

Chiddingly Parish Council  
[www.chiddingly.gov.uk](http://www.chiddingly.gov.uk)

Chairman

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28<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Luke, Cllr Richards, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr Strong, Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr O' Hare, Cllr Newham, ESCC Cllr Bennett

21 members of the public were present at this meeting.

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from WDC Cllr Newton.

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

No declarations of interest declared were made.

3. Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> May Annual 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 1936 hours where one member of public requested for those speaking within the meeting to speak up and project their voices.*

*The meeting reconvened at 1937 hours.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no additional reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Ann Newton (WDC). (Cllr Newton had made apologies for not being able to attend this meeting).

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC) Cllr Bennett referred to the report which he had emailed to the Clerk earlier in the day. The report is as follows:

**'Hailsham/Polegate/Eastbourne Movement and Access Corridor:** The increase in traffic generated from the proposed additional housing and employment in the South Wealden and Eastbourne area, will result in increased levels of congestion on the road network, unless a package of mitigation measures is delivered. The Hailsham/Polegate/Eastbourne Movement

and Access Corridor (HPE MAC) identifies and includes improvements to key junctions, along with the provision of bus lanes and other bus infrastructure together with new cycle routes and pedestrian improvements.

As Lead Member I am working closely with officers to ensure a consultation is undertaken in September 2017 on the overall package of mitigation proposals for the A295, A22, A27, A2270, and A2021 corridors, and that the outcomes of the consultation will be reported back to my Lead Member meeting with the recommended improvements to be taken to detailed design and construction.

**Countryside Access Strategic Commissioning Strategy:** There has been a public consultation which has now closed, the responses have been reviewed and in summary the majority of the consultation feedback was positive including the proposal for Rights of Way management to remain in house and for the maintenance of countryside sites to be transferred to other organisations. Cabinet have been recommended to approve the Strategy and are also asked to delegate the strategy's implementation stage to myself Lead Member for Transport and Environment'.

The Countryside Access Strategy was approved today at cabinet, the first part of the proposal is for rights of way continued to be managed in house. The second part is for officers to go into discussions with other parties in order to look at possibility for handing over 8 country sites within the county to other parties for management purposes. This will not be a sale, the aim is to get the right management into these sites.

Cllr Bennett advised that he is a Tree Champion, so if we have any tree issues then to contact him and he will see if he can assist.

Cllr Richards: Park Wood, Hellingly, East Sussex is up for sale 150 acres. Cllr Richards believes this land is owned by ESCC and managed by Forestry Commission. Cllr Bennett will look into this. *Update: the woods do not belong to ESCC, they belong to the Environment Agency.*

Cllr Strong: Enquired what the current situation with the A27 improvements scheme was. Cllr Bennett advised that the only financial offer that has been given is £75million for East Sussex, which is not believed to be adequate for the improvements required.

With agreement from the full council item 9 (Skate Park) was moved forward to this point of the agenda.

The meeting was suspended at 1947 hours for Brendon Welsh and George Allan to make a presentation on the idea of a skate park in Glebe Field.

Parishioners can request a copy of the presentation by emailing [Clerk@chiddingly.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@chiddingly.gov.uk)

A survey about the Glebe Field project was distributed to all 450 households in the parish, with the following results from 74 responses:

- What would your feelings be to seeing a skate park on Glebe field?
- **(Negative)** **(Positive)**

- |          |          |          |          |          |                                  |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> |                                  |
| 16       | 2        | 4        | 8        | 44       | - <b><u>74 Total</u></b> (16.4%) |
| 24.3%    |          | 5.4%     |          | 70.2%    |                                  |
- How would you feel about the provision of other facilities alongside the skatepark? i.e. picnic area/community orchard
- |                   |          |          |                   |          |                                  |
|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>(Negative)</b> |          |          | <b>(Positive)</b> |          |                                  |
| <u>1</u>          | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u>          | <u>5</u> |                                  |
| 11                | 1        | 4        | 7                 | 48       | - <b><u>71 Total</u></b> (15.7%) |
| 16.9%             |          | 5.6%     |                   | 77.5%    |                                  |
- Do you have members of your household who would use a skate park?
- |            |           |                                  |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |                                  |
| 25         | 44        | - <b><u>69 Total</u></b> (15.3%) |
| 36.2%      | 63.8%     |                                  |
- Do you feel there are enough facilities for older children in the Village?
- |            |           |                                |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |                                |
| 11         | 34        | - <b><u>45 Total</u></b> (10%) |
| 24.4%      | 75.5%     |                                |

## Survey Summary

- 70.2% of households feel positive to see a skate park in Glebe field.
- This is regardless of the fact that only 36.2% of households have children that would use it.
- There are at least 25 households however that have children that would use the skate park.
- 75.5% of households feel that there are not enough facilities for older children in the village.

