

**MINUTES OF THE CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

- Present:** Cllr J. Roper (Chairman), Cllr P. Myers, Cllr Mrs M. Quirk, Cllr B. Taylor and Cllr H. Williams
- Apologies:** Cllr A. Baker, Cllr C. Bishop, Cllr Mrs P. Harris, Cllr R. Streatfeild and District Cllr J. Osborne-Jackson
- In attendance:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk). County Cllr P. Lake and District Cllr Mrs S. Coleman attended the Open Session only.

Cllr Roper advised that the meeting will be recorded.

Open Session

Report by District Cllr Mrs Coleman

District Cllr Mrs Coleman reported as follows:

- i. "Covid-19: the latest available data shows that Sevenoaks had eight active cases from laboratory testing compared to 21 from the previous week. The seven day rolling average is down to 0.7 from last week's 2.
- Volunteers: My volunteer group is still enjoying a rest but is ready to re-start should a local or national lockdown be necessary. Age UK is providing a telephone befriending service and West Kent Mind are providing a digital service. The Every Step Counts Walks are continuing but the Age UK Pop Up that I planned to host had to be aborted due to the new rule of six.
- Housing: SDC has been awarded £168,000 as part of the government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme. This programme provides support to local authorities and their partners to ensure that the current provision, that has been set up to safeguard people who were taken safely from the streets during lockdown, is able to continue for an appropriate length of time. The council were required to demonstrate in their proposal how the funding will be used to rapidly support those in Covid-19 emergency accommodation and the funding will be to add additional temporary resource to the HERO team. The funding is for use during 2020/21 only. Over £15m was made available to 59 councils in the south east of England, with SDC receiving one of the highest allocations in Kent.
- ii. Finance: SDC has accelerated the normal budget cycle by four months – and the numbers are not pretty. Parking income alone is going to be down £2.5m this year and we don't expect this to be fully reimbursed by central government so we are dipping into our reserves, which in turn will mean less investment income in the future but at least we are not having to borrow. Even when we spread the impact over several years we are going to have to find savings, or new revenue streams, of nearly £1m per annum if we are to maintain our 10 year balanced budget and I worry that as we are already one of the most efficient councils in the country this will inevitably hit services.
- iii. Flytipping: As mentioned in previous reports, there has been a huge increase in flytipping nationally during the lockdown. SDC is lobbying magistrates on increasing the fines they award for this.
- iv. Planning: I have mentioned previously the Planning White Paper, to which SDC will be responding in October. I have now attended briefing sessions and I am personally unhappy with the plans to remove some democracy from local people. For instance, due to proposed new time constraints, there will be less time for residents to be consulted on future Local Plans and planning applications will be more of a tick box exercise. I am also concerned at the plan to allow affordable housing to be flipped to market rate. With effect from September 1st the government has greatly extended permitted development rights and made changes of use easier. Amongst other things, people can now add two storeys to their two-storey property without planning permission though they do need prior approval. They can even knock the whole property down and rebuild into flats etc with the extra two storeys added. These relaxations do not apply within AONBs or to listed buildings/new builds - so Chiddingstone is not going to see a rash of ugly upward extensions being built without planning permission.
- v. Enforcement: Sadly, Stephen Whitehead has now left the Council, but he made some good progress on the enforcement cases within the villages before leaving. The Chief Executive, Pav Ramewal, has promised me that enough resource will be allocated to enable issues to be followed through to a conclusion – my ward is especially busy with enforcement matters.

- vi. Home working: I have been involved in my People & Places role in exploring with colleagues the possibility of creating a co-working hub in the District for people who can't go into the office but want to have an option not to work from home. If any of you know of any buildings, possibly an under-used farm building, that could be converted please do let me know."

Report by District Cllr Osborne-Jackson

In the absence of District Cllr Osborne-Jackson, the Clerk read his report:

"I hope parish members enjoyed the summer, a very different summer and I hope all are keeping well. District Cllr Coleman is covering the SDC news and highlights.

