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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.00pm in Chilham Village Hall

Councillors Present: G. Schofield (Chair), K. Uncle (Deputy Chair), G. Meaden, S. Barrett, V Hutchinson, A. Webb, G. Taylor & K Jeffries

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

Councillor Apologies: A. Watkins

Councillor Absentee: N/A

AGENDA

Item

2023/144 Apologies for Absence

Councillor A Watkins personal reasons.

2023/145 Declarations of Interests And / Or Lobbying

Councillors S Barrett, A Watkins & K Jeffries Fruit farm donations.

2023/146 Chairs opening remarks.

Guillotine for meeting to be set at 8:30pm.

Parishioner questions to be limited to a maximum of two minutes.

Update on Tree works Church Hill.

TREE REMOVAL – MABEL’S WOOD AND THE BOTHY SITES

Regarding the tree removals at both these sites, I contacted Mark Chaplin, Placement Team Leader on Ashford Borough Council (ABC). He is the manager of Phil Cook, the Tree Officer, and as such has been kept up to date with both situations.

Mark agreed to a Teams Meeting with myself and Cllr Geoff Meaden, which took place on Tuesday.

After a long discussion it became apparent that we could not change what had happened, but Mark agreed that due to the intense interest of these sites, then ABC would be keeping a careful eye on both sites and would be in touch with both owners.

He also stated that many more trees would be replanted than were taken out.

I said there was scepticism that the trees would not be planted, and he assured us that he would expect planting to begin in February/March. I will be contacting him again on 1st March

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Signed: **Chairman** **Date:** 4/01/2024

to see if planting has been starting. If this has not happened, then ABC have extra powers to use to get the owners to start tree planting.

2023/146.1 One minutes silence in memory of Derrick Kennett

We were sad to hear of the passing of our good friend and former parish councillor, Derrick Kennett, who will certainly be missed by all who knew him. Derrick was born in the village in 1945, a true Chilham Man. He was a respected and valued member of our community, always working for the good of Chilham and its residents.

Derrick served as a retained Chilham firefighter from 1977 for 23 years, and as a parish councillor for 16 years, some as them as Vice Chairman. He also regularly wrote articles on nature for the parish magazine, starting in 2011 and his last article is in this December's issue.

We send our condolences to his wife Rosemary, daughters, Vicky, and Jo, and all his family. The meeting was halted for a minutes silence to commemorate the passing of Derek.

2023/147 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council

2023/147.1 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2023. Amendment to 2023/134-Phil Cook had put in place a Tree Preservation Order covering planning application NOT/2023/1828. Minutes with amendment. **Agreed**

2023/147.2 To receive an update on any matters arising not included in the agenda. 2023/141 Councillor V Hutchinson confirmed that Chilham School is a member of Wealden Wheels. Parish Councillors **Agreed** not to renew membership.

2023/148 Questions from Residents

Email question from resident

My wife and I have lived in Bowerland Lane, Chilham since 1976. Our house is just off the A28, the only short section that remains with a 50mph, whereas other main Road sections around the village are just 40mpg.

Last night 9 November at approximately 19:25 there was a serious accident involving two cars, the occupants of both requiring to be cut from their vehicles. Accidents on this short stretch of the A28 are not uncommon, some including fatalities. Crossing it on foot and exiting Bowerland Lane is not at all easy as the vision in both directions requires moving onto the main road to see if it's clear. This probably contributed to last night's accident. There has been concerns about the junction at Bagham Barn. This area is 40mpg and vision at the junction is reasonable in all directions. Like all junctions it is a hazard. However, the short section of the A28 with 50mph limit is far more of a hazard with access onto it from Pickleden Lane, Bowerland Lane, Sunnybank Garage and various dwellings is far more hazardous due to it being 50mph limit, which is often far exceeded, especially by motorcyclists.

We believe the Parish Council should push to have this short section reduced to 40mpg regarding its poor safety record.

Parish Councillors **Agreed** to the proposal to reduce the speed on the A28.

