

Chiddingly Parish Council
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22nd March 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 21st March 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Luke, Cllr O'Hare, Cllr Strong, ESCC Cllr Bennett, WDC Cllr Ann Newton and Clerk: Claudine Feltham.

Five members of the public were present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Newham, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr B Marchant 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 21st February 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: Brendon Welsh spoke about the possible skate park. He intends to distribute a survey to Chiddingly parishioners to gain their views. He also expressed concerns on behalf of another resident following an incident on the A22 recently. When the road was closed all the traffic was diverted into Chiddingly, resulting in the village becoming grid locked for approximately 2 hours. Suggestion made that there should be an action plan in place for such an incident. The meeting re opened at 1940 hours.

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 21st February 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Ann Newton (WDC). Cllr Newton updated the parish council about The Local Plan. Previously the district could not meet its housing number requirement due to constraints with waste water in the south of the district, and the Ashdown Forest in the north of the district. The core strategy was reviewed in 2015 and one of the first tasks was to calculate the housing requirement figures. This was worked out via a formula provided by the Government, and gave a result of almost 20,000. The Issues, Options and Recommendations report was to try to identify locations of where this housing could be distributed within the district. The district was not meeting its 5 year supply plan because of this new formula from the government, and created a developer led situation with many unpopular planning approvals being made.

The issues surrounding waste water had to be resolved by 2022.

Three years of monitoring the nitrogen levels on the Ashdown Forest was then completed and showed much higher levels than were expected, particularly on the routes of the A22 and A26. These results meant that the plans needed to be reconsidered, to protect the environment and forest. The constraints of the nitrogen level on the forest now mean the whole of the district needs to be considered, not just the north area of the district as was happening previously.

At a Local Plan meeting it was decided that the district would consider the figure of 11,500 houses and put in compensatory measures for the larger developments. For any green field development to go ahead the district council must have identified other land where the habitat could be improved, this could be as simple as planting or grazing.

As these issues are so contentious the district council must ensure that every single document is in place prior to the Local Plans recommendations are made. Planning applications can only be determined in line with the local plan, and cannot undermine it, because of the radical constraints of the forest. And because of these constraints (Habitats Regulation) the 5 year land supply rule is over ridden.

Wealden District Council will work together with adjacent authorities with a combination approach – as feel this will be stronger. They also intend to write triggers into the plan, so they can review, as and when required.

Developments within villages such as Chiddingly will need to demonstrate that they will create no new traffic movements (for example housing on a brown field site where domestic traffic replaces commercial traffic), or arrange their own compensatory measures.

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC). The council is about to enter the purdah period, prior to County Elections on 4th May. Cllr Bennett will write a report prior to Annual Assembly meeting.

A major concern now is the funding allocation for smaller schools. The national formula for funding and in which school grants are divided up and doesn't favour smaller schools. The council, along with Head teachers are lobbying MPs very hard, and hopeful to turn things around.

Cllr Bennett suggested that if we did intend on responding to item 6.1 of this agenda then maybe we should contact Cllr Richard Stoughton (Chair of the Pensions Committee) first.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 East Sussex Pension Fund. Last April, Labour and Conservative Councillors on Hastings Borough Council joined forces to pass a unanimous cross-party motion calling on East Sussex County Council to divest the East Sussex Pension Fund from investments in fossil fuels (oil,

coal and gas). Since then, Lewes Town Council has passed a similar cross-party motion and the East Sussex Pension Committee have amended their draft Investment Strategy Statement to recognise that climate change “poses material risks” to the Fund. The Parish Council have been invited to support these cross-party initiatives by adding their name to a supplied statement which will be circulated to the media next month. **Resolved:** the parish council shall not respond to this. The parish council feel that this is for the pensions committee and their advisors to look at, not the parish council.

