

CHILHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Chilham Village Hall on 5th July, 2007 at 19.30.

Present: Cllrs J Adams, D.Kennett, R Marsh, A Ralph, M Sansom, E Taylor (Chairman), R Taylor (Vice-chairman), Y White

Apologies: Cllr M Barbrook

In Attendance: Mr G Dear (Clerk), Borough Cllr J Marriott, three members of the Public.

7/1 Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June, 2007

The minutes were signed as a true record.

7/2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Rural Housing Survey – site search

ABC had offered daytime or evening on 12th, 13th, 26th or 27th July. Cllr Adams to get back to ABC with preferred option.

A252 verges opposite Badgers Hill Farm Shop

The clerk had complained about the state of the verges to Kent Highways and as a result MidKent Water had asked the contractor to keep the area clean and tidy. Kent Highways continue to monitor the situation.

Clerks contract

Cllr Adams agreed to report back on this at the next meeting.

HGVs in Square

The clerk reported that Kent Highways transportation team would visit the village to investigate.

Trimming hedges of derelict orchard behind Cherry Orchard

The clerk had identified the landowners and requested that the hedges were trimmed.

PACT Meeting

A provisional date of 23rd August was agreed for the initial meeting subject to confirming availability of PC Barney and Community Warden MacMahan.

OWL Play Area – repairs to wetpour areas

The clerk reported he had received 3 quotes from potential repairers and also that Playdale were making an inspection the following week and deciding whether the repairs were covered by the 5yr guarantee.

Access to river at Chilham Mill

The clerk had received a sympathetic reply from MidKent Fisheries. Unfortunately they were unable to open access as requested for health and safety reasons.

7/3 Declarations of Interest

The chairman reminded councillors of the need to declare their interest should the occasion arise during the meeting.

7/4 Planning

Decisions received from Ashford:-

07/00748/AS: Extension to replace existing conservatory at The Kilns, Lower Lees Road, Chilham

GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

07/00192/AS: Construction of 4m x 8m swimming pool, summer house, pump room, solar panels and paved area at Hares Farm, Shottenden Road, Chilham

GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

Applications Considered:-

07/00921/AS: 1 Cork Farm Cottages, Long Hill, Chilham

Replacement garage

SUPPORT

07/01041/AS: Howlets Farm, Soleshill Road, Chilham

Conversion of redundant oast into 4 dwellings and former stables into one dwelling, with associated parking

SUPPORT

07/00693/AS: 3 Shrimpton Close, Old Wives Lees

Erect a conservatory to rear

SUPPORT

07/00730/AS: Recreation Ground, Branch Road, Chilham

Erection of 3 floodlights on recreation ground (retrospective)

SUPPORT

Cllr Ralph registered his interest and did not vote

07/01033/AS: Sunnybank Garage, Canterbury Road, Chilham

Advertisement application for two non-illuminated free standing signs – amended scheme

SUPPORT

Cllr Ralph abstained

07/01117/AS: Bagham Cottage, Bagham Lane, Chilham

Garden store on side of house.

SUPPORTED BY PLANNING COMMITTEE AFTER THE MEETING

7/5 Finance

The clerk presented the accounts to 5th July 2007.

The council approved the accounts including a transfer of £500 from the instant access deposit account.

Donation for Ashford and Tenterden Citizens Advice Bureau

The clerk was asked to find out from Ashford CAB how much use they anticipated the scheme attracting in Chilham, how often it would operate and what level of donation was received from other parish councils.

7/6 Payments

The following payments were approved in a unanimous vote.

903	G Dear – May salary	£324.68
904	G Dear – expense	£109.74
905	G Davies – Cleaner to 2nd July	£145.00
906	A Groombridge – grass cutting – April & May	£507.60
907	Chilham Fencing – churchyard gate	£76.37
908	KAPC – meeting notices	£8.82
909	Capability Gray – OWL maintenance	£75.00
910	A Groombridge – grass cutting – June	£253.80

7/7 Communication

Communication within the parish

Cllr Adams expressed concern that lines of communication within the parish were not effective – this included but was not exclusive to parish council matters.

It was agreed that this issue should be passed to the Website sub-committee which would now be renamed the Communications sub-committee.

Communication within the parish

Cllr Adams expressed concern over inefficient and ineffective use of time at council meetings.

