

Chiddingly Parish Council
www.chiddingly.gov.uk

Chairman

Mike Goss
1 Thunders Hill Cottages
Nash Street
Chiddingly
East Sussex BN27 4AE
Tel: 01825 872016
e-mail: mike.goss@citta.co.uk

Clerk

Claudine Feltham
1 West View
High Street
Horam
TN21 0EZ
Tel: 01435 810439 (home)
e-mail: clerk@chiddingly.gov.uk

18th October 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 17th October 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Goss (Chairman), Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr Strong, Cllr O' Hare, Cllr Richards, Cllr Newham, WDC Cllr Watts and ESCC Cllr Bennett.

Five members of the public were present at this meeting.

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Luke and Tree Warden Andy Barnes.

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

No declarations of interest declared were made.

3. Minutes of 19th September 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 t 1931 hours for one member of public to speak about item 21 on this agenda. The meeting reconvened at 1933 hours.

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 19th September 2017 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

There were no reports.

5. Councillor Reports:

5.1. Cllr Watts (WDC). Cllr Watts introduced himself to the parish council and spoke of a letter from Kelvin Williams (WDC Planning) about the emerging local plan; and the current inability for WDC to be able to approve or refuse some planning applications. This is because of the Ashdown Forest and nitrogen deposits issue, as well as the Pevensey Levels drainage issues. WDC are still awaiting further information to come back. As of last Friday, they anticipated that they would be waiting upon information until the end of November. 16th January 2018 is going to be earliest time that the larger building projects can be reviewed.

5.2. Cllr Nick Bennett (ESCC). Spoke about item 6.1 of this agenda – Stand Up For East Sussex – a campaign against the cuts being faced by East Sussex. Cllr Bennett encouraged Cllrs to look at the campaign – which is going on across the country. ESCC are looking to make saving of £18 million next year, and £30 million the following year. If this continues then ESCC will be forced to use their contingency funding. This is not a party-political campaign, it is essential to maintain services. Currently the policies and strategies consider prevention and forward planning. If this is cut then there will be no preventative work, it will be remedial work and crisis management. Cllr Watts asked about other services that may be affected – for example the library service. Cllr Watts cannot understand why they would want to get rid of mobile library services and well as library buildings. Cllr Bennett advised that 7 libraries and the mobile service is what is being considered. They need for the consultation to take place so that decisions can be made.

*Item 21 was bought forward to this part of the meeting for consideration.
Item 9 was then discussed.*

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Stand Up For East Sussex – campaign against the cuts being faced by east Sussex. [Stand up for East Sussex - Education](#) [Stand up for East Sussex - Jobs and Economy](#) [Stand up for East Sussex- Transport](#) There is a petition for people to sign: <https://www.change.org/p/please-help-east-sussex-by-signing-the-petition-to-the-prime-minister-for-fairer-funding-standupforeastsussex>

Cllr Goss – this is an online petition for fairer funding. **Action:** Cllr Goss encouraged members of the parish council to consider signing the petition.

6.2. 2017 Wealden Parish Conference will take place on Wednesday 6th December at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall. Spaces will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and the cost will be £30 per delegate. All Town and Parish Council Clerks, Chairmen and Councillors are welcome. **Update:** Cllr Goss and the Clerk will attend this conference. If anyone else wishes to attend, please advise the Clerk.

6.3 Sussex Community Housing Hub – Launch Invitation. Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) are launching a new service this autumn, to empower communities to develop and manage their own housing projects, and to increase the quality and supply of community-led, affordable housing in Sussex. The Sussex Community Housing Hub (the Hub) is an enabling service which provides technical advice and support to community-led housing groups across East and West Sussex. Community-led housing is developed and managed by local people to maximise community benefits such as local affordability and good design. AiRS would like to invite you to their special launch event with expert speakers, short films, networking opportunities and much more. Herstmonceux Village Hall, Thursday 30th November from 2pm-5pm. This is a free event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sussex-community-housing-hub-launch-east-sussex-tickets-38035013750?aff=es2>

Update: Cllr Strong and Cllr Goss have booked to attend this event– and if anyone else wishes to attend then if they could please contact the Clerk who deal with the booking for you.

