



CHEVENING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the telephone Council Meeting of Chevening Parish Council, held at 7.30pm on Monday 1st June 2020

Present:	Mr A Clark	Chairman – video
	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
	Mr N Williams	Councillor - video
	Mrs J Hayton	Clerk - video
	Mr J London	SDC - video
	Members of the Public	10
Apologies	Mr J Branton	Vice-Chairman

97. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Branton and duly accepted by the Chairman

98. Questions from the Public.

The members of the public confirmed that they were all present to discuss the anti social behaviour situations that occurred in Chipstead Village over the half term week. This is all covered in agenda item 103

99. Update on the Current Situation

There have been no new vulnerable reported since the 12th May and our ratio of vulnerable to volunteers is still 1:2 and therefore there are no issues

100. Sports Clubs

The Parish Council debated the proposed recommendation for rent reductions for Football and Cricket on Parish Council land for 2020-21 and agreed as follows

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- the Cricketers would not be charged rent for either the Pavilion or the Recreation Ground for the 2020 season irrespective of whether they played any matches or not. Should they play during the 2020 season the cost of utilities at the Pavilion on those days should be borne by Cricket Club
- The football clubs (Chipstead Football Club and Amherst) should be charged 50% of the normal rental assuming that football commences back to normal in September. For Chipstead this includes the rental of the Pavilion and the Recreation Ground; the rental of Chipstead Common and the rates bill for the Football Hut. Any utilities used by Chipstead in the Pavilion or in the Football Hut would be charged back to them in the usual way. For Amherst - their rental for Chipstead Common would be 50% in the 2020 - 2021 season

101. Footpaths report

The Councillors had all received the Annual footpath report from Graham Birch. Once again the Chairman extended his grateful thanks to Graham for all the fantastic work he is doing making sure the footpaths around the Parish are well maintained

102. Website Accessibility

The Parish Council has to produce an Accessibility Statement for its website by September. The Parish Council agreed the draft statement provided by the Clerk noting its two points requiring clarification over the coming weeks. The Council felt that receiving training from the website host to ensure our website continues to be compliant going forward would be a very good idea and it was resolved that the Clerk and Cllr Firmager would both participate in the training so that there contingency for the Website

103. Anti Social Behaviour in the Parish

The half term week saw a huge number of people descending on Chipstead Village and included vast amounts of littering and many people trespassing in order to swim in and kayak on the Lake. The Members of the Public present were all very concerned with the situation. There were three main questions which the Parish Council were asked to consider

- What to do about the amount of drug paraphernalia and litter around the Parish
- whether to consider closing Sailing Club Rd and the Recreation Ground to prevent anti social parking and the dealing of drugs in those areas
- social distancing on the Village green

The Chairman began by raising three points for clarity for the members of the public present

What can realistically be done by the Parish Council as it has no regulatory Capacity.

The Regulatory Authority is with the District Council, possibly the Health and Safety Executive and Kent Police. The Parish Council don't have wardens, an enforcement or fining mechanism they are simply members of the public and therefore their ability to enforce any violations on Parish Council and is very limited.

90% of the problem is actually the existence of the Lake

The Lake acts as a magnet and it is entirely private property. The owners and tenants of the Lake and the North Shore are not required to report to us if they are having an event and the Parish Council has no jurisdiction or control there. It is important that the Members of the Public bear this in mind when they are frustrated at the perceived lack of action by the Council

Communication

the Chairman confirmed he had spoken to, written to and texted Kent Police, he had contacted Laura Trott's office, the Sailing Club and the Angling Club about this matter and had sent emails to the owner of the Lake and the owner of the North Shore. Kent Police had not responded in a meaningful manner for a number of reasons, citing lack of resources and even a lack of evidence of offences. They also pointed out that they were not expected to patrol private facilities. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council is very well aware of the frustrations of the community but the Parish Council will never be able to please everyone

The Chairman will be requesting that the Sailing Club put a message on their website to confirm that the Lake and the Sailing Club are a private facility and not open to the public and only activities authorised by the Sailing Club are permitted on and in the Lake

