

Chiddingly Parish Council
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21st February 2018

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 20th February 2018 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Strong, Cllr Luke, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr O'Hare, Cllr Richards and WDC Cllr Watts.

Two members of the public were also present at this meeting.

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Newham and Cllr C Marchant.

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

Cllr Goss declared a personal interest in respect of item 17 on this agenda as he is Chairman of the Community Land Trust Steering Group and said that he would leave the room when this item was discussed.

3. Minutes of 16th January 2018 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 not suspended as no members of the public wished to speak.

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 16th January 2018 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

2 members of the public arrived at 1934 hours.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Watts (WDC) – The Local Plan is still not ready for release. Cllr Watts discussed this with Cllr Newton yesterday, to try to obtain a date for the release of the Local Plan. Still awaiting nitrogen report results from Natural England, and disappointed that there is yet another delay on this. Cllr Watts has raised his concerns. There is a full council meeting tomorrow where this issue will be raised with the Council Leader.

Spring Clean event – WDC have said we don't have to stick to the publicised dates of 2-4 March 2018 – there can be flexibility in the dates.

17th March 2018 there is going to be a district council event in the Civic Centre, Uckfield between 1000-1300 hours to highlight how people can become a Councillor, as they are trying to recruit new people.

Cllr Watts is also concerned about the long-winded processes of planning applications, particularly with those being held because of the Ashdown Forest 7km/15km rules.

Cllr Strong – went to parish planning meeting recently and aware there may be some planning applications that will go to appeal. Cllr Watts: this is not generally a trend that has started, but it could well go that way.

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC): *not present at this meeting.*

Items Glebe Field, Community Orchard

Items 20.1, 20.2, 20.3 of this agenda moved forward to this point of the meeting.

Item 9 moved forward to this point of the agenda.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Great British Spring Clean 2-4 March 2018. Cllr B Marchant has kindly volunteered to take the lead on this again this year, and the day of action will be Saturday 3rd March 2018.

Action: Clerk to promote this on Facebook and the parish council website, requesting volunteers.

Suzanne and Michael Goss will cover Thunders Hill Rosemount Muddles Green

Julian Richards will cover Nash Street from Rosemount to A22

Beryl Marchant and Hilary Luke will cover from Ash Cottage to Parsonage Lane

Ray Strong will cover Parsonage Lane and Honeywick Lane

Action: Clerk to collect litter pickers and equipment and delivery to Cllr B Marchant.

6.2 South East in Bloom. Last year over 300 participants took part including schools, towns, villages, parks and community groups. It is fundamentally about community; community gardening, volunteering and above all local people taking a pride in their community. This year there is a new Parish in Bloom category. For further information about South & South East in Blooms campaigns please visit our web site www.sseib.com, or email kate@sseib.com or call 020 8662 1021. **Action:** Cllr Goss will pass this on to Horticultural Society to see if they would be interested in taking part.

6.3 Virtual Business Hubs. AiRS is participating in a project for rural communities in East Sussex. The project has two main goals, both aimed at supporting the needs of small, medium and home-based businesses. The first stage is to support the initiation of grassroots business support networks, each run and led by local people, for the benefit of businesses in their locality. These groups could provide informal networking opportunities, help to identify local business issues and potential responses to them, as well as offering a mechanism through which business advice and support requirements can be delivered. The second key element of the programme is the provision of free business support to participants in the networks. Our project partners at the [Let's Do Business Group](#) will offer flexible business advice to groups or individual businesses on a variety of themes, including the offer of up to 12 hours of comprehensive tailored support for individual businesses.

A few years ago, the parish council did start some work on something similar for the village and started to identify businesses within Chiddingly. The project did not move forward though at that time. **Action:** Cllr Goss to see if Nigel Braiden would be interested in this.

6.4 Wealden District Council are starting to prepare for the **2019 District Council Elections** by holding two information drop-in events for prospective candidates. These events will provide further information on the function of the District Council and the services it provides, the role and expectations of a Councillor, and the next steps for anyone who is interested in standing for election in May 2019. The two information drop-in events are as follows: Tuesday

13 March 2018, 6-9pm – Civic Community Hall, Hailsham or Saturday 17 March 2018, 10am – 1pm – Ashdown Room, Civic Centre, Uckfield.

