

**MINUTES OF THE CHIDDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 2024 AT 7.30PM IN CHIDDINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr P. Harris, Cllr P. Myers, Cllr T. Nunn, Cllr C. Shamwana and Cllr P. Vicary
Apologies: Cllr J. Roper (Chairman), Cllr K. Outlaw, Cllr M. Quirk and Cllr H. Williams
In attendance: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk). District Cllr R. Streatfeild and District Cllr M. Silander attended the meeting for the Open Session only.

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

Open Session

Report by District Cllr Streatfeild

District Cllr Streatfeild reported that financial measures in the budget are now beginning to take effect, such as increased council tax. The condition of the £40,000 grant given by KCC and the Government to the CAB was that it had to be spent before 31st March. The election for the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner is on 2nd May and there are no other elections in the district. There is a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 18th April and D.Cllr Streatfeild will be asked about the impact of proposals to expand Gatwick Airport. There is a full SDC meeting on 23rd April, which unfortunately is the same night as the Chiddingstone Annual Parish Meeting. On KCC matters, there is a risk to services due to the new budget at KCC, and the proposed reduction in school buses will have an impact in rural areas.

Report by District Cllr Silander

District Cllr Silander reported that there are ongoing issues at the leisure centres. At a Development Management Committee meeting held last week, members found against the objection of KCC Highways on an application and it was subsequently approved. D.Cllr Streatfeild said that the bar that KCC use in submitting comments on planning applications is whether there would be a potential increase in traffic of over 15% on that particular road as a result of the proposal.

District Cllr Streatfeild and District Cllr Silander left the meeting at 7.45pm.

Closed Session

- 154. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Roper, Cllr Outlaw, Cllr Quirk and Cllr Williams and members accepted their reasons for absence.
- 155. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
None.
- 156. The minutes of the Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2024** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Shamwana, seconded by Cllr Vicary, and all were in favour.
- 157. To discuss the format of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024**
Members discussed the details for the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held in the Chiddingstone Causeway Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd April. There will be a talk by SES Water on their plans at the reservoir and Cllr Outlaw will give a brief overview on the Cluster Emergency & Resilience Plan. The Community Awards will be announced and light refreshments will be served.
- 158. To review and update Standing Orders**
The Clerk reported that the Standing Orders were circulated with the agenda. Members discussed and approved them.
- 159. To review and update Finance Regulations**
The Clerk reported that the Finance Regulations were circulated with the agenda. Members discussed and approved them.

160. Planning:

- i. To consider planning applications received
 - i. SE/24/00416/HOUSE: Pear Tree Cottage, Truggers Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7BP - new vehicular access with a proposed new gate, part demolition of existing retaining wall with erection of a new retaining wall. Members supported this application.
 - ii. SE/24/00579/HOUSE and SE/24/00588/LBCALT: The Barn, Oakenden Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7DE - demolish the existing oil tank and log store within the residential curtilage, and replace it with a new garden shed. Members had no objection to this application.
 - iii. SE/24/00693/HOUSE and SE/ 24/00702/LBCALT: The Barn, Oakenden Lane, Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7DE - replace single glazing in existing timber casement windows with vacuum sealed double glazed units. Members had no objection to this application providing that the Conservation Officer is in agreement.

The Clerk reported that since the last Parish Council meeting, the Planning Committee has discussed the following application:

 - iv. SE/24/00521/FUL: Bassetts, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JX - demolition of existing dwelling, erection of new dwelling, alterations to landscaping and driveway. Following refusal of a recent non-material amendment application which sought changes to internal layout, windows and creation of basement, a new full application has been submitted. The Clerk reported that a letter of objection was received from neighbours. Members had no objection to this application.
- ii. To report SDC notifications of planning decisions

SE/24/00051/FUL and SE/24/00052/LBCALT: 3 The Village, Chiddingstone - wooden decking with a corrugated polycarbonate roof supported by timber posts within the existing rear garden of The Tulip Tree Tea Rooms. Applications approved.
- iii. To hear update on potential breaches of planning policy

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

161. Finance

- i. To approve insurance policy renewal: £519.14

The Clerk reported that the premium last year was £482.04 but the Chiddingstone Hoath phone box has been added during the year with a cover of £3,000. Cllr Shamwana proposed that the premium be approved and the insurance renewed. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and all were in favour.
- ii. To approve membership renewal to CPRE: £60

