

**MINUTES OF THE CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30PM IN CHIDDINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr J. Roper (Chairman), Cllr P. Myers, Cllr T. Nunn, Cllr K. Outlaw, Cllr M. Quirk, Cllr C. Shamwana and Cllr H. Williams

Apologies: Cllr P. Harris, Cllr P. Vicary, County Cllr McArthur, District Cllr R. Streatfeild and District Cllr M. Silander

In attendance: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk). Two members of the public the meeting or the Open Session only.

Open Session

Report by County Cllr McArthur

In the absence of County Cllr McArthur, the Clerk read her report:

“Children’s Services: Looked After Children and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) - KCC returned to court just before Christmas with an appeal against the findings that children’s services were being run illegally by giving preference to citizen children over UASC. The outcome was that the previous ruling was dismissed and KCC allowed to proceed as previously. At end of November 2023, Kent had just over 2,000 Looked After Children – 541 UASC and 1,472 non-UASC. By comparison, one year earlier the numbers were one thousand less children. The total number of UASC arrivals for 2023 now stands at just under 2,200 This already exceeds the previous record for a calendar year which was 1,403 in 2022. KCC has been working closely with the Home Office on the provision of appropriate levels of accommodation to meet the required anticipated need. Three options in Ashford, Dartford and Faversham have been identified as suitable for potential use as new Reception Centres. We have been assured that the new Reception Centres will be wholly funded by Central Government and will not present an additional burden on Kent taxpayers. As with existing Reception Centres, they will be run by KCC employees and will have stringent security and safeguarding controls in place. They will only provide temporary accommodation and care for UASC until they are transferred to another UK local authority.

Kent bus services: You will recall from previous briefings and the accompanying pain of bus service changes, the significant challenges impacting the bus industry across the UK and locally to Kent continue. Unfortunately, the factors affecting the sustainability of bus services have not changed with overheads such as fuel, staffing and other costs remaining high and use of buses in the off peak in particular remaining significantly lower than before Covid. As the bus industry remains privatised in most parts of the UK, including Kent, Local Transport Authorities have been allocated post Covid Support funding to enable us to support the network and protect services at risk of withdrawal. In addition, Kent has also been allocated funding to support its bus service improvement plan and whilst the majority of this is in capital and has to be used for other things, we have also been able to use the proportions allocated for service funding to put towards the protection of services. Since the start of 2022, this has enabled us to protect around 50 schools services that were at risk of withdrawal. These services continue to be funded using Government funding and would not otherwise be operating. The cost of these services is estimated at around £3m per year when accounting for the contribution made towards them from passenger revenue. These commitments have exhausted the funding available through Government, and KCC’s own budgets for supporting bus services are also fully allocated. Alongside this, we are unfortunately starting to see bus service cancellations get presented to us again and with no funding available, the Council are simply not going to be in a position to protect them and so if current and other possible operators do not view them as commercially sustainable then they will stop. These cancellations will unfortunately include school buses. Although it will be of little consolation for affected families, it is important to recognise that the bus industry remains de-regulated (i.e. outside of Local Authority Control) and that, with the exception of children entitled to free transport to school, the Council is not responsible for getting children to school. Children with this legal entitlement to free transport to school will be provided with alternative transport. Children who have purchased a Travel Saver and find themselves without a suitable bus service will be offered refunds which will be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Beyond that, there is unfortunately going to be nothing else that the Council can do to insist that services continue or to replace them. As we become aware of changes, we will keep updated a summary of changes at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travelling-around-kent/bus-travel/busservices-in-kent>

M25: In April 2023, the Prime Minister announced the cancellation of new smart motorway schemes and confirmed the government and National Highways would continue to invest £900 million in further safety improvements on existing smart motorways. All lane running (ALR) motorways, where the hard shoulder is permanently converted to a running lane, were introduced to increase capacity on congested sections of motorway.