6.4 East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan Review and draft East Sussex Statement of Community Involvement.

Through the Authorities' monitoring, it has been established that the allocated sites may not be able to supply sufficient minerals between now and 2026 to support currently planned development. Consequently, the Authorities have committed to undertake a review of the Plan. At this time, the Authorities are undertaking a public call for evidence and sites to inform the scope of the review. In particular, the consultation is seeking minerals sites to be submitted for consideration for inclusion within the Waste and Minerals Local Plan and evidence relating to the supply, demand and safeguarding of minerals in the Plan Area. Full details of the consultation can be found in the Call for Evidence and Sites Explanatory Note. The County Council has also prepared a revised Statement of Community Involvement which incorporates changes to legislation and best practice. The statement sets out how the Council will undertake consultation when preparing waste and minerals planning documents and determining planning applications. Full details of both consultations can be found at <http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk> The deadline for both consultations is Monday 20 November 2017. **Update:** Cllr Newham and/or Cllr Goss will take a further look at this.

6.5 Wealden District Council – Herstmonceux Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16

Herstmonceux Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Plan covering the parish of Herstmonceux. They have now published a draft version of the plan and a sustainability appraisal for consultation. The consultation is open for a statutory period of 6 weeks, from **25th September 2017 until 6th November 2017** after which all comments will be assessed and changes made to the Plan where appropriate. If you would like to make representations, please complete a representation form and return it to nplans@wealden.gov.uk Please follow this link to access the Draft Plan and supporting documents;

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Planning_and_Building_Control/Planning_Policy/NeighbourhoodPlanning/Planning_Neighbourhood_Planning.aspx

Update: Cllr Goss: Chiddingly Parish Council are currently not going down this route but encouraged Cllrs to look on the above links.

6.6 On 19th September 2017 ESCC Cabinet will consider a recommendation to consult with the public on the draft Strategy for the future of East Sussex Libraries. 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

Update: Information received back from ESCC Library service is that the Chiddingly Mobile library service has an average 6 visitors at each attendance– 95 visits were made at this stop during 2016. **Action:** All Cllrs are requested to look at this consultation, and consider what points they would like to make. Cllr Goss will draw up a draft response to be approved at November's Parish Council meeting

7. Jubilee Field and verge

7.1 Consideration quotes for the grass cutting contractor for 2018-2019 period – The Clerk. Six contractors were contacted and requested to quote for this contract. Two declined the invitation, two did not reply, and quotes were received from Vince Fisher and Barcombe Landscapes. Quotes:

Vince Fisher: 8 cuts per annum £280

Barcombe Landscapes 8 cuts per annum £400

Resolved: The parish council reached a unanimous decision to offer the contract of cutting Jubilee verge to Vince Fisher for next year. **Action:** Clerk to contact Vince Fisher and Barcombe Landscapes of this decision. Barcombe Landscapes will be requested to continue with the cutting of Jubilee Field.

7.2 Vehicle parked on Jubilee verge – Cllr Goss. **Update:** We cannot stop someone parking on the verge, we have asked several times and explained our concerns over the vehicle possibly being damaged by contractor. **Action:** Cllr Goss will speak with the owner of the vehicle and talk to him again. **Action:** Clerk to write a letter requesting vehicle to be moved – including a disclaimer about possible damage when the verge is being cut.

8. Jubilee Play Park

Any issues to report? **Update:** no issues to report at this time.

9. Skate Park

9.1 WDC pre-application advice request – **Update** from Cllr Strong; received the details from Brendon Welsh and attended the site to conduct a survey of the site. The details were sent to Doug Moss at WDC planning and requested that he consider the information and provide his opinion. Unfortunately, Doug Moss was as unable to give a response by the time of this meeting. Cllr Strong suggested we discuss this next Tuesday at our planning committee.

Resolved: this will be considered on 24th October at the parish planning meeting.

10. Councillor Reports:

10.1 Village Shop – Cllr O'Hare – had an enquiry about potholes. Cllr Goss said in future to advise them to report specific details to the parish council and to the Highways online reporting system.

10.2 Saturday Morning Market – Cllr Goss attended the last meeting and no issues to report. Cllr Tolhurst volunteered to attend Novembers Saturday morning market.

