

Chiddingly Parish Council
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21st March 2018

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

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

One member of the public was also present at the start of this meeting.

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr C Marchant and Cllr Luke.

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 16 on this agenda as he is Chairman of the Community Land Trust Steering Group.

3. Minutes of 20th February 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 suspended at 1932 hours for one member of the public to speak:

A parishioner spoke about the purchase of the old Jubilee Field gates and confirmed he had made a modest offer. He also advised that he was not in favour of having an additional dog waste bin at the car park end of the village, but kindly offered to clear any dog waste when he walked in the mornings. He also advised that the pot hole at the entrance of the car park was getting larger.

Cllr Goss advised those present at the meeting that this parishioner may wish to record some of the meeting. The parishioner then advised that he had left his phone behind and wouldn't be recording the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 1935 hours.

1934 hours Cllrs O'Hare and Richards arrived at this meeting.

At 1936 hours the one parishioner present at the meeting left.

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 20th February 2018 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Watts (WDC) – Yesterday Wealden District Council gave a Councillors briefing and spoke of the Ashdown Forest nitrogen deposit levels investigations. There is likely to be a significant effect of the levels on the forest and there is need for an appropriate assessment. The plan is that they want to get this work done as soon as possible, so it can come to full council meeting in July 2018. If that goes through with the tests and for adoption, it would be put forward with whatever the findings are. The housing numbers are probably going to be adjusted, but we will not know what these figures are, until the assessment results are back. They are not only looking at nitrogen deposits, but other deposits too. When this does get fully approved it will then supersede the core strategy of the 1998 Local Plan. If, it gets that far it will be likely to be this time next year before it would go through, as would need to also go to the Planning Inspectorate. The planning of any large developments is still on hold for now – but this may start to go down the legal route of challenge by some developers.

Cllr Goss requested that Cllr Watts took up an issue on behalf of the parish council: Willets Field is managed by a Housing Association – this was Affinity Sutton but believe this may have changed, and we are unsure of the current Managers are, and some fencing repairs are required. **Action:** Cllr Watts to make some enquiries about this and obtain contact details.

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC): Reported on a meeting with South East Water last week – the focus was around vulnerability. There were two principal areas within this; potential costs of water - particularly now there is metering, the other issue is supply. Would like to ensure contingency plans are in place, if supplies are running low. South East Water will make a report and Cllr Bennett will share this with us when it is received.

Cllr Watts asked Cllr Bennett about the current conditions of the roads, with various potholes issues. Cllr Watts said he was aware that ESCC Highways generally are very good at repairs, but recently had noticed where some repairs had taken place that within a couple of weeks the repair had broken down.

Cllr Bennett advised that he has been working closely with their main contractor – who are equally disappointed and dismayed at some issues connected to a sub-contractor who had carried out some works to an insufficient standard. Cllr Bennett requested that if any such issues are identified that they are reported so that they could be looked at.

Cllr Newham advised Cllr Bennett of his frustration around pothole works – where there may be two potholes close together, but the contractor wouldn't be allowed to use their discretion to repair both potholes – but only the one they were sent to do. Cllr Bennett

advised he cannot offer for the staff to use their discretion at this time, because some of the more serious works would then not get covered. However, he hoped that by use of the patching machine the area would be covered. Cllr Bennett advised that to bring the roads up to condition we would like it would cost £23 million, to maintain them it would cost £10 million, the budget given is £7 million, so they need to prioritise the works.

Cllr Richards advised that there were frustrations on the area covered on the Gun Hill resurfacing works, as it appeared the area resurfaced was not the worst area. Cllr Goss advised that this issue was on the SLR meeting agenda.

Cllr Newham advised that there was a large tree fallen and blocking the road (Burgh Hill Road opposite Paddock House). Somebody had moved the tree onto a nearby verge – but it had then just been left there. **Action:** Cllr Bennett will enquire if Highways can remove the tree.

Cllr Watts and Cllr Bennett left the meeting at 1959 hours.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 South East Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan: there is a 12-week public consultation and they are seeking feedback on their draft water resources management plan (WRMP). The document outlines how they intend to balance the supply and demand for water for both current and future customers between 2020 and 2080. They are keen to hear our thoughts on these proposals; such as whether you feel the challenges they are looking at are the right ones, whether the options they are putting forward to overcome these challenges are the right ones and whether you think there's more they can do to encourage people to be water efficient? You can view these proposals in detail, download all the documentation, register your comments and find out where their public exhibitions are being held by visiting: southeastwater.co.uk/yourwateryoursay

Update: Cllr Goss requested for Cllrs to look at this online and make comments.

