

CHILHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Old Wives Lees Village Hall on 7th June, 2007 at 19.30.

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

Apologies: Borough Cllr J Marriott

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

Prior to the meeting Ms Charlotte Lonsdale from ABC Housing Services answered questions from Parish Councillors on the way forward following the publication of the Rural Housing Survey for Chilham Parish. It was agreed that the Planning Committee would set up a sub-committee to take this forward.

Cllr Ralph expressed concern regarding Downland Housing due to recent problems re-allocating a property in Shrimpton Close. It was agreed the Clerk should pass details to Charlotte Lonsdale so they could be followed up with Downland to prevent re-occurrence.

6/1 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May, 2007.

The minutes were signed as a true record with the following alteration. The words “excluding Cllr Marsh” were added to the 3rd paragraph in 5/11.

6/2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

A252 verges opposite Badgers Hill Farm Shop

The clerk was asked to complain that no work had been done here for several months and request that the verges be put back into a tidy state.

Taylors Hill Toilet

The clerk reported that if the toilet needed to be closed in future ABC had agreed to display a sign with the words ‘Toilets Closed Temporarily - Ashford Borough Council Aware’.

6/3 Declarations of Interest.

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

6/4 Planning.

Decisions received from Ashford.

07/00073/AS: T1 Ash and T2 Copper Beech – Fell both trees at The Old Sawmill, Chilham Castle Estate, Chilham.

CONSENT

07/00075/AS: T1 Sycamore and T2 & T3 Western Red Cedars – cut down to ground level at Chilham Castle, Chilham Castle Estate, Chilham.

CONSENT

07/00243/AS and amended consultation: Change of use of existing garage block into kennel facilities at Orchard Cottage, Shottenden Road, Chilham..

REFUSED

07/00374/AS: Demolition of 3 no. Dilapidated outbuildings and the erection of a 120sqm Agricultural barn at Land north of New Cut Road and east of Long Hill, Chilham.

GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

07/00481/AS: Construction of new building and compound area to house new mechanical and electrical control equipment for the operation of the Chilham Pumping Station at Chilham Pumping Station, Mill Lane, Chilham.

APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

Applications Considered:-

07/00192/AS Hares Farm, Shottenden Road, Chilham.

Construction of 4m x 8m swimming pool, summer house, pump room, solar panels and paved area.

SUPPORT

07/00748/AS The Kilns, Lower Lees Road, Chilham

Extension to replace existing conservatory.

SUPPORT

07/00808/AS 1 Shrimpton Close, Chilham

Retrospective application for porch / conservatory at rear of house.

SUPPORT (With the following comment : The Parish Council are disappointed at the length of time it has taken for this retrospective planning application to be raised. It would not normally support this type of retrospective planning application on the grounds that it is an abuse of the planning system but due to the length of time that has now passed (7 years) it does not feel that raising an objection would be appropriate.)

07/00975/AS Badgers Hill House, New Cut Road, Chilham.

Proposed two storey extension.

SUPPORT

6/5 Finance

The clerk presented the accounts to 7th May 2007.

The council approved the accounts including a transfer of £9500 into the instant access deposit account.

Allocation of Recycling Grant

It was agreed that this grant should be used for village organisations / projects upon application.

Cllr R Taylor agreed to publicise this scheme to parishioners through the parish magazine.

Clerks contract

A sub-committee comprising Cllrs Adams, Ralph and Kennett was created. Cllr Adams agreed to review the Model Contract of Employment and Job Description provide by NALC and The Society of Local Clerks as a first step.

Donation for Ashford and Tenterden Citizens Advice Bureau

The clerk was asked to find out what level of donation had been provided by other local parish councils.

6/6 Payments

The following payments were approved in a unanimous vote.

897	G Dear – May salary	£324.68
898	G Dear – expense	£133.13
899	G Davies – Cleaner to 5 th July	£145.00
900	M Barbrook – APM expenses	£19.88
901	CPRE – subs	£27.00
902	Chilham Seniors – concurrent functions grant	£200.00

6/7 Highways

The clerk advised that he had a liaison meeting with Kent Highways on 12th June and would be reviewing progress on current issues.

HGV in the Square

The clerk was asked to raise the problem of HGVs in the approach roads to the Square at his liaison meeting.

Trimming verges to derelict orchard behind Cherry Orchard

The clerk was asked to confirm the landowner and write a letter of complaint.

Kent Highways contact number

The clerk was asked to request that the Kent Highways contact number be included in the parish magazine.

Trees down on North Downs Way

The clerk was asked to notify Kent Highways of 2 felled trees that were blocking the bridleway.

Overhanging tree at 1 Felborough Close

The clerk was asked to write to the property owner requesting that the tree overhanging and obstructing the path is cut back.

Repaired street sign

The clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr Tom Reed for the assistance he gave to Cllr Kennett in this repair.

6/8 Parish Council Web-site

A sub-committee comprising Cllrs Adams, Ralph and White was created to meet with the clerk to agree terms of reference for this.

6/9 Meetings

Old Wives Lees Village Hall

Cllr Sansom reported on the last committee meeting and advised of a number of planned improvements and the decision to raise hire charges from September. The Fete would be on 22nd July.

Chilham Traders Group

Cllr Ralph reported that there was a project to encourage weekend breaks. A web-site for goods and services in the parish was planned.

KAPC meeting

Cllr Ralph reported on plans for the Eco park in Ashford town centre. He mentioned that some members had issues with the new Code of Conduct.

Recreation Ground

Cllr Ralph reported on discussions to raise the funds that will not be made with a May Fayre.

Police

The clerk reported on a meeting with WPC Alison Barney who had pointed out that, when raising a call with the police, parishioners can request an update on action being taken and that this would normally be provided within 2 hrs.

It was agreed that the the parish should participate in the proposed PACT scheme and that WPC Barney and the community warden should be invited to the next meeting to agree next steps.

6/10 Village Reports.

Shottenden.

Nothing to report.

Old Wives Lees.

Cllr Marsh reported 2 maintenance issues with the playground equipment on the Green. The clerk agreed to get estimates for the repairs required.

Cllr Marsh reported that the OWL Youth Club had requested that around £500 of the Youth Club funds were used to buy a table tennis table and a storage unit.

It was agreed that this would be done on receipt of the relevant invoices.

Chilham.

Nothing to report.

6/11 Correspondence and Notices

ABC – application form for Free Tree Scheme

Clerk to contact Tree Warden for advice.

CPRE – posters and car stickers re expansion of Lydd Airport and Wye Community Farm

Clerk to put posters on noticeboards.

ABC – Review of Housing Lettings Policy – request for issues to be reviewed
Cllrs to forward any issues to clerk before 15th June so they can in turn be passed on to ABC.

Elisabeth Arter – Access to river at Chilham Mill
Clerk to contact MidKent Fisheries to re-open access to river.

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

6/12 Date of next Meeting.

Thursday 5th July, 2007 Chilham Village Hall
7.15 for 7.30 pm.