Members approved this membership renewal. Proposed by Cllr Nunn, seconded by Cllr Vicary and all were in favour.
- iii. To renew corporate membership of Eden Valley Museum Trust: £90

Members approved this membership renewal. Proposed by Cllr Vicary, seconded by Cllr Harris and all were in favour.
- iv. To approve list of payments

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

162. 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: the request of Chequers Field as the development name was rejected by SDC as similar names are also in use in the area. Members suggested Stony Field Meadow as this was the name of the field shown on an 1840 map. Work is proceeding at Chequers with the first site meeting and valuation happening this Thursday.
 - ii. Bassetts site in Chiddingstone Causeway: contractual discussions are ongoing.
- ii. To discuss recent flooding in Redleaf Close and hear an update on progress

The Clerk reported that Tony Bourne at WKHA is waiting to hear back from the property officer as to what can be done on site.

163. 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 majority of the traffic surveys took place for a week from Saturday 27th January and one survey took place on 15th April. The survey results will be forwarded to KCC on 29th April and he will send them onto the Parish Council shortly thereafter.
- ii. To hear update regarding the landslip on the railway track in Bough Beech
The Clerk reported that the line was closed for two weeks due to a landslip on the track. It re-opened at the beginning of this week to tie in with the new school term. The Clerk added that she again asked Network Rail if it is possible to close the pedestrian crossing whilst the line was closed and re-routing the footpath, but the request was refused, with the response: “Given the cost of closing such a crossing, the funding does not exist at this stage. We must make sure that the funding that we do receive is prioritised on projects and work tasks that maintain and improve the reliability and performance of the railway. The closure would also need to go through the relevant consultation periods, which involve the relevant engagement and consultation with KCC and other stakeholders. This is a process that would take a number of months, and not something that can be tied in to the efforts being made to stabilise the embankment nearby in recent days.”
- iii. Highways
 - Temporary Road Closure - Ide Hill Road, Bough Beech on 17th April 2024 for 1 day between 08.30hrs and 14.30hrs outside Orchard Cottage. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while works are undertaken by Openreach. See <https://one.network/?tm=137011805>
 - Temporary Road Closure - Finch Green, Chiddingstone Hoath on 9th May 2024 for 1 day between 08.30hrs and 15.30hrs outside Blacksmiths Cottage. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while works are undertaken by Openreach. See <https://one.network/?tm=137536646>

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

Cllr Shamwana reported that the proposed new constitution has been discussed with the Badgers and the school and he is waiting for a response from the Cricket Club. Progress is being made. The Clerk reported that a pile of rubbish has been reported in the car park by the tennis courts, and Cllr Vicary said that these are items from the pavilion which was tidied up. Cllr Vicary and Cllr Shamwana declared an NPI in this matter as they are members of the Sports Association. Members agreed that, as this rubbish is on Parish Council land and as a gesture of good will to the Sports Association, the Parish Council would pay for the removal of rubbish by a licenced carrier at a cost of £260.00. This was proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Nunn and all were in favour.

165. Aviation

AEF: Government’s night flight restrictions consultation: Following a 2020–2021 consultation on night noise restrictions at the three noise designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) the Government decided to roll over its existing night noise regime, from October 2022 to October 2025 to allow the sector to recover from the impacts of Covid. The Government is now carrying out a follow-up consultation on its regime at the noise designated airports for a three-year “bridging period” between October 2025 and October 2028. The bridging period is intended to give additional time for the industry to return to pre-pandemic levels of traffic. The other stated intention is to provide time for the findings of current studies – on aviation night noise effects (DfT) and on aviation noise attitudes survey (CAA) – to be reported and factored into future night noise regime decisions. The night-time noise abatement objective for the 2025–2028 regime for the designated airports (following consultation in 2023) has now been finalised. The objective is: “To limit, and where possible reduce, the adverse effects of aviation noise at night on health and quality of life while supporting sustainable growth and recognising the importance to the UK of commercial passenger and freight services.” It is anticipated that an announcement on the 2025–2028 night flight restrictions will be made in July this year. The consultation covers proposals and options for the next night-flight regimes for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted (taking current planning contexts into account) and asks for comment. AEF’s Airspace and Noise Community Forum welcome views on the consultation proposals.