- i. Upon being told about the post office closure I wrote to the Chief Executive directly and I'm pleased to say the post office will be reopening tomorrow lunchtime.
- ii. I am really pleased that after working with West Kent Housing Association a family have moved to a property which meets their requirements and what I'm especially pleased about is the fact the family have managed to remain within the parish.
- iii. After making contact with Southern Rail I'm delighted the station bridge has been given a lick of paint and bin bags are being collected and changed more often.
- iv. May I take this opportunity to thank all volunteers across Chiddingstone Causeway.
- v. I am in contact with planning enforcement officers at SDC about the site at the bottom of Hampkins Hill Road and I have a call with Richard Morris, Chief Officer for planning later this week to discuss the case further.
- vi. I'm now on the Audit Committee, Development Control Committee and Scrutiny Committee in addition to being on the Community Infrastructure Committee and Standards Committee

As always I'm always here to help, please do get in touch. It's always good to hear from everyone."

Report by County Cllr Lake

County Cllr Lake reported as follows:

- i. Covid-19: KCC is going to have to make some very difficult decisions in order to balance the budget this year. Costs as a result of Covid-19 is having a strain on the budget and KCC has spent £96.3m in this financial year alone. There is so far a £12.8m shortfall. If KCC increase council tax by 1% it will only bring in an additional £7m revenue. There has been a reduction in member allowances and the member's grant. KCC will not authorise the opening of buildings that have not already been opened, such as some libraries and children's centres. Services for families, children and the elderly continue and it is hoped that financial resilience will be maintained but there will be a strain financially on everyone. KCC is working to try and ensure financial resilience in the budget for the next financial year. KCC is providing PPE free of charge, supported by central Government, to care homes and it is hoped that a rise in infections is not seen in our care homes.
- ii. Highways: Geoff Bineham, KCC's Schemes Project Manager for Transport, Highways & Waste, will be retiring on 12th October. Tom Tugendhat MP has written to Michael Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, to try and get the speed reduced along the whole stretch of B2027 from Four Elms to Hildenborough, and in particular from 40mph to 30mph in Chiddingstone Causeway.
- iii. County representation: C.Cllr Lake said that he will be standing down at the County Council elections in May 2121.

County Cllr Lake and District Cllr Mrs Coleman left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Cllr Taylor reported that he is concerned that flytipping in the parish is escalating and there does not appear to be much follow up of reports to SDC and no harsh fines. He said that there are five hot-spots in the parish and this could possibly be controlled by the use of CCTV. BBRAT offered some funding to purchase CCTV in the Bough Beech area. Members agreed that Cllr Taylor should invite Jack Wheeler from SDC to the October Parish Council meeting, and prepare a plan for CCTV in the parish to help prevent flytipping. It was agreed to make flytipping a regular agenda item.

Closed Session

41. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Baker, Cllr Bishop, Cllr Mrs Harris and Cllr Streatfeild and members accepted their reasons for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from District Cllr Osborne-Jackson.