7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Jubilee verge – Installation of bollards – Cllr Strong. The clerk read the following email from Marissa Hayes, ESCC Highways department to the parish council: Following on from information from Marissa Hayes: *‘I have had some feedback from my colleague in traffic and safety regarding the bollard scheme. She pointed out that the current bollards there to highlight the bend in the road as a safety feature – are 5 metres apart. She also suggested that my compromise of 2 metres apart was over-generous! Can we ask that you go for a phased approach please? We are able to licence the installation of posts from the point on the verge directly opposite the main iron-gated entrance to the school to the point where they join the existing line of bollards, at 5 metre intervals and set back 450 mm from the edge of the carriageway. As discussed this may only take place when the school parking/drop off scheme is in place.’*

Action: Clerk to contact Marissa Hayes and advise that our reason for bollards at 2 metre intervals was to stop cars parking, to prevent damage to verge plus improve road safety for children entering and exiting the school. Also, to request an explanation as to how installing bollards at 5m intervals would make it any safer at this location.

7.2 Dog Waste Disposal Unit – Clerk. **Ongoing:** The dog waste unit and post has been ordered and the Clerk is awaiting its delivery. Once we receive it will liaise with WDC with regards to the most appropriate location for the bin.

Cllr Tolhurst advised the parish council that a parishioner has asked whether there could also be a dog waste bin located at the Village Car Park. Cllr Goss – the parish council have not received any reports of dog waste issues here, so far. **Deferred:** the parish council will monitor the effectiveness of the new dog waste bin at Jubilee Field over the summer, and discuss this again in September 2017.

8. Jubilee Play Park

8.1 Play park gate – Cllr Strong. The closers have arrived and have been given to Vince Fisher to install.

Vince Fisher has also reported issue with the picnic bench – the seating has been broken, and the bench is in overall of poor condition, possibly need to be removed and replaced. **Action:** Cllr Strong to attend and make an assessment.

9. Glebe Field – Cllr Goss contacted the church to arrange meeting to discuss this. The diocese would also like to be involved with any further discussions as they were involved with the covenants when the land was passed to the parish council. **Deferred:** awaiting date for the meeting.

Cllr Goss raised that two points come up every time parishioners speak with him about this potential project. 1) will it be used after the first year? 2) Why Glebe Field and not Jubilee Field? (where there are no close neighbours that would be affected in same way as Sculpture

Garden or stables). Jubilee Field is owned by ESCC and let to the parish council. Cllr Luke and Cllr O'Hare both spoke that the whole point was that the Glebe Field location would more centralised and where there is currently nothing for the children. **Action:** Cllr Goss to speak to ESCC to find out if they would have an issue with the Jubilee Field being used.

2025 hours two members of the public left the meeting.

10. Councillor Reports:

10.1 Village Shop – update from Cllr O'Hare. A gentleman commented to Cllr O'Hare and spoke in favour of the importance of having the shop in the village. A young parishioner raised issue of small planes flying over the village at night.

2026 hours a member of public left the meeting.

10.2 Saturday Morning Market – update from Cllr Tolhurst. It was reported that the closer of one of the gates at Jubilee Field has come off, and the damaged bench was also reported. Noticeboard on recycling centre fence also broken. **Action:** Cllr Strong will take a look at the gate closers.

11 Highways

11.1 Speeding in Highlands Lane – traffic survey – Cllr Goss. Have had two volunteers for the traffic survey but will need more volunteers, so have asked again in the parish magazine. Will review at the next parish council meeting. **Deferred:** to be added to agenda for April 2017.

11.2 Scrapers Hill – Clerk. Update for information: The Clerk saw two Highways Stewards at this location, so stopped to speak to them. They were marking for patching works that should take place in May 2017, and re dressing works at the end of the year. The Clerk asked them if they would look at the Gun Hill road – and explained its very poor state. It is unknown if they did attend. Cllr Goss has also received an email from resident in Nash Street – who has had to have more new tyres fitted due to the lack of road surface. Cllr Goss has advised the resident of our current reports to ESCC Highways. Cllr Goss has also suffered damage to his bike from this section of road, which has also been reported to ESCC Highways. **Deferred:** A meeting has been requested with the new Highways Steward.

12. Village Car Park

12.1 New solar lights – Cllr Tolhurst. Resolved: the new lights have been installed and are working well.

12.2 Noticeboard on recycling centre fence – Cllr Goss. This noticeboard is broken. We do not believe this is parish council noticeboard, but are unsure who is responsible for it. The noticeboard is well used by the community. **Resolved:** for the parish council to take responsibility for this noticeboard and arrange repair or replacement. **Action:** Clerk to research options and forward to Cllrs Strong and Tolhurst for consideration, and for them to return with suggestions to the parish council in April 2017.