166. 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: SDC News Release: “Council weighs up Local Plan consultation results: Councillors will soon consider the results of the most recent Local Plan consultation, which asked for views on planning policies and development sites across the District. The public were consulted on the draft Local Plan (the Regulation 18 part 2 consultation) over seven weeks from 23 November 2023 until 11 January 2024. The Local Plan has policies to ensure new development comes forward with infrastructure and services and built to high design standards with a minimal impact on the environment. The Plan also includes potential development sites for new homes and business space.
- Around 5,300 people took part providing 11,000 comments. The public were asked for their views on the possible locations for new developments. Their preferences were:
- Pedham Place (bordering Swanley and close to the villages of Farningham and Eynsford) - 37%
 - Multiple sites across the District - 32%
 - A combination of multiple sites and Pedham Place - 2%
 - None of these options - 29%
- The public also raised other issues. These included:
- The need for services to support new housing, such as GP surgeries, schools and public transport
 - Considering Green Belt developments in light of updates to national planning policy
 - Concerns about the impacts of traffic and congestion
 - The need to provide homes and services for older people
 - Concerns about specific sites, particularly Pedham Place and land on the edge of Sevenoaks town.
- While the public expressed their preferred locations for new developments, the Council will consider all of the issues and concerns that were raised before it revises the Local Plan. At this time, no decision has been taken on which sites will be included in next iteration of the Plan. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Local Plan (the Regulation 19 consultation) from late summer and in to the autumn.”
- ii. Item 3: Kent Police: monthly report, March: “This month highlights the amount of collaborative working that occurs within Kent Police in order to crack down on criminality within the community. There are also continued attempts to reduce antisocial behaviour by teaming up with outside agencies.
- Officers conducted a warrant at an address in Edenbridge on 4 March. Two people were arrested, and a mobile phone believed to be used in county line drug dealing was seized. A suspected stolen vehicle was also recovered. The suspect was charged with being concerned in supply of a class A drug and handling stolen goods. Enquiries are underway to re-unite the owner with their vehicle. He pleaded guilty to the offences and will be sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court at a later date.
 - Parish Meeting attended in Penshurst on 4th March and a number of Parish Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions to PC Kemp around local issues and raise any concerns. These were addressed and fed back to the relevant departments.
 - Leigh Parish Council Meeting was attended on the same evening.
 - It was the first time attending both Parish Councils since PC Kemp has been in post so it was a great chance to meet the communities and allow them to put a face to the name. The importance of reporting was addressed and how this is best done.
 - Local Beat Officer, PC Kemp, teamed up with the Rural Task force over the weekend of 9th and 10th March. Proactive patrolling was carried out in Cowden, Penshurst, Hever, Leigh, Chiddingstone and Edenbridge. A call of concern over a suspicious vehicle was responded to, farmers engaged with and provided with crime prevention advice and the theft of a vehicle disrupted leading to its swift recovery.
 - The annual Edenbridge Meeting was attended on Monday 11th March 2024. It was great to see so many people from the local community in attendance at the meeting. It was a good opportunity for the Local Officer to meet individuals and answer any questions. There was also a lot of useful intelligence that was obtained about local drug dealing/drug use.
 - In relation to key investigation in a local Edenbridge pub, a warrant was carried out at an address in Edenbridge in order to secure evidence that could assist detective with their investigation.
 - The Chiddingstone Parish Council Meeting was attended along with Councillors from KCC and SDC and the organisers of the Real Football event. This is promised to be a great event for the community, bringing a lot of people together and business for local pubs and businesses. The organisers are hoping to have a record breaking year for their Charity fundraising.

- Due to recent intelligence and reported incidences there has been a detective assigned to have investigative oversight of Edenbridge and default taskings from tactical resources such as traffic, firearms and rural task force to patrol Edenbridge and surrounding villages.”
- iii. Item 4: DEFRA: Community Green Spaces Fund: on 23 March 2024, the government announced the new Community Green Spaces Fund will provide up to £7 million of funding to support communities across the country to create, restore and enhance their green spaces. Grants of up to £75,000 will be provided to help communities to plant fruits, vegetables and trees, creating orchards and kitchen gardens for all to access and enjoy. Landscaping projects could also create raised beds and improve areas to plant different flowers around village hall facilities and other community green spaces, making space for pollinators and nature to thrive. Funding will also be awarded to support the expansion of natural play facilities which encourage children to spend more time outdoors, in addition to projects which focus on improving access to green spaces such as new paths and seating. To make the spaces more accessible to disabled people, funding will also be available for the creation of disabled parking spaces.
- iv. Item 7: Eden Valley Museum Trust – News:
- v. Item 8: Sevenoaks Independent Advisory Group: the next meeting is on Thursday 18th April, 19:00–20:30 at SDC’s offices.
- vi. Item 9: CPRE Annual Report. Clerk to forward onto Cllr Nunn.