“These motorways have a whole system of inter-related features, focussed on drivers, which includes places to stop in an emergency. National Highways has been developing a £390 million programme to roll out more emergency areas on ALR motorways, in operation and construction. Emergency areas provide a place to stop in an emergency if drivers cannot exit the motorway or stop at a motorway service area. They are marked by blue sign, featuring an orange SOS telephone symbol. We are delivering this programme in phases. The M25 junctions 5 to 7 will be one of the next locations to have new emergency areas added. We expect to start work from early 2024. This investment in new emergency areas, along with extra technology like stopped vehicle detection, better and more signposting of emergency areas, our public awareness campaigns promoting more information about smart motorways, and the updated Highway Code, is all designed to help road users feel safe and be even safer on our roads.”

Report by District Cllr Streatfeild

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

“I will be at the District Council annual budget meeting tonight. I'll send an update by email afterwards. The most significant thing for Chiddingstone is the potential funding cut to the CAB in Edenbridge.”

Report by District Cllr Silander

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

- “I've met with residents to view potholes and associated flooding / damage near Bore Place.
- A district-level boundary review is underway, with consultation ongoing and to be implemented in the 2027 elections. This will not impact Parish boundaries.
- The proposal of electronic voting and video recording of meetings is being voted on at full council.
- Constitutional changes proposed will limit the ability of ‘opposition’ members to scrutinise SDC decision-making, by limiting the number of Motions which can be asked at Full Council to 1 per party.”

Questions from members of the public

1. A resident attended in order to ask members what the next steps will be on the track in Chiddingstone Hoath now that the appeal has been dismissed. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Enforcement at SDC to see whether they will now commence enforcement proceedings to remove the chalk and scalplings and return the land and track to its previous condition.

The resident left the meeting at 7.45pm.

2. Reverend Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff attended the meeting in order to discuss the High Weald Churches application for grant towards the new audio and visual system in St. Mary's and St. Luke's Churches. Members asked for a breakdown of costs and it was agreed to discuss this further at the March Parish Council meeting.

Reverend Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff left the meeting at 8pm.

Closed Session

- 125. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Harris and Cllr Vicary and members accepted their reasons for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from County Cllr McArthur, District Cllr Streatfeild and District Cllr Silander.
- 126. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
None.
- 127. The minutes of the Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2024** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Shamwana, seconded by Cllr Outlaw, and all were in favour.
- 128. To discuss the format of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024**
Members discussed the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Hall on 23rd April 2024.
- 129. Planning:**
 - i. To consider planning applications received

- i. SE/24/00051/FUL and SE/24/00052/LBCALT: 3 The Village, Chiddingstone TN8 7AH - wooden decking with a corrugated polycarbonate roof supported by timber posts within the existing rear garden of The Tulip Tree Tea Rooms. Members supported this application.
- ii. SE/23/03068/FUL: Coles Farm, Bore Place Road, Chiddingstone TN8 7AP - demolition of existing barn and stable building and erection of a replacement stable building. Construction of private sand school for home and personal use. Updated ecological impact assessment. The Parish Council's initial comments were: "Chiddingstone Parish Council supports this application subject to the support of Natural England, KCC Ecology and the Kent Wildlife Trust. The Parish Council would like to see any recommendations made by Natural England, KCC Ecology and the Kent Wildlife Trust followed and reinforced by condition." Members approved the following further response: "Chiddingstone Parish Council believes that the latest site is preferred to the previously approved location, and wish to reinforce the advice from Natural England that the sand school should be constructed from natural sand, as opposed to silica sand which is harmful to biodiversity, and there should be no use of rubber chippings. In addition, the hedgerow bordering the adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest should be restored and featured in a biodiversity plan showing how the Local Wildlife Site can be restored and better managed to compensate for the damage and overgrazing documented in the latest ecology report. These points are not addressed in the latest ecology amendment."

The Clerk reported that since the last Parish Council meeting, the Planning Committee has considered the following planning applications:

- iii. SE/23/03603/HOUSE: Truggers Barn, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7BP - proposed raised landscape terrace and balustrading. Members had no objection to this application.
 - iv. SE/24/00082/AGRNOT: Land North of Oakenden Farm, Oakenden Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath – agricultural store. Members submitted the following comment: "Chiddingstone Parish Council objects to the proposed erection of the agricultural store due to the damaging impact on the character and appearance of the Green Belt and the High Weald National Landscape. This is an area of outstanding scenic beauty and should be conserved and enhanced. This proposal is contrary to the objectives of the High Weald AONB Management Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework, and also the objectives and requirements of policies SP1 and LO8 of the Sevenoaks District Council Core Strategy and policies EN1 and EN5 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Plan."
 - v. SE/24/00036/NMA: 2 Hobbs Hill Farm Cottage, Bradley Road, Blackham, Chiddingstone, TN3 9UP - Non material amendment to 23/01483/HOUSE (Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Internal alterations. Alterations to roof. Alterations to fenestration. Rooflights. PV Panels. Sun tunnel. Juliet balcony) Alterations to fenestration - to increase the size of the sliding doors and juliet balcony, this has in turn amended the first floor layout and removed the previous dressing room window to the rear. Members had no objection to this application.
 - vi. SE/24/00103/WTCA: The Rectory, The Village, Chiddingstone TN8 7AH - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area: T1 Common ash - Tree in decline due to Ash Die back: Works Required - Dismantle. T2 Silver birch - Tree in Decline: Works required - Dismantle. G4 Common Ash x 3 - Trees in decline due to Ash die back: Works required - Dismantle Members had no objection to this application
- ii. To report SDC notifications of planning decisions
- SE/23/03174/LBCALT: Tudor Cottage, 6 The Village, Chiddingstone - proposed repair and damp proofing works to the property and garden wall and chimneys. Application approved.
 - SE/23/03084/LBCALT: Land between The Castle Inn and Nos 4 and 6 The Village, Chiddingstone - repairs and maintenance including removal of vegetation, soil coverage and relaying of cobbles where required. Application approved.
 - SE/23/03458/FUL: Land behind No 3 The Green, Chiddingstone Hoath - conversion of the existing outbuilding to a new detached dwelling, new side extension and provision of an associated residential curtilage. Application approved.
 - SE/24/00082/AGRNOT: Land North of Oakenden Farm, Oakenden Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath - agricultural store. Decision – Prior Approval Not Required.
 - SE/23/03153/CONVAR: Land West of Chequers Barn, Chequers Hill, Bough Beech - variation of conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18 of 22/01146/FUL for development of 11 dwellings.

This includes 8 affordable homes, plus garages and associated works, with amendments concerning design, landscape, ecology, construction and other associated subjects. Application approved.

- SE/23/03708/WTCA: Old Granary, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath - works to trees in a Conservation Area: Silver Birch – Fell. Decision: No Objection Lodged
- SE/24/00036/NMA: 2 Hobbs Hill Farm Cottage, Bradley Road, Blackham - Non-Material Amendment to SE/23/01483/HOUSE. Application approved.
- SE24/00128/WTCA: The Old Rectory, The Village, Chiddingstone - works to trees in a Conservation Area. Works to trees in a Conservation Area. Decision: No Objection Lodged.
- SE/23/03707/MMA: Lockskinners Farm, Lockskinners, Chiddingstone - amendment to SE/19/02061/FUL (Partial demolition of workshops/offices (building 2) and conversion to facilitate a gym with alterations to fenestration. Demolition of storage area and partial conversion of existing stables with installation of mezzanine floor for light industrial/ workshops and offices, with alteration to fenestration. Erection of two stable blocks. Relocation of site access and associated landscaping.) This application proposes a small, mono-pitched lean-to building adjoined to the external wall of the east elevation of Unit 2. Application approved.

iii. To report planning appeal decisions

- Appeal Ref: APP/G2245/C/22/3291099 Land north of Oakenden Farm, Oakenden Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath, Kent TN8 7DE. The appeal is made under section 174 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, and is made by Mr Joe Potter against an enforcement notice issued by Sevenoaks District Council. The enforcement notice was issued on 21 December 2021. The breach of planning control as alleged in the notice is: Without planning permission, the laying of a chalk surface on an existing track (as shown in the approximate position blue edged on Plan B). The requirements of the notice are to: a) Remove the chalk surface and all resultant material from the land as shown blue edged in the attached Plan B. b) Return the land and track as shown blue edged in the attached Plan B back to a grass surface as per previous land condition prior to unlawful works.
Decision: 1. It is directed that requirement b) of the enforcement notice be deleted and reworded as follows: “Return the land and track, as shown edged blue in the attached Plan B to its former condition prior to the unauthorised works carried out.” 2. Subject to this correction the appeal is dismissed, the enforcement notice is upheld and planning permission is refused on the application deemed to have been made under section 177(5) of the 1990 Act, as amended.
- Appeal Ref: APP/G2245/W/23/3326475 Clouts Farm, Orchard Cottage, Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech, Kent TN8 7PH. The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission by Mr Daryl Smith against the decision of Sevenoaks District Council. The application Ref 22/03374/FUL, dated 30 November 2022, was refused by notice dated 11 April 2023. The development proposed is described as “retrospective planning application for the erection of an agricultural barn at land adjacent to Orchard Cottage, Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech, Kent TN8 7PH.”
Decision: The appellant indicates that the barn provides a secure and sheltered location for the storage and safe maintenance of agricultural equipment required for the use and upkeep of the self-contained site. However, there is little evidence of agricultural use to justify provision of the building and therefore I accord this matter limited weight. Conclusion: Inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Appeal Dismissed