A large number of the people swimming and surrounding the lake arrived on foot or had someone drop them off. The Police have quite rightly confirmed that there is nothing that they can do if people want to drive to Chipstead and park or use the public roads to walk to Chipstead in order to use the public foot paths. Councillor Weavers expressed her deep concern over the dangers of people swimming in the Lake and whether anybody is actually aware when they do swim of the dangers it poses to them in terms of

- the depth of the water
- the overhang on the North bank
- the potential for being trapped in reeds
- the coldness of the water itself causing immediate cramping

Cllr Weavers suggested putting up some warning signs up would be something in terms of a preventative measure, The Council resolved to purchase signs to go up round the Lake to confirm it is private property that swimming is prohibited that it is very deep water and requesting no littering. Although it is recognised signs of themselves do not do anything it was felt to be important to emphasise the dangers of swimming in the Lake and the fact that it is so deep and so cold

Litter

The Council recognised the sterling work being done by a number of volunteers in the Village to pick up all the litter being left behind by the people visiting the Lake. The concern is obviously not only the litter but also the drug paraphernalia that is also being dropped predominantly nitrous oxide cartridges of which a complete black rubbish sack had been collected. As part of the measures to deal with the anti social behaviour the Council then debated whether to employ a professional litter picker to tidy up round the Lake on a

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regular basis so that we are not reliant on the ongoing goodwill of our volunteers which is hugely appreciated but should not be the answer. Councillor Eastwood confirmed there were sufficient reserves to fund such a proposal should the Council wish to do so. It was resolved to employ a professional litter picker on a regular basis as soon as possible

Sailing Club Road

The Council debated whether it was appropriate to look to close Sailing Club Rd. Obviously the road could not be closed completely as access to emergency vehicles for the Cheshire Home would still be required. Equally the Sailing Club, the Angling Club and visitors to the Cheshire Home would still want access to the road. There are two main problems

- the traffic chaos that would ensue if any attempt was made to close the road
- being able to correctly identify those people who had a valid reason to go down the road.

An additional problem would be who would physically man that road closed barrier and for how long. The amount of potential abuse someone would receive as a result could be substantial and the disruption to the Village from the traffic being turned round would be enormous and potential cause greater issues than the parking situation

It was resolved not to consider closing Sailing Club road at the present time

Recreation Ground

The Council then debated whether it was appropriate to close the gate to the car park of the Recreation Ground. The situation here is slightly different in that in this scenario the Council will be looking to prevent people from drug dealing in the car park whereas with Sailing Club Rd there is both the issue of drug dealing and also inconsiderate and dangerous parking. Over the weekend a Parishioner had pulled the gate to the Recreation Ground closed although the gate itself is very old and therefore it is not felt that it would withstand opening and closing on a regular basis. There is also the issue of safe access for buggies and wheelchairs if that gate is closed as access to the Recreation Ground would be very restricted. The rec car park is used by Parishioners as parking to get their cars off Chevening Road and therefore preventing them parking in there would actually make the situation for villagers worse rather than better. The Council debated having a padlock with a combination code on it which would then be disclosed to anyone needing to access the car park. As the schools are starting to return, the Recreation Ground car park is also completely packed at school drop off and pick up time and therefore this did not seem to be a practical solution. The Council then debated whether it was feasible to close the car park only overnight the issue would then be having someone who could open it early in the morning around 6:00 am and be there to close it as well. Additionally many people coming home from work are not home by 6:00 pm and therefore this was felt not to be a practical solution. The Council then debated whether CCTV may be the answer. The Chairman confirmed that he in his working experience CCTV unless you have a very top end solution will not give you very sharp pictures which would enable a prosecution or any other follow up to take place and it is not the magic solution many people believe it to be. Cllr Firmager offered to get quotes

from a division of the company he works for who supply CCTV. It was resolved to obtain quotes and look at installing CCTV for the Recreation Ground car park

Social distancing

The other area of concern is the lack of social distancing on Chipstead Green. Many people are using it to picnic and there is no sign of appropriate social distancing taking place. Additionally with the pub starting takeaway food on Friday 5th June it is likely that there will be increasing numbers of people using the Green and therefore reminding them of appropriate social distancing would be a good idea. It was resolved to use pitch marking to mark two metre squares on the Green so that anyone using it can appreciate the requirement for social distancing and easily keep the appropriate distance from anyone else

As a result of the recent disturbances and also with the current ongoing pandemic situation the Chairman will write a weekly update to the Parish. Although there are a number of different groups on social media covering some or all of the Parish, and these are excellent and well received by the people joining them - the most effective way to communicate to and from the Parish Council is via the Website and therefore he will produce an update to be posted on there – and comments can then be made directly back to the council from there.

