

Chiddingly Parish Council  
[www.chiddingly.gov.uk](http://www.chiddingly.gov.uk)

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20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Minutes of Chiddingly Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.

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

Three members of the public were present at this meeting.

*Prior to the meeting starting proper Cllr Goss remembered a previous parish councillor Linda Fittal who sadly has passed away. Cllr Goss would like to send condolences from the parish council to her husband Dave, children Connor and Holly and their families.*

1. Apologies and Reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from WDC Cllr Watts, Cllr B Marchant and Cllr C Marchant 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 18<sup>th</sup> July 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 not suspended as no members of the public wished to speak.*

4. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> July 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 advised that ESCC had a cabinet meeting today and there was one item on the agenda which relates to libraries. The consultation will be made public soon – with the suggestion that 24 libraries are reduced to 17. The larger libraries subject to consideration are: Ore Valley, Ringmer and Polegate. The mobile

library services are also under scrutiny. Cllr Bennett requested any comments be passed to himself or for people to respond to the consultation.

Cllr Goss advised Cllr Bennett that we had set up the SLR meeting. We were pleased with the meeting, but not so happy with the results since as were still having issues with trying to contact the right people in the Client/Asset Team. Cllr Bennet advised he had seen the emails sent by the Clerk and today had already asked one of the Managers to make contact.

#### 6. Correspondence:

**6.1 Correspondence from MOSAG** with regards to the Glebe Field and potential skate park. Cllr Goss advised those present that all Councillors had seen the correspondence with MOSAG since July. Cllr Strong had spoken to WDC Planning – and this item would be discussed in further details during item 9 of this agenda.

**6.2 East Sussex ALC Annual General Meeting and Autumn Conference.** An invitation for our appointed members to the East Sussex ALC AGM. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017. ‘The View’ Seaford Head Golf Course, 121 Southdown Road, Seaford, BN25 4JS. The AGM is free of charge. The Autumn conference will immediately follow the close of the AGM. The cost for the conference is £40 + VAT per delegate. **Resolved:** Cllr Tolhurst and Cllr Goss are the appointed members to attend, both have viewed the agenda and made the decision not to attend on this occasion. Apologies have been sent to East Sussex ALC.

**6.3 Sussex Police District Surgeries.** This is an opportunity for councillors to discuss any local problems with Insp Tony Wakefield of Wealden Neighbourhood Policing Team. Appointments are in 1 hour slots, booked on a first come first served basis. Dates/times offered:

26/9	10am	11am.	18/10	12pm	1pm	26/10	2pm	3pm
3/11	1pm	2pm	6/11	12pm	1pm	14/11	10am	11am
22/11	1pm	2pm						

**Resolved:** the parish do not have any issues that they wish to report to the police at this time, so will not request an appointment.

#### **6.4 Wealden District Council have notified us of these major events coming up in 2018.**

The Chairman of Wealden District Council is keen to support as many local events as possible so requests for us to contact them if we would like him to come along and support any events/attend any remembrance services within our parish area:

##### **Suffragettes Centenary 1918-2018**

There is a suffragette’s project that aims to identify and celebrate the lives of 100 women and men who were active in the campaign for extending the vote to all women and who went on to use their extended rights of citizenship in a positive way in their local areas.

<http://www.suffrage-pioneers.net/>

##### **Armistice 100**

The centenary of the end of WW1 is an opportunity for reflection, commemoration and celebration.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/>

##### **RAF 100**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 marks the centenary of the creation of the Royal Air Force – born out of the Royal Flying Corps that served with such distinction in the latter part of WW1.

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/raf100>

**Resolved:** The parish council were made aware of the above events and were invited to look at the web links for further information. If anyone wished to arrange an event in connection with the above then they should make this aware at the next parish council meeting.

**6.5 South East Water Draft Drought** Consultation is open until 29<sup>th</sup> October. The relevant documents can be found at: [southeastwater.co.uk/droughtplan](http://southeastwater.co.uk/droughtplan)

**Resolved:** Cllr Goss advised those present that this consultation is now open, and invited members of the parish council to respond directly, should they wish to.

