

Chiddingly Parish Council
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18th January 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 18th January 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhust, Cllr Strong, Cllr Luke, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr Nick Bennett, WDC Cllr Ann Newton and Clerk: Claudine Feltham.
Two members of the public were present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr O'Hare, Cllr Newham and 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 20th December 2016, 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 1938 hours for members of the public to speak:

A member of the public spoke with regards to the possible extension of the school car park. Another member of the public expressed that they did not wish for parish council funds to be used towards materials for the extension of the school car park.

Meeting re opened at 1947 hours

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 20th December 2016 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Officer Reports:

- 5.1. Cllr Ann Newton (WDC). Cllr Newton introduced herself to parish council. Cllr Newton will be covering for Cllr Dashwood Morris for the foreseeable future and she hopes to assist Chiddingly Parish Council. Cllr Newton welcomes contact via her email address.
- 5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC). Next week ESCC cabinet will start the formal budgeting process. Demands for savings is quite extraordinary. Cllr Bennett has requested a straight forward document for parish and town councils. There are concerns about the funding for small schools, which may be quite a challenge. Cllr Bennett has expressed his concerns on this and has requested to speak to the minister about it. Chiddingly should be congratulated for the positive turnaround of the school. Cllr Bennett will see if there is any traffic survey data available for the area around the school.
- The new Waste and Minerals Strategy is coming forward. Cllr Bennett is pleased to report there will be no land raise or land fill.
- Cllr Bennett makes apologies as he is unlikely to be able to attend February's parish council meeting.
- Cllr Strong asked Cllr Bennett about concerns over adult social care. Cllr Bennett advised that there is a programme called Better Together – involving ESCC and the Health Service. Cllr Bennett will forward these details once they are available.

Item 16 was brought forward to this point of the meeting for discussion:

Possible extension of the school car park – Cllr Goss.

The parish council are aware of the issues around parking at the school. A meeting was previously held between the parish council and school headmaster to discuss the issues and possible options. The parish council do have funds that were ear marked to fund parking on the Jubilee Field. The parish council wanted to know if some of that money could be used towards solving the school car parking issues. Advice was taken from SALC; the parish council are not allowed to directly finance the school; however, the parish council can buy materials for extending the car park and donate them to the school, particularly because this will benefit the community due to the traffic issues caused to anyone passing at school drop off and pick up times.

The figure for materials is £3,847 including VAT, (the parish council can reclaim the VAT).

Chiddingly School has now asked the Parish Council for those funds.

The school would also be asking Highways to include yellow zig zag lines outside of the school and white lines further up from the school, so to direct the parking into the school, rather than outside.

Cllr Strong raised his concerns about the design and quality of the mesh and how this would wear with constant use. **Action:** Cllr Strong will meet with the school representative (Chris Forsey) to discuss this on site to consider the specification.

ESCC Cllr Bennett and WDC Cllr Newton left the meeting at 2015 hours.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Wealden District Council is again supporting Keep Britain Tidy with the Great Wealden Spring Clean 2017. The Great Wealden Spring Clean will take place over the weekend from Friday to Sunday March 3 to 5, 2017. Wealden District Council is providing free litter picking kits, on a first-come-first-served basis. Parishes can organise their own event. (The Clerk has requested to be on the list for the litter picking kits, waste sacks and campaign posters). **Resolved:** Cllr B Marchant said she will lead on this project. The parish council will aim for litter

collections on Saturday 4th March 2017, however parishioners would be invited to participate at any time between 3-5 March. **Action:** Cllr Goss will include details of this within the Parish magazine. **Action:** Clerk to also advertise this on Facebook and the parish council website as a community event and invite parishioners to take part.

6.2 Weald Trail Race. The parish council have been contacted by the organiser of the Weald Trail Race to ask if they can book the Jubilee Field for car parking on Sunday 28th May 2017, under the same agreement as last year. **Action:** Cllr Goss will check the fee payable and circulate details to the parish council. If the parish councillors are happy with this then Cllr Goss will advise the organisers that this is ok - and will also ask them to rope off the areas not in use.

7. Jubilee Field, verge and Glebe Field

7.1 Planting of saplings in the disused BMX track on Jubilee Field – Cllr Goss to update on how many saplings survived the storage. **Update:** Unfortunately, not many survived – approximately 12 to 18. Cllr Newham previously volunteered to deal with the planting. Cllr Tolhurst and Cllr C Marchant have offered their assistance with the planting **Action:** Cllr Newham, with Cllrs Tolhurst and Cllr C Marchant to deal with the planting of the saplings.

7.2 Jubilee verge – update on the plan of installing bollards - Cllr Goss/Cllr Strong. **Update:** Cllr Strong showed the parish council a possible plan. In total this would require approximately 100 bollards at a cost of approximately £10.63 each. Need to also consider the installation costs, and the timing of installation as wouldn't want to add to the current issues of parking by the school. Cllr Goss agreed that the bollards for opposite the school should be done at the same time as the works in school car park. The areas on the plan marked in blue and yellow should be considered as part of the school car park project. The areas on the plan marked in green and red can be done now. **Action:** Clerk to send the specification of the bollards and the plan to Highways for their approval.

7.3 The iron gates – possible repairs, or replacement? – update from the Clerk. Frazer Russell has attended the site and believes that replacement gates are required. This would cost £785 + VAT. **Resolved:** the parish council took a majority vote and agreed that they wished for replacement gates. **Action:** as per our financial regulations, the Clerk will look to get two further quotes on the replacement gates, and circulate these to the parish council for consideration.