It was agreed that all issues to be discussed should be submitted to the clerk with proposed solutions at least 7 days before the meeting. The clerk agreed to exercise discretion for emergency agenda items. Issues not appropriate for discussion at a full meeting would be passed to appropriate committees or sub-committees or dealt with by the clerk.

Councillors Useful Information Sheet

Cllr Ralph proposed that councillors should have a sheet containing contact numbers of parish councillors and other local organisations or services.

It was agreed that the clerk should draw up an A4 sheet containing the list of contacts provided by Cllr Ralph.

Square Feasibility Study

Cllr E Taylor brought new councillors up to date with progress.

7/8 Highways

The clerk issued notes from his liaison meeting with Kent Highways on 12th June.

Hedges

Concern was expressed that some hedges in the village were not being trimmed effectively.

Cllr Kennett proposed that in such cases the clerk should first contact the landowner and if a resolution to the problem could not be found escalate to Kent Highways. This was agreed.

The clerk was also asked to contact Kent Highways for a list of landowners of non-residential land.

Verge Trimming

Cllr March expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of verge trimming in the village by Kent Highways. He proposed that the council should find out what verges are cut, how often and how much the council would get if it undertook this work itself.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact Kent Highways to obtain this information.

Condition of Road Signs

Cllr White complained about the poor condition of road signs in the village.

It was agreed that cllrs should notify Cllr White of any signs in poor condition so that this information could be passed to Kent Highways.

Road Closures

Cllr White complained that details of road closures were not communicated widely enough.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact Kent Highways and find out what criteria they use to decide who gets this information. Ideally anyone in the village affected should get a leaflet through the door – not just those living on the roads being dug up.

Lorry damaging fence in Mountain Street

Cllr Ralph advised that the fence on the corner of Mountain Street had been damaged again.

This was happening too often and Kent Highways needed to investigate possible solutions.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact Kent Highways and request an inspection.

Street Lighting in Felborough Close car park

Cllr Kennett explained that residents had complained about poor street lighting.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact Kent Highways with details provided by Cllr Kennett.

7/9 Meetings

Chilham Village Hall

Cllr Ralph reported that a quiz night and a race night were planned to raise funds.

OWL Village Hall

Cllr R Taylor asked for clarification on the role of parish council representatives on the hall committee.

Ashford Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Independent Examination

Cllr Adams, Cllr R Taylor and Boro Cllr Marriott reported on the round table session where they had supported policy CS6 which included the Rural Settlement Hierarchy. There had been a representation from a developer arguing that Chilham should be moved up the hierarchy and therefore get a higher allocation of new homes. The clerk had made a written representation supporting the current proposal and objecting to this increase.

Rural Wellbeing and Tourism Seminar

Cllr Adams reported on a very useful but poorly attended seminar and asked for this item to be included on the August agenda.

7/10 Village Reports.

Shottenden.

Nothing to report.

Old Wives Lees.

Cllr R Taylor advised that there was a volunteer service to clear graffiti in villages. He agreed to provide details to the clerk.

Cllr Marsh reported that he had received a request to ~~create a basketball pitch~~ move the football posts on Latin Field.

It was agreed that Cllrs Marsh and White would ~~produce a costed proposal for consideration at a future meeting~~, investigate and report on the proposal raised by a member of the public from OWL to create a space for an additional basketball net.

Chilham.

Nothing to report.

7/11 Correspondence and Notices

ABC – Code of Conduct Training – Tues 17th July

Cllr Adams agreed to attend.

Kent Downs AONB – Draft Statement of Community and Stakeholder Involvement

It was agreed that the Planning Committee should complete the questionnaire

ABC – Local Development Framework – Community workshops

It was agreed that Cllr Kennett should liaise with ABC re suitable dates

ABC – Parish Forum – 11th July

Cllr Ralph to attend.

Kent Men of Trees – Special Occasion Trees Scheme – Order form

It was agreed not to participate.

Doffy Milner - mismatched tarmac at bottom of School Hill

Clerk to contact Kent Highways and report the problem.

Other items of correspondence noted where not dealt with during the meeting.

6/12 Date of next Meeting.

Thursday 2nd August, 2007 Chilham Village Hall

715 for 730 pm.