

Chiddingly Parish Council  
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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr B Marchant, Cllr O'Hare, Cllr Richards and Cllr Newham

Four members of the public were present at this meeting.

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from ESCC Cllr Bennett, Cllr Strong, WDC Cllr Watts, Cllr Luke and Tree Warden Andy Barnes.

2. The Chairman invited Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.

Cllr Tolhurst declared a prejudicial interest in respect of grant applications for the Village Hall Management Committee – as he is the Chairman, and so will leave the meeting when this grant application is discussed.

3. Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October 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.*

*A parishioner spoke about the Stonehill House, item 22 on this agenda, the listed building planning application, and referred to the email he had sent to the parish council.*

*The Chairman of the Millennium Sculpture Garden Trust – spoke about the possibility of a community orchard, as had been suggested by the Clerk of the Parish Council in approximately 2009 -2010. MOSAG are now in a different position, as they are in the process of changing to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) of Glebe Field, and would like to pursue the idea of a community orchard on the remaining area of the Glebe Feld. MOSAG envisage it to run along same lines as sculpture garden, and not be financially a drain upon the parish council. MOSAG have promises of money to allow the*

*ground preparation, and purchase of trees, and hope for an endowment style policy to safe guard for future costs.*

*A member of the parish then raised the question 'have you put any written proposals to the parish council? Will these be made available to the public?' Cllr Goss advised the parishioner that he was uncomfortable with releasing third party documents, and suggested that the parishioner asks the MOSAG group directly for the documentation.*

*The meeting resumed at 1945 hours.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Watts (WDC). *Cllr Watts had made apologies for not being able to attend this meeting.*

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC). *Cllr Bennett had made apologies for not being able to attend this meeting.*

6. Correspondence:

**6.1** Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner - would you be willing to pay more to support policing in Sussex? This was aimed at the parish, rather than the parish council so have been forwarded to Ruth McDermott for the Parish Magazine. **Update** from Cllr Goss: this will not be appearing in the parish magazine. **Action:** Clerk to add this item to the parish council website and Facebook page.

**6.2** To review and approve the response produced by Cllr Goss on behalf of the parish council on the following consultation: East Sussex Libraries – The Way Forward is a complete review of the Library and Information Service and is the final part of the wider Libraries Transformation Programme. It is designed to deliver a modern and sustainable library service for the next five years, based on the needs of the people of East Sussex. Further details available on [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/librarystrategy](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/librarystrategy)  
Cllr Goss has since realised that this is a questionnaire aimed more at individuals. **Action:** Clerk to add this item to the parish council website and Facebook page.

## **7. Jubilee Field and verge**

**7.1** Vehicle parked on Jubilee verge – Cllr Goss. The vehicle did move, but has since returned. As a parish council we are limited as to what we can do, but can revisit this issue nearer to the Spring when the verge will need to be cut again.

## **8. Jubilee Play Park**

*Any issues to report?* – Cllr Luke/Cllr Newham. **Update:** No new issues to report.

## **9. Glebe Field**

**9.1** Skate park – to withdraw permission for the Glebe Field to be used as a skate park. Cllr Goss: at the last meeting we saw the response from Mr Moss of WDC Planning Department. Brendon Welsh is not happy to proceed with a planning application for this site, based on this advice, and asked for Cllr Goss to thank the parish council for their support. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision to formally withdraw support for the skate park project on the Glebe Field.

**9.2 MOSAG proposal for Glebe Field** – Cllr Goss advised the meeting that when he, Cllr Richards and the Clerk met with MOSAG during the summer, the idea of a community orchard was mentioned. Cllr Goss advised them at that, whilst this was an interesting idea, it could not be considered whilst the potential skate park project was still proceeding.

The Chairman allowed for Simon Coxhead of MOSAG to speak about the community orchard proposal:

During the last 18 years that we have enjoyed the millennium garden, and would like to protect and enhance this by having a community orchard adjoining the sculpture garden at Glebe Field. The basis of the idea is that community can benefit from the produce. The MOSAG group would like for the lease to be extended to incorporate the remaining area of the Glebe Field. The project would be self-funded, and not a cost to the parish council. The group believe that planting trees would not affect any covenants from the church, but they would intend to write to the church to pass this idea past them. There is also an idea for sheep to graze the area at certain times of the year.

MOSAG have approached Brighton Permaculture Trust for advice. There are potentially some rare species stock that could be used within the orchard. They are also seeking advice on whether the ground would need to be drained. At present there are a few ideas being considered; a mixture of trees to produce a cider mixture which could be sold at the Village Shop, or an open month where parishioners are invited to collect fruit, or another idea where people could sponsor a tree.

MOSAG have a good team in place who have done a great job with the sculpture garden – and would hope to continue this with community orchard. MOSAG are keen to recruit some younger members onto MOSAG.

If this idea was approved by the parish council, then MOSAG would hope to start a new lease from the beginning of September 2018.

Cllr Tolhurst: would just like to mention, during the term of last parish council – power networks were looking at some point in future to run underground cable, this would run along right hand side of Glebe Field, for high voltage line – so maybe this needs to be borne in mind – although nothing has happened on this for many years.

Cllr Newham: asked about public access as would not wish to see this area closed off, and thought maybe a couple of benches could be included.

Cllr B Marchant: how many trees – and how many varieties are you considering? Simon Coxhead – advised that the answer to this is not yet known – they are still seeking expert advice.

MOSAG have a meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November with a representative from Brighton Permaculture Trust – and welcomed anyone from Parish Council to attend should they wish.

The parish council considered this idea and made a vote on the idea of pursuing this project and to support the idea of this project to be investigated further. 6 members of the parish voted in support, and one member of the parish voted against.

