

Chairman

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21st November 2018

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2018 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

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

No members of the public present at this meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Newham and WDC Cllr Watts.

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 16th October 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.

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 16th October 2018 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

5. Councillor Reports:

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

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC) ESCC Cabinet met last week and agreed to put their Core Offer out for consultation – it is way to demonstrate to Ministers that the funding gap that they are suffering will mean within three years they will be in a seriously difficult position of meeting their legal obligations.

During the summer ESCC have met with Ministers from the relevant departments to explain why East Sussex is a special place, due to the demographics and business rates.

Many other County Councils within the country are now also preparing their core offers, as have similar financial constraints.

ESCC are aware that some of the big metropolitan areas have massive financial reserves. ESCC should be ok next year, and not so bad the year after, but will be in great difficulty by the third year.

Cllr Bennett asks that people are encouraged to take part in the ESCC Core Offer consultation.

Cllr C Marchant asked how do East Sussex compare with other counties across the country? Cllr Bennett: We are determined not to be another Northants – who didn't deal with their situation in time.

When considering the benefits of going unitary – this really wouldn't save enough as the back-office services are already joined up with other authorities.

The county has the oldest per capita population of over 85s in the country, many with complex medical needs – with services that are costly.

The government want ESCC to save £43 million savings over next three years.

Cllr Bennett advises that with the community match scheme there is a small amount of money left in the pot, should we have any projects we would like to put forward.

Team East Sussex has been set up to work with energy and water companies to look at renewable and sustainable energy.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Wealden District Council is looking for nominations for the Chairman's Community Volunteer Awards. The successful nominees will be presented with their awards at the Chairman's annual Civic Reception on Friday 1 March 2019 at Herstmonceux Castle. The three categories for the Community Volunteer Awards 2019 are:

- Community Volunteer Hero (someone who makes an outstanding contribution to running a voluntary group or groups or its beneficiaries).
- Young Volunteer of the Year (under 25 years old).
- Volunteer Group of the Year.

In the first two categories, the winning individual will receive a £100 donation to an organisation of their choice and £25 in gift vouchers. The winner of the group/organisation of the year award will receive a £125 donation to the organisation. Fellow volunteers, employees and local community members are all encouraged to make nominations. We are looking forward to receiving as many as possible. Nominations should say how those nominated have made a difference to the well-being of their community. All details including nomination forms and eligibility conditions can be found on the Chairman's page of the Wealden website:

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Council/Councillors_and_Committees/Chairman_of_the_Council/Democratic_Services_Chairman_of_the_Council.aspx

The deadline for nominations is noon on Thursday 20 December 2018.

6.2 Sussex Police have started the biggest intake of new police officers for over a decade. This has been made possible by the increase in police precept of an average £12 for a band D property, and the PCC releasing £17 million from reserves. It means that over the next four years, Sussex will have 200 more police officers on the front line than it does today.

Although residents are pleased to hear that local policing will be strengthened by these 200 extra officers, they are already indicating that they would like even more. That is why the PCC has opened a survey on her website to gauge potential support for raising more funding locally if the Government lifts the current cap on the police precept. Please take a moment to

make your views known on this link:

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=154038317338>

7. Jubilee Field and verge

Bollards for the verge – update from the meeting with ESCC Traffic Manager Ashley McFaite and Robin Hayward. Cllr Strong was advised that we cannot install the bollards and cannot install a layby. They feel it could make people park on that side and the road would become dangerously narrow for cars coming through.

At Crowhurst they found answer to a similar problem and they put in a car park area – Cllr Strong advised this is something we couldn't afford and spoke about possibility of match funding. This would also require a crossover, which would be equally expensive, and would need the necessary planning permission.

Cllr Luke – we do not wish for a car park. If the school parents parked that side it could cause danger with them crossing the road. The parents are also using the new area within the school area, so the school parking is no longer an issue.

Cllr B Marchant – have seen some dog walkers occasionally parking the Jubilee field side.

Cllr C Marchant – do not feel that a car park would be used enough.

Cllr Strong asked if the general consensus was that we do not want a car park? Cllr C Marchant, Cllr B Marchant and Cllr Luke voiced that they did not want a car park at this location.

Cllr Strong – if we cannot pursue this then maybe we could get ESCC Highways to replace the bollards that were on the bend part of the road and some of which have since been removed.

