

CHILHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Chilham Village Hall on 2nd October, 2008 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J.Adams , M.Barbrook, D.Kennett, R.Marsh, A.Ralph, E.Taylor, R.Taylor
(Chairman)

Apologies: Cllrs M. Sansom, Y. White

In Attendance: Mr G Dear (Clerk), 2 members of the public

10/1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2008

The minutes were signed as a true record.

10/2 Matters arising from the Minutes

(9/2) Highways – Hedges & Verges

The clerk had emailed Kent Highways regarding the overgrown verge at the junction between Long Hill and the A252 – no further update yet.

Cllr White had not been advised of any concealed signs in the parish.

(9/2) Meetings - KALC Ashford Area Committee

Cllrs Adams and Ralph had found nothing to report on the Sustainable Community Strategy from the ABC website.

(9/2) Village Reports – OWL Green

Cllr Sansom had reported dog fouling in the play area.

The clerk had reported this to the ABC dog warden.

(9/6) OWL Basketball

The clerk had checked out the insurance implications with our insurance brokers – based upon an asset valued at £30k there would be an additional premium of c£95.

(9/7) Litter

Cllr White agreed to contact the Environment Agency and ABC Environmental Control to find out what support is available to prevent fly-tipping.

Update required from Cllr White

Cllr White had organised the Autumn Parish Clean for 25th October

The clerk had requested the usual pack from ABC.

(9/8) Wealden Wheels

The clerk had now received interest from Chilham Seniors, the School and OCS Youth Club.

(9/9) Hedges & Verges sub-committee

The clerk had emailed Kent Highways regarding the signs around the A28/A252 junction and requested a site visit.

The clerk had requested that poorly placed no overtaking road markings on the A252 to Molash just after Chilham Village Hall be improved following the resurfacing planned later in September but had been told nothing could be done.

Cllr Kennett had provided the R&T committee with the details of a dangerous stretch of footpath on the A252 so the issue could be raised with KHS at the proposed site visit.

(9/12) RoSPA – Play Area Safety Inspection Report

Cllr Marsh had reviewed the report and reported that the following maintenance was required for the OWL Green Play Area:

- (1) lubricating swings
- (2) replacing bolt caps
- (3) repair to gate

Cllr R Taylor agreed to identify maintenance requirements in Latin Field.

The clerk was asked to arrange for the required work.

(9/12) ACR Kent – Invitation to a Parish Plan Information Event

The clerk had booked Cllr R Taylor on this event

(9/12) Victim Support – request for donation

The clerk had included a payment of £50 for approval at the October meeting

(9/12) Kent Highways – Parish and Town Council Seminar 15th October

The clerk had booked a place for Cllr Sansom to attend

(9/12) ABC – State of the Borough Debate – 16th October

The clerk had booked a place for Cllr E Taylor to attend.

10/3 Declarations of Interest

None.

10/4 Planning.

Decisions received from Ashford:-

Application No. 08/00110/AS

Redthorn, Branch Road, Chilham

T1 Conifer – 30% crown reduction

NO OBJECTIONS

Applications Considered:-

The planning committee had reviewed each application prior to the meeting. All their decisions were endorsed by the council. The resulting decisions are listed below.

Application No. 08/01375/AS

Jessamine Cottage, Denne Manor Lane, Shottenden

Demolition of existing kitchen and erection of a new kitchen with bedroom above

SUPPORT

10/5 Finance

The clerk also presented the accounts for 2008/9 and they were approved by the meeting.

The following payments were also approved:

1031	Victim Support	Donation	50.00
1032	A R Groombridge	OWL grass cutting–Aug	266.73
1033	G Dear	Clerk to 31-07-08	597.61
1034	G Dear	Expenses - July 2008	38.12
1035	K Jeffery	Cleaner to 04-09-08	160.20
1036	England Basketball	Clerk to 31-07-08	1109.99
	Total Payments		2268.22

A transfer of £2225.00 from the instant access deposit account was approved.

OWL Basketball

An information pack from Cllr White had been distributed to all cllrs with the agenda. Cllr E Taylor updated the meeting with progress and explained projected costs were within budget.

In order to prevent unnecessary delays, it was agreed that payments in respect of this project need only be approved by the finance committee.

The clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the contractors insurance policy following its renewal on 11th October.

10/6 Wealden Wheels

Issue:

Chilham Seniors, the School and the OCS Youth Club have expressed an interest in using this service. Annual subscription to this service would cost the parish council; £675 and organisations wishing to join would pay £10 each year plus £1 per mile.

