



Clerk to the Council, Mr P. Coles, c/o 3 The Square, Chartham, Kent, CT4 7JG
Tel:, Email: clerk@chilhamparishcouncil.gov.uk, Website: www.chilhamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Twitter: @ParishChilham

Minutes of the full Parish Council held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7.30 pm in Chilham Village Hall.

Councillors Present: G. Schofield (Chair), K. Uncle (KU) (Deputy Chair), G. Meaden, S. Barrett, A. Watkins (Until 7:43pm), S.T. Dixon, & V Hutchinson

Also Present: P. Coles (PC) (Clerk to the Council), and one member of the public.

Councillor Apologies: Not applicable

Councillor Absentee: Not applicable

AGENDA

Item

- 2023/053 Welcome to new Councillors:**
All Councillors confirmed acceptance of office and signed their acceptance forms.
- 2023/054 Apologies for Absence**
Not applicable
- 2023/055 Declarations of Interests And / Or Lobbying**
No declarations
- 2023/056 Minutes**
2023/056.1 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2023.
2023/056.2 To receive an update on any matters arising not included in the agenda.
- 2023/057 Election**
2023/057.1 Election of Chair
Councillor G. Schofield nominated, elected unanimously, and accepted.
2023/057.2 Election of Deputy Chair
Councillor K. Uncle nominated, elected unanimously, and accepted.
- 2023/058 Questions from Residents**

Three Questions were received by email

2023/058.1 Regarding the ownership of land adjacent to the A254. The email also raised whether the trees on the site had a Tree Preservation Order as the resident believed trees had been cut down.

Prior to the meeting it was confirmed that the land referred to is Mabel's Wood owned by Greg Taylor.

Greg confirmed he had spoken to the community tree warden Pete Vogel who had confirmed that the work they were doing did not require permission. Following contact from the Parish Council, Greg, contacted Phil Cook at Ashford Borough Council, email below, regarding the work carried out.

From: Greg Taylor
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:10 AM
To: phil.cook@ashford.gov.
Subject: Removal of dead trees at Mabel's Wood, Chilham

Dear Phil,

I have spoken with Pete Vogel, the community tree warden for Chilham, about clearing some dead trees, ivy and small bushes to permit fencing at land I acquired earlier this year in Chilham. He suggested that I drop you an email explaining what we are doing. We are not felling any trees and I understand that would require planning permission. We may do that later with the assistance of a tree expert and garden planner and would apply for permission. We are currently only removing ivy from the healthy trees, cutting up dead trees and clearing the small brush and bushes in order to install a perimeter fence. Where trees are propped up on other trees, uprooted and dangerous, those are also being addressed. Trees already on the ground are being cut up and the ground cleared.

I spoke previously with Pete and others knowledgeable about tree conservation and related planning permissions and believe that no planning is required. However, I wanted to inform you and I would be delighted to show you around the land, now known as Mabel's Wood, if you would like to see what we are doing. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to ring me and I look forward to working with you down the road if and when we do more with the land that requires planning.

We intend to keep the land as a wood and have called it Mabel's Wood, now officially that on the UK land registry, for our dog Mabel. She loves woods and once the fence is up she will be able to run there without being on the lead. The land is along the A252 in Chilham.

Kind regards,

Greg

Councillor G Meaden was confirmed that work on the was being carried out in Bird nesting season. Councillor G Meaden contacted the TPO officer for Ashford Borough Council. Receiving confirmation that after visiting the site, that the trees cut up were decayed and therefore it was legal to do this. However the tree officer has sent the owner a letter telling him "to cease all works and advising that they have not followed procedure and that the clearance of the ground is detrimental to the woodland and maybe an offence".

2023/058.2 A question was raised about the Parish Councils Environmental Policy. Deferred to the next Council meeting to allow Councillors time to read the policy.

