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19th March 2019

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2019 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

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

Three members of the public was present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Luke.

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 12th February 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 1937 hours so that members of public present at this meeting could speak.

One member of the public spoke in connection with the standard encryption of the parish council website.

The meeting re convened at 1939 hours.

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 12th February 2019 not covered elsewhere in the agenda: There were none.

5. Councillor Reports:

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

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5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC) – footpath at Gun Hill. Cllr Bennett has spoken with a member of the public and feel that the issue may not be resolved.

Clerk/Cllr Goss explained this was not the response, received so far, from ESCC Rights of Way.

- Cllr Newham asked about the issue of vast amounts of litter on A22/A27. Cllr Bennett explained that this was the responsibility of WDC and Highways England. ESCC have been speaking to them about it and they are chasing their contractors to deal with it.
- Cllr Richards asked if ESCC would have any input with the Nash Street planning application for the business units. ESCC Cllr Bennett said that any highways related issues would come to ESCC Highways. Cllr Goss explained that there have been many objections by parishioners and most of these had Highways related concerns. Cllr Bennett requested that these are sent to him, so that he could discuss this with his planning team. **Action:** Cllr Goss to contact Cllr Bennett about this. **Action:** Clerk to forward to the planning application hyperlink to ESCC Cllr Bennett.
- Cllr Richards enquired that WDC Cllr Watts had not been present at our parish council meetings for a very long time and is concerned that as our WDC representative he should be aware of the serious concerns over the Nast St planning application for the business units. Cllr Goss advised that Cllr Watts has already been made aware.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 South & South East in Bloom. Last year they introduced a Parishes in Bloom scheme to encourage Parishes to get involved in the Bloom. In 2018 they received 15 entries from across the region and when visited judges awarded Silver Gilt & Gold awards proving how healthy the Parishes were. This assessment was based on the way in which the Parish was being maintained, especially any green spaces; the quality of resident's front gardens, care for the environment and local heritage and the management of natural places for wildlife. Does Chiddingly Parish wish to get involved this year?

The Parish in Bloom programme is fully funded so it's free to enter, no complicated forms or entry requirements, no expectation of hanging baskets and window boxes (that's old Bloom) and a visit that will last for no more than 90 minutes at a time agreed between June 17 – July 12th. It is appreciated it's an election year for many and that will be a priority for the Parish, but a good number of Parishes are entering this year as it's a simple process of agreeing on a date and just showing the assessor around working to a simple and uncomplicated criterion. So, if Chiddingly want to get involved just email with the name of the Parish, someone we can contact to arrange a visit and that about it for now.

All Parishes are invited to our Awards Ceremony in September to receive their award.

Contact: peter@londoninbloom.co.uk **Action:** Clerk to pass this on to Horticultural Society.

6.2 Wealden Crematorium. All the major construction at the crematorium was finished earlier this year and that the remaining work on the main entrance is virtually complete. There are no plans for any more traffic lights on the A267 in connection with the project.

Planting continues the site including new native species hedgerows being placed along the boundary running alongside the A267. These will replace those lost when the visibility splay was formed. In addition, the ground between the fence and the road is being seeded with wild flowers finished with a neat grass border.

Before the official opening in May they will be holding an open day for the public. This will be a great opportunity for you to see the new crematorium, walk around the lovely grounds and, if you wish, to look behind the scenes. Once the date for the open day is fixed, they will let us know. They are getting lots of positive feedback from the funeral directors and officiants that

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have visited, and they will soon be arranging for local businesses to meet with them to talk about how the local economy can benefit from this new facility. Please get in touch if you have any questions: crematorium@wealden.gov.uk

6.3 Elections. WDC have circulated some information in advance of the Elections. Of note at this stage:

Candidates guide and nomination papers have been received by the Clerk.

Elector names and numbers must be taken from the revised Register of Electors published on 1st March 2019.

The 'Notice of Election' will be published by WDC and then added to the parish council website on Monday 18th March.