**6.6 Wealden Local Plan Update** - as circulated to the parish council.

**6.7 The fouling of land by dogs.** Wealden District Council's current Dog Control Order, The Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2013, is coming to an end shortly. The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 has provided the Council with powers to replace the 2013 order with a Public Spaces Protection Order. WDC are therefore proposing to make a Public Spaces Protection Order covering the whole of Wealden. The requirements of the Order are the same as those in place currently. The signage, penalties and methods of dealing with the issue of Dog Fouling will not require alteration. Representations about the proposal can be made via this questionnaire <http://www.wealden.gov.uk/ConsultationIndex.aspx>

**Resolved:** Cllr Goss asked members of the parish council to submit any representation directly, should they wish to.

**6.8** On 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/librarystrategy).

Cllr Strong raised the query of how many people use the mobile library service in Chiddingly, and how bad would it be if we lost the service. **Action:** Clerk to contact ESCC to see if they have any data re usage within Chiddingly.

*A member of public voiced that they thought that this service was very important for some people within the village.*

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

**7.1** Consideration of changing the grass cutting contractor for 2018-2019 period. Cllr Goss: It has not been a successful year with Barcombe landscapes cutting the verge.

Cllr Newham: the verge has only been cut three times so far and the grass was so long before each cut, that when it was done it looked awful. Not real customer service either. **Action:** Clerk to get three more tenders for the verge cut, and second option – to include Jubilee field too.

**7.2** Vehicle parked on Jubilee verge – Cllr Goss. **Deferred:** There has been ongoing email correspondence with the owner. The vehicle needs to be repaired, (this was 2 months ago). During recent correspondence, the vehicle owner asked why the parish council were asking about it. The owner was advised re the issues of cutting the verge as well as concern that damage could occur to the vehicle when the grass was being cut.

## **8. Jubilee Play Park**

No items to report

## **9. Skate Park**

**9.1** To authorise the spending of £230 on a pre-application meeting with Wealden District Council. Cllr Strong: has asked WDC planning department if it was necessary to pay for pre-application meeting. Cllr Strong was advised it could be done without a formal pre-app meeting. Cllr Strong has requested the skate park details from Brendon Welsh so this could be put to the planning department. He is still awaiting the details.

Cllr Goss suspended the meeting at 1957 hours to ask members of MOSAG if they were happy with Cllr Strong's suggestion. At 2005 hours the meeting re convened.

**Ongoing:** Cllr Strong will request the information from Brendon Welsh again and pass this on to WDC Planning, for them to reply in writing to the parish council. At October's parish council meeting the decision about whether to spend £230 on a formal pre-application meeting will be re considered, if necessary.

## **10. Councillor Reports:**

**10.1 Village Shop** – Cllr O'Hare attended last Saturday but there was nothing to report

**10.2 Saturday Morning Market** – Cllr B Marchant – *not present at this meeting.*

Cllr Goss will attend the next Saturday morning market.

**11 Footpaths** – Cllr Luke has received a report that a fence has been put up in Swansbrook Lane – and she will visit the location in due course. The works at Bolt Wood bridge have been completed.

**Action:** Cllr Tolhurst to get map back from Rod McDermott and for this to be stored in the new parish council cupboard at the Village Hall.

**Action:** Clerk to contact ESCC Footpaths team to see if there an up to date map we can have for our parish area.

## **12 Highways**

**12.1 Highlands Lane** – traffic survey results – Cllr Goss. **Ongoing:** The survey results have been passed onto ESCC and we are awaiting for them to get back to us.

*2015 hours two members of the public left the meeting.*

**12.2 SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships)** meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – please refer to the report as circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Goss: advised the meeting that there is a limited remit under the Stewards control, he will mainly be dealing with potholes. Many of our issues need to go to a different team – as detailed in item 5.2 of this agenda.