iv. To hear update on potential breaches of planning policy

The Clerk updated members regarding a potential breach of planning policy in the parish.

130. Finance

- To consider application for grant from GACC towards costs associated with Gatwick Airport’s Development Control Order application for use of their Northern Runway
Cllr Nunn proposed that a grant of £500 is given to GACC, this was seconded by Cllr Williams and all were in favour.
- To consider application for grant from High Weald Churches for Audio/Visual Upgrade in both St. Mary’s Church Chiddingstone and St. Luke’s Church Chiddingstone Causeway
Members agreed to await further information on the breakdown of the quote and to discuss the matter again at the March Parish Council meeting.

- iii. Sevenoaks District Precept Tables 2024/25
The Clerk circulated copies of the district-wide precept tables for information.
- iv. To approve list of payments
Cllr Shamwana proposed that the list of payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Outlaw and all were in favour. Cllr Roper and Cllr Myers to authorise the payments online.

131. Affordable Housing provision in the parish

- i. To hear update regarding the Chiddingstone Affordable Housing schemes
The Clerk reported that Graham Mann, who is ERHA's Development Design Manager, has provided the following update:
 - i. Chequers site in Bough Beech: "I'm pleased to confirm that the S73 application was approved. This 'unlocks' the affordable homes from the open market/self-build plots and means we can crack on as planned. I'm pleased to confirm that Vulcan Ellis Ltd of Crawley have been appointed to build the affordable homes and associated works. We feel they have the necessary organisation and experience to deliver the scheme and are currently busy preparing the required design information and submitting for the technical approvals required. A physical start on site is scheduled for the 2nd April. In the meantime, there will be some vegetation tidying and removal, ahead of bird nesting season in the next week or so. It is planned for the PROW to be closed throughout the build programme to ensure public safety, particularly as the PROW is shared with the access to the site and Chequers Barn which shall remain open." The Clerk reported that Graham has also emailed to suggest Chequers Field as the name for the new development of houses at Chequers in Bough Beech. If acceptable English Rural will ask the Contractor to apply to Sevenoaks to have this made official and post codes issued. Members approved this request.
 - ii. Bassetts site in Chiddingstone Causeway: "I understand from my Director that this is still with Solicitors to agree terms but we are still actively seeking to bring this site forward."
- ii. To discuss recent flooding in Redleaf Close and hear an update on progress
The Clerk reported that the meeting that was due to be held in January was cancelled and it has proved to be very difficult to get the meeting re-arranged. Cllr Roper undertook to ring Charles Warner.
- iii. To discuss the vacancy under a Local Lettings Plan at Slaters, Bough Beech
The Clerk reported that over 100 bids were submitted on Kent Homechoice for the two bedroom ground floor flat at Slaters in Bough Beech. The Clerk received many enquiries from people with a strong local connection and who were in housing need. Moat Housing will now send out questionnaires to applicants asking for them to prove their local connection which will be checked with council tax records etc. Cllr Outlaw reported that RACE decided not to apply for Defra funding which was available over two financial years as it was felt that the terms of the grant could not be satisfied.
- iv. Anti-Social Behaviour in the Parish
Members discussed whether there is any anti-social behaviour currently prevalent in the parish but it is believed to be quiet at the current time.