11 Footpaths

11.1 No new issues to report.

11.2 Map of numbered footpaths within the parish area – Clerk.

Cllr Tolhurst has collected the set of maps from the church – these will be stored at the Village Hall in the parish council cupboard.

Enquiries were also made with Parish Online Mapping. ESCC had the footpath information in digital form, this data has been passed to Parish Online, with the view of creating an overlay map. Parish Online will complete this work as soon as they have the opportunity.

12 Highways

12.1 Meeting planned for 17th October 2017 with Cllr Newham, Dale Poore, Contracts Manager, Mathew Jasper Asset Team Manager and John Godfrey our Area Steward – **Update** from Cllr Newham. Mr Poore was unable to attend the meeting, but the meeting was held with his deputy (Mat Jasper) – who was very helpful, and the Highways Steward. Cllr Newham was unsure if previously our issues, beyond that of potholes, were being put to the right people (Contracts Team). Cllr Newham gave them a map with defects marked, and had a tour of the parish area. Our main priority Nash Street/Gun Hill is now down for surface dressing works – and the worst parts will be dug down and replaced. A date/timescale could not be given. Stalkers Lane subsidence was also considered – and works have been requested for this location. 3 vicious potholes at top of Scrapers Hill were reported and they are now the agenda to be done.

Whilst driving around the lanes in the Highways vehicles, the vehicle was grounded twice in Swansbrook Lane; the work on this lane is now being moved up the priority list.

Cllr Newham also raised the concerns over the new crematorium at Horam increasing the traffic on our roads.

An email was received during the afternoon of 17/10/17 from Highways (Mat Jasper) confirming this is as follows:

'We have requested the maintenance design team look to extend the scheme on Gun Hill from the pub down to the A22 including Nash Street and they are looking redesigning the scheme with a more targeted approach in mind so we can get the entirety upgraded for you rather than just the top section from the Gun pub to the junction of Stonehill.

I have requested the works to the entrance of Smithlands lane and the worst areas of subsidence of Stalkers lane.

Further to our drive around Jon will raise defects against the remaining areas we discussed and the Safety intervention defects will be repaired.

Those defects in close proximity to intervention defects which do not qualify we will try to arrange for repairs together to save costs. (John if you could advise me of the case references when raised)

Further defects that are not intervention will feed into our data for consideration of future works'

13. Village Car Park

13.1 Noticeboard on recycling centre fence: the left-hand panel (Perspex) is now broken and needs replacing – **update** from Cllr Newham: have affected a temporary repair to stop water entering the noticeboard and will deal with a more permanent repair as soon as time allows.

14 Defibrillators

14.1 Refurbishment telephone kiosk at Gun Hill – update from the Clerk. The telephone kiosk has now been refurbished. This telephone box was overgrown on three sides, and much soil had built up around it – so it was a lot of hard work for the volunteers. The electrician has been contacted to arrange installation of the cabinet – which will be done within next week.

Action: Cllr Goss to write a letter of thanks to the volunteers.

15. Financial Matters – Clerk

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

15.2 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** The parish council unanimously agreed to approve cheques 102167 to 102175 totalling £1394.90. The Clerk also advised members of the parish council that one cheque was omitted during Septembers meeting (error of the Clerk) for Simon Goodwin for the website design, expenditure that had previously been authorised by the parish council.

15.3 Close of Unity Trust Accounts – Cllr Goss – **Update:** The Unity Trust accounts have now been closed and the funds will be transferred to the parish councils Barclays current account. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed that these funds should then be transferred to the parish council saving account with Barclays.

15.4 Finance working party. Date for this meeting set for 1st November 2017, to take place at Cllr Luke home address. **Action:** Cllr Tolhurst, Cllr C Marchant, Cllr Luke and Clerk to attend this meeting.

16 Possible extension of the school car park –Resolve to offer to the school the purchase of materials, as suggested by Cllr Strong.

Update: Chris Forsey, the volunteer from the school, provided a rough specification approximately 6 months ago. He came back to Cllr Strong more recently with a revised

specification. They intend to put in a hard drive way and then mesh for the grass for the vehicles to park on – for twelve cars.