Nominations may be submitted from Tuesday 19th March, and the final date and time for their receipt in the Elections Office at WDC is 4 p.m. Wednesday 3rd April. This must be done by the candidate or the candidate's representative, and not the Clerk.

Statement of Persons Nominated – 4 April 2019

Notice of Uncontested Election – 5 April 2019

Notice of Poll – 17 April 2019 – contested areas only

Result of Poll – 7 May 2019 – contested areas only.

7 Jubilee Field verge – update on works to be carried out: **Update:** The works are scheduled for the end of April/beginning of May. **Action:** Clerk to contact Highways to notify them of the works a week or so before work starts.

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

9. Jubilee Garden – Update on bench installation: Cllr Newham has spoken to Vince Fisher who is hopefully collecting the bench tomorrow and installing it.

10 Councillor Reports:

10.1 Village Shop – update from Cllr O'Hare: spoke to various people but no new issues to report. Bob Harvey also spoke to Cllr Goss about the mobile phone mast for the church spire, and the information about this has now been passed back to Bob Harvey.

10.2 Saturday Morning Market: Update from Cllr Goss. The only topic of conversation was the Nash Street planning application and parishioners were advised if they had objections then this should be put in writing to WDC.

Cllr Tolhurst to attend the market on 6th April 2019

11. Footpaths

11.1 Hoads Wood (Chiddingly 35c) Rights of Way have scheduled this job for the fortnight commencing 08 April, however this will be weather dependant as they need the ground to be dried out.

11.2 Hale Green to Gun Hill (Chiddingly 11). The ESCC Rights of Way (RoW) team have carried out an inspection here and suspect that part of the problem is that the ditch on the northern side needs clearing and that a proportion of the path needs stoning. However, they cannot say at this moment in time whether they will be able to include it in their surfacing programme in the coming financial year or not. East Sussex County Council is responsible for maintaining the surface of 2000 miles of public right of way in the County. They receive their budget for path surfacing in March each year. At that time, they decide which paths can be improved within that budget. As they have limited budget for maintaining path surfaces and they can only improve around 5 – 10 path surfaces each financial year, so must focus their work on the most urgent cases.

11.3 Footpath 16, Gun Hill – this situation is ongoing and ESCC RoW team are still in discussions with the landowner.

Footpath information – the Clerk has asked ESCC RoW team to clarify who is responsible for maintenance, and here is a copy of their reply, for information:

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[1] Existing stiles and gates on the path network are generally the responsibility of the landowner to maintain. However, we are responsible for such structures on ESCC-promoted 'Primary' circular, (formerly 'Paths to Prosperity') walks (see link: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/walks/circular>) and long distance trails such as The Weald Way, High Weald Landscape Trail, Forest Way, 1066 Country Walk etc.

[3] We are responsible for maintaining all footpaths, except those which have been 'Adopted' by ESCC Highways. Routes that are not official RoWs (i.e. Licenced or Permissive paths dedicated for public use by the landowner but not officially recorded on the Definitive Map) are the responsibility of the landowner, subject to negotiated conditions.

[4] Generally, our key responsibility is directed to maintaining the path surface such that it provides uninhibited, safe access. All issues on adjacent land that negatively impact a path (e.g. vegetation and boundary fence encroachment, fallen & dangerous trees, aggressive animals etc; also obstructions such as cross-path electric fences, locked gates, illegal path diversions etc) falls to the landholder to remove/resolve and we have the powers to direct/compel them to do so'.

12 Highways

12.1 Chiddingly location sign by the cricket field. **Update:** The signs have been made and the printing company were awaiting the fittings. Clerk received an email last thing today to say that they were now ready for collection. **Resolved:** The Clerk will then collect them, and Cllr Newham has very kindly offered to install them.

Other issues reported:

Cllr Strong – Dern Lane was closed tonight.

Cllr Newham – About half way along Swansbrook Lane on the right-hand side a small bridge has been demolished. **Action:** Clerk to ensure Highways are aware.