2040 hours one member of the public left the meeting.

13. Community Resilience Plan – update from Cllr Tolhurst. We have had some more people offering their assistance with equipment to move trees and pumping equipment for flooding. Cllr Tolhurst is still trying to arrange a contact from the WI; this is the one outstanding thing. **Action:** Cllr Tolhurst to share the updated plan with members of the parish council, and forward the emergency contact list to the Clerk.

14 Defibrillators

14.1 Defibrillators checks – weekly checks are completed by parishioner Rachel Smith – with no issues reported.

- 14.2 Gun Hill Defibrillator – Clerk. Enquiries with Community HeartBeat Trust confirm that it would be ok, and compliant with their insurance, for the defibrillator to be placed behind the bar at The Gun, until the telephone kiosk is adopted and refurbished. The owner of Elite Pubs (The Gun) has agreed for the defibrillator to be placed behind the bar as long as it is covered by Community HeartBeat Trust Insurance (which it is). **Action:** Clerk to arrange delivery at the end of the week, when the Manager on the Gun is back on site.
- 14.3 Adoption of telephone kiosk at Gun Hill – Clerk. Have sent a further request for information on the adoption progress. Received a generic reply saying they are extremely busy at present.
15. Financial Matters - Clerk
- 15.1 Approve the Bank reconciliations for February 2017. Resolved: the bank reconciliations were approved by full council.
- 15.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** cheques 102092 to 102104 totalling £2798.10 + VAT were approved by full council.
- 15.3 Annual Internal Audit. Update: The Internal Audit will take place on 27th April 2017.
16. Fingerpost repair – update from the Clerk. **Resolved:** the fingerpost (Smithlands Lane junction with Honeywick Lane) has been refurbished and will be put back on site on 25th March 2017.
17. Possible extension of the school car park – Cllr Goss had received the following update from Chris Forsey: a more in depth survey had been carried out for the revised layout of the car park extension. A more detailed proposal shall be compiled to include the extra requirements and calculations of the volumes of materials needed, and subsequent waste that will be generated. ESCC are planning to resurface the car park during the school Easter holidays, and will also be carrying out some fencing work for security and safeguarding. A planning application will be required to extend the car park. Chris intended to have his proposals finalised by the end of the Easter break, and after the ESCC complete their works. Cllr Strong reported to the meeting that he has monitored the number of vehicles present when children are collected from school in the afternoon. The car park is being used very well. The number of cars parked outside on road is between 27 and 29. The most cars that will get into the extension is 17. **Action:** Cllr Goss will also visit at pick up time to review numbers too.
18. Keep Britain Tidy - Great Wealden Spring Clean 2017 – update from Cllr Goss. There were in excess of 30 bags of rubbish collected around the parish. In addition to this there were two deposits that were reported as fly tipping. The area around the school was particularly bad with lots of children’s drink bottles, sweet papers, crisps packets, spelling lists etc. It was also reported that there is an issue with children swinging on the oak trees near to the school – and concern has been raised re the branches breaking. **Resolved:** the parish council agreed to write to the school regarding amount of litter collected from around the school, and to mention the concern about swinging on the trees. **Action:** Clerk to add this to December’s agenda to arrange a date for the next spring clean, and early promotion of the event through the Parish Magazine to help encourage more volunteers next year.
19. Annual Parish Assembly (24th May 2017) – initial planning. **Resolved:** the parish council agreed to run the meeting in the same format as last year. There will be a report from ESCC Cllr Bennett that can be distributed at the meeting. One topic for consideration can be the

possible skate park. Cllr Goss asked members of the council if they had any topics they wished to raise then to notify him as soon as possible.

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

- SALC Spring Conference update
- Possibility of a vintage car parade as part of the Chiddingly Festival – with a starting location being the Jubilee Field – Cllr O'Hare
- Consideration for action plan for occasions where the A22 is closed

Meeting closed at 2107 hours.

- *The next planning meeting will be held on 28th March 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The next parish council meeting will be held on 18th April 2017.*