- 42. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
None.
- 43. The minutes of the Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2020** were approved. The minutes would be signed at the next open public meeting. Proposed by Cllr Myers, seconded by Cllr Taylor and all were in favour.
- 44. To hear update regarding the drink to thank Chiddingstone Volunteers**
- i. Cllr Roper reported that due to the Government's Rule of Six, the thank-you drink planned for the 17th September had to be cancelled. He had written to all volunteers individually to thank them for putting themselves forward as a volunteer during the lockdown period.
 - ii. Cllr Roper said that Cllr Streatfeild suggested holding a sponsored parish walk between the pubs which would raise the community spirit. Members agreed that this must be put on hold now due to the current restrictions.
- 45. Planning:**
- i. To consider planning applications received
None. The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, the Planning Committee considered the following applications:
 - i. SE/20/02046/HOUSE and SE/20/02047/LBCALT: Chantlers, Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7BD - construction of a single storey extension and link to the south west of the house. Members supported this application.
 - ii. SE/20/01542/HOUSE and SE/20/01543/LBCALT: Triangle Oast, Hampkins Hill Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7BB - demolition and replace existing raised terrace and staircase, internal alterations, replacement of windows, small extension, relocation of oil tank and alterations to fenestration. Amended application to show corrected floor and elevation plans to clarify location of one door on the south elevation and to correctly label the orientation of the elevations. Members agreed to reiterate previous comments and had no additional comments to make in view of the amendments.
 - iii. SE/20/02101/HOUSE: 58 Tyehurst Cottages, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7AB - demolition of existing garage and erection of new two bay garage. Members had no objection if the application satisfies planning policy. Revised plan submitted with updated detail of materials in accordance with comments received from consultee. The use of clay plain tiles and improved roof pitch design have been specified. Members supported this application in light of revisions.
 - iv. SE/20/02113/HOUSE: Somerden Farmhouse, Tonbridge Road, Bough Beech TN8 7AJ - proposed hip-to-gable roof addition to eastern side elevation, roof conversion over existing garage served by a new external staircase, the erection of a new rear balcony, associated external alterations including roof lights and alterations to fenestration. Members had no objection to this application if it satisfies planning policy.
 - v. SE/20/02131/LBCALT: Lockskinners Farmhouse, Chiddingstone TN8 7NA - internal alterations to include the removal of plasterboard and timber ceiling, water tank and associated support deck. Installation of insulation and breathable board and skim between historic rafters. Repair of historic timber where damaged by modern, alterations to fenestration, unsympathetic intervention. Members supported this application.
 - vi. SE/20/02245/FUL: Commonwork Organic Farms Ltd., Bore Place, Chiddingstone TN8 7AR - erection of a new milking parlour. Members supported this application.
 - vii. SE/20/02397/AGRNOT: Commonwork Organic Farms Ltd., Bore Place, Chiddingstone TN8 7AR - erection of a new forestry workshop. Members supported this application.
 - viii. SE/20/02381/FUL: Stables adjacent to 26 Truggers Cottages, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7BP - conversion of stable to a single one bedroom dwelling with associated curtilage and parking, to include stable roof overhang as useable floorspace. Members wished to reiterate previous comments: "Chiddingstone Parish Council supports this application as the proposal will provide a small one bedroom dwelling which satisfies local need.

"The Parish Council requests that a condition be imposed on any approval to state that development rights for the remainder of the land be removed and no new agricultural buildings or stables are allowed to be erected in future. This is a large plot and there are still horses belonging to the applicant in the field. The Parish Council wishes to ensure that a condition is placed on any approval to prevent any new buildings, including temporary structures, to be erected on this land in future."

