

**MINUTES OF THE CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM IN CHIDDINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr A. Baker, Cllr P. Myers, Cllr Mrs M. Quirk, Cllr J. Roper and Cllr H. Williams
Apologies: Cllr R. Streatfeild (Chairman), Cllr I. Durrant, Cllr J. Menges, and County & District Cllr Lake
In attendance: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk). District Cllr Mrs S. Coleman attended the Open Session only and a member of the public attended the meeting until 8pm

In the absence of Cllr Streatfeild, members agreed that Cllr Roper would chair the meeting.

Open Session

Questions from members of the public

None.

Report by District Cllr Mrs Coleman

District Cllr Mrs Coleman reported that not much has happened at the District Council due to purdah, but added that she is delighted that the Parish Council election for Chiddingstone and the District Council election for the Penshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone ward are unopposed. D.Cllr Mrs Coleman said that the SDC Enforcement Officer visited Chiddingstone Hoath regarding some footpaths that had been turned over and the matter has now been resolved. After the success of the last rural crime meeting held in Penshurst, D.Cllr Mrs Coleman is in the process of arranging another meeting which will be on Wednesday 15th May from 10.00-12.00 again in Penshurst. The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott, will attend and everyone is welcome. D.Cllr Mrs Coleman has received concerns about the Chiddingstone Real Football event as last year there were incidences of car racing, therefore she has asked a police officer to drive by the event occasionally.

District Cllr Mrs Coleman left the meeting at 7.38pm.

Report by County and District Cllr Lake

In the absence of County and District Cllr Lake, the Clerk read his report: "No real news from KCC. I am battling with 22 children who failed to get to any schools of their choice from Edenbridge. They will go to Cranbrook, a distance of 28 miles by train and bus, and unless I win their transport appeals the parents will have to pay. I need to know if there are any Chiddingstone children in a similar situation. Primary School places are published today. 89% of children will go to the school of their choice, but this still leaves 447 children who will have no choice but to go to an allocated school. Again I need to know whether there are any children needing my support. I understand that Gatwick has launched a new complaint system and, after much lobbying, the phone line has been restored. This is 01293 311568. There are also new tracker websites and an online form for complaints as well as a mobile app. KCC has wound down operation 'Brock' which was to direct lorries to various vehicle parks in the event of a no deal Brexit. This could still happen if there is no agreement with the EU. I stand down as your District Councillor looking after the Chiddingstone Causeway part of my ward. I am still the County Councillor so will still be in close touch with everyone." Members thanked District Cllr Lake for all he has done for the parish during his time as District Councillor.

Closed Session

- 163. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Streatfeild, Cllr Durrant and Cllr Menges and their reasons for absence were accepted by members. Apologies for absence were also received from County and District Cllr Lake.
- 164. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
None.
- 165. The minutes of the Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting held on 20th March 2019** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Quirk, seconded by Cllr Myers and all were in favour.

Cllr Roper asked for an update on the grant application to Calor Gas. The Clerk advised that she will look at the criteria and if eligible submit an application before the deadline of 29th April.

166. To discuss the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21st May 2019

The Clerk reported that Mark Streatfeild and Victoria Henderson have agreed to give a short talk about the Literacy Festival. Members asked the Clerk to approach a local author. There will be a chairman's report, which will include an update on issues such as the Chiddingstone car park, the Bough Beech parking area, affordable housing and aviation. The Community Award will be presented. There will be a finance report plus reports by County and District Councillors. The Cricket Club has been approached regarding a short talk on their new junior club and the pavilion. Members agreed to the provision of light refreshments.

167. To discuss District and Parish Elections to be held on 2nd May 2019

The Clerk reported that nine candidates submitted nomination forms for nine places and therefore everyone will be elected unopposed. The new members will be Penny Harris, Chris Bishop and Ben Taylor. An election will not therefore be required. The District Council wards are also unopposed, and Sue Coleman will be elected unopposed to represent the Penshurst, Fordcombe & Chiddingstone ward and James Osborne-Jackson will be elected unopposed to represent the Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway ward.

