

Chiddingly Parish Council
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17th October 2018

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 16th October 2018 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Richards, Cllr Newham, 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 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 15 of these minutes, as he Chairman of the Chiddingly CLT Limited.

Cllr Tolhurst declared a prejudicial interest in respect of item 14 on this agenda as he is Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. *Cllr Tolhurst will leave the hall when this item is discussed.*

Cllr Newham declared a personal interest in respect of item 18.1 of this agenda as he is friends with the applicant.

3. Minutes of 18th September 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 1933 hours for members of the public to speak: Steve Tolhurst spoke in connection with the Village Hall toilet refurbishment fundraising and the current grant applications.
Meeting reconvened at 1939 hours.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 18th September 2018 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1 Cllr David Watts (WDC). *Not present at this meeting but provided the following report prior to the Chairman prior to the meeting: The waste contract and collection of bins remains an issue. There were a considerable amount of bins missed for collection across the whole of Wealden. The Kier contract continues to be monitored very closely and Wealden are taking them to tasks over their performance issues. Other contractors have been approached to step in and has happened a couple of times. The main issue is that they cannot get drivers to drive the trucks and when some of them are off sick or do not turn up for work then the missed bin collection is the result. Sadly, a poor performance. It has been noted that many Cllr's have raised concerns over the contract including myself and that we want a more robust and better service. Watch this space.*

Just as a point of note voluntary groups can apply for Community grants from WDC.

It may be worthwhile in mentioning this and people can see the criteria and find out more by going to: wealden.gov.uk/communitygrants

Extended mandatory licensing of houses in multiple occupancy- New legislation 1/10/2018 removes the previous 3 storey rule - it will bring smaller privately rented properties into the licensing regime. It may not affect many in our immediate area but is worth noting.

5.2 Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC): ESCC have submitted a response to WDC about the Local Plan

– ESCC have put in some objections because of the high numbers of homes and the impact this will have on the infrastructure. It is very significant with traffic movements – particularly in Hailsham. There have also been some questions about the infrastructure levies and how money will be distributed by WDC.

Budget – ESCC been lobbying very hard about the requested £46 million savings. ESCC have had their funds cut so far that they can now only carry out their statutory duties.

There have been talks about a merger within district councils, but Cllr Bennett does not feel that this is the right time to consider this – as the savings are little but would be a great impact on people with redundancies.

Cllr Newham asked about the table outside the Six Bells. Cllr Bennett explained that this has been considered to be a safety issue and has not yet seen anything to confirm that the area belongs to the pub, and not the Highways department.

Cllr Newham explained his frustrations that the contact at Highways dealing with the issue hasn't seemed to listen to all of the facts about this case, and also when considering the bollards for the verge outside Jubilee Field. What can we do next? Cllr Bennett advised that the parish council can write to ESCC Director or himself to request a review. **Action:** Cllr Goss to write a letter to ESCC requesting a formal review.

Cllr Richards – why did the Nash Street resurfacing works take place during hours of the night? No works carried out during the day despite the road being closed. All equipment was left on site in day. **Action:** Cllr Bennett will find out why this happened at night.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Response from the two questions put to the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.

There was an opportunity to put questions to the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Cllr Goss and Cllr Richards both submitted questions.

Cllr Goss asked about the costs of having the Police & Crime Commissioner. The cost is £1.286 million annually to run the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Richards asked about the number of senior officers compared to number of PCs on the ground. The answer was Sussex Police were in line with the other 42 police forces in the Country, and no disproportionately within the ranks.

The full response is on the parish council website.

6.2 Window Wanderland Arts Trail: Applications are now open for neighbourhoods in our area to apply to the award-winning Window Wanderland arts trail. Backed by the Arts Council and featured on [The One Show](#) and in the Sunday Times, Window Wanderland is a mid-winter arts festival where front windows become galleries and communities get creative. They can help communities apply for grants to hold this festival - The Big Lottery has just awarded Swindon £6,000 to hold a Wanderland. More information is on their website www.windowwanderland.com

6.3 ESCC Highways are looking for residents of East Sussex to join their Highways Customer Panel. The survey, which is sent via email twice a year, will ask for your views on the service that they provide and will help them make improvements based on the feedback given.

If you would be interested in joining, then please sign-up here: <http://eepurl.com/dtHTXr> You can unsubscribe from the panel at any time. More information on the Highways Customer Panel can be found here: <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/highways-customer-panel>

Update: this has gone into the parish magazine, and on the parish council website.

7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Bollards for the verge – as discussed at item 5.2, Cllr Bennett is going to see if anymore can be done about this. **Action:** Cllr Goss to write to ESCC Cllr Bennett for a formal review.

8. Jubilee Play Park

8.1 Grass cutting within the park area. **Resolved:** Vince Fisher had been off of work with a back injury. The grass has now been cut.

9. Jubilee Garden

9.1 Replacement bench: to consider the options/prices for either a teak or oak replacement bench.

Resolved: the parish council reached a unanimous decision to order Sandhurst 3- seater bench. Consideration will be given for carving message.

9.2 Update on the application/work required for the oak tree. **Resolved:** WDC have granted permission for the works to take place. Tree Surgeon Jon Hounsell has scheduled for these works to take place on 13th November 2018.

10 Councillor Reports:

10.1 **Village Shop** – Bob Harvey spoke to Cllr O'Hare about the potholes near to the village shop.

10.2 **Saturday Morning Market:** Update from Cllr B Marchant – nothing of significance to report.

Cllr Goss to attend the November market.