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

- i. Chiddingstone Car Parking
None.
- ii. Closed Churchyard
The Clerk reported that she met Rev’d Linday Llewellyn-Macduff and Bob Golds who agreed to the removal of the self-sown Elderberry, which the Original Tree Surgeons quoted £35 to remove and ego-plug the stump. This work has already been approved by the Parish Council.
- iii. Litter Pick, Bulk Refuse Freighter and Flytipping
 - i. Parish litter pick
Next date 15th June
 - ii. Bulk Refuse Freighter visits
Next dates: 15th June and 14th September: 10.00-10.30: The Rock Inn; 10.45-11.15: The Wheatsheaf and 11.30-12.00: Richards Close.
 - iii. Flytipping
The Clerk reported that there has been a report of flytipping in a gateway on Ide Hill Road. Cllr Vicary said that this has been removed.
 - iv. Chiddingstone Community SpeedWatch Scheme
Next date to be arranged.
- iv. Rural Swathe & Visibility Cutting contract 2024
The Clerk reported that the amount of funding that KCC will devolve to the parishes is £4,588. The cost of each cut may vary due to fuel prices at the time of the work. The net cost per parish will be in the region of £655 per annum. Leigh, Hever and Penshurst have all approved the cost. Members approved. The timing of the cuts are as follows: First cut: tier 1 roads: 1 May and 30 May; tier 2 roads: 1 April to 30 April, Second cut: tier 1 roads: 1 September to 30 September; tier 2 roads: 1 October and 30 October. Members agreed.
- v. Emergency Plan
The Clerk reported that an initial meeting was held on 21st March and attended by Cllr Outlaw, the Clerk, three Chiddingstone residents, a representative from Leigh Parish Council, two from Penshurst Parish Council and two from Hever Parish Council. Next date will be end of April or mid-May.
- vi. Parish telephone boxes and defibrillators
Cllr Harris said that local people have some ideas for the use of the Chiddingstone Hoath phone box, such as a cookery book store or a seed band. Cllr Nunn said that he has seen a phone box used as a bike tool station, which members agreed was a good idea.
- vii. Parish broadband provision
The Clerk reported that she attended a meeting with Cllr Nunn, Cllr Shamwana, Bob Golds and Rev’d Linday Llewellyn-Macduff.

Cllr Nunn has prepared some options and costings for broadband for the church and the village hall. Cllr Nunn said that he is visiting the church to see if there is a phone line into the building.

- viii. Summer Family Fun Play Event
The Clerk reported that this will be held on Friday 16th August from 10.30am to 1.30pm on the Chiddingstone Causeway Sports Field. Members agreed to book an entertainer.
- ix. Gilwys crossroad posts
The Clerk reported that a post has been knocked over and she has arranged for it to be reinstated.
- x. Mud on Road
Cllr Vicary undertook to speak to a local farmer to see if he needs any help with improving road conditions around his farm.

168. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. Cllr Harris reported that the Margaret Hyde Trustees are meeting regularly and progress is being made. There is a good relationship with the residents.
- ii. Cllr Nunn reported that correspondence has been exchanged with Tri-Swim and progress is being made.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Hall. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.30pm in Chiddingstone Causeway Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chiddingstone Parish Council – 16th April 2024

List of Payments since last meeting (figures inclusive of VAT)

Payment <u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	Amount <u>inc. VAT</u>	<u>VAT</u>
599	16.04.24	Clerk - salary	£1,317.60	
600	16.04.24	HMRC – PAYE	£235.25	
601 SO	16.04.24	Kent County Council – pension contribution	£531.00	
602	16.04.24	Clerk – mileage, petty cash & working from home costs	£691.80	
603	16.04.24	Knockout Print – Annual Meeting boards	£90.00	£15.00
604	16.04.24	Leigh Parish Council – half share of data backup	£60.00	
605	16.04.24	Vision ICT Ltd – two email accounts May to Dec’24	£28.80	£4.80
606	16.04.24	CPRE – membership renewal	£60.00	
607	16.04.24	Zurich Municipal – insurance renewal	£519.14	
608	16.04.24	Eden Valley Museum Trust	£90.00	
			<u>£3,623.59</u>	<u>£19.80</u>

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