168. Planning:

i. To consider planning applications received

- i. SE/19/00663/FUL: Camp Hill Oast, Camp Hill, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8LE - demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling and detached bin store. (The member of the public left at 8pm). Members were concerned about the prominent siting of the proposed new dwelling and its openness in the Green Belt, and would prefer to see it re-sited closer to the oast house to be demolished. However, if planning officers feel that the application satisfies planning policy, the Parish Council would have no objection. The Parish Council also asked that SDC check the size of the proposed new dwelling to ensure it satisfies the 50% rule.
- ii. SE/19/00701/FUL: Redleaf Estate Yard, Camp Hill, Chiddingstone Causeway - redevelopment of the site including the conversion of two commercial buildings to dwelling houses and the erection of a semi-detached pair of dwelling houses, following the demolition of existing storage building. Members supported this application.
- iii. SE/19/00758/FUL: Kingston, Hever Road, Bough Beech TN8 7NU - demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of replacement dwelling, associated landscaping and replacement waste treatment plant (cesspit). Members supported this application.
- iv. SE/19/00725/HOUSE: 2 Forge Cottage, Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech TN8 7PG - single storey rear extension. Members supported this application.

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, the Planning Committee has agreed and submitted the following response:

- v. SE/19/00706/HOUSE: Lockskinners Barn, Lockskinners, Chiddingstone TN8 7NA - single storey link extension and alterations to the roof of the cow shed. Members had no objection to this application providing it satisfies planning policy.
- ii. To report SDC notifications of planning decisions
SE/19/00134/FUL: Stables to the South East of Skinners, Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech - conversion of existing stable building to provide a one bedroom, one person dwelling house with associated amenity space and utilising existing vehicular access. Application approved.
- iii. To discuss any updates regarding the Sevenoaks District Council Draft Local Plan
None.

169. Licensing:

i. To consider the Premises Licence application for the Neverworld Festival

The Clerk reported that the organisers of Neverworld have now submitted their Premises Licence application under reference number 19/00902/LAPRE. The deadline for comments is midnight on 27th April. The Traffic Management Plan has been received but not the Noise Management Plan.

This is because the organisers are waiting to discuss the new operating hours of the festival with Environmental Health officers at SDC. In summary, the changes in comparison with last year's event are:

- Boxing and wrestling reduced from 24hr daily to ceasing at 2am
- Extension of live music (DJs) until 2am
- Low level recorded music reduced finishing at 3am (last year 6am)
- Late night refreshment finishing at 3am (last year 5am)
- Extension of alcohol sales until 3am (last year 2am)
- Camping site has been moved

The Clerk reported that she has emailed everyone who made representation to last year's festival, advising them of the premises licence application and the public meeting.

ii. To discuss the public meeting to be held in Markbeech Village Hall

The Clerk reported that there will be a public meeting in Markbeech Village Hall on Wednesday 24th April at 7pm. The Clerk will attend and Cllr Roper said that he also hopes to attend. The Licensing and Environmental Health Officers from SDC will be present.

iii. To discuss SDC's consultation on their Statement of Licensing Policy

"The Licensing Act 2003 regulates the provision of sale of alcohol, provision of regulated entertainment and provision of late night refreshment in England and Wales. The Act makes local authorities responsible for licensing premises that are used for these activities within their area. It also requires each local authority to adopt and publish a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' at least every five years. The purpose of the Policy is to set out the principles the local authority will apply when carrying out its role under the Act. SDC is consulting on an amendment to the current policy which is in force to 6th January 2021. The amendment is to add a new section relating to outdoor events. Comments on the proposed amendment to Policy must be received no later than 26th May 2019 to licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk. All feedback received will be taken into consideration by the Licensing Committee when they meet and decide what recommendations they will make to the Council. The Council will meet to finally determine the Policy in due course." Members supported the proposed changes to policy, which are as follows:

Outdoor Events

- 20.1 The general terminal hour for all licensable activities shall be 23:00 at outdoor events;
- 20.2 Organisers/applicants shall demonstrate that they have the required permissions in place to use the land (whether private land or on Council owned land);
- 20.3 Organisers/applicants shall demonstrate that they have arrangements in place to ensure the site is properly checked and certified (for example, if water supplies or electrics need to be safety checked); and
- 20.4 Organisers/applicants using Council owned land will demonstrate that they have notified and where necessary sought authorisation/advice from the relevant Council departments (for example Parks and Open Spaces, Highways etc.).