- ix. SE/20/01557/FUL: Scotland Barn, Watstock Farm, Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7BH - barn conversion to a six bed dwelling and associated curtilage and parking. Revised drawings which allow for the addition of roof lights which are to be set within the roof plan of the proposed new dwelling. Amended application with updated ecological survey in response to consultee feedback received from KCC Ecology and from the Arboricultural Officer as further information required. Members supported this application providing that the mitigation actions in this new report are conditions of any approval.
- ii. To report SDC notifications of planning decisions
- SE/20/01220/HOUSE: Waterlake, Tonbridge Road, Bough Beech - demolish existing car port, greenhouse, store, gardener's room and brick garden wall, conversion & extension of existing garage / tractor shed, new greenhouse tractor shed and walled garden. Application approved.
 - SE/20/00865/FUL: Hobbs Hill Farm, Bradley Road, Blackham - the change of use of two redundant agricultural barns to be utilised for the storage of self-store containers, caravans and motor homes. Application approved.
 - SE/20/01647/FUL: Stables adjacent to 26 Truggers Cottages, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath - conversion of stable to a single one bedroom dwelling with associated curtilage and parking. Application approved.
 - SE/20/01585/HOUSE and SE/20/01586/LBCALT: Lockskinners Farmhouse, Chiddingstone - installation of 2 new windows to ground floor east elevation to match those adjacent, removal of modern brick and block work internal walls at first floor and replacement with timber stud and plasterboard partitions. Application approved.
 - SE/20/01542/HOUSE and SE/20/01543/LBACLTL: Triangle Oast, Hampkins Hill Road, Chiddingstone demolition and replace existing raised terrace and staircase, internal alterations, replacement of windows, small extension, relocation of oil tank and alterations to fenestration. Application refused. Reason: 1) The proposed development would cause harm to the integrity and significance of designated heritage assets, contrary to Policy EN4 and the NPPF. The harm in this instance is not outweighed by public benefits 2) The proposed development would be of a design which domesticates the appearance of the dwelling, failing to respect its character and appearance and the development fails to conserve and enhance the special landscape character of the AONB, contrary to policies EN1 and EN5 of the ADMP and the NPPF. 3) The development fails to provide adequate off street parking for the enlarged dwelling and would be likely to cause harm to highway safety as a result, contrary to policies EN1 and T2 of the ADMP.
 - SE/20/01581/HOUSE: The Winery, Hampkins Hill Road, Chiddingstone - construction of a small plunge pool within the garden, replacement decking with landscaping works. Application approved.
 - SE/20/01783/LDCEX: Hill Hoath Farm, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone - ground source heat pump. Application approved.
 - SE/20/01499/HOUSE: 21 The Close, Bough Beech TN8 7PF - erection of a single storey rear and side extension, alterations to rear fenestration to include moving the back door and steps to garden. Application approved.
 - SE/20/02046/HOUSE and SE/20/02047/LBCALT: Chantlers, Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone Hoath - construction of a single storey extension and link to the south west of the house. Application approved.
 - SE/20/02397/AGRNOT: Commonwork Organic Farms Ltd, Bore Place - Forestry workshop. Decision: Prior Approval not required.
 - SE/20/02131/LBCALT: Lockskinners Farmhouse, Chiddingstone - internal alterations include removal of plasterboard and timber ceiling, water tank and associated support deck. Installation of insulation and breathable board and skim between historic rafters.