**12.3 Oaklands.** Request from the occupants to install a mirror, to assist when pulling out of driveway and onto the road. Information received from the Traffic Safety Team at ESCC Highways:

*'It is appreciated that some vehicle accesses are not ideally positioned and visibility may be assisted by the installation of a mirror on private land, provided that the following conditions are met:*

- 1. The mirror is erected outside the limits of the highway.*
- 2. The mirror will cause no danger to any other road user either by glare from reflected sunlight or headlights at night.*
- 3. The mirror does not overhang the highway so as to obstruct the free passage of any vehicles, pedestrians or equestrians.*
- 4. Any permission from the affected land owner has been given.*
- 5. No costs or liability will be passed on to the Highway Authority.*
- 6. If the mirror does cause problems for other road users, then the County Council reserves the right to have it removed.*

*I should also point out that any person who installs a mirror may be liable if an incident occurs that can be attributed to its installation, even if it complies with the above conditions. In situations such as these, many have consulted their own insurers to clarify their personal position should a claim be made against them following an incident in which the mirror is cited as a cause'.*

**Action:** Clerk to make contact with Mr & Mrs Clerehugh – and advise of them of the above information and that they would have to fund the purchase/installation of a mirror themselves.

**12.5 Warning – Horse Riders** East Sussex Highways are installing signs in Smithlands Lane. Consideration for other prominent locations where we should request additional signs

from Highways. The parish council discussed this item at length, and whilst signs would be considered an advantage, the parish council did not want to cause 'sign blindness' by having too many signs. The most prominent locations could be the entry points to the village – and close to riding establishments (areas suggested including: Whitesmith just of A22 junction, Stonehill, top end of Highlands Lane). **Action:** Clerk to pass this information on to the Traffic Safety Team and see if they could make assessment.

### 13. Village Car Park

13.1 Parish Council thanks to Cllr Newham for the refurbishment of the noticeboard on recycling centre fence.

13.2 Noticeboard on recycling centre fence: the left-hand panel (Perspex) is now broken and needs replacing. **Resolved:** Cllr Newham will kindly look at this.

### 14 Defibrillators

14.1 Refurbishment telephone kiosk at Gun Hill – Clerk. Refurbishment has commenced.

**Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to pay for CDS Electrical to install this defibrillator, when refurbishment works are complete (approx. cost £130+VAT)

### *2 members of public arrived at the meeting 2035*

### 15. Financial Matters - Clerk

15.1 Retrospectively approve the Bank reconciliations for July 2017 as considered at August planning meeting. **Resolved:** parish council unanimously agreed to retrospectively approve the bank reconciliations for July 2017.

15.2 Retrospectively approve and authorise accounts payable for August as dealt with at the August planning meeting. **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to retrospectively authorise the payments made in August 2017. Cheques numbered 102146 to 102154.

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

15.4 To approve and authorise accounts payable (as detailed on the payment list). **Resolved:** the parish council unanimously agreed to authorise the payments, as detailed on the payment list. Cheques 102155 to 102166.

15.5 Close of Unity Trust Accounts – Cllr Goss. The necessary paperwork was sent off at the beginning of September – and we have received notification that they received this.

15.6 Finance working party. To set a date for the finance working party to get together in mid-October. Action: look for Wednesday – **Action:** Clerk to arrange a date with Cllr Luke, Cllr Tolhurst and Cllr C Marchant for a Wednesday night in October.

16 Annual Grants: The letter of invitation, grant policy and application form have been sent out to all existing recipients and to all those organisations who were mentioned on the grants survey. **Ongoing:** awaiting the applications to be returned.

17 Possible extension of the school car park – update from Cllr Strong.

Chris Forsey wrote a lengthy progress report to the school governors. The school governors asked Cllr Goss to respond, which he did. We have advised Chris Forsey that we need final designs and costings to move forward on this. **Deferred:** for further discussion at Octobers parish council meeting.

18 School parking survey – Cllr Goss. The original plan was for about 12 spaces – which would probably not be enough to get all of cars off the road at busy times. **Action:** Cllrs

encouraged, if passing, during drop off (0830-0845) and pick up (1450-1505) – to note the maximum number of cars parked at any one time.

- 19 Clerks Appraisal. Require an additional Councillor to conduct the Clerks annual appraisal with Cllr Goss. Resolved; Cllr Strong will conduct the appraisal with Cllr Goss. **Action:** Clerk to suggest times/dates to Cllr Strong and Cllr Goss.