Cllr Tolhurst asked Brendon: as parents at Willets Field will not allow their children to cross the road to Jubilee Field park because of the road being dangerous, then how would they expect children living in the Willets Field area to get to the skate park. Brendon advised he would expect parents to drive the children.

Cllr B Marchant advised that there is a skate park and the residents are suffering with noise issues and believe that they are suing the council.

Cllr Strong enquired how many children lived in Ringmer in comparison to children living in Chiddingly? The answer was not known.

Cllr Newham enquired about the approximate costs of this project. Brendon answered it would be approximately £50,000. Brendon advised that it would not be possible to consider grants until they had the go ahead from the parish council. The skate park project members would also be looking to the parish council for financial support.

A member of the public voiced that they were aware that the parish council had reserve funds and felt that these should be spent.

Another member of the public made comment that he believed when this project was first discussed there were two possible sites; Jubilee Field and Glebe Field, and the questionnaire only spoke of the Glebe Field option, and Jubilee Field was not represented. He felt that the questionnaire should then have given choice of the two sites.

*The meeting reconvened at 2019 hours.*

Cllr Goss advised the meeting that any vote taken by the parish council would be subject to all necessary permissions being sought from relevant parties, for example he Diocese and Wealden District Council. This evenings vote would be to decide whether the parish council wished to support the skate park project, and to vote on the preferred location of the skate park. Cllr Goss advised the meeting, and considering the member of publics comment about the use of the parish council reserve funds, any agreement/vote made this evening did not commit the parish council to releasing any funds to the project. The financial aspect would need to be considered in detail and decided upon later.

Cllr Goss also advised those at the meeting that he had received comments from approximately 12 parishioners, who wished to remain anonymous, that they did not wish for the Glebe Field to be used for a skate park, but were in favour of provisions to be provided for children within the parish.

Cllr Goss advised that the position of the PCC and the covenants on Glebe Field had not been confirmed. However, Cllr Goss was under the impression that the Diocese would not wish to see a skate park go ahead on Glebe Field, and may seek to enforce their covenants. Cllr Goss clarified that he was not legally trained, but from what he has read on the covenants he could not see why a skate park couldn't go ahead at this location, as he believed it would not affect those attending the church.

Cllr Goss also spoke of the other people that needed considering, including the Millennium Sculpture Garden, the stables, and residents. He is aware that there is a planning guideline about the boundary of skate park not being within 30metres of a dwelling boundary, however, this was a guideline and not necessarily something that WDC Planning department would enforce.

Cllr Luke: expressed her concern about children playing in the road and the lack of provisions for children at this end of the village, so would be in favour of the skate park at Glebe Field.

A member of public spoke in connection of the lease between the parish council and millennium garden, dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2002. 'Nothing in this lease shall be deemed to

sanction organised games'. Cllr Goss advised that lease was purely for the Millennium Garden, and not for all of the Glebe Field.

A member of the public said he helped with drawing up of this lease and wanted to make those aware at the meeting of this.

Cllr Newham: congratulated Brendon on his hard work, time and effort for this project, and enquired whether Brendon would consider another location at this end of the village, due to the controversy over its location – Brendon agreed that he would consider this.

Cllr Goss: also thanked Brendon for his work, time and effort, and how he appreciated a parishioner becoming involved with such a project.

The parish council then voted on the possibilities for the skate park:

- Those in favour for the Glebe Field to be the location for the skate park: 6 members of the parish council voted in favour of Glebe Field.
- Those not in favour for the Glebe Field to be the location for the skate park: 2 members of the parish council voted not in favour of Glebe Field
- Those in favour for the Jubilee Field to be the location for the skate park: 2 members of the parish council voted in favour.
- Those not in favour for the Jubilee Field to be the location for the skate park: 6 members of the parish council voted not in favour.

Cllr Goss abstained from voting.

