

**MINUTES OF THE CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH JULY 2022 AT 7.30PM IN CHIDDINGSTONE CAUSEWAY HALL**

Present: Cllr J. Roper (Chairman), Cllr C. Bishop, Cllr P. Vicary and Cllr H. Williams
Apologies: Cllr A. Baker, Cllr P. Harris, Cllr P. Myers, Cllr M. Quirk, County Cllr M. McArthur and District Cllr R. Streatfeild
Absent: Cllr B. Taylor
In attendance: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk).

Open Session

Report by County Cllr McArthur

None.

Report by District Cllr Osborne-Jackson

District Cllr Osborne-Jackson's report can be seen on page 22.

Report by District Cllr Streatfeild

In the absence of District Cllr Streatfeild, the Clerk read his report:

"Please give my apologies to the meeting tonight I have my first full District Council meeting this evening where I shall be asking a question about rural housing and green belt release. This month I attended the scrutiny meeting which assesses the performance of the district council. Suffice to say that across the board the continued workforce pressure exerted by higher levels of sickness due to Covid has reduced the services provided in many areas to below the standards the council would like to see. As this situation is likely to persist in the medium term, part of living with Covid is how to get service levels back to those previously enjoyed by residents. I attended the licencing meeting for Lockskinners. The result there was a reduction in the licenced area granted by the council. Clearly some residents remained unhappy with the granting of the licence and activity at Lockskinners Farm will be keenly watched over the next few months. I've had a meeting with the leader of People and Places about our little spate of rural crime. As context there have been some significant local arrests but with no noticeable reduction in activity. The theft of the lead and then the school minibus received the personal attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner. I have a GATCOM meeting this week so any questions the council would like to ask Gatwick I would be happy to receive by email. I did a flights surgery in Penshurst over the weekend. There does seem to be more angst about the issue than there has been for the last few years. I have done an FOI of "Heat maps" from the CAA. I'll share it when I get them in mid-August. I'd be keen to hear the view of the council on the planned event at Wilderness Farm."

Closed Session

39. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Baker, Cllr Harris, Cllr Myers and Cllr Quirk and members accepted their reasons for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from County Cllr McArthur and District Cllr Streatfeild. District Cllr Osborne-Jackson apologised for his late arrival after attending the full SDC meeting. Cllr Taylor was absent.
40. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
None.
41. **The minutes of the Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd June 2022** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Bishop, seconded by Cllr Roper, and all were in favour.
42. **Planning:**
 - i. To consider planning applications received
 - i. SE/22/01689/LDCPR: Carberry Cottage, Tonbridge Road, Bough Beech TN8 7AU – first floor extension to facilitate a loft conversion at second floor. Alterations to fenestration. Members had no objection to this application.

- ii. SE/22/01530/FUL: Bough Beech Sailing Club, Winkhurst Green Road, Bough Beech TN8 7AN - erection of training cabin (for 5 year temporary period) and siting of steel storage containers. Members supported this application.
- iii. SE/22/01994/AGRNOT: Commonwork, Bore Place, Chiddingstone - the new and upgraded tracks will be used by the dairy cows to access their pasture. Members supported this application.
- iv. SE/22/01881/ELEC: Brownings Farm. Hale Oak Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7AX - to install low voltage underground cable through Brownings farmhouse. Install new high voltage pole to allow removal of low voltage overhead spans, and movement of high voltage overhead line. Members had no objection to this application if it satisfies planning policy.

The Clerk reported that since the last Parish Council meeting, the Planning Committee agreed the following responses:

- v. SE/22/01367/AGRNOT: Land at Reynolds Farm, Clinton Lane, Bough Beech - new agricultural barn and access route. The Clerk reported that she has responded to this consultation setting out inconsistencies in the application.
- vi. SE/22/01588/HOUSE: Rock View, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7BT - outdoor swimming pool. Members had no objection to this application.

ii. To report SDC notifications of planning decisions

- SE/22/01211/HOUSE: The Dairy Cottage, Mill Lane, Chiddingstone - proposed conversion of loft space into further accommodation with dormers and rooflight. Application approved.
- SE/ 22/01034/FUL: Camp Site, Wilderness Farm, Wilderness Lane - change of use of land from agricultural to camping during the period between 1st April and 30th October each year together with provision of mobile washing and sanitary facilities. Application approved.

iii. To hear update on potential breaches of planning policy

- Grove Close: the Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer has advised that he has been in contact with the landowners during week commencing 4th July and he has told them that they need to submit a planning application quickly before enforcement proceedings commence.
- Pucknells: the Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer has advised that there is an ongoing enforcement investigation at this property and officers will include the Parish Council's list of concerns.
- Oakenden Lane: the Clerk reported that a resident has raised details of potential non-compliance with planning policy and it was agreed that Cllr Roper, Cllr Williams and the Clerk would make a site visit.