- Repair of historic timber where damaged by modern. Alterations to fenestration. Application approved.
 - SE/20/01304/FUL: Hoath House, Chiddingstone Hoath - temporary provision of 3 glamping pods and a semi-permanent marquee for weddings and events at Hoath House for 5 years. Application approved.
 - SE/20/02101/HOUSE: 58 Tyehurst Cottages, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7AB - demolition of existing garage and erection of new two bay garage. Application approved.
 - SE/20/02113/HOUSE: Somerden Farmhouse, Tonbridge Road, Bough Beech TN8 7AJ - proposed hip-to-gable roof addition to eastern side elevation, roof conversion over existing garage served by a new external staircase, the erection of a new rear balcony, associated external alterations including roof lights and alterations to fenestration. Application approved.
- iii. To report notification of appeal decision
 Appeal Ref: APP/G2245/W/20/3244390 Newtyehurst Farm, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7DA. The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission by Mr Lee Witchell against the decision of Sevenoaks District Council. The application ref SE/19/01052/FUL, dated 8 April 2019, was refused by notice dated 8 July 2019. The development proposed is conversion of agricultural barns into 16 residential units and the demolition of 2 residential units and the construction of 2 replacement dwellings. Application dismissed.
 Reason: “The proposal would conflict with development plan policies relating to the supply of employment sites and the delivery of affordable housing. On the other hand, it would comply with development plan policies relating to Green Belt and biodiversity. No conflict has been identified with other relevant policies, including those relating to design, amenity protection, landscape, noise and transport. Nevertheless, I consider that the conflicts with ADMP Policy EMP5 and CS Policy SP 3 are of sufficient importance that the proposal would be in conflict with the development plan as a whole. Other considerations: This is a case where the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites, as required by the Framework. Moreover, this is not a case where policies of the Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance (such as Green Belts and AONBs) provide any reasons for refusing the proposal. Consequently the approach to decision making set out in paragraph 11(d)(ii) is applicable. Assessing the proposal against the policies in the Framework as a whole, I conclude that there would be no harm in relation to those policies relating to Green Belt, AONB and biodiversity. However, there is no evidence before me of any significant benefits under these headings. The proposal would support the objective of boosting the overall supply of housing. Whilst this would be an important benefit, the failure to secure the delivery of affordable housing would be a significant conflict with the Framework. There would be a lost opportunity. Moreover, allowing the proposal without any justification for omitting affordable housing would risk undermining the effectiveness of both local and national policies. In my view that would be an adverse impact which would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.”
- iv. To discuss the Planning White Paper
 The new Planning White Paper was published for comment on 6th August and the consultation closes on 29th October. The key points are as follows:
- Planning will move from a discretionary to a rules based system – no longer will decisions be made on a case by case basis
 - Plans will allocate three types of land
 - Growth – for substantial development (to be defined)
 - Renewal – for gentle densification
 - Protection – restricted (includes Green Belt, AONB and Conservation Areas)
 - Local Plans will contain rules rather than policies, including design codes
 - Public engagement encouraged at Local Plan making stage and then streamlined thereafter
 - The test of soundness and duty to cooperate will be abolished
 - The single test will be one of ‘sustainable development’
 - Local Planning Authorities will have 30 months from the legislation coming into force to produce a Local Plan, or face intervention
 - Each Local Planning Authority will have a Chief Officer for Design & Placemaking
 - CIL and S106 will be replaced by a new Infrastructure Levy, which will be a value based flat rate charge and will include Affordable Housing

- A new nationally determined housing requirement will be allocated to each Local Planning Authority (300k houses pa divided up)
- A move to digital – no more site notices on lampposts and press notices
- Green Belt Policy will remain
- There will be three main application types – reserved matters, a local development order and a development consent order
- Consent will be granted if the requirements in the Local Plan are met
- Proposing something that differs from the Local Plan will require a planning application – by exception
- Planning applications will remain for development in protected areas
- A big push for data rather than documents Digital ; Interactive ; Visual
- Neighbourhood plans will be retained.
- Enforcement powers will be strengthened

The full document is available via the following link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907216/MHCLG_Planning_Consultation_Document.pdf

Cllr Mrs Quirk and the Clerk attended an online zoom event attended by NALC and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The main emphasis was on Neighbourhood Plans but they did stress that community engagement is an important factor of the new white paper and district/borough councils should take more note of comments raised by parish councils. Parishes which decide not to do a Neighbourhood Plan, which is completely voluntary, can get involved with Local Plan decision making. Cllr Mrs Quirk said that the aim is to make the whole process digital with no requirement for site notices and she was concerned that local people will not be aware of proposed development. It was agreed that the Clerk would email D.Cllr Mrs Coleman and D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson stating the Parish Council's concern about both community engagement and site notices.

46. Finance

i. To approve a new monthly standing order to Kent Pension Fund

The Clerk reported that the monthly payment to the Kent Pension Fund is due on the 19th of the month. The Parish Council's payment is usually paid later than this and comments have been raised by KPF. Cllr Williams proposed that a monthly standing order is set up for £372.56, this was seconded by Cllr Myers and all were in favour.

ii. To discuss a new contract for hire of Parish Council printer / purchase of new printer

The Clerk reported that the five year lease has expired on the Parish Council's multi-function machine. However, it appears that there is a shortage in stock of both machines and toner and members agreed to wait until more stock comes in.

iii. To approve list of payments

Cllr Mrs Quirk proposed that the list of payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and all were in favour. Cllr Roper and Cllr Myers undertook to authorise the payments online.

