

**MINUTES OF THE CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM IN CHIDDINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL**

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**Present:** Cllr R. Streatfeild (Chairman), Cllr P. Myers, Cllr Mrs M. Quirk, Cllr J. Roper and Cllr H. Williams (from 7.50pm)  
**Apologies:** Cllr A. Baker, Cllr I. Durrant and Cllr J. Menges  
**In attendance:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk). District Cllr Mrs S. Coleman attended the Open Session only.

**Open Session**

Report by District Cllr Mrs Coleman

District Cllr Mrs Coleman reported as follows: emails have been received from residents regarding this year's Neverworld event, asking whether last year's breach in the noise levels have been followed up and if any action has been taken against Neverworld for breaking their licence agreement for a third year in a row. D.Cllr Mrs Coleman advised that she responded to say that, whilst there were some technical breaches of the noise limits, the sound was turned off much earlier by Neverworld's own sound engineer because he could not guarantee they could keep to the limits. Because they reacted to concerns raised quickly, SDC decided that no action would be taken to prosecute, as they did everything asked on site at the time and resolved the situation. Concerns were also raised about the fireworks at last year's event, and D.Cllr Mrs Coleman responded to say that the event organisers informed us that there had been a problem with individual DJs bringing in their own pyrotechnics in 2018. This can be raised again as part of the planning for this year's event. The premises licence application has still not been received. D.Cllr Mrs Coleman reported that enforcement officers at SDC are still under the strain of a large workload, and she has raised this with the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Planning. The Local Plan consultation closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and the draft plan now holds weight as it is classed as an emerging plan. The cost of land searches will increase substantially this year as the rates have not been reviewed in ten years, the rise will be in line with inflation. D.Cllr Mrs Coleman reported that Matthew Scott, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, has said that he will be employing 270 more police officers over the next three years. The Police will increase council tax by £2 per month on a Band D property, and this will pay for the increase in staffing.

District Cllr Mrs Coleman left the meeting at 7.40pm.

**Closed Session**

- 127. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Baker, Cllr Durrant and Cllr Menges and their reasons for absence were accepted by members. The Clerk reported that Cllr Ms Manning has resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments. Members thanked Cllr Ms Manning for all her hard work and commitment whilst serving as a Parish Councillor.
- 128. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**  
None.
- 129. The minutes of the Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Roper, seconded by Cllr Myers, and all were in favour.
- 130. To discuss meeting dates 2019**  
The Clerk reported that it is not possible to have the third Wednesday each month in Chiddingstone Village Hall as the hall has been double-booked. Members agreed to change the date to the third Tuesday of the month, starting from the April meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The dates for 2019 are therefore as follows:
- |                                     |                |                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January  | Parish Council | Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February | Parish Council | Chiddingstone Village Hall          | 7.30pm |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March    | Parish Council | Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April      | Parish Council | Chiddingstone Village Hall          | 7.30pm |

Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual Parish Council	Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Annual Parish Meeting	Chiddingstone Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Parish Council	Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Parish Council	Chiddingstone Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Parish Council	Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Parish Council	Chiddingstone Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Parish Council	Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Parish Council	Chiddingstone Village Hall	7.30pm

CLlr Williams joined the meeting at 7.50pm.

**131. To discuss the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

The date has changed from 12<sup>th</sup> March to 21<sup>st</sup> May. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek Andy Sinclair from Gatwick Airport Ltd to speak, or if he cannot Stewart Wingate, Bo Redeborn or Graham Lake. Other speakers to be asked: Gary Churchill from The National Trust, the School and the Cricket Club (junior team). There will also be County and District reports, a Chairman's report and a Finance report.