Question Are Councillors aware that Kent Highways permission is required for Gates with direct access to an A road. The question was raised regarding the land at the Bothy. Councillors will investigate.

Question raised regarding the repairs to the Highway outside the White Horse following the Gas leak in Chilham Square. Will the Council consider asking for the repairs to be returned to the original colour so that they blend in with the square.

Councillors **Agreed** to look into this.

2023/149 Borough Councillors, Policing:

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Borough Councillors report.
Returned from holiday to 900 emails.
Working to resolve the water leaks in the Parish, particularly the one at Chilham Station
ABC voted to move to International House, possible saving of £1.8 million for the Borough Council.
Supported the Parish Council Chair with meetings with ABC regarding the removal of trees in Mabels Wood and the Bothy Site.

2023/150 To discuss the cleaning of Taylors Hill Toilets

Councillor K Uncle (KU) reported that he will be meeting with Victory Cleaning on the 15 January 2024. KU continuing to inspect toilets regularly-currently cleanliness above average regularly scoring 7, 8, 9 out of 10.

2023/151 Working Groups

2023/151.1

To update composition of the Working Groups
Finance and General Purposes: Councillors G. Schofield, K. Uncle, K Jeffries, G. Taylor
Planning: Councillors V Hutchinson, A Webb, G. Taylor, G. Meaden
Communications: Councillors V Hutchinson, A Webb, K Jeffries
Events: Councillors S. Barrett, A Watkins, K Jeffries, G. Taylor
Environmental & Open Spaces: Councillors V Hutchinson, G. Meaden
Amenities: Councillors S. Barrett, A Webb
Physical buildings: Councillor K. Uncle
COSY: Councillors S. Barrett, A Watkins, K Jeffries
Chilham Square: Councillors G. Schofield, A Webb, G. Taylor

2023/151.1.1 Asset register Task and Finish Group: Councillors K. Uncle, V Hutchinson, A Webb
To receive reports.

2023/151.2 Finance & General Purposes:

2023/151.2.1

Financial Transactions for Approval-Appendix 1 refers.
Councillors asked for a brief explanation to be added to expenditure report from January 2024.

2023/151.3 Planning

2023/151.3.1

Planning Applications

PA/2023/1937- Soles hill Farm

Comments to be shared with ABC

The new application is for conversion of existing buildings, Parish Council welcome this in terms of retaining the footprints and not spreading development into farmland.

The Parish Council could not see where the development does 'enhance the setting of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', perhaps ABC can request more explicit pictures of what the buildings will look like (colour illustrations), particularly the terrace houses going into the existing cold store, which is a very tall building.

The development does not satisfactorily/address climate concerns. We would like to have seen concrete plans for solar panels on all roofs, and possibly Electric Vehicle chargers.

The Parish Council are concerned about the comments from the neighbour, and hope all of his comments will be addressed or taken into account.

2023/151.3.2 Tree Orders

None received

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2023/151.3.3 Planning Decisions

None received.

2023/151.4 Communications and Information technology

- 2023/151.4.1 To receive a report from the Working Group on Communications
Date for contributions to the Parish magazine, Friday December 8th for January 2024 issue
- 2023/151.4.2 To receive an update on the Parish Council website.
The new website will be ready to go once the Councillors emails move to Netwise.

2023/151.5.1 Events

- 2023/151.5.1 To receive a report from the Working Group on Events
Christmas Grotto at Old Wives Lees Village Hall 16th December.

2023/151.6 Environment

- 2023/151.6.1 To receive a report from the Working Group
Focus on drafting Environmental Policy

2023/151.7 Open Spaces

- 2023/151.7.1 To receive a report from the Working Group
Nothing to update

2023/151.8 Chilham Parish Youth Club

- 2023/151.8.1 To receive a report from the Working Group
Film night-The Grinch will be the movie.
Disco planned.
Celebrating COSY anniversary at Planet Laser in Canterbury.

