

Chiddingly Parish Council
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16th May 2018

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council Annual meeting held on 15th May 2018 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Luke, Cllr Richards, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr Newham, Cllr Strong, Cllr Tolhurst and the Clerk.

No members of the public were present at the start of this meeting.

MINUTES

1. The Election of the Chairman of Chiddingly Parish Council.

Resolved: Cllr Tolhurst proposed for Cllr Goss to be Chairman of Chiddingly Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Strong and all members of the parish council agreed to this unanimously.

2. Election of Vice Chairman of Chiddingly Parish Council.

Resolved: Cllr Goss proposed for Cllr Richards to be the Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Luke and all members of the parish council agreed to this unanimously.

3. Election of Planning Committee Chairman

Resolved: Cllr C Marchant proposed for Cllr Strong to be Chairman of the Planning Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Tolhurst. Cllr Strong proposed for Cllr Steve Tolhurst to be Vice Chairman of Planning. This was seconded by Cllr Luke.

4. Receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the incoming Parish Council Chairman. **Resolved:** The Declaration of Acceptation of Office was received from Cllr Goss.

5. Receive the declarations of acceptance of office from all members.

Resolved: The Declaration of Acceptation of Office was received from all members of the parish council (present at the meeting).

6. Apologies and reasons for absence.

Cllr O'Hare apologised for not being present at this meeting.

7. 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 23 of these minutes, as he Chairman of the CLT.

8. Minutes of 17th April 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 not suspended as no members of public were present at this meeting.

9. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 17th April 2018 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

10. Councillor Reports:

10.1. Cllr David Watts (WDC).

- The Local Plan is due to be published at the end of May/beginning of June, then it will be presented to full council (WDC) in July. Following that it will go to the Planning Inspectorate.
- There are currently many talks about the infrastructure, and the future of the A27 – which is ongoing.
- Council Budget: the WDC increase in Council Tax for 2018-2019 was 2.7%.
- Horam Crematorium is on budget and on time for the building works. The facilities are expected to contribute revenue of approximate £900,000 per year by 2022-2023.
- Wealden District Council have also invested in Hailsham High Street; they have purchased The Quintins site and Waitrose. This is hoped to increase the revenue by possibly £600,000 per year.
- The emerging Local Plan will likely to have considerable number of new houses in the Hailsham area.
- WDC are lobbying hard about the lack of Police presence in the district. WDC do have a representative in the Sussex Police and Commissioners panel.
- On street parking has also been an issue in other WDC areas. Sussex Police are no longer dealing with parking. WDC reluctantly voted against having chargeable parking, so parking remains free of charge within the district. The Leader of WDC has been in meetings with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to look at possible solutions.
- Refuse: residents in Wealden are doing well with recycling – with 51.9% recycled. This places them 65th out of 350 councils in England and Wales.
- Litter: there has been a slight improvement on A22 litter issue. Keir have been doing work at various sites, but there are health and safety issues to consider.
- Cllr Goss advised Cllr Watts of the recent issue with the removal of the waste bin at Golden Cross, and the amount of waste that is now building up. Ideally the parish council would like this bin reinstalled.
- Cllr B Marchant: there is also a bike now in the ditch (opposite the Antiques Shop).

- The 2017 Resident Satisfaction Survey said that 90% of respondents like living in Wealden. 75% believe that WDC are doing a good job.
- Cllr C Marchant: reported that the ditches in Ripe are being cleared out – surely this is the wrong time of year? Cllr Goss advised that this was also happening in Nash Street and Whitesmith.
- Cllr Newham said that they are also doing hedges now – should this be allowed?
Action: Cllr Watts to make enquiries about this.
- Cllr Strong asked how much WDC paid for Quintins – Cllr Watts said he believed £12 million paid – do not know any further details.

Action: Clerk to contact ESCC with regards to the litter and bike. WDC Watts asked to be copied in on this correspondence.