**132. To discuss District and Parish Elections to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

The ward splits for the parish are: Chiddingstone Ward: 6; and Chiddingstone Causeway Ward: 3

Important Dates: Publication of Notice of Election - Wednesday 20 March 2019

Nominations open - Thursday 21 March 2019 – 10am

Nominations close - Wednesday 3 April 2019 – 4pm

Deadline for a candidate to withdraw - Wednesday 3 April 2019 – 4pm

Deadline to appoint Election Agents - Wednesday 3 April 2019 – 4pm

Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated - Thursday 4 April 2019

Appointment of Poll and Count Agents deadline - Thursday 25 April 2019

Election Day – Thursday 2 May 2019 - 7am to 10pm

**133. To consider the Draft Mourning Protocol**

Members agreed the draft Mourning Protocol and asked the Clerk to liaise with the churchwardens in order to finalise details. Proposed by CLlr Williams, seconded by CLlr Roper and all were in favour.

**134. Planning:**

i. To consider planning applications received

i. SE/19/00134/FUL: Stables to the South-East of Skinners, Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech TN8 7PG - conversion of existing stable building to provide a one bedroom one person dwelling house with associated amenity space and utilising existing vehicular access. Members supported this application.

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, the Planning Committee considered the following applications:

ii. SE/18/03911/FUL and SE/18/03912/LBCALT: Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7AD - replacement and construction of a picket fence to secure the playground area. Members supported this application.

iii. SE/19/00028/FUL: Land west of Hale Oak Farmhouse, Hale Oak Road, Sevenoaks Weald TN14 6NQ - conversion of agricultural building to a single dwelling. Members had no objection to this application if it satisfies planning policy.

ii. To report SDC notifications of planning decisions

SE/18/03940/AGRNOT: Land at Lockskinners Farm, Lockskinners Lane - Agricultural/ forestry style barn. Application refused.

iii. To discuss any updates regarding the Sevenoaks District Council Draft Local Plan

None.

iv. Street Naming & Numbering

The Clerk reported that SDC has notified the Parish Council that the small barn converted on Camp Hill, north of Camp Hill Cottages, will be called Pucknells.

### 135. Licensing:

- i. Neverworld  
The Clerk reported that the Premises Licence has not yet been submitted. The Clerk reported that various emails have been received from residents of Truggers Lane, and these have been responded to by D.Cllr Mrs Coleman.
- ii. Brookers Farm  
The Clerk reported that six TEN applications so far this year to do with the Point to Point. Clerk to contact the landowners about the Hungarian Festival held last year.

### 136. Finance

- i. To discuss sponsorship of the Chiddingstone Literary Festival 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May  
The Clerk reported that approval during the month was given to sponsor the festival again this year at a cost of £250. The Parish Council will sponsor Giles Milton the author of "D-Day : The Soldiers' Story". His talk kicks off the festival in the main marquee on Saturday May 4th at 10.30 am.
- ii. To consider a subscription to an online mapping service parish-online  
The Clerk suggested that the Parish Council subscribe to this GIS mapping service. It costs £100 per annum. Members were happy to subscribe if the service offers more capabilities than are on offer free of charge by Google Maps. Members to investigate and decision to be made by email.
- iii. To discuss CIL funding  
The Clerk reported that Simon Taylor at SDC has advised that the Parish Council will receive £755.66 as their proportion of CIL funding for the two properties on Camp Hill. The funds must be spent on infrastructure.
- iv. To hear update regarding the Parish Council's new bank account  
The Clerk reported that the funds have still not been transferred. It was agreed to do a manual transfer by cheque so that last month's and this month's payments can be made, then to manually close the accounts and transfer the funds across to the new accounts.
- v. To approve payment of cheques  
Cllr Myers proposed that the list of cheques for payment be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Quirk and all were in favour.

### 137. Affordable Housing provision in the parish

- i. To hear update regarding the Chiddingstone Affordable Housing Scheme  
Members considered the latest updates to the proposed scheme.
- ii. To discuss recent flooding issues at Redleaf Close  
The Clerk reported that the gardens and carparks flooded in Redleaf Close on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> February, and the Clerk has followed this up with both WKHA and Lambert & Foster. WKHA is pushing for work to be done to clear vegetation from around the grate. Clerk to monitor situation.