2023/151.9 Chilham Square

- 2023/151.9.1 To receive a report of the Working Group
Request from Chilham Futures Development Board (CFDB) to Parish Council, does the Council wish to take over CFDB. **Decision:** Councillors decided they did not wish to take over CFDB.

2023/152 Correspondence

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

2023/153 Matters for Further Discussion

Mobile phone mast on the junction of A28/A252. Councillor G Meaden has been trying to contact the owners of the mast to request painting them green.

2023/154 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To confirm the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 4th January 2024 at 7.00 pm in Old Wives Lees Village Hall

2023/155 Closed session.

Items of a confidential nature to be discussed.

Appendix 1

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
30/11/2023	NEST	365.7	
28/11/2023	OLD WIVES LEES VILLAGE HALL	100	
28/11/2023	P E COLES SALARY (Includes back pay)	1348.55	
22/11/2023	D TODD	140	

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22/11/2023	ATS SERVICES		77.5
22/11/2023	SLCC		450
16/11/2023	AIMEE BROWN CHRISTMAS EVENT		200
16/11/2023	CHILHAM PARISH REC		96
16/11/2023	BILTING FARM SELF		46
14/11/2023	SPOTON.NET LTD SPOTOND8MTL8JA5Z55		64.8
14/11/2023	B.ONLINE LTD		13.14
07/11/2023	MRS G SCHOFIELD Expenses		24.77
07/11/2023	VICTORY CLEANING		847.46
07/11/2023	BOURNE TO GARDEN		390
07/11/2023	MRS SHANISE BARRET		279.74
07/11/2023	MR S FEWINS		280
07/11/2023	LAND USE CONSULTANTS		2940
06/11/2023	CHILHAM PARISH(transfer to reserve account)		45.22
03/11/2023		500006	116.15
03/11/2023		500007	68.2
03/11/2023		500008	54.15
03/11/2023		500009	324.96

Appendix 2

Item	Date
Chief Executive's Briefing - More electoral changes on the way	01/11/2023
KALC NEWS NOVEMBER 2023 AND TRAINING INFORMATION	01/11/2023
Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation	02/11/2023
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) at Ashford Volunteer Centre	02/11/2023
State of Volunteering in Kent - Survey Launched & Live Now 2023	04/11/2023
Chief Executive's Briefing - ABC Lettings State of the Market	06/11/2023
Join a Winter Well event to keep you and your family healthy this season	07/11/2023
KALC Chief Executive's Bulletin	07/11/2023
Take Action to End Domestic Abuse - join the 16 Days campaign	08/11/2023
KALC AGM documents	08/11/2023
Updated Highway Information Pack	08/11/2023
Training Bulletin 08/11/23	09/11/2023
Kent Bus Service Changes Bulletin - October, November, December and January 2023-24	09/11/2023
KALC Ashford: Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 1st November 2023	10/11/2023

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Works at the Bothy, Church hill, Chilham Application no 21/00572/AS and NOT/2023/2102	11/11/2023
Minutes for Planning Committee, Wednesday, 8th November, 2023, 7.00 pm	15/11/2023
Exploring Partnership Opportunities for Heritage Restoration in your community	16/11/2023
KALC - Please circulate to Councillors and Officers - KALC Training	16/11/2023
Eat Well, Spend Less Roadshow	16/11/2023
Information submitted to your website	19/11/2023
KCC HIGHWAYS SEMINARS	20/11/2023
Kent Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034: Consultation information	21/11/2023
Kent Film Office - Chilham - Sustainable location information	21/11/2023
Chief Executive's Briefings - Coronation Living Heritage Fund and Landlords Forum	23/11/2023
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd - Temporary Road Closure - Mystole Lane, Chilham - 15th January 2024	24/11/2023
Chief Executive's Briefing - Water Safety Initiative	24/11/2023
Chief Executive's Briefing - Eurostar Campaign Gathers Momentum	28/11/2023
Training Bulletin (29 November 2023) - Please circulate to Councillors and Officers	29/11/2023

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