Discussions have taken place over the specification, and Cllr Strong believes the specification is more relevant to urban areas. On the specification provided by Chris Forsey it would cost approximately £9,500 in materials. On Cllr Strong's specification, it would be more like £8,500. The parish council need to ensure that the remaining costs (plant hire and labour) will be able to be met by the school. This is likely to be 2 or 3 times the costs of the materials.

Cllr Strong raised the query that did the parish council want to commit the money to something that will not be a parish asset – it will be an asset of East Sx County Council, all the while I will not entirely alleviate the parking on the road outside the school.

Cllr Richards suggested that maybe the teaching staff could be advised to use the new parking area and the lower car park area be for parents.

Cllr Strong also spoke of the possibility of having a car park on the Jubilee Field. A parking area for approximately 30 cars would cost about £12,000 plus the costs of creating a crossover. This could then be an asset of the parish, not just the school.

Cllr Newham raised his concerns over children crossing the road and this being the wrong use of Jubilee Field.

Action: Cllr Goss to write to the school to see if they would be willing to make the parking available for the parishioners (out of school hours). Also, to request a final specification on the materials to be used, as well as details on how the labour and plant hire costs would be met by the school. Once all the details have been received by the parish council then parish council can consider paying all or part of the material costs.

The original idea of creating a parking area on the Jubilee Field can be considered on the parish council agenda at another time, if required.

17 School parking survey – Cllr Goss.

Cllr Luke attended in the morning and counted 20 vehicles parked outside of the school, but the majority were gone by 0905 hours.

Cllr Strong attended during the afternoon and there were 17-19 vehicles parked outside – as opposed to 23-27 when he previously looked.

Cllr Newham – counted 20 vehicles parked outside.

18 Willets Farm – update from Cllr Goss. **Update:** Cllr Goss has asked Tony Penrose when he expects to have the planning application ready to submit to WDC, and it is anticipated to be Spring 2018.

19 Community Land Trust (CLT) – Cllr Goss. **Update:** The Village Hall is booked for 23rd November at 7.30 p.m. for a public meeting to introduce the idea of a CLT and see how much support it is likely to get, and to recruit a steering group to form the CLT. Tom Warder from AiRS will be in attendance to answer any questions.

Cllr Newham asked if there were any other volunteers from the parish council, and offered to assist if required. Cllr Goss advised that there was one other volunteer from the parish council. Cllr Goss has asked Tom Warder; could someone that would possibly be a benefit from having a CLT property be on the steering group – the answer was yes. Tom Warder advised that a CLT must be careful to demonstrate that the process is fair for tenants etc.

Action: the parish council agreed to pay for three posters from Signs of Style to help promote this event within the parish. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

20 Parish Council website – Clerk. No changes have been requested by the Cllrs. A suggestion was made for there to be an advice/link on how members of the public should report Highways issues to ESCC Highways department. **Action:** Clerk to update the new website. **Action:** Cllr Goss to make the necessary technical arrangements with the new host and deal with the transfer onto the new website.

21 **Planning Application for consultation – [WD/2017/2088/MAJ](#)**

Location: Hale Farm, Hale Green, Chiddingly, BN8 6HQ

Description: Permanent retention of existing 40 pitch eco-campsite and its existing associated amenities.

Response from Chiddingly Parish Council to Wealden District Council: Chiddingly Parish Council discussed this planning application at length. The site is currently on a three-year licence, and this application is to turn the site into a permanent one. WDC approached the owners to put the application in now. The parish council considered the additional traffic movements that this site may cause as well as the facilities for use of the campers / waste etc. There are composting toilets on site, and these would continue to be used. General waste is removed by a contractor. There will be no increase to the number of pitches, and no intention for caravans to use the site. Cllr Goss, the Clerk and WDC Cllr Watts have also visited the site and felt that it was kept in very good order, and not at all over crowded. The parish council reached a unanimous decision to **recommend approval** for this application.

22 Any items for inclusion on next month's agenda:

- Library consultation – response from the parish council
- Vehicle parked on the Jubilee verge
- Grant applications
- Update from Finance working party
- Consideration of 2018/2019 budget

Meeting closed at 2110 hours.

- *The planning meeting will be held on 24th October 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*
- *The next parish council meeting will be held on 21st November 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*