104. Request to put a bench on Chipstead Common

A request had been received from a former Parishioner to put a bench on Chipstead Common as a Remembrance to her late husband. The Chairman commented that this was a very nice way to remember a loved one and the Council thanked her for her kind offer. The Clerk will work with the lady concerned to agree the most suitable place to put the bench as a concrete slab will also need to be provided for it

105 Financials

The payments and receipts for May were agreed and payments to be made in June were resolved

106. Planning Applications

The SDC decisions on previous planning applications were duly noted by the Council

The meeting closed at 22.00 and the Chairman thanked the Members of the Public for their attendance and contribution.

Payments and Receipts for May

	£77,484.75
Opening Balance	
19/05/2020 Burial Fees Acres - 553	£700.00
27/05/2020 DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT TO SOUTHERN ELECTRIC REF 910036741, MANDATE NO 0005	£444.46
07/05/2020 Bank Charges	£7.50
05/05/2020 OASIS LANDSCAPES REFERENCE CHEVENING PC	£180.00
05/05/2020 JULIA CHAMBERLAIN REFERENCE CHEVENING PC	£160.00
05/05/2020 STEPH MCNAMARA REFERENCE CHEVENING PC	£30.00
05/05/2020 STREETLIGHTS REFERENCE 10461	£751.27
05/05/2020 ZURICH TOWN AND PARISH INSURER TRUST ACC REFERENCE 38017405	£1,612.90
05/05/2020 EDF ENERGY REFERENCE 673109647889	£76.19
05/05/2020 J HAYTON REFERENCE TRANSFER	£16.83
05/05/2020 MDH HORTICULTURAL CONTRACTORS REFERENCE 1660	£293.88
05/05/2020 J HAYTON REFERENCE SALARY	£1,004.58
05/05/2020 HMRC REFERENCE 577PV00161414	£192.30
05/05/2020 MDH HORTICULTURAL CONTRACTORS REFERENCE 1659	£1,431.13
Closing Balance	£71,983.71

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Payments to be agreed for June

			Santander Payments		
639	MDH Horticultural Services	Monthly Open Spaces Maintenance	£1,228.39	£245.68	£1,474.07
640	HMRC	Tax & NI	£269.03		£269.03
641	J Hayton	Salary	£1,167.23		£1,167.23
642	MDH Horticultural Services	Monthly Gang Mowing	£252.25	£50.45	£302.70
643	J Hayton	Expenses Mobile phone	£6.33		£6.33
644	BSP Skips	Skip for Sailing Club Road	£210.00	£42.00	£252.00
645	JRB Enterprises	Dog Waste Bags	£80.27	£16.05	£96.32
646	Travis Perkins	Materials for Sailing Club Road	£508.72	£101.74	£610.46
647	Steph McNamara	Cleaning gutters at the Pavilion	£50.00		£50.00
648	Bourne Sports	Vertidrainning, overseeding and goal mouth work	£5,281.75	£1,056.35	£6,338.10
649	Streetlights	Repair col 27	£97.75	£19.55	£117.30
650	Streetlights	Column painting	£272.25	£54.45	£326.70
651	Musketeer Services	Water testing at the Pavilion	£148.00	£29.60	£177.60
652	VC Handyman	Parking bays at Sailing Club Road	£1,400.00		£1,400.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£12,587.83

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SDC Decisions on Previous Planning Applications					
20/00794/HOUSE	54 Chipstead Park Sevenoaks KENT TN13 2SH	Single storey extension and single garage with vehicular access from Chipstead Park Close. Internal alterations.	No objection	Nigel	Granted
20/00544/HOUSE	15 Sandilands Sevenoaks KENT TN13 2SP	2 storey rear extension from ground floor with new basement and two roof lights, new steps and balustrade and alterations to fenestration.	No objection	Allan	Granted
20/00896/HOUSE	61 Chevening Road Chipstead KENT TN13 2RZ	Single storey rear extension with rooflights	No objection	Nick	Granted

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