170. Finance

i. To approve membership renewal to Kent Association of Local Councils: £421.34 (same as last year)

Members approved this membership renewal.

ii. To approve membership renewal to Action with Communities in Rural Kent: £75 (last year: £50)

Members approved this membership renewal.

iii. To approve membership renewal to CPRE: £36 (same as last year)

Members approved this membership renewal.

iv. To renew corporate membership of Eden Valley Museum Trust: £90 (last year £75)

Members approved this membership renewal.

v. To approve insurance renewal: £426.43 (last year: £444.69)

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council is in a three year long-term agreement with Zurich Municipal. From renewal on 1st June, the Parish Council will be entering into year 2 of 3. Cllr Williams proposed that the insurance renewal be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Quirk and all were in favour.

vi. To approve payment of cheques

Cllr Baker proposed that the list of cheques for payment be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Myers and all were in favour. Cllr Roper and Cllr Williams undertook to authorise the payments online.

171. Affordable Housing provision in the parish

The Clerk reported as follows:

- i. Bough Beech: site adjacent to Chequers – initial layout prepared, and the landowner has agreed to move one of the units on the site so that the impact on the two cottages on Gravelpits Lane will be reduced. The landowner and his advisors are in the process of making arrangements to meet with SDC to gain Pre Planning Advice. ERHA and the Parish Council have been invited to this meeting. The proposed mix is for 8 affordable units, 4 open market and two live/work units.
- ii. Chiddingstone Causeway: site adjacent to Bassetts – ERHA has reported that the layout has been amended slightly to integrate the two tenures as previously discussed. ERHA has now submitted a revised offer for the land and they are waiting to hear the outcome.
- iii. Chiddingstone Hoath: site opposite The Rock – a meeting was held with the landowner, ERHA plus Cllr Streatfeild, Cllr Mrs Quirk and the Clerk. The landowner's preferred proposal would be for a Community Land Trust to be formed with the landowner retaining the freehold of the site and the units would be allocated and managed by the CLT. This proposal would mean that there is no partnership working with ERHA. The landowner would require an element of open market housing on the site. The idea is in the early stage and more information would be required and the Parish Council would need to be satisfied that there are strong covenants in place to ensure that the units would remain affordable in perpetuity. It has been left with the landowner who will seek further information. At that meeting, the landowner advised that he has a new proposal for the development of New Tyehurst Farm into 18 units including affordable housing units. These affordable housing units would not be for local people because they are not on a rural exception site. SDC could impose a condition for a local lettings plan. The landowner is hoping to submit this application to SDC imminently. ERHA could bid for the affordable housing aspect of this scheme.

172. Highways

- i. To discuss the proposal to reduce the speed of vehicles on B2027 though Chiddingstone Causeway: Cllr Baker reported that he still needs a lot more signatures on the petition.
- ii. Cllr Williams requested a warning sign be erected on the approach to the Somerden Green turn off with Bore Place Road opposite, as traffic speed is high along that stretch and drivers are unaware of the crossroads at the top of the hill.
- iii. The Clerk reported that the PCC has advised that a vehicle has damaged the top step to the New Churchyard in front of the Lychgate and it represents a trip hazard and three stones need re-setting. The Clerk has reported this online on the KCC website but thinks that this will actually be the PCC's responsibility.
- iv. The Clerk reported that there will be a temporary road closure on Hampkins Hill Road, Chiddingstone, from 16th May for up to one day. The road will be closed outside Chested. The closure is to enable the replacement of two telegraph poles to be carried out by BT Openreach. Clerk to notify the school.
- v. Members asked the Clerk to query the positioning of the SID opposite the Little Brown Jug as perhaps it should be located nearer to Knotley Hall.
- vi. Cllr Mrs Quirk asked the Clerk to report the surface water issue in Wellers Town.
- vii. The Clerk reported that she has a meeting with KCC Highways on 8th May when all local issues can be discussed.

173. Rights of Way:

- i. To discuss Parish Countryside Access Wardens
The Clerk reported that the request for new volunteers went into the parish magazine but no-one has yet come forward. Clerk to ask whether Cllr Williams can carry out the role on his own until more volunteers come forward.
- ii. To discuss new dog bin emptying procedures and associated costs
The Clerk reported that Kent County Council, as waste disposal authority, has advised that dog waste must now be mixed with litter to enable it to be disposed of at their facilities. This means that SDC will no longer be able to support the installation and emptying of new designated dog waste bins. They will continue to empty existing dog waste bins and then will combine the waste with litter prior to disposal. SDC suggests that any new bins are combined litter and dog waste bins, which will be emptied for a charge.

iii. To discuss the request for a new dog bin on SR526 at Chequers in Bough Beech

The Clerk reported that the landowner has asked that the new dog bin is put on hold until his proposed development is built, but the Clerk has advised him that there is a problem here and it is a PROW. Glasdon has provided a quote for £262.61+VAT in total for a red Metal Fido 50 with post fixings and post and sticker to read 'Dog Waste and Litter'. Members wanted to see the bin installed soon, hopefully the landowner will agree to purchase the bin and the Parish Council will then pay to empty it.

