**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish, held at 7.30pm on**

**Monday 23rd April 2018, at the Chevening Parish Church Hall, Homedean Road, Chipstead**

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| Present: | Mr A Clark | Chairman |
|  | Mr J Branton | Vice Chairman |
|  | Mr N Clark | Councillor |
|  | Mr H Dilley | Councillor |
|  | Mr J Eastwood | Councillor |
|  | Mrs L Weavers | Councillor |
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| Speakers | Mr J London | Sevenoaks District Council |
|  | Mr N Chard | Kent County Council |
|  | Sgt Mark Beresford | Kent Police |
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| In Attendance: | Mrs J Hayton | Clerk |
|  | Members of the Public | 72 |
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| Apologies: | Mr A de Turberville | Councillor |
|  | Mrs B Ide | Councillor |

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|  | Introduction  The Chairman welcomed Parishioners to the meeting, introduced the Members of the Parish Council and the Guest Speakers. The Chairman acknowledged the hard work (unpaid) of the elected members of the Parish Council. |
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|  | Minutes of the Previous Annual Assembly  The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2017 were signed as an agreed true record |
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|  | Matters Arising  There were no matters arising. |
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|  | Finance & Accounts for 2017/8  Cllr Eastwood presented the accounts with the summary statement handed out at the meeting.  The Parish Council takes a very conservative view of spending and monitors expenditure very closely. There have been timing difference between payments and receipts for some of the sports ground maintenance, together with increased burial fees (which are difficult to forecast)  The Council uses it’s Co-op Account for CIL receipts and opening a second account with Nat West to ensure that the Council’s funds are fully protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.  A question was asked concerning why we have a reserve for J5 slips on M25. The Chairman confirmed this was for a potential legal challenge should the siting of the slip roads in the Parish look likely  The Chairman thanked Cllr Eastwood for all his hard work |
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|  | GDPR – Cllr Burgess |
|  | Cllr Burgess briefly explained GDPR to the Parishioners. She confirmed that both she and the Clerk were working hard to make sure we had everything in place |
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|  | Chairman’s Report |
|  | The Chairman then thanked Members of the Public for the work they do in the Parish. Dick Dorward and his Speedwatch volunteers; Mick Ryan for his Chevening Mailer and his continued work on the Parish Plan Implementation Committee; Graham Birch our footpath warden who regularly walks and repairs over 30km of footpaths, Colin Belton, who provided the base under the circular bench on Chipstead Green, Kevin Tudor, who created the remembrance names for the Christmas Tree and Andy Hogg for all the support and donations he has provided to the Parish  The Chairman then paid tribute to the late Millicent Wallworth who was a great supported of the Parish and was always a great help and support to Parishioners in all she did. Many in the Parish miss her and thank her for her valued contribution to the Parish  The Chairman thanked former Councillor Trish Dalton for all her hard work, including getting the Playground installed at Chipstead Rec which is incredibly popular and has stood the test of time and her organisation of fun days and events. The Chairman then welcomed her successor Cllr Nick Clark |
|  | 20 mph Limit & Highways  The Chairman asked for views on whether the 20mph limit should e shortened as the length from Bullfinch/Witches Lane to the pinch point is notorious for drivers not adhering to the limit  The Speedwatch team reported that the average speed along that stretch had dropped, but more people were being reported as they are exceeding 22mph (limit plus 10%)  The view of the meeting was that more signage was needed, including 20mph painted on the roads, and whatever the Council could do to extend the 20mph up Chevening Road past the School  A suggestion was raised to use CIL Money for getting the 20mph markings in the road.  The Chairman praised Cllr Chard for his sorting the worst potholes in Homedean Road but the general state of the roads and particularly the quality of pot hole repairs is still an issue. |