2023/058.3 A question was raised to Councillor G Meaden regarding the goals and success of the wider Ashford Borough Green agenda. Councillor G Meaden agreed to respond at the next meeting.

2023/058.4 Question: As Christmas is fast approaching is there any progress on the drilling of a hole for the use of the Christmas tree in Chilham Square. The Parish Council are meeting with Kent Highways on 17th May 2023.

2023/059 Borough Councillors, Policing:

Ward member's report – May 2023 – Geoff Meaden

Like some of the rest of us, almost all of my activities over the past month have been directed towards retaining my seat on the Borough or Parish Councils. Despite worries about the possibility of achieving this, things went OK in the end. I will be hoping to get a thank-you message around about this in the near future. I have already spoken to two of the other candidates for this Ward and will be most pleased to cooperate with them on matters that might be of concern to them.

I have to say that I've found some confusion among local residents regarding the extent of my remit. I have to say that problems with health, the economy, the numbers of police on the beat, the strikes, etc, are all subjects that I cannot sort out. But worst of all are the pot holes – I have made all the complaints that I can but this is not going to fill the road mending money coffers. I'm afraid that we are going to have to get use to these holes for some considerable time. I would also like to mention that the plans for the OWL solar farm are on hold while the developers re-write and up-date their intentions.

We have a number of "copious hedges" and lots of blocked drains in the Parish. These can be reported directly online to either ABC or KCC and they will be addressed (eventually!!!). I have been pushing the council and/or KCC on the hedges and they have been out to look at the very high hedge opposite Dave Cawdron's garage (on the Street) but they "can see nothing wrong with it". There are a number of other local problems (including planning applications) that ABC are being very slow to address.

2023/060 To discuss setting up a joint Community Transport scheme with Chartham.

Decision: The Council agreed to explore this with Chartham. Councillors Uncle and Barrett agreed to lead on this,

2023/061 To agree the process for co-opting new Councillors for the vacant positions on the Council.

Decision: The Councillors agreed to advertise the positions. Potential Councillors are asked to submit a CV to the clerk by 5pm 26th May. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 30th. Clerk to contact both village halls to confirm if they are available.

2023/062 Working Groups

To receive reports

2023/062.1 Finance & General Purposes:

2023/062.1.1 Financial Transactions for Approval-Appendix 1 refers
Noted

2023/062.1.2 Asbestos Inspection Quote

Decision: Majority Agreed to proceed, one abstention

2023/062.1.3 Insurance Quote

Decision: Majority Agreed to accept quote, one abstention. Clerk to seek alternative quotes for Insurance for the financial year 2024/25 in March 2024

2023/062.2 Planning

2023/062.2.1 Case

Reference: PA/2023/0043

Location: Rosecroft, Selling Road, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 8BH

Installation of solar panels on the side aspect of the roof. To increase the height of the fascia

Proposal: on the flat roof so it is the line with the new roof.

Noted: The planning application for the extension itself was retrospective; the number was

20/00648/AS, The application was refused. This refusal went to appeal (the appeal number Was APP/E2205/W/21/3271485) but the appeal was dismissed.

Decision: Councillors agreed to ask for the application to be deferred until enforcement has Been completed

2023/062.2 **Case**

Reference: PA/2023/0764

Location: Vine Cottage, Cobbs Hill, Chilham, CT4 8AL

Relocation of vehicular access and formation of driveway and parking.

Proposal: **Decision:** Agreed. Concern was raised regarding the visibility splay from the drive which the Councillors wish to be addressed if ASB are of a mind to approve.

2023/062.3 **Communications and Information technology (IT)**

2023/049.3.1 To receive a report from the Working Group on Communications
The Clerk is to meet with the Councils' IT volunteer to progress new website. Councillor Hutchinson volunteered to help.

