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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7.00pm in Chilham Village Hall.

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

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

**Councillor Apologies:** K. Jeffries & A. Watkins

**Councillor Absentee:** N/A

### Item

**2024/121 Apologies for Absence**  
Councillors K. Jeffries & A. Watkins personal reasons

**2024/122 Declarations of Interests And / Or Lobbying**  
Item 2024/133 Councillors S. Barrett, V. Hutchinson and A. Webb

**2024/123 Chairs opening remarks.**  
Good evening and welcome to tonight's Chilham Parish Council meeting

At the Parish Council meeting in October the Councillors agreed a policy on filming and recording the meeting. I would ask everyone present to refer to this if considering filming or recording the meeting tonight. The policy is available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council were approached about renewing the lease for Old Wives Lees Village Hall. I agreed with the Chair of the village hall it made far more sense for the lease to be held by the village hall.

The Government has launched a consultation in respect of the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings in England. The consultation is available: [Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](#) and will last for 8 weeks from 24 October 2024. We will also be publishing the link.

I was sad to hear of the passing of two former Councillors Andy Maclean and former Chairman Alasdair Ralph. Both remained active in the community after they left the Council, contributing to village life. If you are able please stand for as we hold a minutes silence to remember and reflect on their service to the Council and village

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Signed:..... Chairman

Date: 5/12/2024

**2024/124 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council**

2024/124.1 To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2024.

**Decision:** Approved

2024/124.2 To receive an update on any matters arising not included in the agenda.  
Not applicable

**2024/125 Questions from Residents**

**By email:** Good afternoon, Paul

I noted that disabled access to platform 1 at Chilham Station is not on the parish council agenda.

In August Geoff Meaden and I received an email from Southeastern inviting applications for funding for such schemes. It was apparent that the application for funding would need to be placed by the parish council in this instance and both Geoff Meaden and I had already spoken to the parish on the matter.

I understand that Geoff passed the emails to Vanessa to seek parish council action on the matter, but I haven't heard any more about it.

Did the parish council apply for funding? And if so, was it successful?

**Response**

Dear,

I hope all is well.

By the time the information was passed to the Parish Council it was a week before closing.

The maximum amount you could apply for was £50,000.

If we had known of the fund earlier, we would have looked into the cost of employing a consultant with experience of working with the Railways and experience of Disability access issues to develop a feasibility study. As neither Gill, and I have no experience in this area we realised that we would not be able to submit a bid for this project.

We did however submit a bid for the replacement of the Children's play area in Old Wives Lees and have not been notified of whether it was successful or not.

There is another round next year and as we are now aware of the fund we will explore finding a consultant with the relevant experience in time for the next round.

Best wishes

Paul

Question

Does the Parish Council support the work to enable disabled access to both the platforms at Chilham station and will the Council be attending South East Railways rail summits

**Response:** The Parish Council does support the work to enable disabled access to both platforms at Chilham station and will endeavour to attend rail summits.

**2024/126 Borough Councillors, Policing:  
Borough Councillor's report**

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The applicants for the solar farm at Old Wives Lees have submitted an appeal to the Borough Councils decision not to grant planning permission. The office of the planning inspectorate will be responsible for deciding on the appeal. Until their decision has been made both Ashford Borough Council and the Parish Council are unable to react to the appeal.

There are continuing problems with Bin collections particularly on Church Hill when the hardly ever get picked up. Stour Valley Farms collections were affected by the closure of A28.

**2024/127 Kent Wardens**  
The Councillors noted the reduction in service. The Councillors discussed contributing to the cost of a Kent warden for Chilham.

**2024/1128 Children's Play Area Old Wives Lees**  
The Parish Council's application to the UK Government levelling up fund administered by Ashford Borough Council for £10,000 was successful.  
**Decision:** The Councillors agreed to proceed with the replacement of the children's play equipment at Old Wives Lees. Councillors accepted the quote from Playdale for £75,343.37 for the work.

**2024/129 Budget**  
Councillors reviewed the budget workbook. Three scenarios were considered for the Parish Council precept. No increase in the precept, an increase of 2.5% and an increase of 5%. The Councillors noted that the Council has not increased the precept in the last two financial years. Councillors noted that in the last financial year the average increase to the precept nationally was 8%. Parish Councillors noted that expenditure in the next financial year is expected to be £140,929.40.  
**Decision:** Councillors agreed to raise the precept by 5% for the next financial year to £56,686.09 for the next financial year.