47. Affordable Housing provision in the parish

The Clerk reported as follows:

- Site adjacent to Chequers Barn, Bough Beech: Alison Thompson at ERHA reported that they have had several conversations with the landowner regarding the Heads of Terms for agreeing a Land Option Agreement for the Chequers site. They are discussing the most appropriate way to share ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the access road. She said "As you might imagine this matter is somewhat complicated because of the offices at Chequers Barn and we need to ensure a fair and affordable agreement can be negotiated. The good thing is that both parties want this to work, so I am hoping an acceptable legal way forward can be agreed."
- Site adjacent to Bassetts, Chiddingstone Causeway: Alison Thompson at ERHA reported that their Highways consultant has submitted a formal, paid for, pre-app enquiry to Kent Highways regarding visibility splays to the site in the hope that they can agree a way forward. Traffic calming measures may be part of the solution but they're waiting for their response. She said "It's very helpful to have the Parish Council's proactive support in this matter, so thank you."

iii. Site Opposite The Rock, Chiddingstone Hoath: none.

48. To discuss the speed limit on B2027 through Chiddingstone Causeway

See Open Session above.

49. To discuss the repair or replacement of the wooden fingerpost opposite the junction to Camp Hill

The Clerk reported that The Shed Man has provided a quote: To repair and paint new sign and posts, remove and dig out old post, install new one and concrete in and bolt together. Members agreed to seek another quote for comparison.

50. To discuss the Bough Beech Oast House and surrounding area adjacent to Bough Beech Reservoir

The Clerk reported that although the oast house that was the location of the Kent Wildlife Trust site is just outside the parish, the vast majority of the reservoir and nature reserve are in the parish. The KWT closed the visitor centre run out of the oast house in 2017 and in August 2020 decided to withdraw from the site altogether. SES Water, who own the site, marketed the oast house and surrounding land for lease on 14th August.

51. To discuss the visibility for drivers at Vexour Bridge

The Clerk reported that Andy Clifford-Baynes has now purchased one of the fields at the bridge, and she has asked him to cut back the overgrown vegetation.

52. Aviation

In the absence of Cllr Streatfeild, the Clerk reported that the following GACC newsletter has been received:

“Airport developments: Since our August newsletter the number of flights using Gatwick has marginally increased however Gatwick has announced that in August, usually one of the airport’s busiest months, passenger numbers are over 80% down when compared with the numbers of passengers Gatwick saw that month in 2019. Current numbers (mid-September) are around 200 flights a day which will drop off significantly when the tourist season finishes at the end of the month. The airport’s recently published results, for the six months to 30 June 2020, showed an overall decline in passenger numbers of 66%, leading to a 61% fall in revenue and a loss of £321m. The airport does not now expect traffic to reach 2019 levels until 2024. Over 740 employees have left the business and the airport is consulting on a further 600 job losses. Notwithstanding these results, the airport still expects to take forward in 2021 the planning process to bring its emergency runway into routine use. Despite GACC’s requests, the airport confirmed in August that it was resuming 24-hour operations. Many of you will have noticed that there are now again a significant number of night flights. We are very disappointed that Gatwick has not done more to ensure flights are only scheduled during the day.

Building back better: Back in June we wrote to Gatwick’s CEO asking the airport to do everything possible to minimise the impacts of its operations as flight numbers again started to increase. Our specific proposals included that the airport should remain closed at night, that airlines should prioritise flying the quietest aircraft in their fleets and that air traffic control operators should disperse aircraft and adopt noise-minimising arrival and departure procedures given airspace is less congested. We finally received a response on 17 August. Regrettably, the airport’s view is that there is no need for it to take any additional actions to minimise noise impacts as it recovers. It has not responded positively to any of our proposals. We have therefore raised them with the Noise Management Board and the airport’s Consultative Committee and will continue to seek a more positive approach from the airport.

GATCOM: The next GATCOM meeting is on 15th October and as mentioned above we will be raising our concerns once again at this meeting which we understand will be focussed on Build Back Better.