43. Licensing

- i. SE/22/01563/LAPRE: Lockskinners Farm, Chiddingstone TN8 7NA: premises licence application for the supply of alcohol across 160 acres at Lockskinners Farm between 11am and 9pm. The Clerk reported that she attended the licensing hearing at SDC yesterday. This application was approved with a slightly reduced area to take any impact away from Hill Hoath Road. The mobile bar and eatery will be operational on Fridays 5pm to 9pm and on Sundays 2pm to 6pm. Saturdays will have private events. There will be occasional other events at other times of the week. The applicant said that there will only be one mobile vehicle selling alcohol/food at each event
- ii. SE/22/02321/LAPRE: Wilderness Farm, Hever TN8 7LP: premises licence application for the Alfresco Festival from 24th to 29th August 2022, involving the sale of alcohol and playing of recorded music.

| | Recorded Music | | Sale of Alcohol | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Start | Finish | Start | Finish |
| Thurs 25 th Aug | 11.00 | 02.00 on Fri | 11.00 | 02.00 on Fri |
| Fri 26 th Aug | 11.00 | 02.00 on Sat | 11.00 | 04.00 on Sat |
| Sat 27 th Aug | 11.00 | 02.00 on Sun | 11.00 | 04.00 on Sun |
| Sun 28 th Aug | 11.00 | 02.00 on Mon | 11.00 | 04.00 on Mon |

The Clerk reported that she has contacted the festival organiser and is in the process of arranging a meeting with him and with Hever Parish Council. Deadline for Parish Council response is 29.07.22

44. Finance: To approve list of payments

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

45. Affordable Housing: To hear update regarding the Chiddingstone Affordable Housing schemes

- i. Chequers site in Bough Beech: the Clerk reported that currently the determination deadline for the planning application is 04.08.22. Alison Thompson at ERHA has said: “You may have noted on the planning portal that Sean Tofts, the Urban Designer at SDC, has requested some further design changes to the flats and houses. Unfortunately this means the application will need to be re-consulted on, which is very frustrating, as another four weeks will be lost. The case officer has asked for an extension of time to cover this and a holiday period. I’m waiting to hear what date is requested. This will have a knock-on effect on the relocation of the reptiles to Bore Place, which will involve 60 visits that can only be carried out up until October.”
- ii. Bassetts site in Chiddingstone Causeway: the Clerk reported that the drainage surveys and ground investigation have revealed that a solution is feasible.

46. Highways

- i. To hear update on the Traffic Regulation Order on B2027 through Chiddingstone Causeway
The Clerk reported that the works will commence week commencing 8th August. Funding has been received from C.Cllr McArthur’s members fund for £3,000 towards this project. Members thanked C.Cllr McArthur for this contribution.
- ii. To discuss future applications for speed reduction measures in the parish
Members agreed to request a speed reduction in both Camp Hill and Bough Beech to run concurrently. Clerk to draw up maps of the areas in question.
- iii. To discuss the withdrawal of bus services across Kent
The Clerk reported that many school services are withdrawn or under threat of withdrawal from September, despite KCC saying that school services would not be impacted. KCC now is not including grammar or faith schools in ‘nearest suitable school’. The Clerk has emailed Roger Gough, David Brazier, Sue Chandler, Margot McArthur and Tom Tugendhat on this very important matter.
- iv. To discuss access for lorries using the narrow lane at the top of the green in Chiddingstone Hoath
To be considered further next month.

District Cllr Osborne-Jackson joined the meeting at 8.25pm.

47. To discuss proposal for new Chiddingstone Sports Association constitution and associated costs

Cllr Vicary declared a NPI in this matter as he is a member of the Football Club and the Sports Association. He took no part in the discussion or vote.