**2024/130 Clerks Salary**  
Councillors noted the Local Government pay agreement for the financial year 2024/25. The Councillors noted the clerk's current salary point is SCP 19. **Decision:** Councillors approved a pay rise for the clerk to SCP 20, increasing the clerk's salary to £12,768.60 per annum.

**2024/131 Working Groups**  
2024/131.1 To receive updates.

**2024/131.2 Finance & General Purposes:**  
2024/131.2.1 Financial Transactions for Approval-Appendix 1 refers.  
Councillors noted

**2024/131.3 Planning**  
2024/131.3.1 **Planning Applications**

**Case Reference:** PA/2024/1789  
**Location:** Cutlers Farmhouse, Maidstone Road, Chilham, CT4 8EU  
**Proposal:** First floor side extension with ground floor veranda.  
**Decision:** No objection

**Case Reference:** PA/2024/1790  
**Location:** Cutlers Farmhouse, Maidstone Road, Chilham, CT4 8EU  
**Proposal:** Erection of an outbuilding with ancillary accommodation.  
Councillors noted the Ashford Borough Council are usually sceptical of building large

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Outbuildings in the countryside. **Decision:** Object. Rather large outbuilding with no explanation for the need of a kitchen.

**Case Reference:** PA/2024/1752

**Location:** Badgers Hill Farm, New Cut Road, Chilham, Ashford, Kent CT4 8BW

**Replacement of existing cess pit into surface water attenuation tank together with the construction of new foul water treatment plant with associated drainage bore hole.**

**Proposal:**

**Decision:** The Parish Council does not object to the application for improved treatment of wastewater. The Councillors noted the application is linked to 21/00577/AS, erection of 3 dwellings on Church Hill, Chilham which remains under consultation. Councillors understand that for the construction to go ahead the applicant needs to address the “nutrient pollution” the occupants of the 3 new houses on Church Hill would produce. This application is part of the applicant’s solution to this as long as the new mini-sewage plant works is designed “forever” The Councillors request that a plan is put in place to ensure the effectiveness of the new mini Sewage plant at Badgers Hill continues to deliver nutrient neutral wastewater throughout its working life before confirming the plant at Badgers Hill addresses any nutrient pollution produced by three new houses on Church Hill.

2024/131.3.2 **Tree Orders**  
None reported

2024/131.3.3 **Planning Decisions**  
None reported

2024/131.3.4 **Planning Appeals**  
None reported

**2024/131.4 Communications and Information technology**

2024/131.4.1 To receive a report from the Working Group on Communications  
Updating the Microsoft accounts for Parish Councillors laptops

2024/131.4.2 To receive an update on the Parish Council website.  
Issue with the printing of the Parish Council newsletter printed in the Parish Council magazine.  
To be addressed by confirming the format the magazine needs to be shared.

**2024/131.5.1 Events**

2024/131.5.1 To receive a report from the Working Group on Events  
Christmas market to go ahead on the 14<sup>th</sup> December. Require 6 volunteers to help with parking.  
Two successful events organised by residents for Halloween and Fireworks display.

**2024/131.6 Environment & Open Spaces**

2024/131.6.1 To receive a report from the Working Group  
Tree works completed on Old Wives Lees.

**2024/131.7 Amenities**

2024/131.7.1 To receive a report from the Working Group  
See above.  
Bench for old wives lees delivered. Bench to be placed on concrete.

**2024/131.8 Physical buildings**

2024/131.8.1 To receive a report from the Working Group  
Two new toilet roll holders installed. Disabled toilet tap broken, plumber to be called. Councillor G. Taylor offered use of his garage for the placing of a security camera to cover Taylors Hill carpark and toilet.

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**2024/131.9 Chilham Parish Youth Club**

2024/131.9.1 To receive a report from the Working Group  
42 children attended the last youth club.

**2024/131.10 Chilham Square**

2024/131.10.1 To receive a report of the Working Group  
The Parish Council to ask KCC councillor Clair Bell for £1,000 for the painting of parking bays at Taylors Hill car park.  
Solicitor has been engaged to claim a piece of unallocated land in Chilham Square.