Noise Management Board: As previously reported, meetings of the new Noise Management Board (NMB) will re-start shortly. GACC participates in the NMB Community Forum, which next meets on 23 September, and represents community and environmental groups on the NMB Executive Board, which will meet on 21 October. We plan to raise a range of issues including arrangements to minimise noise impacts as the airport recovers, as set out above, and the poor progress Gatwick has made delivering its Noise Action Plan commitments, discussed below.

Gatwick’s Noise Action Plan: Gatwick’s Noise Action Plan (NAP) is the main legal mechanism by which the airport’s noise impacts are supposed to be managed and reduced.

“The current plan (the third) was approved by the government in February 2019 and runs until 2024. GACC and other community and environmental groups submitted numerous comments on the draft plan before it was approved, most of which were ignored. Nonetheless there are some worthwhile actions in the current NAP and it is important that they are delivered fully and promptly. Gatwick recently issued a progress report on the NAP. This claimed that 49 of the 58 actions were “on track” and the other nine actions “partially on track”. This didn't align with our understanding of the situation so we've carried out our assessment of progress. In our view only 28 actions are on track, 21 are partially on track and nine are not on track. Of the key actions that have real potential to reduce noise we think only 2 are on track, 5 are partially on track and 2 are not on track. Our conclusion is that Gatwick has made little progress in implementing its NAP and is particularly badly behind schedule on the most important actions. We appreciate that Covid has delayed some work, but many of the critical actions that remain outstanding were due to have been completed in 2019. Given these widely differing assessments we've asked for an independent review of progress to date. We'll continue to pursue this through GATCOM, the NMB and NaTMAG and, if necessary, ask government to step in and ensure Gatwick delivers on its commitments.

Noise Line: Gatwick finally re-installed an automated telephone system for reporting noise complaints in 2018 after an absence of three years. At the recent NATMAG meeting GAL suggested that the line may be withdrawn as part of the post-Covid cost reviews since its use was low. The view of NATMAG members was that the line was poorly promoted by GAL and that its removal would disadvantage those without internet or with certain disabilities. The number is 01293 311568.

Consultation: GACC has responded to the CAA's consultation on airspace reclassification.

National aviation policy: We continue to work with a range of other groups nationally to try to ensure that community and environmental views are heard and fully considered. We recently co-signed a letter to the then Aviation Minister summarising the aircraft noise issues that we believe the government should address. Since we wrote the Aviation Minister has been changed and is now Robert Courts, MP for Whitney in Oxfordshire.”

53. To discuss website upgrade and cost

The Clerk reported that Vision ICT have developed an upgrade to make their websites more user friendly and easier to navigate, particularly in light of the new accessibility legislation. They cannot adapt the current site to make it as accessible and responsive as the legislation requires, however they could build a new site in line with all the legislation. Vision ICT's price to build a new site with the information copied across, approximately 29 web pages, and the same level of functionality, would be between £1,695- £1,795 depending on the final level of design. It would meet the legal requirements of the transparency code as well as having some good community pages. Included in this price is designing and building the new site, hosting for the first year, data transfer, the opportunity to have an overhaul of the information on the site and make any amendments, two years of minutes and agendas copied across, GDPR features, a news section, a private members area, social media embedded if required, a contact us form, an accessibility statement, and two hours of additional telephone training. The hosting charges will be the same. This includes the BBRAT private part of the website. Cllr Williams proposed that the Parish Council upgrade the website as above, this was seconded by Cllr Myers and all were in favour. It was agreed to promote the website more in the community. Clerk to discuss website additions such as Facebook ads with Cllr Taylor.