6.5 Chiddingly Primary School. Plans to form a formal federation across Chiddingly Primary School, East Hoathly Church of England Primary School and St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School, Hartfield for future sustainability, to maintain the schools and help them grow, improving them for the children of today and those in years to come. There are events to seek consultation on this. This consultation is open til 23rd March – parish councillors are invited to respond should they wish.

7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Gates for Jubilee Field – the Clerk. The new gates have been produced by A F Metal Fabrications and installed. Cllr Luke and Cllr B Marchant commented on how nice the new gates look. The old gates will be made available for sale to members of the parish via our website, with invitations of offers to be emailed to the clerk by 30th March 2018. **Action;** Cllr Goss will attend and deal with the padlock on the new gates.

7.2 Damaged bollards by school children – Cllr Strong: did make some enquiries about this. If the names of those involved were known, then the Head Teacher of Ringmer School could write to the parents of those involved. **Action:** Cllr Strong to attempt to gain the names and will pass these on to Cllr Goss who will make further contact with the Head Teacher of Ringmer School.

7.3 Dog waste bin – Cllr Luke has been asked by residents about the possibility of having a dog waste bin at the car park end of the village. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a majority vote agreeing for a new dog bin to be installed at the car park area of the village. Cllr Luke commented that the dog bin at Jubilee Field is working well. **Action:** Clerk to make enquiries with WDC with regards to this new installation.

8. Jubilee Play Park - Cllr Luke voiced her concern over the amount of use of rubbish being left within the play park area, and the school. **Action:** Clerk to speak to WDC about whether a waste bin could be installed.

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.

Action: Clerk to notify the previous lease holder of the new use for the Glebe Field.

Action: Clerk to return the lease to the Solicitor

10. Car Park – Cllr Luke – pot holes are appearing. **Action:** Cllr Strong offered to look at this and will report back to the next meeting.

11. Councillor Reports:

11.1 Village Shop – update from Cllr O’Hare – no new issues to report.

11.2 Saturday Morning Market – update from Cllr Goss – nothing new to report. Cllr B Marchant is due to attend the next market on 3rd March 2018 – but will be dealing with the Spring Clean that day so Cllr Goss will attend on her behalf.

12 Footpaths - Cllr Luke – a new stile has been installed at Muddles green – but during its installation they have removed some of the fencing either side of the stile – so leaves a concern for livestock. **Resolved:** This has been reported to the local farmer.

13. Highways

13.1 Gun Hill carriageway resurfacing works – Cllr Goss reports that a decent job has been done here, with the exception for the areas not covered! This was raised with Highways and will be raised again at the SLR meeting.

13.2 SLR meeting scheduled for 7th March 2018. The issue about the areas not covered on Gun Hill resurfacing should be discussed at this meeting.

Cllr Goss asked for Cllrs to report any issues to the Clerk, so she can add these to the agenda.

13.3 Damaged verge opposite the school car park entrance. **Update:** Highways have inspected and said it does not meet the criteria for intervention. Believe that this damage is being caused by WDC waste refuse collectors: **Action:** Clerk to ask Cllr Watts to take up this issue on our behalf.

Cllr B Marchant spoke of a polite notice that we could put up requesting the goodwill of people not to park on the verge. **Action:** Cllr B Marchant will make enquiries about the possibilities of this.

Action: Clerk to photo timber posts by Maynards Green School and see if Highways would allow such in Chiddingly.

14. Financial Matters – Clerk

14.1 To approve the Bank reconciliations for January 2018. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously approved the current account and savings account bank reconciliations.

14.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously approved the payments as circulated, for cheques numbered 102193 to 102201.

15 Bus Shelters – Cllr Goss has spoken to Tony Mills who will look and come back to the parish council with recommendations and quote.

16 Parish maintenance contract. The Clerk had requested quotes from Vince Fisher and 5 other contractors. They were all contacted by email, and then chased by email, none of these five companies has provided a quote! The Clerk contacted Cllr Goss and Cllr Strong to advise of this situation prior to this meeting. A quote was received from Vince Fisher: £1750 (which is the same as last year's price). Barcombe Landscapes would continue to cut the Jubilee Field. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision for parish maintenance contract to remain with Vince Fisher and the Jubilee Field cutting to remain with Barcombe Landscapes. **Action:** Clerk to advise Vince Fisher and Barcombe Landscapes.