|  | **Playground on Chipstead Common**  The Chairman outlined that idea of having a playground on Chipstead Common has never actually been formally debated by Chevening PC. As there has been a lot of comment already he only invited new comment on the idea.  There was a question as to why the questionnaire did not specifically mention Chipstead Common. It was explained that that was done deliberately to guage opinion as to where the best place to put a play area might be  Concerns were raised about vandalism there used to be 2 benches on the Common – there is now only one as one had been vandalised.  A Parishioner stated that as Chipstead Common was an anomaly, in that the surrounding houses all belong to Riverhead PC we would be introducing a play area for the benefit of Riverhead residents.  A Parishioner stated that if the residents of Riverhead were asked, they would not want a play area either.  A Parishioner stated the Chevening had requested the covenants on the land when it was transferred from SDC and wanted each member of the Council in turn to explain why they had asked for those covenants. As few of the existing Councillors were in office at the time of the transfer of land, the Chairman declined the request  A Parishioner confirmed that there was nothing near Bessels Green or Chipstead Common in terms of seating areas (the two benches on Bessels Green face the road and are unsuitable for watching children play).  Cllr Firth pressed the Chairman for a timeframe as to when a decision might be made – as she has had representation from Riverhead Parishioners and he has agreed that we will come up with a timeline at our next PC meeting. |
|  | Chipstead Lake  The Chairman confirmed that the Council was not involved in any plans to purchase Chipstead Lake. Talking with the owner, discussions on the proposal to have a footpath around the north shore would go ahead if the Council were likely to endorse the proposal to build on the North Shore. As this was not in the best interests of the parish we have declined to discuss it any further |
|  | **Planning**  The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council’s views do not bear any due influence on the decisions made by SDC Planners. Although the Planners ask for our views, they make the decisions without taking our recommendations into account.  The Chairman then reminded Parishioners of two very significant developments which are at the very early stages and encouraged Parishioners to engage with the developers to discuss their plans. The Parish Council have not been formally consulted by either proposal and therefore have not formed any view   * Chevening House are holding an “Open Day” on 11th May to explain their plans concerning constructing a bund, cycle path and lake on Chevening Estate land. * Froghole Farm. A developer has been speaking to SDC and Chevening School about building between 26 & 30 houses with car parking and other amenities |  |
|  | Other questions  A parishioner asked whether the solution to the break in’s on Chipstead Recreation Ground might be closing & locking the gate to the recreation ground overnight. The Chairman responded that we would look into it but the main problem would be having someone available to lock and unlock it |
|  | Police – Sgt Mark Beresford & PCSO Ellie Collins |
|  | Sgt Beresford began by explaining that rather than some statistics concerning crime in the area he had been looing at clear up rates for crimes. In Sevenoaks District the rate is 5.3% whereas in Brasted Sundridge and Chevening it is 6.3%  He confirmed that Sevenoaks is a safe place to live and Chevening is safe in the district.  There have been 2 incidents of assault inn the last 3 months and 4 burglaries in total. No HGV problems were reported but a routine patrol identified 2 suspicious men at 1.30am one morning near the bus stop on Chipstead lane. A do patrol was called but the men had run off  He recommended Parishioners follow the Sevenoaks Police twitter feed to give a flavour of what they are doing.  He mentioned the PCSO’s as a visible presence and there to deal with “low level” crime.  The greatest risk on the horizon is burglaries, which are Sevenoaks District’s Achilles Heel. He paid tribute to the various Neighbourhood Watch Schemes that there are so few burglaries in the area.  The other problem is Telephone Scams, especially targeting older people. The scammers are very plausible and everyone needs to be vigilant to these type of scams |
|  | PCSO Ellie Collins  Ellie confirmed the issues of scamming and the largest case she had come across was someone who lost £130,000. It is something to be aware of, and to make more elderly friends and neighbours aware.  The key focus for PCSOs is Crime Prevention and where possible providing a plice presence as a preventative measure. An example would be Anti Social Behaviour from youths round the lake. This was broken up with Police presence on site and there has been no recurrence since  A question was asked as to how to contact the PCSO. 999 is obviously the emergency number. 101 should be used for lower levels issues but it is a long and time consuming process. This type of issue can also now be recorded online which is an easier process |