- 20 Willets Farm – update from Cllr Goss

At the end of July, shortly after the last parish council meeting, Cllr Goss met with Tony Penrose and Tom Warder (Rural Housing Advisor for Action in Rural Sussex). They looked at the plans, which were also shown at the last parish council annual assembly. Tony Penrose has agreed to consider making 6 properties available for a Community Land Trust (6 was the figure advised by Tom Warder to make this a viable Community Land Trust).

The Community Land Trust would either rent or part sell the properties. Would then need a business plan drawn up by CLT and the land owner. The next thing to be done is to consider a Community Land Trust.

- 21 Community Land Trust – to approve the formation of a Community Land Trust and to call a public meeting to recruit a management team for the trust – Cllr Goss

As explained above, the next step would be to form a Community Land Trust (CLT). A CLT would be independent of the parish council, and would be a non-profit organisation. There are various legal models on which it could be formed.

The next step would be to call a public meeting, get a board to start the trust up, and go to the community and seek their support. Once formed there are funds available for the initial planning stages. A CLT would draw up a business plan and start negotiation with Tony Penrose regarding those properties.

The parish council did look at forming CLT a few years ago, since then two major factors have changed. The first is Wealden District Council; when the parish council looked at CLT's then, WDC were suspicious of CLT's, there were none within the WDC area and nobody looking to start one at that time.

WDC's position has now changed and WDC are committed to allowing CLT's to develop some form of affordable housing within the Wealden area.

The second thing that changed; there was no particularly project to put forward, but now we have a potential area via a third party – Tony Penrose's Willets Farm development. The CLT would manage the properties as equity share or rented properties.

Action in Rural Sussex advise that the support of the parish council is a very important factor in building community support for the whole project – without it would be far more difficult.

Cllr Goss explained that this would be nothing to do with the Willetts farm planning application and the parish councils role of consultee. They would definitely need to be considered as two separate things.

Cllr Goss asked the other members of the parish council if they would approve the formation of a CLT and then call a public meeting to present this to the community – and start the ball rolling.

Cllr Strong – advised that he was now in favour of a CLT. However, it could take quite a long time, and was unsure if by agreeing to the CLT we may be giving false hope to Tony

Penrose if we did not agree with his planning application. Cllr Strong explained that he would not want Tony Penrose to think that he had the carte blanche backing of the parish council. Cllr Strong would rather wait until the planning application has been submitted to Wealden District Council, prior to approving the formation of a CLT.

Cllr Newham does not feel we need to wait – as setting up a CLT would take some time, as we would not wish to miss this opportunity.

Cllr Luke – thinks we should wait until the planning permission is sought formally through WDC.

Cllr Richards – voiced concern over the previous planning application by Tony Penrose with Farleys Yard, and what the parish council approved, was not what was put forward to WDC. Cllr Richards feel that we should wait until we have public meeting.

The parish council took a vote on whether to form a CLT and call a public meeting to recruit board members. Cllrs Tolhurst, Newham, O'Hare and Goss voted in favour of this option.

Councillors Luke, Strong and Richards voted in favour of waiting until a planning application was formally submitted to WDC.

**Resolved:** the majority voted in favour of forming the CLT now (as detailed above).

**Action:** Cllr Goss to contact Action in Rural Sussex to seek advice on the next steps.

- 22 Parish Council website. The Clerk explained that the website was nearly ready – but she had to add some further content. Cllr Goss explained the technical side of transferring over from the old website to the new website. Members of the parish council were encouraged to look at the new site and advise the Clerk of anything they thought should be added or changed. **Action:** Clerk to forward the link to the new website to all members of the parish council.

**Fingerposts** – this item was accidentally omitted from the agenda. The parish council considered the quote supplied by Phill Signs for repair/refurbishment of the fingerposts at Burgh Hill triangle and Nash Street junction with Rosemount. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Phill Signs to approve the works, and then apply to ESCC for 50% match funding.

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

- Skate park pre-application meeting
- Fingerposts
- School car park
- Verge cutting – quotes

Meeting closed at 2125 hours.

- *The planning meeting will immediately follow the close of this parish council meeting.*
- *The next parish council meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 1930 hours in Chiddingly Village Hall.*