2023/062.4 **Events**

2023/049.4.1 To receive a report from the Working Group on Events
Successful Coronation event. Window broken when erecting bunting-invoice will be provide to clerk for the repair

2023/062.5 **Environment & Open Spaces**

2023/062.5.1 To receive a report from the Working Group
Verbal quote for the repair of the swing stop in the region of £200. Quote from Playdale £800.
Decision: Agreed to proceed with verbal quote subject to written confirmation.
Decision: Agreed to delegate to clerk decision making responsibility for minor repairs of up to £500 subject to reporting back at the next Parish Council meeting.

2023/062.6 **Chilham Parish Youth Club**

2023/062.6.1 To receive a report from the Working Group
COSY banked £1,190 from their various activities in May.
Agreed: To provide £177 from the COSY funds to the Chilham Sports Ground for additional storage in the Kitchen.

2023/062.7 **Chilham Square**

2023/062.7.1 To receive a report of the Working Group
Reported earlier.

2023/063 **Correspondence**

List of items received during the period 1st April 2023 – 30th April 2023, (Appendix 2)

2023/064 **Date of July's Parish Council meeting moved to the 13th of July**

Noted.

2023/065 **Matters for Further Discussion**

Discussed Parish Council Community Cost of Living Support Grant available from Kent Alliance of Local Councils. Decided not to proceed.

2023/066 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To confirm the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 1st June 2023 at 7.00 pm in Old Wives Less Village Hall

Appendix 1 Financial

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
28/04/2023	NEST	28.26	
28/04/2023	ASHFORD BOROUGH CO		26335
27/04/2023	P E COLES Salary	931.7	
24/04/2023	ABSOLUTE GRAPHIX	59.52	
24/04/2023	BILTING FARM SELF	46	
24/04/2023	CHILHAM PARISH REC	80	
24/04/2023	ORCHARD ENVIRONMEN	433.2	
24/04/2023	KALC ANNUAL SUBs	761.64	
24/04/2023	VICTORY CLEANING	629.7	
24/04/2023	F M UNCLE THT KEY	20	
18/04/2023	ASHFORD BOROUGH CO		500
17/04/2023	HATCH MANSFIELD GB		1000
14/04/2023	SPOTON.NET LTD S	64.8	
11/04/2023	KENT COMMERC SERV	201.74	
04/04/2023	NEST	28.26	

Appendix 2 Correspondence

Item	Date
RE: Taylors Hill Public Toilets Annual Water Sampling	03/04/2023
Kent Bus Service Changes Bulletin - March, April, ,May and June 2023	03/04/2023
Asbestos Periodic Review Survey - Taylors Hill Car Park Public Toilets Chilham Kent CT4 8BZ	05/04/2023
SUBSCRIPTION TO KALC AND NALC FOR 2023/2024	06/04/2023
Quick question about your 'our-villages' landing page	06/04/2023
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BULLETIN	06/04/2023
Emergency Road Closure – Cobbs Hill, Chilham- 6th April 2023 (Ashford)	06/04/2023
NALC NEWSLETTER	12/04/2023
Emergency Road Closure - Pilgrims Lane, Chilham - 12th April 2023 (Ashford)	12/04/2023
VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR DRAFT FUNDING POLICY CONSULTATION	12/04/2023
KALC Event Alert - Managing Difficult People and Conversations	13/04/2023
KALC NEWS APRIL 2023	13/04/2023

Parish briefing - Tenterden Leisure Centre	14/04/2023
Parkinson Partnership Webinars - Spring and Summer 2023	18/04/2023
Parish Council Community Cost of Living Grant Scheme	19/04/2023
Kent Plan Tree - Call for Sites	19/04/2023
Emergency Road Closure - Selling Road, Old Wives Lees - 20th April 2023 (Ashford)	20/04/2023
Help with testing a new Highways Reporting Tool	20/04/2023
SoWN - 02-05-2023 - Shalmsford Road, Chilham, Ashford	21/04/2023
KALC MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2023	24/04/2023
Chilham Parish Council Renewal Quote [Quote Ref: 576725712]	28/04/2024