Cllr Goss – last year we had issue with waste lorries churning up the verge, and an issue with a resident parking at the end of the verge and causing damage. When we first started this project, it was about improving the visual impact of the verge – because it was looking a mess last winter.

Cllr B Marchant – we could put up a polite notice up requesting people not to park on the verge as it is spoiling an area of our village.

If the area was levelled and seeded, some trees planted - then if the area looked better maybe it would prevent people wishing to park there.

Action: Clerk to contact ESCC Highways and ask them to replace the missing bollards on the verge by the bend (both sides of the road) that they originally installed.

Resolved: the parish council unanimously agreed that the way forward would be to improve the verge as best we could, rotavating the area and laying seed, with some temporary posts to keep vehicles/people off of the area whilst the seed took. Work to take place in the Spring.

Action: Clerk to contact Vince Fisher to see if he would be able to undertake this work, or Laughton Agriplant.

8. Jubilee Play Park - No new issues to report

9. Jubilee Garden

9.1 Replacement bench: to decide upon the wording for the carving on the new bench – Cllr Goss. **Resolved:** agreed for the wording to be 1914-1918 LEST WE FORGET 1939 -1945.

Action: Clerk to advise Memorial Benches of our wording choice when send off the payment.

9.2 Update on the works to the oak tree. **Resolved:** the works have been completed and it looks very good – the shape has been maintained and improved. Cllr Goss is very happy with the completed works.

10 Councillor Reports:

10.1 **Village Shop** – update from Cllr O’Hare - nothing to report.

10.2 **Saturday Morning Market:** Update from the market that took place on 2/11/18. Cllr Goss attended, a couple of people spoke to Cllr Goss about Burchetts Farm to move the car repair business – advised that no decision had been made on this planning application yet. *Cllr Tolhurst to attend the 1st December market.*

11. **Footpaths** – update on the closed footpath at Gun Hill (footpath 16). **Ongoing:** The Rights of Way Team at ESCC state that this is a complicated issue, as the path does not appear to follow the mapped route. Further investigations need to be made by ESCC Rights of Way Team, and due to their heavy work load they have been unable to carry this out yet, but is on their schedule to be dealt with, and once further research has been completed, they will make further contact with the landowner.

Cllr Luke has also contacted the Rights of Way team about two issues. A landowner phoned her about one stile that goes onto her land, and she was told she had to put it right, which she has sorted out.

Hoads Wood flooding issue – this is ongoing, and Cllr Luke will chase this up again.

12. Highways

12.1 Burgh Hill Road Village Gateway Signs. **Resolved:** the new signs have been installed satisfactorily, and the invoice is due for payment.

12.2 Fingerpost repairs. **Update:** The fingerpost outside Ash Cottage has been installed. The one outside Little Easterfields is still being repaired.

12.3 Chiddingly Village sign (as you come from Muddles Green) – Cllr Strong. If coming from Muddles green there is no location sign as you come towards Chiddingly. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Highways to request a Chiddingly location sign, either to go on back of the Muddles Green signs or opposite the cricket field where there are speed restriction signs.

12.4 Village car park – pot hole. The area of the pothole is on the car park land, and not the public Highway. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Vince Fisher to arrange this repair.

13 Financial Matters – Clerk

13.1 To approve the Bank reconciliations for October 2018. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the bank reconciliations for the current account to 31st October 2018.

13.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to authorise the accounts payable (cheques 102280 to 102289), as circulated to the parish council prior to the meeting.

13.3 To consider the half year financial report. The parish council discussed and considered the report.

Action: Clerk to update the EMR reserves to gratuity is moved to general funds.

Action: Clerk to move the CIL funds to a separate account in due course.

13.4 To consider the budget setting for 2019-2020. **Resolved:** The Clerk explained the finance documents; including the expenditure spreadsheet and potential precept requests, answering questions about ear marked reserves.

13.5 To agree the precept request for 2019-2020. **Resolved:** The parish council unanimously agreed to request a 2.6% increase from WDC for 2019-2020 which is equivalent to a total of

£992 and would make the precept request £39,130 for 2019-2020. This would mean an approximate increase of just 16p per month on each council tax bill.