11. Footpaths

11.1 Stream Farm – Update from Cllr Goss: the application for the footpath has been granted and an order has been made.

12. Highways

12.1 Village Gateway Signs – progress update. **Ongoing:** the request for works has been submitted to ESCC, we are now awaiting a date from their Contractor as to when it will happen.

12.2 Fingerpost repairs – update on repairs to the fingerpost outside Ash Cottage, Muddles Green. Also, the fingerpost by Little Easterfields, Chiddingly Road has an arm missing.

Resolved: parish council unanimously agreed to retrospectively approve the work to the fingerpost at Little Easterfields.

12.3 Bench outside the Six Bells – **Action:** Cllr Goss will write to ESCC Cllr Bennett about this and the Jubilee Verge.

12.4 Resurfacing work at Gun Hill/Nash Street – this has been reported to Cllr Bennett and he will try to find out why the works were completed at night.

12.5 Stalkers Lane repairs/resurfacing – update from the Clerk: despite the fact that was reported in 2015 the works are not scheduled until the next financial year - and even this is unconfirmed. Highways have said that whilst they appreciate this lane is in a poor condition, the financial constraints on the county council mean that this road does not meet the criteria to be resurfaced any sooner.

12.6 Tractors travelling at speed along the lanes – update from Cllr Goss: a parishioner reported a near miss with another vehicle when trying to get out of the way of a speeding tractor.

Cllr Goss emailed a local contractor about this and did receive a reply. All drivers instructed to drive responsibly. Have since seen tractors driving more slowly. **Action:** If any future incidents are seen then need to encourage people to report to Op Crackdown, Sussex Police.

13 Financial Matters – Clerk

13.1 To approve the Bank reconciliations for September 2018. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the bank reconciliations for the current account and savings account to 30th September 2018.

13.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to authorise payments of cheques numbered 102273 to 102279, as circulated on the payment list.

13.3 To set a date for the finance working party to meet to discuss 2019-2020 budget setting. **Resolved:** finance working party to take place on Thursday 8th November at 7.30 p.m. at Cllr C Marchants house.

14. Grants. To consider the grant applications received, and the amounts to be awarded during the financial year of 2019-2020.

Cllr Tolhurst left the meeting whilst the application for the Village Hall toilet refurbishment was considered. Cllr Tolhurst returned to meeting once this item had been decided upon.

The parish council considered each of the grant applications, their reasons for requesting the grant, and the amount of grant to be awarded. The following decisions were made:

1st Chiddingly Rainbow, Brownies & Guides – the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £300 for the period of 2019-2020.

Chiddingly Parish Church – Parish Magazine – the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £503.75 for the period of 2019-2020.

Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £250 for the period of 2019-2020.

Chiddingly Village Hall (toilet refurbishment) - the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £1800 for the period of 2019-2020.

Chiddingly School Association – the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award up to £1000 – but will need to seek clarification from SSALC about rules and regulations for what the grant can be used to pay for. **Action:** Clerk to speak to SSALC

Chiddingly Primary School (artificial grass area) – as a school the parish council would need to purchase materials and donate them to the school, rather than give a grant for the whole project. The parish council would like to know more about this project, but in principal agreed to donate up to £750 worth of materials. **Action:** Clerk to ask Paul Herdman, Chiddingly School to contact Cllr C Marchant to arrange a site visit to discuss this project in further detail.

Chiddingly Community Shop - the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £100 for the period of 2019-2020 for the purchase of a new sunshade.

Wealden Citizen Advice Bureau - the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £200 for the period of 2019-2020.

Chiddingly Cricket Club - the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £750 for the period of 2019-2020, for the renovation of the area to the rear of the Pavilion, as detailed in their grant application form.

The Samaritans - the parish council reached a unanimous decision to award £150 for the period of 2019-2020.

15. Community Land Trust – update from Cllr Goss: the CLT are awaiting new plans from Tony Penrose in advance of his pre-application meeting with WDC in November.

The CLT are preparing for leaflet drop and membership drive in November. Ownership of a share £1 will allow one vote at the AGM and to elect board.

The CLT has also been in contact with newly formed CLT in Hailsham and East Hoathly.

Two members of the CLT attended the CLT conference last week which was quite interesting.

16. Clerks appraisal – to set a date for the appraisal with Cllr Goss and one other Cllr.

Resolved: the appraisal will be held with Cllr Goss and Cllr B Marchant at 1000 hours on 29th October 2018 at Cllr Goss home.

17. Triangle outside of Ash Cottage, Muddles Green – to consider the idea of having a bench put on the grass, and future grass cutting of this area – Cllr Tolhurst/Cllr Goss. **Resolved:** the parish council agreed that this grass needs to be cut – along with the other verges within the parish that we maintain.

Action: Clerk to change the maintenance contract for next year to reflect the additional grass cutting. Grass to be cut is between the driveway and the road. The parish council are in favour of a bench to be placed there. **Action:** Cllr Tolhurst will look into this.

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

18.1 Application: [WD/2018/2003/F](#)

Location: Oast Park Farm, Scrapers Hill, Chiddingly.

Description: Proposed two storey rear extension to the Oast and additional window to side elevation of outbuildings (resubmission of application WD/2017/2397/F).

Chiddingly Parish Council response to Wealden District Council: The parish council recommend approval for this application subject to a satisfactory heritage impact assessment being submitted.

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

- CIL expenditure

- Half yearly financial report
 - Budget setting and precept request
 - Parish maintenance contract to be reviewed
 - Bench engraving
 - Cllr C Marchant report on the school plans for their artificial grass area.
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- *The next planning meeting will take place on 23rd October 2018 in Chiddingly Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.*
 - *The next parish council meeting will take place on 20th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Chiddingly Village Hall.*