6.2 Household Waste Recycling Site Service: A 12-week consultation on the Household Waste Recycling Site Service has now started and ends at midnight on 15 May. The online survey is now live on the [Consultation Hub](#). Links to the survey, as well as FAQs and the full Service Review, are available here on their [website](#). They are consulting on these proposals:

- The introduction of charging for certain waste types that are not 'household waste' (i.e. rubble, soil, plasterboard, tyres and asbestos) at the Household Waste Recycling Sites
- The possible closure of the part-time recycling sites at Forest Row and Wadhurst
- A review of recycling site opening hours against demand for the service

Update: Cllr Goss requested for Cllrs to look at this online and make any comments. Cllr Goss also commented that an effect of this could be an increase in fly tipping – which WDC would need to clear up – so wouldn't necessarily save any money.

6.3 Waste and Minerals consultation: East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority (the Authorities) have responsibility for planning for the future management of waste and the production of minerals within their administrative areas. The three Authorities work in partnership to prepare and monitor the Waste and Minerals Local Plan for the area of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and part of the South Downs National Park. At this time, the Authorities are undertaking a review of the Plan, with a focus on the supply of minerals. As part of this review the Authorities are required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of any proposed revised policies. A Scoping Report

has been prepared which sets out the steps for undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, for the Waste and Minerals Local Plan – Review. The Authorities are now seeking comments on this report to inform how the Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken during the review. Full details of the consultation including the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report can be found at <http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk> or at the deposit points as indicated in the [consultation notice \(http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk/file/4891285\)](http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk/file/4891285). The deadline for comments is Tuesday 17 April 2018.

Update: Cllr Goss requested for Cllrs to look at this online and make any comments. Cllr Tolhurst advised there were no sites within our parish area, but a site close by.

6.4 SALC meeting with Chief Constable Giles York, Sussex Police. The biannual meeting will take place on Friday 11th May 2018. If there are any strategic or unresolved topics that we would like to be raised, then we need to forward these to SALC by 27th April 2018.

Cllr Richards requested that following be raised: he had seen in the media that if there was a theft with a value of less than £200 then the police do not feel obligated to investigate the crime. Could SSALC be requested to ask if this is a policy that Sussex Police will be adopting.

Action: Clerk to put this forward to SSALC.

7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Damaged bollards by school children – Update: Cllr Strong has kept at eye on this, and spoken with Cllr Luke, they both agreed that no further damage had occurred at this time. No further action will be taken at this time, but they will monitor the situation.

Cllr B Marchant advised that she found a buried bollard when doing the spring clean, and attempted to put this back in its place, but have noticed this has again been removed.

Also, opposite the school car park she found a broken 30mph sign in the undergrowth – she has put this next to the pole. **Action:** Clerk to report this to Highways.

7.2 Sale of the old Jubilee Field gates. Clerk: we have received one modest offer so far. Closing date is 30th March. **Action:** Clerk to re promote this on the Facebook page and website. **Action:** Clerk to ask Frazer Russell how much he thinks we could get as scrap value. **Deferred:** for further consideration at April Parish Council meeting.

7.3 Polite notice re verge parking– Cllr B Marchant has made enquiries with Cllr Wares in Brighton, who had their sign made. They are not authorised by Highway but did make contact and their Highways department has no issues with the signs being erected if they did not obstruct the Highway.

Action: Cllr Newham get costings for wooden posts with reflectors for the whole stretch of the verge, at 3 metres spacing.

8. Jubilee Play Park - Cllr Luke

8.1 Litter bin for Jubilee Play Park/school area.

Cllr Newham advised that he is not keen on this as he did not feel it is an issue. Cllr Newham visits the location twice a day to walk his dogs and rarely sees litter there – and if he does, he collects the litter.

Resolved: the parish council reached a unanimous decision to not go ahead with installing at litter bin.

9. Glebe Field – Community Orchard Lease. The lease has now been signed by both parties and had been returned to the Clerk. Cllr Goss had received the following update from Simon Coxhead: the first ten trees have been planted, with six more trees being planted this

weekend. That will be tree planting until Autumn. The ditch had been unblocked and this was helping with drainage. He had written an article for the parish magazine, which will also go on the parish council website.

10. Car Park

10.1 New dog waste bin. The Clerk reminded those present of the costs (purchase of dog bin £185+VAT, cost of WDC emptying the bin £250+ VAT per year).