Cllr Roper reported that he, Cllr Vicary and the Clerk have had a meeting with the Cricket Club, the School and the Badgers to discuss the membership of the Sports Association. Subject to agreement by all interested parties, the idea is that the Cricket Club will have two voting members of the Sports Association, and the School, the Badgers and the Parish Council would each have one. An annual contribution of £750 per voting member would be part of the new agreement. Cllr Roper said that he would like to see the Sports Association become an incorporated association limited by guarantee. The Sports Association could then seek charitable status. Members agreed in principle to these proposals and to if necessary fund the cost of legal advice and professional services to create the incorporated association. Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bishop and all were in favour.

48. Chiddingstone Community Garden: To discuss the application for works to oak tree and associated costs

The Clerk reported that the combined cost to reduce the crown on the oak tree by approximately 30% and crown thin up to 20% as necessary, to lift the canopy on the tree to 5m from ground level to reduce risk of damage to the Village Hall roof. To build a retaining wall, 1.8m long, 9 brick courses high and bricks to match existing. To back fill area behind the new wall with soil to stabilise and make safe. Total cost: £1,538 + VAT. Members agreed to pay one third of the cost, with the School and the Village Hall also paying one third each.

49. To hear update regarding the new fence on the Sports Field in Chiddingstone Causeway

The Clerk reported that Batcheller Monkhouse have reported: “The fencing will be chestnut post and rail. This will go from the end of the hedge to a timber gate on the angle so that cars etc can pull off the road to open the gate. The gate will be locked to stop people not permitted to drive on the ground. Due to the lead time on materials and availability we’re currently looking at the end of July/start of August for the works.” The Clerk advised that Batcheller Monkhouse has also previously confirmed that pedestrian access will be retained.

50. Aviation

i. AEF: “Many of you will have seen the article in the 26 June Sunday Times which reported that the Government was considering a temporary relaxation of night-flight restrictions at the designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) to ease potential chaos at airports this summer. We confirmed with DfT officials that this was one of a number of ideas, submitted by the industry, that Ministers have been considering. We therefore wrote to the Transport Secretary and the Aviation Minister to make clear that it would be grossly inequitable and completely unacceptable for night flight limits to be relaxed to address issues that are entirely of the industry's own making. Given the industry's evident desire to increase flights at night, we've also asked the Government to ensure that dispensations from night flight limits at the designated airports are only granted in the very limited circumstances in which they are currently permitted. Subsequent to our letter the Government published a 22-point plan to tackle aviation disruption this summer. Although that plan makes no reference to increasing night flights, we understand from officials that the situation remains under review and additional measures could still be taken.”

ii. Email from Martin Barraud at GON: “Whilst we don’t have all the answers by any means, I would like to offer a pair of Q&A sessions to help where we can.

- Saturday 16th July, drop in session from 10.00am, The Leicester Arms, Penshurst TN11 8BT - I will be with Richard Streatfeild who has led a group of parish councils concerned with the effects of aviation and now represents the senior community group (GACC) on the statutory body regarding Gatwick (GATCOM). He has a strong and wide-ranging knowledge. He’s also now the District Cllr for Penshurst, Fordcombe & Chiddingstone.
- Thursday 1st September, 7.30pm, The Village Hall, Penshurst TN11 8BP - with a wider set of ‘panellists’ and some opening briefings from us.

iii. GACC: “Our AGM was held on 16th May and all committee members standing were elected. The formal matters of the meeting were preceded by a highly informative presentation from Tim Johnson of the Aviation Environment Federation on both Jet Zero and on the experiences of other airports community groups with expansion plans.

DCO Consultation - Supplementary Consultation: Gatwick continues to move forward with its expansion application via the Development Consent Order process to bring its emergency (or northern) runway into regular use. The consultation responses in 2021 have been analysed (there were over 6000 responses). Gatwick have now issued a supplementary consultation that reflects some of the design proposals for highways, surface parking and local infrastructure. The date of submission of the formal DCO application has shifted to early Spring 2023 rather than the end of this year.

Noise Envelope: In our last Newsletter (133) we gave some detail of the “Noise Envelope” Gatwick has proposed as part of its expansion plans. Since then it has begun a short engagement process with councils and community groups on those proposals. We are participating in that process because it is the only engagement that Gatwick has offered on a future noise envelope. However, with other groups, we have written to Gatwick’s CEO to set out the many deficiencies in its process. We have made clear that the engagement proposed is wholly unsuitable given that the noise envelope is by far the most important noise management development at Gatwick for many years. We have also put on record the fact that Gatwick is not complying with the Civil Aviation Authority's advice on noise envelope development in many respects including the time being allowed and the lack of an independent chair or advisers.