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|  | SDC - James London  The District Council has managed to achieve a Balanced Budget – no revenue support grant has been received from Central Government. The Council continues to try and make savings and investing in a Property Portfolio. Nonetheless Sevenoaks is the only Council to still maintain a weekly bin collection.  Sevenoaks is the busiest planning department in Kent. The next phase of the local plan which identifies the provision of land for housing and jobs will be published in June and will identify the sites the Council will be actively looking at for development. Everyone on the Council is dedicated to preserving the character of the District but the pressure to build is not going away  The other two issues which take up a lot of time are highways and parking.  In terms of Highways the complaints are always the there is too much traffic, or that it is going too fast. With Parking it is a case of getting the balance right. Parking provision needs to be looked at. |
|  | Cllr London concluded by offering his thanks to his fellow District Councillors, Anna Firth and Robert Piper, Cllr Nick Chard and also his thanks to the Parish Council who work unpaid and do their best for the Parish. |
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|  | KCC – Nick Chard |
|  | Nick confirmed that this was the anniversary of his first year in office. His first challenge was the removal of the bus services impacting, especially Knockholt and Halstead. Over 200 people had emailed Nick about it and KCC arranged a replacement service to ensure the villages were still served.  Potholes are always a concern for everyone. Chevening Road is due to be repaired over May half term when the school is off. Repairs when they are carried out should be of a certain standard and if they are not lasting, the contractors must come back and sort them out. The core contractor for road repairs is Amey – but there is a scheme called fund and fix which uses local contractors. They take a photo of the hole before and after and then there is a subsequent inspection. The Council is concerned that the temporary fixes are not lasting as long as they should. These should be reported via the KCC website.  A member of the Public asked about plans for Dunbrik tip. The concern is that it needs a complete redesign as it is not fit for purpose. People with trailers are not allowed in and there is a lack of assistance on site. Nick advised that the employees are contracted out and not KCC employees.  A question was raised as to the likelihood of getting the A25/A21/Homedean Rd Roundabout. Nick confirmed that although there were no firm plans, the number of accidents mean that he believes it becomes a possibility in the next few years.  The chairman then questioned the priorities of Highways Dept. The renovation of Morants Court Roundabout cost £130k where no-one was aware of any concerns about the state of it or of any accidents happening there. The priorities of the decisions are hard to understand.  A member of Chevening Flood Defence Committee raised concerns that KCC do not respond to emails or properly clear drains that they leave the Village in grave danger of flooding. Nick requested full details by email and he will look into it. |
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|  | **Speedwatch Update – Dick Dorwood**  Dick thanks all the speed watch team for their hard work. He confirmed that drivers caught by them are not prosecuted and fined specifically but they may receive written advice and it may be used as evidence for repeat offenders.  In November 2014 the Speedwatch team was created within Chipstead Village and Cold Arbor Road. There are 12 sites the team are authorised to operate from. 2600 cars have been reported, 2200 before the 20 mph was introduced. The fastest recorded speed was 59 mph but speeds over 20 or 30 mph are commonplace.  Dick invited anyone who was interested to join the Speedwatch team. |
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|  | **Parish Plan update – Mick Ryan**  Mick confirmed that there were 5 items from the Parish Plan completed, with a further 3 added. |
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|  | **Parish Archive – Katherine Draper**  Katherine requested that the Pavilion be extended to store the Parish Archives as she currently has a large amount of information which would be of benefit for anyone in Parish |
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|  | **Family Fun Day**  The Family Fun Day will take place on 19th August 10.30am - 1.30pm on Chipstead Recreation Ground. All are welcome |
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|  | **Parish Street Party**  There will be a Street Party to celebrate the Royal Wedding on Saturday 19th May 12 noon – 4.00pm on Chevening Road between the Bricklayers Arms and the Recreation Ground |
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|  | **Dragon Boat Racing Monday 27th August – Chairman**  The annual Dragon Boat Race will take place on Monday 27th August. If you want to enter a team, contact Andy Clark. |

The meeting closed at 21.47