174. Aviation:

The Clerk reported as follows:

- i. The next HWCAAG meeting will be on Tuesday 30th April.
- ii. It had been agreed that a noise monitor would be located at Chiddingstone Castle. This would be owned and managed by GAL, but GAL has asked Chiddingstone Castle to take full responsibility for any damage to the equipment whilst on their land. The Estate Manager has said that he is not willing to accept this and has asked GAL to re-consider this requirement. Further information is awaited.
- iii. A decision is expected in May on the Heathrow judicial review. A two-week hearing took place at the beginning of March to consider the five legal challenges being brought against Heathrow expansion. AEF acted as an expert witness in support of the climate change case brought by Friends of the Earth. Various other challenges were brought by several local authorities, the Mayor of London, Greenpeace etc.

175. To report on correspondence received

The Clerk reported that lists of correspondence received have been circulated and drew members' attention to the following:

- i. Item 4: Email from Stonewall Park Cricket Club: "Please pass on the club's thanks to the Parish Council for granting us this money for our sightscreens. It will improve the cricket played at Stonewall Park and we are very grateful. We may well apply for further funding after 1st April but we can certainly get going with installing the sightscreens in time for the season ahead."
- ii. Item 5: Email from the Chiddingstone Stoolball Club: "Please pass on the thanks of the Causeway Ladies Stoolball Club to the Parish Council."
- iii. Item 6: Email from a visitor to the parish regarding an incident that happened in Chiddingstone when her car was broken into and items stolen. The crime has been reported to the police.
- iv. Item 7: Copy email from resident to SDC: "I have received my Council Tax Bill for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 and wanted to ask what percentage of £1 is shared to help mitigate the impact on health from the concentrated flight paths that operate on arrivals into Gatwick? I wanted to ask which area this falls under within your five categories and what is being budgeted (monetary) to help mitigate this. As you will be aware, the damage from living under a concentrated flightpath on an individual's physical and mental well-being is very well documented. I would hope you have a monetary policy in place that continually reviews any District Council service provided to help mitigate the detrimental impact that concentrated flight paths are having on the community, or indeed any other existing or new health issues."
- v. Item 9: SDC News Release: The new Sevenoaks Town Car Park opened on 8th April 2019, bringing 480 much needed, long-stay parking spaces to the town. The lack of long stay parking in Sevenoaks has been an issue in recent years so in 2017, Sevenoaks District Council decided to build the multi-decked car park on the former site of Buckhurst 2.
- vi. Item 10: Newsletter from Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott:
 - Investment will see another 180 more Police Officers recruited to Kent Police in 2019/20. This means that since Matthew was elected, there will be 450 more Police Officers. Officers will be focussed on visible patrols, community Policing and investigations. Join now at www.kent.police.uk/jobs.
 - At the Violence Reduction Summit, Home Office Minister Victoria Atkins announced a new funding package which would see investment from the Kent PCC's office and the Home Office worth £800,000 over three years to tackle county lines. There will be dedicated workers engaging with young people at risk of getting involved in county lines and helping them stay away from a life of crime.
 - Thanks to lobbying by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and support from most of Kent's MPs, Kent Police has secured the first tranche of funding to pay for contingency planning in advance of Britain leaving the EU. £850,000 has already been paid, with more to follow. In 2015, Kent council tax payers

were left with the bill for Operation Stack—this agreement means that this won't be the case whatever happens after Brexit. It has rightly been acknowledged as a national, not Kent issue.