Gatwick Operations: You will no doubt have seen the press reports of the problems airports are having managing flight programmes due in the main to labour shortages – both airport and airline staff. To help resolve this Gatwick have introduced a daily cap on the number of flights operating over the summer. This will reduce flights from the expected 900 per day to 825 in July and 850 in August. Many people will be surprised at those figures but in 2019 Gatwick did achieve over 950 flight per day on some summer days.

“To support airports UK wide the Department for Transport has temporarily lifted restrictions that insist slots allocated to airlines at each airport have to be used. This will remove the risk of so called 'ghost' flights and possibly reduce the overall number of flights operating – but only marginally.

Night Flights: whilst having a seasonal cap (11,200 summer, 3,250 winter), night flights are not being proportionally capped by Gatwick and in fact we are seeing nearly 100% utilisation of summer night allocations. Together with the Aviation Environment Federation and community groups at Heathrow and Stansted, GACC has written to the Secretary of State and the Aviation Minister to make clear that any relaxation in night flights limits and rules would be grossly inequitable and wholly unacceptable given the issues at airports are entirely of the industry's making.

Government Future Strategy: The Government was due to publish a new aviation strategy in 2019 which would define its ambitions for the industry through to 2050. Obviously the pandemic has impacted its publication and we've now been presented with a strategic framework for the next 10 years called 'Flightpath to the Future'. Our view is that the policy virtually ignores environmental impacts. The Aviation Environment Federation has published a sound critique of the paper that matches our views.”

51. To discuss correspondence received

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

- i. Item 2: Copy correspondence from D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson to Tom Tugendhat MP regarding the significant rise in fuel costs which is having a detrimental impact on residents of this rural area who rely on their vehicles on a daily basis. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has instructed the Chief Executive of the Competition and Markets Authority to conduct an urgent review of the retail fuel market as well as a longer-term investigation under the Enterprise Act.
- ii. Item 3: SDC News Release: 2nd to 8th July is Net Zero Week and SDC is highlighting its commitment to make its operations Net Zero by 2030 and its environmental ambitions for the District. More information about the Council's Net Zero commitments can be found at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/netzero
- iii. Item 4: UK Cycling Events – notice of cycle race to be held on Sunday 9th October, starting at Lingfield Racecourse. The middle length route travels through Chiddingstone parish.
- iv. Item 5: SDC: SDC launched a new website page providing information on some of the help and support available for disabled people in the district. www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20002/your_environment_and_community/663/help_and_support_for_disabled_people
- v. Items 6 and 14: Kent Highways:
 - Emergency Road Closure: Moorden Lane will be closed for 7 days from 6th July for drainage works. The alternative route is via Station Hill and Penshurst Road.
 - Temporary Road Closure: Truggers Lane will be closed from 25th July for 9 days for UK Power Networks. The road will be closed outside Truggers Farm. The alternative route is via Truggers Lane, Truggers Lane to Grove Road, Hoath Corner to Oakenden Lane, Hoath Corner and vice versa.
 - Temporary 30mph Speed Limit - B2027 Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway - 10th August 2022 for 3 days because of carriageway resurfacing between Gables Lodge and Knotley Hall.
- vi. Item 12: KCC: “Councils across the UK are asking residents to tell them what they think of transport and highways services in their area, and we're one of those councils. There are six independent surveys in total. We're asking for your views on accessibility, highways maintenance, public transport, road safety, tackling congestion and walking and cycling. <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/national-highways-and-transport-2022-23>.
- vii. Item 13: PSCO Sam Rustrick: Police report: “Leigh and Chiddingstone – we received several reports of a traveller incursion in Chiddingstone last month on the 4th. They made their way onto the cricket pitch, with 13 horses and numerous vehicles. No threats were made, and no one was in any harm during the incursion. Patrols attended during the evening, and they had already moved on from the area, there were no further sightings of the group after this. As the weather is getting hotter, we have increased the patrols around hot spot locations across the district, Ensfield Road is one of the hot spot locations. As of yet we have had no calls for this area and have not heard of any issues being caused. As the land is privately owned the onus is on the landowner to solve any issues as it is primarily a civil issue until cars start causing an obstruction on the road. We are still patrolling around the villages regularly and are always looking to attend community engagement events.