Cllr Newham stated that he agreed with parishioner who spoke at the start of the meeting, he feels it is unnecessary to install a dog bin here, as had never seen an issue, and the dog bin itself is unsightly. Cllr Tolhurst advised that he had issues reported to him. Cllr Luke has also reported that a resident advised her that there was human excrement found in the car park. Parishioner Alan Zeal has offered to collect any dog waste when walking in mornings.

Resolved: the parish council reached a majority vote not to install an additional dog waste bin. **Action:** Cllr Goss will write to Alan Zeal and take him up on his kind offer of collecting dog waste in the mornings.

10.2 Surface of the car park – Cllr Strong has looked at the car park surface which is ok, however, there is a problem with the tarmac on the crossover. **Action:** Clerk to request this issue to be added to SLR agenda.

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 B Marchant: no new issues to report. Cllr Tolhurst is due to attend 7th April 2018.

12. Footpaths - Any new issues to report? – Cllr Luke

Action: Clerk to ask Johnathon of Chiddingly Cricket Club for an update of the broken gate at the entrance to the cricket field.

13. Highways – Cllr Newham

13.1 SLR meeting. East Sussex Highways cancelled our meeting for 7th March 2018 because we did not get our agenda items to them in time. We have a new date for the meeting 20th April 2018.

13.2 Damaged verge opposite the school car park entrance – Cllr Strong/WDC Cllr Watts
Cllr Newham reported there is damage happening to verges and the triangle at top of Burgh Hill Road, by tractor drivers. **Action:** Clerk to contact Michael Sturmer and Josh Penrose and politely request for them to speak with their drivers about being careful with the verges/triangles and mention speed that the tractors occasionally go at.

Cllr B Marchant asked if we could we get speed limit reduced outside of the school to 20mph – because traffic is speeding through there at about 40 mph. **Action:** clerk to speak to Traffic Safety department and add this to SLR agenda.

14. Financial Matters – Clerk

14 To approve the Bank reconciliations for February 2018. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision to approve the bank reconciliations for February 2018.

14.1 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision to approve the payment list. Cheques 102202 to 102213 totalling £2563.20 + VAT.

14.2 To review and approve the insurance quote, as circulated by the Clerk. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to go ahead with the fixed three-year quote with Inspire,

as provided by broker Came and Co. **Action:** Clerk to notify Came and Co, and Zurich – our current insurers.

15 Bus Shelters – To consider works required and quote from Tony Mills. **Deferred:** for consideration in April once quote received.

16 Community Land Trust – an update from Cllr Goss. At the last meeting the parish council meeting it was approved that the parish council would make a grant available if the CLT weren't successful in obtaining grants from another source. The CLT have been successful on receiving a grant of £3000. The CLT will need a bank account to put this money into but cannot open an account until they are incorporated as Community Benefit Society. Enquiries with another parish council in Wes Sussex reveal that this parish council were able to hold funds on behalf of the CLT, until they could open their own account.

The Clerk made tentative enquiries with Barclays, and it would be possible for the Chiddingly Parish Council to open a separate account named CLT, with its own cheque book. **Deferred:** to be added to April's parish council agenda for formal resolution.

Cllr Goss advised that work continues within CLT on their constitution. Started work on drawing up specification for type of properties they would like to see at Willets Farm.

Also need to develop our Community Engagement – possibly by way of issuing shares. Anyone can then buy a £1 share, and as many as they like, to entitle them to vote at the AGM.

Willets Farm planning application for barn conversions has been approved. Another application coming up for one of the existing buildings to be converted to 4 single bedroom flats. This is part of the plan to establish a number of dwellings on the site.

17 Chiddingly Spring Clean – update from Cllr B Marchant: she was disappointed on the turnout, only 4 volunteers from the parish (in addition to parish councillors). Burgh Hill Road has not yet been done, and Simon Coxhead has offered to help Cllr B Marchant with this.

The weather did not help – and next year we really need to increase the amount of publicity. There was not as much rubbish collected this year, however, quite a lot of rubbish close the garage, and by the school. Next year we should ask for the school to get involved in this. Will start planning publicity from January 2019.

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

Topics for Annual Assembly

Sale of Jubilee Field gates

Bollards

Bank account for CLT

Bus shelters

- *The planning meeting will take place on 27th March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in The Village Hall, Chiddingly.*
- *The next parish council meeting will take place on 17th April 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in The Village Hall, Chiddingly.*