Cllr Goss – there was a car accident last week in Muddles Green. A car came from Burgh Hill Road and was turning left however, it didn't make corner and went through the fence and gate of a property called Westgates. There was also damage to the porch and there are cracks in the wall.

A few weeks ago, there was another collision from this junction with a vehicle turning right.

The Give Way sign is missing, and this has been reported to ESCC Highways.

Pot hole near entrance to Village shop has also been reported to Highways via their website reporting system.

13 Financial Matters

13.1 To approve the Bank reconciliations for February 2019. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the current account reconciliation and the savings account reconciliation for February 2019.

13.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the accounts payable, cheques numbered 102309 to 102319, totalling £2626.25

Action: Clerk to reissue a cheque which was previously issued to Steve Newham as original cheque has been misplaced. Clerk to cancel the original cheque from RBS.

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 receipts of these reports, and no questions/issues were raised. Cllr Tolhurst commented that he found these reports useful.

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13.4 To consider the terms of reference of Keith Robertson Internal Auditor. **Resolved:** the parish council acknowledged the terms of reference as previously circulated by the Clerk and no questions were raised.

13.5 Resolve to appoint Keith Robertson as Internal Auditor for the year ending 31.3.19. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously approved the appointment of Keith Robertson as Internal Auditor for the end of year accounts.

Two members of public left the meeting at 2013 hours.

14. Community Land Trust – update from Cllr Goss. The CLT have a meeting with Tony Penrose to discuss and agree a strategy to allow the CLT development to go ahead at Willets Farm. (No additional updates since the last meeting).

15. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) expenditure – Cllr Goss Received a suggestion from a parishioner to make stiles on local footpaths dog friendly. Is this allowable expenditure, could it be seen to be favouring the landowners on whose land the stiles are? Should we go ahead with a survey to establish how many styles we are talking about and where they are?

Action: Clerk to contact WDC to see if this is allowed. **Action:** Cllr Newham and the reporting parishioner to make a list of those stiles that require amendments.

Cllr Newham commented that he had heard various suggestions of projects for the CIL funds. How are the parish council dealing it? Cllr Goss advised that those enquiring about CIL funds have been asked to come back to the parish council with information and approximate costings so that these could be considered by the parish council. He is aware that there may be requests from the Village Hall and Chiddingly Primary School.

16. Spring Clean – 30th March 2019. Litter picking kits have been delivered to 2 volunteers. All the remaining equipment will be at the Village Hall by 0945 on 30/3/2019.

Refreshments: Clerk to bring tea/coffee/squash/milk/sugar.

Cllr B Marchant will bring the cake.

Cllr B Marchant will take a kit to the school, and to the garage at Golden Cross.

Action: Cllr Goss will distribute some of the posters.

17. Chiddingly School – Astroturf project. **Update:** Clerk has arranged with the two suppliers to deliver the materials direct to the school at the beginning of April, and for the invoices to come to the parish council afterwards. This then satisfies the school for when they have planned their working party, and the parish council finances to pay by invoice within the new financial year and be able to claim back the VAT.

18. Sussex Police ‘surgery’ – update from Cllr Richards. Attended another meeting, attendance numbers are increasing with three persons present at the meeting this time. Local Insp has offered to send a mobile police van to discuss issues within villages. Main complaint is lack of police visibility, and peoples lack willingness to report incidents to police now that they consider that police will not do anything. Further meeting in April which Cllr Richards will attend.

Clerk advised that there does seem to be an increase in reports of suspicious vehicles within surrounding villages, as well as an increase in rural thefts.

Cllr C Marchant reported agricultural vehicles parked by Willetts Farm with all lights on and engines running at 0330 hours. **Action:** Cllr Goss will speak with local farmer about this.

19. Any items for inclusion on next month’s agenda:

- Noticeboards
- Annual assembly
- Election update

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- Spring clean update
- CIL expenditure
- Cricket Club grant that was issued in 2018.

Meeting closed at 2043 hours

- *The planning meeting will take place on 26th March 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The next parish council meeting will take place on 16th April 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall.*