### 138. Highways

- i. To discuss the proposal to reduce the speed of vehicles on B2027 though Chiddingstone Causeway  
The Clerk reported that Cllr Baker said that he now has 420 signatures and some more from the church and WI to collect. Cllr Williams reported that he has collected some signatures as well.
- ii. To hear update regarding the new salt bin at Lockskinners Oast  
The Clerk reported that the new salt bin has been delivered. Members thanked C.Cllr Lake for providing the funding for this.
- iii. To hear update about water leak on Ryewell Hill  
Cllr Mrs Quirk reported that two water leaks have now been repaired by SSE Water.
- iv. To report water leak at Wellers Town  
Clerk to notify KCC about the water leak across the road at Wellers Town.
- v. Road Closures  
(i) Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech between junctions with Green Lane and Clinton Lane. KCC will be carrying out patching repair work to the carriageway to start on 4th March 2019 and should take 5 days to complete. These activities will be undertaken between 8am and 5pm.

During this closure, a signed diversion route will be in place during the closure via B2027 Chequers Hill, Tonbridge Road, Bore Place Road, Winkhurst Green Road, Scallops and B2042 Ide Hill Road.

(ii) The Village, Chiddingstone between the junctions of The Rectory and Hampkins Hill Road on or after 18 February 2019 for up to 5 days. The alternative route is via Hampkins Hill Road, Tonbridge Road, Chequers Hill, Mill Lane and The Village. The closure is necessary to enable KCC Highways to carry out pothole blitz works.

### **139. Rights of Way:**

i. To discuss Parish Countryside Access Wardens

The Clerk reported that she is still waiting to hear back from Philip and Jenny Fitzroy and Mark Stephens regarding the online training. Andy Welsh has done the online training but is waiting for confirmation. Martin Keeler has stepped down. Cllr Williams has completed the online training and is waiting to hear further from KCC.

ii. To discuss a complaint about dog mess on the footpath at Chequers Field

The Clerk reported that a complaint was received about the amount of dog mess on the public footpath through Chequers Field. Clerk has advised the landowner, and is waiting to hear back. Cllr Williams undertook to take a look.

### **140. 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 2: KALC - invitation to the Lord Lieutenant's Annual Civic Service at All Saints Church in Maidstone on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- ii. Item 3: ACRK – Oast to Coast magazine, winter 2018.
- iii. Item 6: West Kent Mind: The new West Kent service Brighter Futures is a 1.5 hour workshop for anyone who wants help to cope with bereavement or any other loss such as the loss of employment, a home, your mobility or a pet. The workshops will be facilitated by a qualified Counsellor and offer group support and psychoeducation around grief and loss. More information can be found at <https://westkentmind.org.uk/a-brighter-future#workshops>.
- iv. Item 7: NALC: A year-long Parliamentary inquiry into ethical standards in local government, published on 30 January, has backed calls from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) for reforms to the current regime aimed at improving behaviour in 10,000 local (parish and town) councils. NALC has campaigned for a range of measures to be introduced to support high standards of conduct by its 100,000 local councillors, including the re-introduction of sanctions, greater emphasis on training and development, and a single code of conduct for all tiers of local government based on NALC's own model code. NALC – which represents the first tier of local government in England – has issued a plea to the Government to address the report's failure to recommend and promote more councillor training and development. NALC has been pressing for greater encouragement and support for induction and regular refresher training for local councillors on standards, coupled with new investment in a national training programme.
- v. Item 11: NALC: Newquay Town Council is preparing to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act in relation to allowing local councils the power to enforce civil parking regulations.
- vi. Item 12: SDC Voluntary & Community Awards 2019: The awards took place at St Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The winners were chosen by an in-house panel of judges.
- vii. Item 13: SDC: updated guidance on Counter-Terrorism Policing.

### **141. Aviation:**

i. To hear report of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group

Cllr Streatfeild reported that HWCAAG met last week, and the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The group discussed the request for three red lines made by the community noise groups six months ago to the Noise Management Board, which were:

- a) that the new NMB should set targets for the balance between growth and noise
- b) that the chair should be independent

c) that any decision that could not be agreed on the balance between growth and noise in the NMB would be passed to the minister for aviation to decide.

