

Chiddingly Parish Council  
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Chairman

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22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Richards, Cllr Luke, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr O'Hare, WDC Cllr Ann Newton and Clerk: Claudine Feltham.

17 members of the public were present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from ESCC Cllr Bennett, Cllr Newham, Cllr Strong.

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 17<sup>th</sup> January 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 1935 hours for members of the public to speak:*

*A presentation was given by Brendan Welsh and George Allen with regards to the proposed skate park for Glebe Field, and to possibly incorporate a picnic area and a village orchard.*

*A representative of MOSAG raised some concerns over the use.*

*Brendan Welsh confirmed that their intentions would be to work together with MOSAG, not against them.*

*The meeting re opened at 1958 hours.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

\*Item 9 was moved forward to this point of the meeting\*

Cllr Luke spoke in favour of the project.

Cllr O'Hare raised concerns over the disused BMX track that was previously put in at the Jubilee Field, and how he was concerned that after the initial interest that maybe the skate park was also not be used. Overall, Cllr O'Hare felt that the proposed skate park was a good idea.

Cllr Richards commented that he felt that the skate park would be a good idea.

Cllr B Marchant: advised that we would need to consider public liability insurance.

Cllr Goss confirmed that the parish agreed in principle that this project should be investigated further. **Action:** Cllr Goss to write to Brendan Welsh to confirm that the parish council agreed in principle. **Action:** Cllr Goss will also speak with Chiddingly PCC about this possible project, and consider the lease and covenants. **Action:** Clerk to speak with parish council insurers with regards to what insurances maybe required.

*15 members of the public left the meeting at 2008 hours.*

## 5. Officer Reports:

### 5.1. Cllr Ann Newton (WDC).

Councillor Newton spoke about the latest Wealden Parish Bulletin. She confirmed the increase on the council tax was £5 per year, not £5 per week as per the bulletin stated. There has been an increase in the fine for fly tipping, as this is an ongoing issue in the district.

Cllr Goss spoke of issues with fly tipping in the village, and that they generally happened during hours of darkness.

Local plan iteration will be published by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017, because there is a local plan meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Because of the elections purdah period this will then go out for representation during mid May 2017, and for a minimum of a 6-week period.

### 5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC). *Cllr Bennett had made his apologies for this meeting.*

## 6. Correspondence:

6.1 Keep Britain Tidy with the Great Wealden Spring Clean 2017. The parish council will concentrate their efforts on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The Clerk advised that three parishioners had made contact offering their assistance for the event. A parishioner present at the meeting also offered their assistance. **Action:** Cllr B Marchant to collect litter pickers from Cllr Goss. **Action:** Clerk to contact WDC re regards to the litter picking packs they offered and arrange collection. **Action:** Clerk to pass Cllr Marchants telephone number on to those offering assistance.

6.2 Weald Trail Race. Update from Cllr Goss. Update: Cllr Goss has been in contact with the event organiser, and requested that part of the field is roped off to avoid vehicles driving over the wet areas. **Action:** Cllr Goss to send the conditions, as per last year, along with the request for roping areas off, to the event organisers.

6.3 The Big Wealden Switch. WDC are promoting the Big Wealden Switching to see if residents can save money on energy bills through a collective switching scheme. Last year Wealden residents collectively saved 55,000 pounds, with average household savings of £279. Registration and switching is free for residents and there is no obligation to switch. How and where to register 1. Online: with email address registering online at [www.wealden.gov.uk/thebigswitch](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/thebigswitch) 2. By telephone: (01323 443322) if you don't have the internet – between 9AM – 5PM Monday to Friday. 3. By visiting the Council with a recent energy bill or annual statement. **Action:** Cllr Goss will send the poster advertising this to the email distribution list.

## 7. Jubilee Field, verge and Glebe Field

7.1 Planting of saplings in the disused BMX track on Jubilee Field – Cllr Newham. **Resolved:** the saplings have been planted.