10.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC) – *not present at this meeting.*

11. Correspondence:

11.1 Sussex Rural Crime Survey: Sussex Police and the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner are inviting residents to complete the 2018 National Rural Crime Survey. It has been three years since the first National Rural Crime Survey asked the public for their views on matters relating to rural crime. Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne said: “It’s vital that the voice of rural communities is heard by those who can make a difference – from the Police to Government. I urge residents to take part in the survey and help us build a clear picture of crime and anti-social behaviour in rural Sussex and to understand the impact it has where you live or work.” The survey is open for submissions until Sunday 10 June 2018: <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/research/internal/2018survey/>

Action: Cllr Goss requested for the Councillors to complete this survey.

12. Jubilee Field and verge

12.1 Bollards for the verge – update from Cllr Newham

Action: Clerk to speak to ESCC Cllr Bennett about chasing ESCC Highways.

13. Jubilee Play Park – no new issues to report

14. Jubilee Garden – Cllr Goss advised that the oak tree has grown, it is now touching the circular bench that surrounds it. This needs to be moved or adapted. Also, the tree crown is now over hanging the hedges on three sides. **Action:** Cllr Newham will kindly look at the bench to see if there is anything he could help with. **Action:** Clerk to contact Tree Surgeons: Rich Harvey, Jon Hounsell and Rob Irvin for advice and quotes to deal with the overhanging branches.

15 Councillor Reports:

15.1 **Village Shop** – update from Cllr Goss – nothing to report.

15.2 **Saturday Morning Market** – update from Cllr C Marchant – nothing to report.

Cllr Goss is due to attend 2nd June 2018.

16. **Footpaths** - Issue reported by a member of public that there is a broken gate (Friths bridleway from Ailies Lane to Chiddingly coming out at Friths Farm – the last gate as you come into Chiddingly). This has been reported to Rights of Way Team at ESCC and they have inspected and have informed the landowner that this needs to be replaced.

Cllr Luke met with Rights of Way Team about the broken stile at Boltwood. They will speak with Landowner about this.

17. Highways – Cllr Newham

17.1 Update from the SLR meeting – Cllr Newham.

The Highways Steward (HS) was away on a course, so a Steward from another area, who was not familiar with the issues being faced by Chiddingly, attended. The Traffic and Safety Manager also attended.

The Highways Steward only inspects our minor roads every 6 months to a year!

We must encourage people to report all potholes so that they can be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Cllr Newham noted that the week after the SLR meeting quite a few repairs had been made.

It was queried why Highways chose the areas for resurfacing on Gun Hill and was advised that it was Phase 1 or a two-phase job, with second phase being completed during this financial year.

Highways are aware of the issues on Stalkers Lane and do have it on their list to deal with – no dates known.

Friths Farm in Highland Lane – drainage issues – Highways will look at this.

Aillies Lane flooding – they will be clearing outlet pipe within 28 days.

Junction of Scrapers Hill and Smithlands Lane there is a subsidence issue – this is being assessed.

Swansbrook Lane – the Highways Steward inspected this on 14th March. He found 14 category 3 repairs (to be done within 14 days) and there were two category 2 repairs, which have now been done.

Burgh Hill (by the egg stall) road surface – Highways say that this does not warrant repair currently.

Burgh Hill Road speeding issue – we just have two small 30 mph signs. There are no village gateways signs/please drive slowly though our village. Cllr Newham discussed this with Highways and the only way would be for match funding by the Parish Council. **Action:** this to be added to next months agenda, and Clerk to make enquiries with Highways for approximate costs.

Entrance to car park – agreed that there is an issue with the pothole and they will look at this.

The idea of having a speed reduction outside of the school to 20mp. Cllr Newham was advised that this would not happen due to the hefty costs involved.

2035 hours: two members of public arrived.

18. Financial Matters – Clerk

18.1 To approve the Bank reconciliations for April 2018. **Clerks comment:** This will have to be done at the next meeting as cannot complete the reconciliations on RBS until the year end accounts have been finalised.

18.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** cheques 102221 to 102227 were approved for payment by full council.