17 Community Land Trust – update from Cllr Goss: there have been two meetings by the Steering Group and one meeting with WDC Housing Department. The steering group are not completely clear how much power WDC Housing department would have over policies etc. so enquiries will continue with this. There will be some set up costs, which grants have been applied for. There is consideration for it to be set up as a Community Benefits Society – which would have a membership list – who would have a say in the Board and an annual general meeting. This is the formal legal structure of the organisation. 'Community Land Trust' describes what they do. There is also consideration for the CLT to be set up as a charity, which can be done now, or further down the line.

The next major step is for community engagement, to demonstrate support from the community. The steering group will also be working on a business plan.

Cllr Goss left the meeting at 2115 hours so that the request for financial assistance from Sue Skan could be considered.

The Clerk read the email received from Sue Skan to the Parish Council. The CLT Steering group have applied to the National Community Land Trust Network (NCLTN) for a start-up grant to cover their incorporation costs, which would be £560. However, the grant is not guaranteed, and so the CLT Steering Group have requested that if this grant is not received, would the parish council grant £560. This would at least allow the Community Land Trust to be legally formed and begin to progress the aim of providing affordable housing.

Resolved: the parish council unanimously agreed that if the if NCLTN do not award the grant, then the parish council will grant £560 to Community Land Trust Steering Group.

- 18 Possible telephone mast in the village – Cllr Strong has made enquiries with Phone Mast Company UK Ltd – they act as a broker. You can register possible land with them, and this goes on a register which is available to mobile phone networks. Cllr Strong was also advised that there is no certain way to attract a telecoms operator to your site – they can only mark potential sites on the register. Operators are financially driven on the return they would get in their investment, so would be under the mercy of the operators and where they decide to build or not build. However, there is a new law being passed for masts can be erected on church spires. So, this may be worth passing onto the church for their consideration. **Action:** Clerk to contact Chiddingly Parochial Church.
- 19 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Cllr Goss. This comes into force 25th May 2018. The requirements are still unclear but believe that will need to appoint a Data Protection Officer. NALC are due to provide guidance on this for parish council. We could be in breach at this time, as we use private computers and private email addresses. The advice we have been given that we should be given an online system, like SharePoint. The idea is this is an online system, where all our emails and documents will be held on here. We still need to wait for proper guidelines. **Action:** Cllr Goss will make enquiries with what online company we could use, which would be affordable.
- 20 Planning applications for consideration:
 - 20.1 Application: [WD/2018/0026/F](#)

Location: Oakfield, Golden Cross, Chiddingly, BN27 4AN

Description: Office extension to care home.

Chiddingly Parish Council response to Wealden District Council: The parish council reached a majority vote to object to this application on grounds of over development of the site.

There have also been concerns raised by a nearby resident: This site is becoming over developed. There was also an incident whereby a resident of Oakfield jumped two gates of a local property and tried to break into their rear door. There is also concern over their security gate being left unlocked, despite numerous requests for their staff to lock it.
 - 20.2 Application: [WD/2018/0025/FR](#)

Location: Oakfield, Golden Cross, Chiddingly, BN27 4AN

Description: Retrospective application for rear single storey link.

Chiddingly Parish Council response to Wealden District Council: The parish council reached a unanimous decision to recommend approval for this application.

20.3 Application: [WD/2018/0210/F](#)

Location: Oak Cottage, Deanland Road, Golden Cross, BN27 3RJ.

Description: Demolition of existing garage and timber shed. Construction of new ancillary oak framed summer house for the enjoyment of the dwelling.

Chiddingly Parish Council response to Wealden District Council: members of the parish council raised concerns over the size and use of this summer house – with facilities of a kitchen and toilet. The parish council reached a unanimous decision to object to this application on grounds it could lead to separation and become a new independent dwelling.

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

Consideration of insurance quote

GDPR – update

SLR meeting update

Bus shelters

Meeting closed at 2135 hours

- *The planning meeting will take place on 27th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in The Village Hall, Chiddingly.*
- *The next parish council meeting will take place on 20th March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in The Village Hall, Chiddingly.*