**Resolved:** from the above results the parish council would support the idea of a skate park at Glebe Field, subject to the necessary permissions and funding.

**Action:** Cllr Goss to advise PCC.

Members of the skate park project to start enquiries with WDC with regards to planning permission, and consider the possibilities of seeking funding from grants.

*At 2038 hours 18 people left the meeting.*

6. Correspondence:

6.1 East Sussex Against Scams Partnership (ESASP). Launched in March 2017 they are now looking for organisations to sign up to their charter. This is for businesses, councils, clubs and societies to raise awareness about the impact of scams upon East Sussex residents. **Deferred:** put on the agenda for July for further discussion.

6.2 Flying the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day. 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017. The Red Ensign is the official flag of the British Merchant Navy and those men and women on whom we depend to keep our island national supplied with food, fuel and other imports. Flying to flag helps to raise

awareness of the ongoing reliance on seafarers and shipping. **Resolved**; Cllr Richards will do this on behalf of the parish council.

## 7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Jubilee verge – Bollards and car parking – an update from Cllr Strong following meeting with Highways. Cllr Strong met with two representatives from East Sussex Highways. At present, they will not allow any bollards to be installed until the work on the school car park has been completed. Then when this has been completed, they will require a distance of 2.4 metres between each bollard. This would still allow cars to park on the grass verge. **Deferred**: this subject to be revisited once the school car park works have been completed.

**Action**: Clerk to provide Barcombe Landscapes contract and contact details to Cllr Newham for him to make contact about lack of verge cutting.

7.2 Hedge – consideration of options to tidy up the road side of the hedge – Cllr Goss. Several years ago we resolved to plant in the hedge to fill it out. So, do we leave it as hedge and bracken, or remove the bracken and replant? The bracken would just return anyway, **Resolved**: the parish council resolved to trim the hedge once or twice a year, and not replant it.

7.3 Planting of trees around the edge of Jubilee field. A planting plan was originally drawn up by Andy Barnes (Tree Warden) and Cllr Strong. Discuss options for progress. **Resolved**: the previous actions were discussed, and it was decided that no further action would be taken at the time.

## 8. Jubilee Play Park

8.1 Leaning fence – update from Cllr Newham. **Ongoing**; Cllr Newham has checked this issue. It is a minor job and he will kindly fix this when he has a chance.

9. Skate Park - *see above where this item was dealt with after item 5.2 on the agenda.*

Consideration of options regarding the proposed skate park:

Resolve to allow the use of the Glebe Field for the proposed skate park, or

Resolve to allow the use of the Jubilee Field for the proposed skate park.

## 10. Councillor Reports:

10.1 Village Shop – Cllr O’Hare – nothing to report.

10.2 Saturday Morning Market – Cllr O’Hare – nothing to report.

(The next Saturday morning market takes places on 1<sup>st</sup> July and Cllr C Marchant is due to attend).

Cllr Tolhurst requests for somebody to cover the market for him in September. **Resolved**: Cllr Goss will cover this.

## 11 Footpaths

11.1 Access has been restricted with barbed wire on the footpath near to the Gun. Clerk to provide update from the footpaths team at ESCC. **Update**: Rights of Way team have been on contact with the landowner who has been told to remove the obstructions. The rights of way team will be going out to replace the signage and will check that all has been adhered to.

11.2 Hoads Wood flooding issue. ESCC Footpaths team are in liaison with the Environment Agency. Clerk to provide update from the footpaths team. **Update**: The footpaths team have been liaising with the landowner, and they feel a larger bridge would not solve the issue due to the scale of the flooding. The landowner now needs to contact the Environment Agency to see if they would carry out dredging or drainage works to the river. If the environment agency is unwilling to take this on, it would then fall to the landowner to address the flooding with the consent of the Environment Agency.

## 12 Highways

12.1 Highlands Lane – traffic survey – update from Cllr Goss. Survey was completed, with thanks to the volunteers. During the mid-afternoon 2 or 3 cars in every 5 minute period in both directions. By 5.30 p.m. / 6.00 p.m. traffic towards Whitesmith had not changed, but up to 20 cars going in opposite way. **Action:** Cllr Goss will put figures into a report which will be submitted to Highways.