132. Highways and Rights of Way

- i. To hear update regarding applications for speed reduction measures in Bough Beech and on Camp Hill
The Clerk reported that the traffic surveys took place for a week from Saturday 27th January. The report has not yet been received.
- ii. Highways
 - Urgent Road Closure - Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone Hoath - 29th January for up to 1 day, between Chiddingstone Road and Rywell Road. This is to enable carriageway patching to be carried out by KCC.
 - Urgent Road Closure - Lockskinners, Chiddingstone - 13th February for up to 1 day outside Granary Cottage. This is to enable carriageway repairs to be carried out by KCC.
 - Emergency Road Closure - Hoath Corner to Oakenden Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath - 13th February for up to 7 days from the junction with Truggers Lane to the junction with Truggers Lane to Grove Road. KCC has closed the road due to a sink hole.
 - Urgent Road Closure - Finch Green, Chiddingstone Hoath - 26th February for up to 2 days. This is to enable urgent drainage investigation works to be carried out by KCC.

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

Cllr Shamwana reported that a good meeting was held and the original constitution was circulated. The Football Club membership of the Sports Association has now been taken over by Malcolm Silander who manages a Chiddingstone under-11 girls football team. Current members are the Cricket Club, the Football Club, the School, the Badgers and the Parish Council. The Tennis Club is currently not a member but may consider joining in the future. Feedback comments are requested on the constitution and then a new draft will be prepared. The charitable status of the Sports Association is also under discussion.

134. To discuss Bough Beech Reservoir and SES Water's plans to improve the area around the reservoir

The Clerk reported that Cllr Roper, Cllr Outlaw, Cllr Nunn, Cllr Vicary and the Clerk met SES Water on the 2nd February and discussed SES Water's plans for the area around the Bough Beech Reservoir. SES Water has funding available to renovate the oast house and the barn to create a local venue that could be booked for use by the community. They are hoping to create an education programme and will be working with Bore Place. They plan to improve the existing footpaths, hedging and fencing. Cllr Outlaw said that BBRAT is keen to be involved and is interested in what may be achieved at the site. The Clerk said that the following update has been received from SES Water following the meeting: "Firstly, I have been able to confirm we can share our Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) funding application with you. In fact, our officer was encouraged by the continued community collaboration beyond that solely described in the application. I have therefore attached the application we submitted for your information, and I will be happy to go through any points in the event you have any queries or comments. As the Oast House project has started, the latest of several surveys completed is the bat assessment. As expected, there is evidence of bat activity, and we are arranging a programme of further bat surveys to ensure we meet the timing windows for such assessments this year. We would be happy to provide further detail on this, and I am hopeful we can also use the findings to start building our species recording repository. Thank you for considering how FlowZone could be promoted through the various channels you link with, it is really appreciated. I have attached a copy of Flow, our education newsletter, which can be shared with any contacts or partners to provide some company updates as well as outline our offering. Lastly, I just want to confirm that 23rd April is firmly in our calendars. I would be particularly grateful for any thoughts you may receive at the Parish Council tonight, or the BBRAT session next month, so that we can prepare appropriately for the April evening and try to cover the right breadth of topics/updates."

135. Aviation

- i. AEF: a meeting of AEF's Airspace and Noise Community Forum took place on Friday 9th February 2024 at 10am on zoom.
- ii. Gatwick Airport Ltd: "We are pleased to resume our "Discover London Gatwick" programme welcoming community representatives to the airport to learn more about London Gatwick and our business priorities, culminating in an airfield tour. The following events will run from 9.30am to 2pm with lunch provided:
 - 6th March 2024
 - 14th March 2024
 - 4th April 2024
- iii. CAA: "Following the publication of the revised CAP 1616 airspace change process, the UK Civil Aviation Authority has today published the revised requirements and guidance for temporary and trial airspace change proposals, CAP 1616g. The requirements and guidance for temporary and trial airspace change proposals have not materially changed but are now all contained within one document with minimal reference required to other CAP 1616 documents. CAP 1616g can be found on the UK Civil Aviation Authority website and will come into force on 18 March 2024. Any temporary or trial airspace change proposals commenced on or after that date will be assessed against the requirements of the process described in CAP 1616g."

136. To discuss correspondence received

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

- i. Item 3: KALC Training:
 - 15th February Mastering Planning Application Responses (online) 7pm to 9pm. Cllr Roper, Cllr Quirk and the Clerk attended.