19 Annual Governance Statement.

19.1 To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare the annual governance statement.

19.2 Resolve that full parish council approve the Annual Governance Statement.

19.3 For the Chairman to sign the Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved: All members of Chiddingly Parish Council acknowledged their responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the statement of account. Chiddingly Parish Council confirm, to the best of their knowledge

and belief, with respect to the council's statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 that Section 1 (the annual governance statement 2017/2018) had been adhered to. Page 4 of the Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

20 Annual Accounting Statements.

20.2 For full parish council to consider the Accounting Statements

20.3 Resolve that full parish council approve the Accounting Statements

20.4 For the Chairman to sign the annual Accounting Statements

Resolved: The full parish council approved the accounting statements of the Annual Return for 2017/2018. Page 5 of the Annual Return was signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.

21 Review of parish council policies and adoption of the new standing orders as recommended by NALC.

Draft Standing Orders – the changes are mainly to do with GDPR changes. **Resolved:** The parish made a unanimous decision to adopt the new Standing Orders. **Action:** Clerk to check the numbering order on the document, and place this on the website.

The following policies were reviewed by full council:

- Media Policy
- Publication of documents policy
- Recording of public meetings policy
- Statement of internal controls
- Data Protection policy
- Document retention policy
- Financial regulations
- Freedom of Information policy

Resolved: the above policies were approved by full council.

22 Chiddingly Parish Council Annual Assembly – to finalise arrangements for next week's annual assembly.

The Village shop has agreed to do the nibbles.

Clerk will purchase the soft drinks and wine.

Clerk will provide note paper, pencils etc

Cllr Tolhurst will set up the PA system

23 Community Land Trust. Update from Cllr Goss: the next CLT meeting is tomorrow. They have been working on technical of housing. Cllr Goss and Sue Skan are attending a meeting in Brighton tomorrow – organised by National Community Land Trust – this is a networking opportunity to meet other CLTs in the area. Next thing they need is a constitution.

24 Roles and responsibilities. To resolve the following positions:

24.1 Chair of the Planning Committee – Cllr Strong

24.2 Vice Chair of the Planning Committee – Cllr Tolhurst

24.3 Councillors for the Planning Committee – all Councillors.

24.3 Representative for Parish Planning Panel – Cllr Strong

24.4 Councillors for the Finance Working Party – Cllr Luke, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr Tolhurst.

24.5 Resolve which members will have areas of special responsibility. The current areas are:

- Jubilee Field - Ray Strong, Hilary Luke, Beryl Marchant
- Footpaths & Bridleways - Hilary Luke & Cliff Marchant

- Highways - Steve Newham
- Village Hall Committee - Patrick O'Hare
- Lachelle Link - Mike Goss
- Parish Church/PCC - Patrick O'Hare
- Village Car Park & Recycling Centre - Hilary Luke
- Emergency Planning - Steve Tolhurst & Rod McDermott
- Tree Warden - Andy Barnes
- Jubilee Garden - Hilary Luke
- Neighbourhood Watch - Mike Goss
- Police - Julian Richards
- Veolia - Julian Richards

Resolved: the parish council unanimously agreed to the above areas of responsibility – which have remained the same as the previous year

- 25** Resolve to (usually) hold the Parish Council meeting on the third Tuesday of the month and the Planning Committee Meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month. **Resolved:** this was approved by full council.
- 26** Request from Chiddingly Festival to use the Village Hall – 25th September 2018. The Festival event is a film night with food. They will do food outside, then come into have the film – the planning meeting should be finished by 9 p.m. **Resolved:** agreed to allow the Festival to use the hall from 9 p.m.
- 27** Any items for inclusion on next month's agenda:
 Jubilee Verge
 Speeding signs in Burgh Hill

Meeting closed at 2050 hours.

- *The Annual Assembly will take place on 22nd May 2018 in Chiddingly Village Hall. Doors open from 7.00 p.m. and start at 7.30 p.m.*
- *The next parish council meeting will take place on 19th June 2018 in Chiddingly Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.*
- *The next planning meeting will take place on 26th June 2018 in Chiddingly Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.*