14. Community Land Trust – update from Cllr Goss: We have signed a contract with Sussex Community Housing Hub (AiRS and Tom Warder) for technical advice and assistance. We have applied to open a Bank Account (nearly a month ago and are still waiting for confirmation it has been opened).

We are in the middle of a membership recruitment at the moment. A prospectus and application form went out in the Parish Mag at the beginning of November, a delivery of the same out to every house in the Parish is underway, some have gone out, some have yet to, and completed forms have been coming back in. I don't have any figures on our membership to date but will have next month.

There was a pre-app meeting at Willets Farm last week, I have yet to hear anything about how that went. The plan that went in with it was modified slightly from previous versions. It was for two barn conversions (as before) and 14 new-builds (of which 6 are for the CLT). This is an increase of 2 over the previous plan.

Of the six for the CLT these will all be rental properties. The previous idea that some be offered on a shared equity basis was rejected on the grounds of complexity of the contract arrangements required to enable the CLT to retain control in perpetuity. It was also felt that with only six properties splitting them into rental and shared equity would make each part too small for efficient management.

Now that decision has been made, we can push ahead with the business plan to enable us to be ready to discuss terms as and when planning is further advanced.

15. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – to consider the possible expenditure of the CIL funds received from WDC – Cllr Goss. The parish council have received £17,599.78 from WDC in CIL funds. There are quite strict guidelines on what these funds can be spent on. It is to be spent on infrastructure within the parish. The Clerk contacted WDC asked if this could be spent on the village hall refurbishment – and were advised yes it could be used for the toilet refurbishment.

The Village Hall management committee have already requested grants from other organisations, which they are awaiting to hear from.

Deferred: for further consideration at December's parish council meeting.

16. Chiddingly School – update from Cllr C Marchant with regards to the meeting about the proposed artificial grass area. At the end of the playground there is an area of about 16ft long by about 6ft way – and it is very muddy and currently unusable. They wish to put down AstroTurf to make this a usable area alongside the playground. The grant requested is for the purchase of materials for this. The caretaker with help from the parents would provide the labour. **Action:** Clerk to request that the costings for the materials to be provided to the parish council.

17. Review and approval of the Parish Maintenance Contract for 2019-2010 – Cllr Goss/Cllr Strong. This would have the amendment for the grass triangle outside Ash Cottage from the road to drive. **Action:** Clerk to request Vince Fisher to quote for 2019-2020.

18. Review and approval of the Jubilee Field grass cutting contract for 2019-2020 – Cllr Goss/Cllr Strong. **Action:** Clerk to request quote from Barcombe Landscapes – and other contractors if possible.

19. Review and approval of the 2019 meeting dates – including the Annual Assembly date – Cllr Goss. **Resolved:** the meeting dates for 2019-2020 unanimously approved by the parish council.

20. Review and approval of the 2019 Saturday morning market rota – Cllr Goss/Clerk.

Resolved: the Saturday morning market rota unanimously approved by the parish council.

21. Clerks appraisal – update from Cllr Goss. **Resolved:** Cllr Goss gave an overview of the annual appraisal. After last year's appraisal we agreed that the council would fund two extra hours per week on CiLCA. None of these hours have been claimed for payment as the Clerk was unable to take on any more hours during this year, due to additional family commitments as well as her breaking her leg during the quieter time of the parish councils work.

To move forward the Clerk will aim to do 2 extra hours per week during January to March when hopefully there will be a quieter time for the council.

Cllr Goss commented that there has been nothing that the parish council wanted to do that we were prevented to because the Clerk did not have the qualification. As an employer I think we should encourage the Clerk to carry this out, however, this can be reviewed by the new council in May 2019.

22. Planning applications for consideration at the parish council meeting, due to the deadline for consultation responses set by WDC:

22.1 Application: [WD/2018/2170/F](#)

Location: Carewell House, Chalvington Road, Golden Cross, BN27 3SS.

Description: Private sand school.

Chiddingly Parish Council response to Wealden District Council: No objection, recommend approval.

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

ESCC Core Offer consultation

CIL expenditure

School grant application

Remembrance Sunday wreath

Meeting finished at 2115 hours

- *The next planning meeting will take place on 27th November 2018 in Chiddingly Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.*
- *The December parish council meeting and planning meeting will both take place on 18th December 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall, followed by Christmas drinks in the Six Bells – everyone welcome.*