- 22nd February Finance for Councillors (online) 10am
 - 27th February Finance for Councillors (online) 6:30pm
 - 12th March Annual Planning Conference 9.30am to 3pm at Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, Kent TN12 5BT. This year's event will focus on planning and infrastructure. Delivering the full suite of infrastructure to support development – particularly major development – is not always straightforward. The conference will bring together speakers from some of the major infrastructure organisations to talk about how they forward plan for need and how they contribute to local planning. Importantly, we will be exploring how Town and Parish Councils, representing their parishioners, can be involved in ensuring that adequate infrastructure is delivered in a timely and appropriate way.
- ii. Item 4: Vision ICT:
- Enhance Your Website with Text and Imagery: February 8th 2023. The Clerk attended. Cost £25 + VAT.
 - V6-5 Advanced Workshop: Elevate Your Web Editing Skills - date to be confirmed. Cost £25 + VAT.
- Members agreed that the cost will be shared between Leigh and Chiddingstone Parish Councils.
- iii. Item 5: KALC D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024. Light a Beacon at 9.15pm.
- iv. Item 6: SDC: the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) have informed us that they are required to undertake a review of the electoral arrangements for Sevenoaks District Council. The LGBCE cannot create or abolish town or parish councils as part of their review, nor can they amend the external boundaries of any town or parish. However, parish wards could be created under certain circumstances.
- v. Item 6: Kent Police:
Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone - on Tuesday 16th January between 01:00 and 01:54, somebody damaged a doorbell camera at a residential property. Crime Report No. 46/8186/24
- vi. Item 8: Report from Kent Police: PC Kemp is continuing to engage and have a visible presence in the community, engaging with key stakeholders and members of the public.
- The investigation into youths using catapults to fire at wildlife and cause damage in Edenbridge continues. Interviews have been conducted, with Acceptable Behaviour Agreement contracts have being issued to individuals who are believed to be involved.
 - The Edenbridge PACT meeting was attended by PS Savil of the CSU for Kent Police, with members from Sevenoaks District Council, Edenbridge Town Council, Edenbridge Councillors and members of the public to discuss and address ASB and issues within Edenbridge.
 - PC Kemp was able to attend Hever Primary school this month and engage with pupils in connection with their education around emergency services. It was a great opportunity to answer any question and talk to them about what it is like to be a Police Officer but most importantly to them show them the Police car. They were particularly fond of the blue lights and sirens.
 - PC Kemp was able to meet with members from the Cowden Neighbourhood. A great opportunity for community members to get to know the face of PC Kemp. Discussions were had surrounding the best way to report incidents and the ability to report suspicious behaviour as well as crimes on the “TELL US ABOUT” function on Kent Police.
 - Neighbourhood Beat Officers, PC Kemp, PC Wilson and PC Costin conducted a Speed Enforcement on Penshurst Road, Leigh on Friday 19th January 2024. Several drivers were spoken to in relation to their driving and in addition, Traffic Offence Reports were issued for speeding. One male was caught driving 40 mph in a 30mph zone and another was driving 47mph in a 30mph zone.
- vii. Item 11: Eden Valley Museum Trust: You are cordially invited to a Private View at the museum on Friday 1st March from 6 - 8pm. This is an opportunity to tour the museum and view new exhibitions, new objects, and a new visitor experience before we open to the public on Saturday 2nd March. Cllr Roper and Mrs Roper to attend.

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

- i. Chiddingstone Car Parking
None.
- ii. Litter Pick, Bulk Refuse Freighter and Flytipping
- i. Parish litter pick: The litter pick was held on 17th February and was well supported. The number of volunteers in each location is as follows:

Chiddingstone Causeway: 10; Chiddingstone village: 3; Wellers Town: 2; Chiddingstone Hoath: 7 and Bough Beech: 1. The Clerk reported that Jenny Chettle and Karah Templeton have also litter picked from the village to Vexour Bridge and partly down to Chandlers. They collected a lot of bottles and other rubbish. Members were grateful to everyone who volunteered to help. The Clerk advised that Leigh Parish Council has applied for £500 from Margot's Member's Fund for 15 child sized litter pickers, 15 child sized hi-vis vests and 15 child sized bag hoops, plus 16 adult sized bag hoops. These are to be of use by both Chiddingstone School and Leigh School and also for parish litter picks.