54. To discuss correspondence received

- i. Item 3: Email from SDC to Town and Parish Councils
- ii. Item 5: KCC: Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 – KCC has made an Order to temporarily close Public Footpath SR550 at the crossing over the railway at the sports field in Chiddingstone Causeway from the 11th August 2020. The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen by 15th October 2020. The path is closed because works are planned to replace the steps on it. The alternative route is via public footpath SR493, the footbridge at Penshurst Station and the B2027 Tonbridge Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure
- iii. Item 7: KALC: Dynamic Councillor Module online via zoom. The date is Thursday 1st October 2020. This will be a 3 hour session commencing at 10.00 am but please join the waiting room from 9.45 am. The session will then finish at approximately 1.00 pm. The price is £50 plus VAT for member Councils.

- iv. Item 9: Update from Chiddingstone Church: “Talks are ongoing between representatives of the parishes of Chiddingstone, Chiddingstone Causeway, Peshurst and Fordcombe regarding the proposed coming together of the four parishes to form a United Benefice – the agreed name proposed being ‘Peshurst, Fordcombe and the Chiddingstone Churches’. The two PCCs of St Mary’s and St Luke’s have also agreed to unite the parishes of Chiddingstone and Chiddingstone Causeway to create one parish with one PCC, the proposed name being ‘The Parish of Chiddingstone and Chiddingstone Causeway’.”
- v. Item 10: Kent Police: “August update: In the last month we have spent a lot of our time working under Operation Mint and Operation Commando. Operation Mint is focussing on anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Sevenoaks District where by we have enforced dispersal zones, given out ASB warnings and utilised overtime to ensure we have more officers to be able to patrol more of the hotspot locations. Operation Commando is for dealing with the increase of nuisance motorbikes in the Edenbridge area but has spread across the district on occasions. We have held several nights of action with help from our colleagues in the Community Safety Unit, Community Policing Team and Local Policing Team, we have given out more section 59 warnings and completed a number of follow up visits.
Leigh & Chiddingstone Causeway: PCSOs have regularly patrolled the villages. We have speaking with residents and businesses following up on a fraudulent transaction, CCTV was checked as a crime enquiry which has enabled us to link this crime with others in the district and enquiries are ongoing.
Peshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone: Peshurst and Fordcombe has been patrolled regularly and as part of Operation Mint which has been running for the last few months dealing with anti-social behaviour in the Sevenoaks District. Local officers and the crime prevention officer have been liaising with land owners about how to secure their land and the best ways to prevent members of the public from abusing it and to reduce ASB, some of the more common suggestions are to secure boundaries, signage and to challenge behaviour.”
- vi. Item 13: Emails regarding the temporary closure of Chiddingstone Causeway Post Office, which will reopen on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 13:00.
- vii. Item 14: Kent Police: Matthew Scott, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, has produced a survey on Road Safety and Enforcement. See www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/apccsaferoads. It aims to gauge views on road safety across the country and what traffic law enforcement may look like in future.
- viii. Item 15: KCC – offering free salt bags to parishes. The Clerk has ordered one to be delivered to Chiddingstone School as normal.
- ix. Item 16: Copy email to Chiddingstone School from Charcott resident regarding parking in Chiddingstone village.

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

- i. Rural swathe and visibility cutting contract
 The Clerk reported that the second swathe cut was undertaken at the end of August. KCC have said that the cluster of parishes will receive £4,933.25. Net cost per parish this year based on 3 cuts will be £802.43. This is cheaper than last year, which was £948.43 per parish.
- ii. Community Garden
 The Clerk reported that the new fence in the Community Garden was completed at the end of August.
- iii. Closed Churchyard
 The Clerk suggested that a survey is carried out of all the trees in the Closed Churchyard, the Village Green, the Chiddingstone Hoath Green and the Community Garden. This will be free of charge and carried out by The Original Tree Surgeons. Any recommendations for work will require the necessary permissions. Members agreed.

56. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

Cllr Roper reported that he and the Clerk met the resident at Grove Close since the last meeting. The mobile home did not require enforcement action as it has ancillary use. The resident advised that the work in the field is due to the erection of two stables. Members agreed to keep Enforcement Officers aware of the situation.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7.30pm via zoom.
 The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.