“Depending on shifts patterns will depend on what time of the day we are in the area but we are very keen to do as much high vis patrolling as we can.”

- viii. Item 15: SDC – confirmation of Tree Preservation Order on Yew tree at Glebe House, The Village, Chiddingstone. This order was made on 30th June 2022.
- ix. Item 16: Correspondence from resident regarding planning breach in Oakenden Lane.
- x. Item 17: Correspondence from resident regarding the Alfresco festival planned for the August Bank Holiday weekend.
- xi. Item 18: Many copy emails from residents regarding the disruption and cancellation of school bus services.

52. To discuss unauthorised traveller encampments in the parish

The Clerk reported that travellers stopped for a night on the Chiddingstone Causeway Sports Field and then also for a night on land at the end of Hale Oak Road. They left some damage to the sports pavilion and broke a goal post. Both landowners worked with the Police.

53. To hear update regarding the Margaret Hyde Almshouses

None.

54. To hear report and discuss Parish Projects, including approval of costs:

- i. Heritage phone box in Chiddingstone Hoath
Item to be discussed at the September Parish Council meeting.
- ii. Litter Pick, Bulk Refuse Freighter and Flytipping to include possible new service for items not accepted by the Bulk Refuse Freighter
 - i. The Bulk refuse freighter next date: 10th September
The Rock Inn, Chiddingstone Hoath 10.30-11.15
The Wheatsheaf Inn, Bough Beech 11.30-12.15
Richards Close, Chiddingstone Causeway 12.30-13.15
 - ii. The Clerk reported that Peshurst Parish Council has been in discussion with SDC about a possible new service for items not accepted by the Bulk Refuse Freighter, this would be picking up fridges etc from people’s homes, however, this has proved not to be possible.
 - iii. It was agreed to do a cross-parish litter pick every three months. Cllr Vicary has a dozen litter pickers and hoops that could be used and Clerk to purchase high-visibility waistcoats if required.
- iii. Train horns in Bough Beech
The Clerk reported that since the last meeting when she reported that there was agreement from Network Rail to meet on site, this has been withdrawn. Cllr Roper emailed Andrew Haines, the chief executive of Network Rail and this has now filtered down to the original team so hopefully something can be arranged. Sharon Gray from the Community Stakeholders Forum said that she is inviting a senior person from NR to their annual meeting at the end of September and if we are no further forward I’ll attend that meeting and put the Parish Council’s question to him there.
- iv. Summer Family Fun Play event
Friday 5th August from 2pm to 5pm on the Chiddingstone Causeway Sports Field.

55. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

None.

The Closed Session ended at 8.50pm.

Open Session

Report by District Cllr Osborne-Jackson

District Cllr Osborne-Jackson reported as follows:

- Progress has been made from his meetings with the Head of Housing at WKHA and previously reported incidences at Richards Close have settled down. He said that he is being kept informed on this matter.

- Contractors have been given the go-ahead to implement measures on the B2027 in Chiddingstone Causeway to reduce speed via the Traffic Regulation Order.
- SES Water has had to extend the works programme on the B2027 in Chiddingstone Causeway for which they have apologised. If the traffic lights are not working, residents should contact the out-of-hours number at KCC or at SES Water.
- He attended the Armed Forces Flag Raising Day at the district council offices.
- He has been in Harrogate attending the LGA event, which is a good way to network with other councillors and Chief Executive Officers of other councils across the country.
- The Fun Day on the Chiddingstone Causeway Sports Field is on Friday 5th August has been funded by SDC, although the Parish Council has organised and funded additional activities.
- He has successfully secured approximately 500 free trees from the Woodland Trust and these will be distributed fairly throughout his ward. Cllr Bishop said that he is able to obtain 300 more free trees.
- SDC and KCC have prepared welcome packs for Ukrainian nationals who arrive in the district.
- He attended the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meetings of SDC, which looks at how the council's finances are managed.
- There was an Unauthorised Encampment in Chiddingstone Causeway, for which he received information and updates from SDC officers.

Cllr Roper thanked D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson for his report.

The Open Session closed at 9.15pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th September 2022 at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Village Hall.

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