- ii. Bulk Refuse Freighter visits: The Bulk Refuse freighter visited on 17th February. Feedback from residents is very positive and the service is much appreciated. Next date is Saturday 15th June at the following times:
10.00-10.30: The Rock Inn
10.45-11.15: The Wheatsheaf
11.30-12.00: Richards Close
- iii. Flytipping: None.
- iii. Chiddingstone Community SpeedWatch Scheme
The Clerk reported that ten residents in Bough Beech have been emailed with details on how to volunteer for the scheme. Two people have undertaken the online course. When more people have done this the Clerk will arrange a date for a roadside training session.
- iv. Rural Swathe & Visibility Cutting contract 2024
The Clerk reported that the contractor can do the dates and Leigh, Penshurst and Hever all happy to proceed. County Cllr McArthur has reported that unfortunately KCC is unable to devolve visibility splay cutting.
- v. Emergency Plan
Cllr Outlaw reported that there is a big push from the Kent Resilience Forum for local communities to look at preparing an Emergency Plan. The plan will look at social and economic issues as well as environmental issues. Support and facilitation will be provided and it is hoped that a cluster can be formed of local parishes and communities. Cllr Outlaw said that she is happy to attend Penshurst and Hever Parish Council meetings in order to discuss this with their members.
- vi. Parish telephone boxes and defibrillators
Chiddingstone Hoath: The Clerk reported that it was agreed last month that the Parish Council would order an unheated defibrillator cabinet. She spoke to several suppliers and they said that in a phone box an unheated cabinet wouldn't adequately protect the equipment and it should be a heated cabinet. The Clerk has asked the electrician Dave Cole to look and see if he can find BT's electrical point.
- vii. Parish broadband provision
Cllr Nunn reported that the prospect of fixed line improvements in this area is low. As part of the governments Project Gigabit initiative which is a £5 billion government infrastructure project led by Building Digital UK (BDUK) to deliver gigabit-capable broadband connections to hard to reach sites across the UK, on 6th Feb BDUK announced the award of a £112.3m contract to City Fibre to deliver gigabit-capable connections to parts of Kent and Medway that are not expected to benefit from telecom providers' upgrade programmes. Last week, City Fibre announced that £50m of that is to fund the delivery of fibre throughout Maidstone. The reality is though that, right now, there are no published plans which are likely to benefit Chiddingstone in the short term. That said, for mobile broadband access there is an initiative led by the 4 main mobile operators (Vodafone, EE, Three and VMO2) called the Shared Rural Network (SRN) to deliver reliable mobile broadband to 95% of the UK. They will invest £532m to eliminate 'partial not-spots' – areas which receive coverage from at least one, but not all, operators. The UK Government will provide a further £500m to build new masts to eliminate 'total not-spots' – hard to reach areas where there is currently no coverage at all. It might be worth sharing the Ofcom post code checker <https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/mobile-coverage> which allows residents to look at which operator best serves a particular post code. Clerk to put this information and map on the website.

138. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. The Clerk reported that Katie Ashworth is happy to come along to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the Chiddingstone Real Football event with members. Cllr Shamwana offered to contact her.
- ii. Cllr Nunn thanked Cllr Outlaw for arranging the SES Flow Zone visit at Bough Beech Reservoir recently which was very interesting.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Hall.
 The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Chiddingstone Parish Council – 20th February 2024
 List of Payments since last meeting (figures inclusive of VAT)

Payment			Amount	
<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>inc. VAT</u>	<u>VAT</u>
583	20.02.24	Clerk - salary	£1,317.60	
584	20.02.24	HMRC – PAYE	£235.25	
585 SO	20.02.24	Kent County Council – pension contribution	£531.00	
586	20.02.24	Clerk – mileage	£72.00	
587	20.02.24	Hever Landscapes Ltd – closed churchyard November	£201.60	£33.60
588	20.02.24	Vision ICT Ltd – website hosting and support Mar’24-Feb’25	£364.80	£60.80
589	20.02.24	GACC – grant	£500.00	
			<u>£3,222.25</u>	<u>£94.40</u>

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