- Matthew Scott has helped fund the return of Police cadets in Kent. The scheme is for 13-17 year olds and sees positive engagement with policing and the local community as a result.
- vii. Item 11: KCC: Parish Bus Shelter grant application scheme open for the 2019/20 financial year. Closing date for applications and all supporting information is noon on Friday 12th July 2019.
- viii. Item 12: Update from PCSO Joe Cain “As the weather is improving and the evenings are getting longer, I would like to talk about the possibility of a slight rise in anti-social behaviour. As the PCSO for your area I spend as much time as possible talking to, and getting to know the young people. If I believe there is an ongoing problem, which may have come to light after similar reports from different residents, then we will start planning "nights of action" in that particular area. We are very happy to say only 1 or 2 of the villages have needed such action, because on the whole young people are fairly well behaved.”
- ix. Item 14: Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) started its new 2019-2020 Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan in April 2019, following a Strategic Assessment undertaken during the winter of 2018, and has identified 7 priorities for the Partnership to tackle. The priorities, in no particular order, are: Domestic Abuse, Serious and Acquisitive Crime including Organised Crime Groups, Emerging Trends and County Lines, Anti-Social Behaviour including Environmental Crime, Safeguarding (including Prevent, Mental Health, Human Trafficking, Modern Slavery, Child Sexual Exploitation, Vulnerable Adults and Protecting Children), Substance Misuse, Doorstep Crime including Scams and Cyber Crime, Road Safety. Although the Partnership's main focus will be the 7 priorities, it will continue to monitor and plan for trends in crime and other community safety issues and address them through the CSU daily briefings and other tasking arrangements in order to reduce recorded crime.
- x. Item 15: Kent Tree and Pond Partnership: events to which Parish Councillors or parish nominees are invited. There is more information about other activities on their website. Specific Tree Walks can be organised this summer.

Training for Tree Wardens

- Tree Diseases - identification and response strategies for Tree Wardens: illustrated lecture/discussion, followed by tree disease ID walk, Cobtree Manor Park Golf Course, near Maidstone, Saturday 27th April, 10 - 3 pm.
- Introduction to Tree Wardening and Tree Care: Illustrated lecture/discussion followed by practical tree assessment outside, St Laurence Parish Hall, Thanet, Saturday 4th May, 10 - 3 pm.
- Woodland Ecology walk - Considering the management requirements to restore this planted ancient woodland site: Dene Park near Tonbridge, Saturday 25th May, 2 - 4 pm
- TPOs - a Tree Wardens View - Ditton Community Hall near Maidstone, Saturday 1st June, 9:30 - 2 pm.

Training for Pond Wardens

There are a range of Great Crested Newt surveying events running in the evenings, weather dependent.

- xi. Email from Emma West, SDC: “I am writing in my capacity as Tourism lead at Sevenoaks District Council. I am currently in discussions with Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) with regards to upgrading the signage at Penshurst Station. I understand there has been a long standing issue with visitors arriving at Penshurst station, not realising they need to alight at Penshurst to visit Chiddingstone. After many many months of discussion I have been informed that GTR will install and pay for additional signage (seven signs in total) to overcome this problem, a fantastic achievement for the district.”

176. To consider how the following Parish Projects are progressing:

- i. Maintenance of Closed Churchyard and other parish areas:
Cllr Williams asked to be advised when the contractors will visit so that he can meet them there.
- ii. Rural swathe and visibility cutting contract
The Clerk reported that the first cut will be done in May.
- iii. Chiddingstone village carpark
The Clerk reported that she, Cllr Mrs Quirk and Cllr Streatfeild met with the National Trust to discuss the proposal for a car park in the field to the rear of the Village Hall.

The Clerk is to prepare a letter to be sent to the National Trust for them to discuss and consider whether they can support it. Cllr Mrs Quirk reported that Mark Streatfeild has agreed to erect signs to advertise the car park at Chiddingstone Castle.

iv. Bough Beech car parking area:

The Clerk reported that she is still waiting for the decision on the application for a certificate of lawful development. Reference: SE/19/00569/LDCPR. The Parish Council will receive a decision by 24th April.

v. Defibrillators

None.

vi. Wrought iron arch in memory of the late Paddy Cooke

Cllr Williams reported that he has purchased and planted roses, clematis and sweet peas at the arch. The cost is £76.83. Members approved the expenditure.

vii. 2019 dates for Bulk Refuse Freighter and Litter Pick

Next dates for Bulk Refuse Freighter are 15th June, 14th September and 7th December.

Next dates for Litter Pick are 15th June and 14th September.

viii. Summer Family Fun play events

The Clerk reported that the free play event provided by SDC will be held on Friday 16th August from 10am to 2pm.

177. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

Cllr Williams asked whether a litter bin could be positioned at the tennis courts. Clerk to investigate.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 14th May 2019 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall. This is the second Tuesday of the month as, in an election year, the May meeting must be held within 14 days of the election.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

* * * * *