7.2 Jubilee verge – update on the plan of installing bollards – Clerk. The Clerk updated the meeting on how she had contacted Marisa Hayes from East Sussex Highways. The response received was as follows: The request had been sent to Traffic and Safety Team, and Marisa was awaiting a response from them. Marisa was concerned re the number of bollards and suggested that they were at intervals of 2 metres. The work should only go ahead once the provision for parking and drop off had been completed by Chiddingly School. Ms Hayes was awaiting further advice from the Traffic and Safety team but would suggest that the overall scheme would be approved for a licence, once all details had been ironed out. **Deferred:** further update at the next meeting.

7.3 The iron gates – consider quotes received – Clerk.

The first quote received was from AF Metal Fabrication Ltd: £785 + VAT

An additional two companies were contacted for quotes. Sussex Ironcraft came back with a quote of £1852.00 + VAT. We are still awaiting the quote from Smith Metal Fabrications.

Cllr Strong raised an important point to Cllr Goss about replacing these gates. If the project at the school for car parking didn't come to fruition, then it may be that we would need to return to the idea of car parking in the Jubilee Field. If this was the case, then we wouldn't want gates. So maybe we should wait until we know what is happening at the school before we proceed with ordering gates. **Deferred:** this to be discussed once we know the outcome from the school project.

7.4 An offer of £100 was received from a parishioner for the old gates. Discuss this offer and possible alternative options – Cllr Goss. **Deferred:** we will need to talk about this when we know if new gates will be ordered, and if the sale of the gates should be opened up to the highest bidder.

8. Jubilee Play Park

8.1 Fixing of the gate – Cllr Goss. **Update:** New closers have been ordered and will be fitted once they are back in stock.

8.2 Installation of a dog waste bin – Clerk

Enquiries were made with Wealden District Council. If WDC supplied and installed the bin it would cost £500 + VAT. This also includes ongoing maintenance so in the event of a repair or replacement being required due to damage or wear and tear no additional charge will be made. The parish council could go direct to their supplier and buy it for £185 + VAT.

WDC would empty the bin on a regular basis. This will depend on how much use it gets but in most circumstances it will normally be on a weekly basis. The charge for empty the dog bin is currently £240+VAT per year which is invoiced quarterly in areas. **Resolved:** The parish council voted a majority in favour (6 votes for and 1 against) to go ahead with the purchase of a 60 litre bin by the parish council, and arrange for collection via WDC.

9. Glebe Field – presentation by Brendan Welsh with regards to the possibility of a skate park. (This was spoken about after item 4 on the agenda).

10. Consider quotes received for the Parish Maintenance Contract.

The three quotes that were received and circulated to the parish council were discussed by the parish council. **Resolved:** the parish council voted unanimously to appoint the contract to Vince Fisher. **Action:** Clerk to advise Vince Fisher that the contract was awarded to him, and advise those that were not successful.

## 11. Councillor Reports:

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

11.2 Saturday Morning Market –Cllr Goss re attendance on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017. (Cllr Tolhurst is due to attend 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017). Cllr Goss: Nothing to report.

11.3 Footpaths – Cllr Luke reported that she had been liaising with the footpaths team with regards to the bridge in Bolt Wood which has a missing plank. Cllr Luke has reported this issue three times. This is still ongoing. **Action:** Clerk to chase this.

## 12 Highways

12.1 Update with regards to the Highways signs on the triangle at top of Burgh Hill Road at Muddles Green – the Clerk. **Ongoing:** The Clerk has chased the Traffic and Safety team. Highways report that this is still with their contractor and is showing on their job list. This will be completed once the signs are delivered and a gang has been assigned the work.

12.2 Update with regards to the dead end sign opposite the Six Bells – the Clerk. **Ongoing:** The Clerk has chased the Traffic and Safety team. Highways report that this is still with their contractor and is showing on their job list. This will be completed once the signs are delivered and a gang has been assigned the work.

In addition to this, the missing T Junction sign at the end of Smithlands Lane – this has also been reported to Traffic Safety team who report that it has been passed to a Senior Traffic and Safety Officer to investigate. **Update:** a works order has been completed for a new give way sign and post to be installed at this location. However, as Highways are approaching their financial year end, the contractors may not agree the work until the new financial year. A request is also being submitted for the junction markings to be renewed so that they are clearly visible.

