance of the elections we have been advised that we should not hold the Annual Assembly during April, as we planned. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to have the parish council and planning meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019, and the Annual Assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**20.** Glebe Field lease: as requested by Coffin Mew Solicitors they have asked for the parish council to sign a new engrossment lease with a revised attestation clause – as required by Land Registry. The lease was originally signed in February 2018, and this was resolved under item 9 of the minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The parish council have been chasing the finalisation of this lease with the solicitors and Land Registry. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision for Cllr Goss and Cllr Tolhurst to sign the lease with revised attestation clause, witnessed by the Proper Office (the Clerk for the parish council) Claudine Feltham. *For information: here is a copy of this section of minutes from 2.2.18 when this was originally resolved: Item 9: Glebe Field – Community Orchard. Cllr Goss explained the issues with us obtaining the lease from the Solicitor. The parish council reached a unanimous decision to sign this lease on behalf of the parish council. Resolved: Lease was signed by Cllr Goss and Cllr Tolhurst on behalf of the parish council at this meeting.*

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

- Village Agents – AiRS
  - Appointment of internal auditor for year end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
  - Spring Clean arrangements
- *The planning meeting will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
  - *The next parish council meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall.*