The MOSAG group will return to the parish council at the December meeting with a more detailed proposal.

**Action:** Clerk to seek advice on the current lease and see if it would be possible to extend/alter the lease.

*(The solicitor who dealt with the previous lease was Marion Wilcox)*

*2 members of public left meeting at 2015 hours.*

## **10. Councillor Reports:**

**10.1 Village Shop** – Cllr O’Hare – nothing new to report.

**10.2 Saturday Morning Market** – Cllr Tolhurst – nothing new to report.

Cllr C Marchant will attend on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.

## **11 Footpaths**

11.1 Any new issues to report – Cllr Luke – *was not present at this meeting.*

11.2 Map of parish area with footpath details overlaid – Cllr Goss: advised the meeting that the Parish Online mapping site did overlay the footpaths, but not the footpaths number!

However, Cllr Goss has found a map on ESCC Rights of Way website – showing the map of footpaths with the footpath numbers. **Action:** Cllr Goss to circulate this to all members of the parish.

**12 Highways** – Cllr Newham: no new issues to report

## **13. Village Car Park**

**13.1** Noticeboard repairs – Cllr Newham – will hopefully be able to give an update at the next meeting.

## **14 Defibrillators**

**14.1** Gun Hill – update from the Clerk. The defibrillator at the Gun is now placed within the refurbished telephone kiosk outside of the Gun – and is available 24/7. **Action:** Clerk to speak with Manager at the Pub re weekly checks. If they are unable, speak to Mrs Cameron to see if she would be willing to assist with the checks.

## **15. Financial Matters – Clerk**

**15.1** To approve the Bank reconciliations for October 2017. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the bank reconciliations for October 2017.

**15.2** To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve payments, cheques 102176 to 102182 totalling £3,516 plus VAT.

**15.3** Confirmation of funds received from Unity Trust into Barclays current account. **Noted.**

**15.4** To consider the grant applications received. The parish council considered each of the grant applications individually.

*Cllr Tolhurst left the meeting whilst the Village Hall application was considered.*

Chiddingly Village Hall Management Committee - the parish council agreed, unanimously, to pay £2,000 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Chiddingly WI – the parish council agreed, unanimously, to pay £150 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Chiddingly Parish Magazine the parish council agreed, unanimously, to pay £503.75 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Kent, Sussex, Surrey Air Ambulance the parish council agreed, unanimously, to agree to pay £250 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Chiddingly Cricket Club the parish council reached a majority vote to pay £1250 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Wealden's Citizen Advice Bureau the parish council agreed, unanimously, to pay £200 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

The Samaritans the parish council agreed, unanimously, to agree to pay £150 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Brownies the parish council agreed, unanimously, to agree to pay £250 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

Chiddingly School Association - the parish council agreed, unanimously, to agree to pay £448 as a parish council grant for the financial period of 2018-2019.

**15.5** To consider the budget examples circulated by the Clerk.

The parish council considered the grant examples provided by the Clerk, along with the decisions to pay the above grants.

**Resolved:** The parish council agreed unanimously to go with budget example 1. This budget considered the expenditure made during the 2016-2017 financial year as well as the expenditure during the first 6 months of this financial year, the grants to be paid, and to cover an additional 2 hours of work by the Clerk each week, so that she could work on the CiLCA qualification.

This would require a precept of £38,138. This is an increase of £5,691 on last years precept requirement. This equates to an increase of 98 pence per home per month.

**16** Possible extension of the school car park – Cllr Goss advised the meeting of the email that he sent to the Headteacher following our October 2017 parish council meeting. Cllr Goss has not yet had a response from this.

**17** Community Land Trust – Resolve to allow the Clerk to attend the public meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, and make notes, as part of her paid parish council hours. Cllr Goss

**Resolved:** The parish council agreed to allow for the Clerk to attend the public meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, to take notes, as part of her paid parish council hours.

**18** Parish Council website – Cllr Goss. **Resolved:** The website is now live. Website and email hosting is now with ICUK Ltd. The domain name will also be moved.

**19** Clerks Appraisal – resolve for the parish council to agree 2 hours of work per week for the Clerk to start work on CiLCA qualification – from January 2018. This would then cause an increase in the salary figures and subsequently the precept request. **Resolved:** the parish council reached a unanimous decision to approve this.

**20** Meeting dates for 2018 – to resolve to agree the dates for the parish council and planning meetings for 2018. **Resolved:** the parish council approved the meeting dates for 2018.

**21** Saturday morning market rota – resolve to agree the rota for 2018. **Action:** Clerk to revise the rota, to only include Cllr's Goss, B Marchant, C Marchant and Tolhurst.

**22** Planning application for consideration:

Application: [WD/2017/2383/F](#) and [WD/2017/2384/LB](#)

Location: Stonehill House, Stonehill, TN21 0JN.

Description: Demolition of 1930s utility and laundry room extensions and 20<sup>th</sup> century garden room, New kitchen and glazed link extension. New basement under new kitchen and glazed link. Remodelling and alteration work to interior.

The parish council discussed this application at length, considering the visual impact and the mixture of historic and modern design within one dwelling. The parish council felt that the contrast of this design could be done so more sympathetically.

Members of the parish did not feel sufficiently qualified to make the decision of either recommend approval or object to this application – but would rather be guided by the conservation officers report.

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

Glebe Field – Community Orchard

Bus shelters

Speeding Traffic

The meeting closed at 2141 hours

- *The next planning meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> November at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *In December – both the parish council and planning meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, starting 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall, followed by Christmas drinks in the Six Bells.*