7.4 The future of the Jubilee Field – Cllr Goss told the parish councillors that he has been advised by several parishioners that they do not wish for parking on the field, and would have concerns for people parking there and then crossing the road. The parish council currently have £30,700.55 in Ear Marked Funds for the Jubilee Field. Our general reserves are currently at £17,983.72 which is on the low side. Good practice is for the parish council to have approximately a years' worth of income as general reserves. Our precept for 2016/2017 was £30,099, so we could really do with increasing the amount in our general reserves. As the parish council have now agreed not to pursue the development on the Jubilee Field we should move update the Ear Marked Reserves. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a majority vote to change the general reserve to £30,700.55 and a special projects reserve (instead of Jubilee Field reserve) of £17, 983.72. **Action:** Clerk to update RBS finance system to reflect these changes.

8. Jubilee Play Park – To be updated on the following issues, following the site visit by Cllr Strong:

- 8.1 Issue of dogs fouling in the play park area
- 8.2 Issue of litter being left in the park
- 8.3 Repair broken areas of fence (Vince Fisher was due to fix one panel)
- 8.4 Grass growing over the matting.

Cllr Strong updated on items 8.1 to 8.4. Cllr Strong visited Jubilee Play Park. At the time of his visit no dog fouling was found in the play area. There was also no litter within the play area. Vince Fisher has replaced the missing fence panel. No issues were identified with the matting, and the grass was growing over the matting as per its design. Issues were identified with the gate closures and that there should be a gap between the gate itself and the post – so to avoid children getting their fingers stuck. **Action:** Cllr Strong to ask Ivan Vincent to deal with the gates.

There was further discussion with regards to dog waste and the lack of dog waste bins. **Action:** Clerk to obtain prices for installation and emptying of a dog bin.

9. Councillor Reports:

- 9.1 Village Shop – Cllr Goss. **Update:** nothing to report.
- 9.2 Saturday Morning Market – no market held in January. Cllr Goss is due to attend the first market of the year: 4th February 2017.

10 Highways

10.1 Update with regards to the Highways signs on the triangle at top of Burgh Hill Road at Muddles Green – the Clerk

10.2 Update with regards to the dead-end sign opposite the Six Bells – the Clerk

Update for items 10.1 and 10.2: The Traffic Safety Officer sent a works order to their Contracts Management Group for the GIVE WAY signage works at Muddles Green/Burgh Hill Road and for the installation of a new bend with side road warning sign on The Street (for Church Lane). A quote was then received from the Contracts Management Group just prior to the Christmas break. Traffic Safety Management confirmed the budget for the work is available the quote was accepted on 4th January. The works programme has been checked and these works are listed, however no date for the works is yet known. The Traffic Safety Officer will provide an update when she has one.

10.3 Information previously supplied by ESCC Cllr Bennett; highways works are due to take place in the next financial year, and we have requested clarification on these locations:

- Scrapers Hill (Roselands to Smithlands Lane) – surface dressing
- Gun Hill (Swansbrook Lane to Stonehill? Clarification on location sought from ESCC Cllr Bennett) – surface dressing
- Stalkers Lane – subsidence repairs

Action: Clerk to forward this to Cllr Bennett to clarify these locations.

10.3 Speeding in Highlands Lane –Cllr Goss suggested that volunteers complete a survey showing volumes of traffic through different parts of the day. We could then have some data to show ESCC. **Action:** Cllr Goss to seek volunteers to do survey (once road works and closures are over).

10.4 Cllr C Marchant advised the parish council that there is no T junction sign at end of Smithlands Lane where it meets Scrapers. He witnessed a near crash when a car didn't realise this was a junction. **Action:** Clerk to advise Traffic Safety team of this issue.

11. Village Car Park

11.1 Broken solar lights – Cllr Goss. The solar lights that we installed have been vandalised. **Resolved:** the parish council resolved to purchase two further lights. **Action:** Clerk to purchase these.

12. Parish Council Website – update from Clerk & Cllr Goss. **Update:** The Clerk has now started work on the content, and this will continue as time permits.

13 Defibrillators – Clerk/Cllr Goss

13.1 Defibrillators checks – weekly by parishioner Rachel Smith. **Update:** All checks in order.

14. Financial Matters - Clerk

14.1 Approve the Bank reconciliations for November and December 2016. **Resolved:** Bank reconciliations for Barclays and Unity Trust accounts for November and December 2016 were approved by the full council. Cllr Tolhurst mentioned how he had noticed two charges of £18 each for service charges on the account. **Action:** Cllr Tolhurst to consider alternative options for the parish council banking accounts. **Resolved:** unanimous decision to approve the bank reconciliations for November and December 2017.

14.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** cheque numbers 102078 to 102082 for the total amount of £1155.20 were approved and authorised by full council.

15. Fingerpost repair – update from the Clerk.

Ongoing: The fingerpost that was taken from the junction of Scrapers and Smithlands Lane is still being repaired. The Clerk has asked the contractor for an update, and is awaiting this.

There is a further broken fingerpost in Smithlands Lane. Three contractors have been asked to quote for its repair (Bernard Patience, Phill Signs and JAKK). The Clerk advised that just prior to the meeting starting Phill Signs had made contact and advised a new post would cost £275. **Resolved:** the parish council resolved to offer the work to Phill Signs.

16. Possible extension of the school car park – Cllr Goss. *(this item was moved towards the beginning of the agenda)*

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

Bank accounts – Cllr Tolhurst

School car park – Cllr Strong

Footpath – Cllr Luke

Jubilee Gates – Clerk

Scrapers/Smithlands – issue of no sign warning of the junction

Glebe Field – possible skate park

Meeting closed at 2117 hours

- *The next planning meeting will be held on 24th January 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The next parish council meeting will be held on 21st February 2017.*