It was agreed at the HWCAAG meeting that Cllr Streatfeild will draft an email to the community noise groups to say that HWCAAG has met and has agreed to proceed as follows: the next NMB meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March is a critical one; if the red lines are not met at that meeting, the community noise groups will state that they have no confidence in the NMB and will leave. This is the HWCAAG agreed stance and the group will leave the NMB either with or without the other community noise groups after the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March if the red lines are not adopted. Cllr Streatfeild will email all member councils to advise what HWCAAG has decided. Cllr Streatfeild will also email the secretary of the NMB asking for a specific agenda item to be added to the next meeting on the progress of the three red lines. If HWCAAG and the other community noise groups do decide to leave the NMB, they may form a united body that could pursue agreed objectives with the DfT, the CAA and NATS outside the NMB.

- ii. Aviation Environment Federation – Annual Report 2018.
- iii. AEF: Aircraft Noise Conference from 9am to 4.30pm on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at SCI, 15 Belgrave Square, Belgravia, London SW1X 8PS.

**142. Chiddingstone Fete – to consider request to help publicise the change of date**

The Clerk reported that Martin Keeler has asked if the Parish Council can help publicise the change of date of the fete this year from 27<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Members asked the Clerk to do this via Facebook, which can be boosted to cover a radius around Chiddingstone. Clerk to advise Martin Keeler accordingly.

**143. To consider how the following Parish Projects are progressing:**

- i. Maintenance of Closed Churchyard and other parish areas: to consider quotes for new contract  
The Clerk left the room whilst the matter was discussed. Four companies were approached and three quotes were received by Cllr Streatfeild. Cllr Streatfeild proposed that the contract be awarded to Hever Landscapes Ltd for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 seasons. Cllr Williams and Cllr Baker have considered the specification and have a couple of amendments. It was agreed that a break clause be added to the contract for performance related issues, as the contract term is for three years. This was seconded by Cllr Williams and all were in favour.
- ii. Rural swathe and visibility cutting contract: to discuss 2019 contract  
The Clerk reported that Philip Broad has said that he's happy to keep the price at £10 per km but this would have to be reviewed if the price of tractor fuel increases above 70 pence per litre. Members agreed that the first cut will be done at the same time as 2018.
- iii. Chiddingstone village carpark  
Cllr Streatfeild reported that a meeting was held with the churchwarden, the landowner, the school and Cllr Streatfeild and the Clerk to discuss the possibility of a car park on land to the rear of the village hall and the Castle Inn. The next stage will be to have a meeting with the National Trust. Cllr Mrs Quirk undertook to discuss the matter with the Chair of Trustees at Chiddingstone Castle.
- iv. Bough Beech car parking area: to hear update regarding application for grant  
The Clerk reported that the Planning Officer Mike Holmes said that the Parish Council should get approval under General Permitted Development. The legislation backs this up. The Clerk has asked for an updated quote from the favoured contractor. Members asked the Clerk to submit an application for a permitted development certificate.
- v. Defibrillators  
The Clerk reported that all batteries and pads are in date but the Chiddingstone pads will need replacing during April.
- vi. Wrought iron arch in memory of the late Paddy Cooke  
None.
- vii. 2019 dates for Bulk Refuse Freighter and Litter Pick  
16th March  
15th June  
14th September  
7th December

Cllr Streatfeild undertook to coordinate the Chiddingstone Hoath litter pick, Cllr Myers to coordinate the Bough Beech litter pick, Cllr Williams to coordinate the Chiddingstone Causeway litter pick and the Clerk to coordinate the Chiddingstone litter pick.

**144. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda**

- i. Cllr Mrs Quirk reported that it is no longer possible to contact SDC and ask to speak to the duty planning officer as SDC has changed its procedures. Clerk to discuss with D.Cllr Mrs Coleman.
- ii. Cllr Streatfeild reported that he has erected two advertising signs outside Hoath House, which satisfy permitted development legislation.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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