12.2 Meeting with the Highways Steward– Cllr Strong. Cllr Strong met with the Highways Steward and travelled around all of the lanes within Chiddingly parish. Cllr Strong also provided him with schedule of the issues. He accepted most of them. He said he would attend and get them marked up. Two weeks later it hadn't happened. However, after chasing, about half of it has been done. Cllr Newham will now take on Highways responsibility. **Action:** Cllr Strong to pass over the details to Cllr Newham.

12.3 Private traffic count 100m Chiddingly Village side of A22 at Whitesmith – update from Cllr Newham. It was a local resident who was having this done to support a planning application that maybe submitted in the future. Cllr Newham will remind him that the parish council would like to see a copy of the results if possible.

### 13. Village Car Park

13.1 Refurbishment of the noticeboard on recycling centre fence – **Update:** Cllr Newham has got the materials and will complete the works when time permits.

### 14 Defibrillators

14.1 Adoption of telephone kiosk at Gun Hill – Clerk. **Resolved:** the contract has been received from BT and the parish council have now officially adopted the telephone kiosk. The equipment has been removed by BT and a poster has been put up in the telephone kiosk to say it is no longer in service as a phone box, and is the responsibility of the parish council. **Action:** now need to have the phone box refurbished. Clerk has already left messages for Joe Field and David & Barbara Cameron who kindly offered to help with the refurbishment.

### 15. Financial Matters - Clerk

15.1 Approve the Bank reconciliations for April and May 2017. Resolved: the bank statements and reconciliations were approved by full council and signed by Cllr Goss.

15.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). Resolved: cheques number 102122 through to 102137 were approved for payment by full council and signed by Cllr Goss and Cllr Strong. Payments included the grants for 2017/2018 that were approved by full council at the parish council meeting in November 2016.

15.3 End of year finance report – Clerk. **Resolved:** The Clerk briefly updated the parish council on the report, and no questions were raised.

16 Update on suitable alternative banking systems available to parish council – Cllr Tolhurst approached a number of banks, but not many had information on online approval for parish council payments. Natwest do offer the facility but it would cost £20-£30 a month in charges for an online bank account with 2 electronic authority signatories. Lloyds could do the same, and if a turnover less than £50,000 without charge. The Clerk is happy with the current arrangements as it suits for the end of year auditing and monthly use of the RBS accounts system. **Deferred:** The parish council agreed to remain with our current system until the time comes when we need to move to an electronic system.

At present the parish council has two Barclays accounts and four Unity trust accounts. We are receiving bank charges on the Unity trust accounts. **Resolved:** the parish council will close the Unity Trust accounts and transfer the funds into the Barclays savings account. Action: Clerk to make enquiries with Unity Trust about closing the accounts.

17 Annual Grants Survey. Update from Cllr Goss with regards to the responses from the survey. Cllr Goss received 29 responses from the grants survey. **Action:** Clerk to write a report on the survey results.

18 Possible extension of the school car park – update from Cllr Strong. The old car park has been resurfaced, it is being used well, and they are getting more cars in there prior to the work being completed, which is great news.

Chris Forsey sent an update earlier this month for his intentions for top part of car park. Cllr Strong has visited the school at drop off and pick up times and has seen 22-27 cars parked on the road, when new car park is being used. The proposal from Chris Forsey only covers 12 additional parking spaces. When calculated his costings for materials it came to £9530 + VAT, however, Cllr Strong feels this may be over specified and maybe able to reduce costs of materials to approx. £7500. Cllr Strong raised his concerns that people will not use it the car park at the top and walk down.

So, there could be a comparison, Cllr Strong requested a quote from Mike Brashill for 30 bay car park on Jubilee Field – this would cost approximately £12,500, plus £6,000 for a crossover from the road into the Jubilee Field.

**Action:** Cllr Strong to liaise with Chris Forsey about a reduced specification and costs and then come back to parish council so a true comparison can be made.

19 Chairman's holiday 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July. Who would like to produce article for August Parish Mag (Copy Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> July) approve Agenda for publication (by 11<sup>th</sup> July), and email Agenda out to those on Parish Noticeboard emailing list (via Mail Chimp)? **Resolved:** Cllr Tolhurst will write the article for the parish magazine. Cllr Richards will approve the parish council agenda for July. Clerk will email the agenda via mail chimp and display the agendas in the noticeboards.

20 Any items for inclusion on next month's agenda:  
East Sussex Against Scams

Meeting closed at 2132 hours.

- *The next parish council meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The next planning meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*