**2024/132 Correspondence**

List of items received during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – 31st October 2024, (Appendix 2)  
Noted

**2024/133 Matters for Further Discussion**

Shottenden Christmas Tree lights application for £200 approved  
Chilham Village Square Christmas tree application for £450 approved as long as the additional electrical components to be stored by the Parish Council.  
Old Wives Lees Village Hall Christmas lights approved for £200.  
The lease for parcel of land OWLS Village Green for Southern Gas Networks completed. Lease rent is £2,000 for 99 years.

**2024/134 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

To confirm the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.00 pm in Old Wives Lees Village Hall

**Appendix 1**

Transaction Date	Transaction Description	Debit Amount	Reason
29/10/2024	THE TUDOR PEACOCK	88	Volunteer appreciation
29/10/2024	GREGORY TAYLOR	40	Road closure Fete
29/10/2024	ANASTACIA WATKINS	55.64	COSY
29/10/2024	P E COLES	692.75	Salary
28/10/2024	NEST	70.44	Clerks pension
23/10/2024	VICTORY CLEANING	770.69	Taylors Hill Toilet cleaning
23/10/2024	OLD WIVES LEES VIL	110	Hall rental
23/10/2024	MRS G SCHOFIELD	48.95	Volunteer Event & Chilham Square
18/10/2024	MRS G SCHOFIELD	37.93	Chilham Square
18/10/2024	OLD WIVES LEES VIL	1000	Grant
18/10/2024	PLAYDALE PLAYGROUN	2005.01	OWLS children play area maintenance
16/10/2024	CASTLE WATER LTD	160.24	Taylors Hill Toilet Water
14/10/2024	P E COLES	30.53	Expenses
14/10/2024	BOURNE TO GARDEN	390	Ground Maintenance
14/10/2024	BILTING FARM SELF	46	Storage
14/10/2024	B.ONLINE LTD	18.42	Clerk Phone
07/10/2024	KENT COMMERC SERV	201.44	Taylors Hill Toilet Electricity

**Appendix 2**

Item	Date
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Signed:..... Chairman

Date: 5/12/2024

Agenda for Planning Committee, Wednesday, 9th October, 2024, 7.00 pm	01/10/2024
KALC WARM WELCOME LAUNCH EVENT	02/10/2024
Draft Minutes of the KALC Area Committee Meeting held on the 25 September	03/10/2024
Health and Wellbeing Conference 2024	04/10/2024
Minutes for Planning Committee, Wednesday, 9th October, 2024, 7.00 pm	05/10/2024
Kent Community Warden Service Review – Geographical Allocation Policy	09/10/2024
South East Water 'Behind the tap: Your drinking water questions answered' online session	09/10/2024
Chief Executive Briefing - Carnival of the Baubles Saturday 23 November	09/10/2024
KALC Climate Change Conference 5th November - an online Conference	14/10/2024
Annual Clerk's Conference	15/10/2024
PARISH SEMINAR INVITATION - IN PERSON, 20TH NOVEMBER 2024	15/10/2024
Planning Newsletter October 2024	16/10/2024
Adult Social Care - 'Carers' voice' involvement workshops - we want your views	16/10/2024
CEO Briefing - delays to EES border checks	16/10/2024
Chief Executive Briefing - Market interest exercise at Conningbrook Lakes	16/10/2024
Public Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39	17/10/2024
Community Resilience Planning	17/10/2024
Leader Briefing - Cabinet forward plan	18/10/2024
Chief Executive Briefing - Christmas e-card Competition	
KALC NOTICE OF THE 77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY, 30th NOVEMBER 2024	21/10/2024
Leader Briefing - All aboard, next stop Ashford Town Centre – new play area on track for festive season	28/10/2024
Agenda for Planning Committee, Wednesday, 6th November, 2024, 7.00 pm	29/10/2024
CSU Ashford October Newsletter	29/10/2024
Leader Briefing - The Ashford Cinema, six months on	29/10/2024
Chief Executive Briefings - Free parking this Christmas and Ashford & Tenterden Remembrance services	30/10/2024

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