



CHEVENING PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Hayton - Clerk

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Minutes of the telephone Council Meeting of Chevening Parish Council, held at 7.30pm on Monday 15th June 2020

Present:	Mr A Clark	Chairman – video
	Mr J Branton	Vice-Chairman - phone
	Ms R Burgess	Councillor – video
	Mr N Clark	Councillor – video
	Mr A de Turberville	Councillor -video
	Mr J Eastwood	Councillor – video
	Mr J Firmager	Councillor
	Mrs L Weavers	Councillor – video
	Mrs J Hayton	Clerk - video
	Mr J London	SDC - video
	Members of the Public	4
Apologies	Mr N Williams	Councillor

107. **Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Councillor Williams and duly accepted by the chairman
108. **Questions from the Public** There were no specific questions from the public however one participant who also “attended” the last Parish Council meeting thanked the Council for everything that they were doing for the Parish. She commented that it was important that all issues were reported to the Police as they appeared to be becoming a little more active in addressing the anti social behaviour in Chipstead Village
109. **Update on the Current Situation**
- **Vulnerable and Volunteers** The Clerk confirmed there had been no additional vulnerable registered and the only phone calls received or people who had forgotten the details of their volunteers and needed to be put back in touch
 - **Anti Social Behaviour**
 - **Swimming in the Lake** The Chairman confirmed that at a meeting with the Sailing Club they advised that their rent has been doubled by the owner of the land therefore in order to remain viable they have had to look for alternative sources of income and the open water swimmers are one of those. The operation works very well it falls within the permissions that the Sailing Club have and is very well run. Concerns have been expressed within Chipstead that the presence of the open water swimmers encourages others to swim in the Lake but the Lake is private property and both the Sailing Club and the open water swimmers are acting within their rights

The owner of the North Shore has been alerted to the dangers of people swimming in the Lake and the possibility of people coming to harm as a result of not securing his property. Unfortunately he has stopped communicating with the Parish Council. The District Council and the Police from the Community Safety Unit will contact the landowner to attempt to get him to recognise his responsibilities. This a matter of public safety and whether there is a potential for legal action of causing or permitting public nuisance by not fencing off that land. The influx of people is having a huge impact on the village and by his inaction he is ignoring the risk and the unfortunate consequences. The Clerk was requested to find out under causing or permitting a public nuisance whether there was stronger action that could be taken against the landowner

- The Chairman requested the Clerk contact Kent Police as they continue to tweet pictures of the Lake with their updates when they are patrolling the area. The Police fail to mention that the Lake is impossible to access by the public as it is all private property and therefore anyone who is accessing the Lake is trespassing
- The Council debated whether there was any authority that would be responsible for the oversight and the safety of the Lake. A member of the public mentioned that there was a Quarry's Act and whether the Lake would be covered under this. Alternatively it may be the responsibility of KCC as the overall planning authority to be responsible for monitoring these issues. The Clerk was requested to contact Nick Chard our KCC councillor to alert him to the issues and request his help in identifying whether there was more KCC could do
- The Chairman confirmed that the Council had received an email which mentioned community work orders for those on probation and the possibility of applying to have some of those people coming to help clear the Lake side of rubbish left by any visitors. The only concern would be that as the rubbish is on private land it may be excluded from these Community Work Orders. The Clerk was instructed to contact the organisation concerned to find out whether it was a possibility
- Picnic Benches on the Green. The earliest likely date for hospitality especially pubs re-opening is the 4th of July. The Council and the Landlord of the Bricklayers Arms are very well aware of the potential pitfalls of opening and serving outside with the undesirable behaviour that was seen a few weeks ago. The Landlord has confirmed that if there is undesirable behaviour he simply will not open for business he is proposing closing at 9:00pm to prevent people continuing to sit outside late into the evening. Neither the Landlord nor the Council wants to be seen to be encouraging any rowdy behaviour and want to act in the best interest of the Parish. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted SDC and there were no licencing issues with the Bricklayers Arms using the green. It would not be an area where drinks were bought and paid for and therefore there were no licencing issues prevailing
- **Possible re-opening of the playground** The Clerk confirmed that the latest information received was that playgrounds could possibly be opened on the 29th June which is before the next meeting of the Council. The instructions currently are that playgrounds could be open if social distancing and hygiene could be maintained. It was agreed to take no further action until further Government Guidance was given. It is not possible to clean the play equipment in between each child using it. It may be that suitable signs are put up encouraging parents to maintain social distancing and insure their own children's safety

110. **Correspondence received and future agenda items** Cllr Firmager had received quotes for CCTV cameras on the pavilion and this will be on the agenda for the meeting in July

111. AOB

- Cllr London from SDC raised the possibility of making the Bricklayers Arms a Community Asset. This would mean if the owners desired to sell it, the property would not be able to be sold without giving the Parish Council six months to find a solution and potentially raise the money themselves. There are currently issues with a pub in Toys Hill which has been sold and potentially will be developed into houses or flats rather than continuing as a pub. The Clerk will investigate with SDC what needs to be done
- The Chairman has been working with Cllr Williams to plan a street party for August bank holiday (31st August) when hopefully the current situation will be eased and people can celebrate the fantastic community spirit that the pandemic has engendered and also commemorate the two World War II significant dates 75th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day. The Clerk confirmed if it was to be a street party we would need to apply to KCC for a road closure and potentially need to pay. The Clerk commented that as the Parish Council do not normally have a meeting in August there is only the next meeting in July to agree all aspects of this event. It was resolved to put it on the agenda for 6th July to see whether it was feasible and appropriate to have a meeting in August to discuss the street party

The meeting closed at 20.20