12.3 Information previously supplied by ESCC Cllr Bennett; highways works are due to take place in the next financial year The locations have been clarified as:

- Scrapers Hill, Chiddingly - Rosemount to Orchard Farm for patching and surface dressing.
- Gun Hill, Chiddingly – Swansbrook Lane to Highdown Farm for patching and surface dressing.
- Stalkers Lane is currently not on a list – but Cllr Bennett will keep pushing for this.

Cllr Goss has reported the poor road surface from Rosemount and Nash Street between Thunders Hill and The Gun to Highways.

12.4 Offer from Highways re planting of bulbs and wild flowers within the parish area – Clerk. **Update:** ESCC Highways reported that they had a fantastic response to this project, and now have a greater understanding of the areas that could be planted. They will be using this information to inform their proposal. They will be making further contact at the end of February, with plans to implement the initiative in late summer/early autumn.

## 13. Village Car Park

13.1 Broken LED lights – Clerk. 2 new lights have been obtained. **Action:** Cllr Tolhurst will install the new lights.

13.2 Repairs to fence at the entrance to the car park – Clerk. **Resolved:** Vince Fisher has completed the repairs.

14. Parish Council Website – update from Clerk. The Clerk is collecting the photos for the website in jpg form and will soon be submitting an initial draft to the web designer.

## 15 Defibrillators – Clerk/Cllr Goss

15.1 Defibrillators checks – weekly by parishioner Rachel Smith.

15.2 Order of third defib and cabinet from Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) – Clerk. The third defibrillator has just been received.

15.3 Adoption of telephone kiosk at Gun Hill – Clerk. **Ongoing:** The Clerk has made enquires with the BT adoption team as to the what stage they are at with the adoption process, and is awaiting to hear back.

In view of us being in receipt of the defibrillator and cabinet, but not having yet adopted the telephone box, maybe the defibrillator could be available from behind the bar at the Gun?

**Action:** Clerk to make enquiries with CHT to see if this would be ok, and to ensure insurance would be valid. If so, Clerk to then contact the owners of the Gun to seek their approval.

16. Financial Matters - Clerk

16.1 Approve the Bank reconciliations for January 2017. **Resolved:** the parish council approved the bank reconciliations for January 2017.

16.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** Cheques numbered 102083 to 102091 for the total amount of £2,274.51 were authorised for payment.

16.3 Consideration of conducting an online survey to solicit residents views on the matter of grants made by the Parish Council from the Council Tax precept. Wording of the survey to be agreed in advance and be available online by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017. Cllr Goss: when we last spoke about budgets and grant payments we have not recently consulted our parishioners about awarding such grants. Suggest that we do an online survey to the parishioners to seek their opinions. **Resolved:** The parish council took a majority vote for this to go ahead. Cllr Goss will put together a survey and advertise this to seek parishioner's opinion.

16.4 Annual Internal Audit. **Resolved:** the parish council agreed to appoint Keith Robertson to deal with the internal audit for the year finishing 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

16.5 VAT refund. The Clerk advised members of the council that a refund of £902 has been received from HMRC.

17. Fingerpost repair – update from the Clerk. **Clerk:** The fingerpost at the junction of Smithlands Lane and Scrapers has now been repaired and replaced.

18. Possible extension of the school car park – Cllr Goss. Cllr Goss updated the parish council on the site meeting that took place, where it was agreed that they would extend the hard surface driveway so that the vehicles drove on one side, and then the mesh is used for the parking spaces. Cllr Goss is awaiting amended scheme and costings from Chris Forsey. East Sussex Highways and Education department are fully aware and involved in this potential project.

19. Planning application for consideration:

Application: [WD/2016/2499/F](#)

Location: Nash Farm Cottage, Golden Cross, BN27 4AH.

Description: Extension of residential curtilage to allow for construction of new vehicular access to property off of Nash Street, and construction of the new vehicular access.

Chiddingly Parish Council response to Wealden District Council: The parish council recommend refusal to this application as they would not wish to see any extension to the residential curtilage. The parish council also note the concerns raised by Highways with regards to the lines of sight on the proposed new access.

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

Speeding in Highlands Lane (re traffic survey after the utilities works are finished) – Cllr Goss.

Noticeboard on recycling centre fence – Cllr Goss

Annual Parish Assembly – initial planning

The meeting closed at 2128 hours

- *The next planning meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The next parish council meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*