Proposal:

That we join the scheme for 12 months and see how well it gets used. This would cost the parish council £675 and organisations could join for £10.

The meeting agreed to set up the proposed 12 month trial funded from the recycling credits.

The clerk was asked to contact Wealden Wheels to set this up and get answers to questions regarding driving licence requirements, petrol costs (if any), insurance and vehicle collection.

10/7 Neighbourhood Watch Signs

Issue:

PACT as part of their community issues have investigated the lack of signage relating to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Both Old Wives Lees and Chilham are members of the scheme which means signs should be displayed.

Unfortunately, over time the signs we had have either disappeared or faded badly and all require replacement.

Membership of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has benefits for the community in general providing a focal contact to report incidents to and to receive information from; helping people to protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security; greater vigilance; accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the Police and by fostering a community spirit.

Plus, the majority of leading insurance companies offer discounts on home insurance premiums for scheme members. Local residents will be able to benefit if they advise their insurer there is an active scheme in operation.

Proposal:

9 NHW signs need to be replaced throughout the Parish, however, the NHW Association will not supply replacements free of charge. Therefore, PACT would like to ask CPC to give consideration to funding the replacement cost of £135 i.e. £15.00 per sign.

If the proposal is accepted, Peter Wead (Chilham NHW representative) will take responsibility for ordering the replacement signs and their re-distribution.

The proposal was approved funded from recycling credits.

The clerk was asked to check the status of NhW in Shottenden.

10/9 Highways

Damaged road sign

Cllr Marsh reminded the council that Kent Highways had still not done anything about the damaged sign he had retrieved from the bottom of Mulberry Hill.

The clerk was asked to chase Kent Highways regarding this issue.

Mismatched tarmac around Chilham Square

Cllr Ralph reported a mismatched tarmac in Taylors Hill and requested that reported that the mismatch in Scholl Hill had still not been resolved.

The clerk was asked to chase Kent Highways regarding both these issues.

Mountain Street / Hambrook Lane Corner

Cllr Kennett reported that Kent Highways had completed their work to protect this corner from damage from passing vehicles.

The clerk was asked to thank Kent Highways for the quality of their work

Xmas Tree in the Square

Cllr Barbrook reported that this was planned for 14th December.

The clerk was asked to provide a copy of insurance details.

Poorly placed overtaking road markings on A252

Cllr R Taylor agreed to contact the Police regarding these road markings.

10/10 Meetings

Mains Drains - a report on a residents meeting had been received from Cllr White at which they decided not to pursue the matter any further.

The clerk was asked to contact SW regarding one last query to establish whether any application would have been successful.

KALC Ashford area committee – a report was distributed by Cllr Ralph

Enjoy Chilham - a report by Cllr Ralph had been distributed with the agenda

ABC Standards Committee – Cllr Adams reported on a recent meeting

Community Events - Cllr Adams reported that the purpose of this committee was to organise a few events each year, provide to support to events run by other village organisations and maintain a diary of events that could be displayed on the PC website.

Chilham Village Hall - a report by Cllr White had been distributed with the agenda

Police and Parish Forum – Mr P Wead had attended the last meeting and minutes would be circulated soon.

10/11 Village Reports

Village News – there was a concern that Shottenden did not get adequate coverage.

The clerk was asked to query the situation with Elisabeth Arter.

OWL – the council congratulated the OWL village hall committee on the successful village fair that had been organised at short notice and raised £647.

10/12 Correspondence

10/3 Kent Men of the Trees – Offer of free consultation to examine trees in parish
Decided not to take up the offer

10/12 KCC – South East Plan – invitation to West Kent Stakeholder meeting – 27th October
Decided not to attend

10/18 Communities for Local Government – The making and enforcement of byelaws –
Consultation – request for comments by 20th November
Decided not to comment

10/19 BTCV - Kent Heritage Trees Project – request to complete questionnaire
Cllr Kennett was asked to complete questionnaire on behalf of the council

10/30 ABC – copy of email confirming that 11 public payphones inclu the one in OWL will
not be removed
The clerk was asked to contact BT to get the OWL payphone in working order

10/35 ABC Planning Dept – request for feedback on proposed options for notification of
planning applications and decisions
*The Planning committee was asked to provide feedback to clerk so this could be submitted
before the 24 October deadline*

10/37 ABC - Local Needs Housing Update
Cllr R Taylor agreed to liaise with ABC and the Rural Housing Officer.

10/13 Date of next meeting

6th November, 2008 in Chilham Village Hall
715pm for 730pm

PLEASE NOTE: All actions are recorded in *italics*. Please provide the clerk with an update
2 weeks after the meeting.