



Chevening Parish Council

CHEVENING PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Hayton - Clerk

16 Beaconfields Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2NH

Tel: 07981 759255

E-mail: clerk@cheveningparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, Chipstead Recreation Ground Chevening Road Chipstead TN13 2SA.

Present:	Mr N Williams	Chairman
	Mr A de Turberville	Councillor
	Mr J Eastwood	Councillor
	Mr J London (from item 98)	Councillor
	Mr J Jarrett	Councillor
	Mrs V Woodruff	Councillor
	Mrs L Weavers	Councillor
	Ms M Alger	SDC
	Ms S Robinson	SDC
	Mrs J Hayton	Clerk
	Members of the Public	11

Apologies Mr J Firmager Vice – Chair

95 Apologies and Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Firmager. Cllr Chard from KCC was also unavailable for the meeting

96 Declarations of interest or lobbying

Cllr Jarrett as vice chair of Chipstead Football Club, declared an interest in item 104

97 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 5th June 2023 which had previously been agreed by email were formally signed by the Chairman as a true record

98 Co-option onto Parish Council.

Three members of the public raised objections to the process of co-option and called the competency of the clerk into question. One member of the public read from a "NALC" document on his phone where he stated that vacancies to the Parish Council must be advertised and mentioned in the minutes of two meetings before any co-option took place.

The Clerk stated that her understanding was that vacancies which arose due to an uncontested election were not subject to that ruling. The Clerk explained the process of posting the notice of election stating there were 9 vacancies, publishing the Chairman's report which confirmed 2 councillors were not standing for re-election, publishing the Notice of Uncontested Election which stated only 7 Councillors had been elected, the Annual Assembly where the Chairman confirmed there were 2 vacancies on the Council.

The members of the public mentioned social media and specifically +the Chipstead Facebook page and WhatsApp group. Unfortunately the Parish extends far more widely than either of those social

media platforms – there are individual WhatsApp group for many of the roads in the Parish (many of which are not in Chipstead), and the Chipstead Facebook group is only open to people who live within 1 mile of Chipstead, which again would preclude many members of the Parish. All posts of this type would go onto the Parish Council website. When asked none of the members of the public expressed a desire to join the Council, but were questioning the validity of the process and therefore the Clerk

A member of the public also stated that the Council should have an election to fill the vacancies. The Clerk informed the public that this was categorically not the case. The Parish Council can co-opt onto the council if they choose to, but they are under no obligation to do so – they can have 1 candidate apply and decide not to co-opt to fill the vacancy should they wish

In order to curtail further discussion the Clerk agreed to consult with SDC as to whether her understanding was correct and if not, the Clerk apologised in advance and the Council would follow the correct process as determined by SDC. The Council then resolved unanimously to co-opt James London onto the Parish Council at this meeting if the correct processes had been followed

99 Updates from KCC.

Cllr Chard was absent from the meeting but the issues raised with traffic, footpath and drains which are all KCC issues will be shared with him (101 & 106) to progress alongside the Parish Council chasing them

100 Updates from SDC

Cllr Robinson had earlier shared an update by email to the Council. She has written a document to KCC protesting about Covers Farm in Westerham and will be speaking at a meeting this week concerning the Riverhead section of Chipstead Lane.

Cllr Alger will be writing to KCC concerning Covers Farm concerning issues of Air Quality

101 Questions from the Public

One member of the public raised traffic issues which are covered under agenda item 106

ASBO

There were reports of 16 youths in the village one evening, invading private gardens and being verbally abusive. The incident was reported to the Police and a video of them was taken and provided to the Police as supporting evidence.

It is unclear whether they are the same youths who smashed the glass in the bus shelter on Chipstead Lane. Unfortunately the photograph of those is so low resolution the Police cannot identify them

A member of the public also mentioned he had loose bricks holding waterproofing material on a wall which were regularly removed and thrown in the river. He also had people entering his garden and wandering round

The Council is concerned to avoid the influx of troublesome anti social behaviour which occurred during the end of the first lockdown which saw the Council employing security guards to keep areas safe

The Chairman confirmed the new Beat Officer will be attending our meeting in September and asked members of the public to prepare questions to send to him beforehand

Drains

The drains down Stairfoot Lane are blocked. A resident has had a camera survey of the drain where it runs underground and the clay pipe is damaged. He believes a liner could be inserted which would solve the problem but it is KCC's drain (even though it is on private land. The Clerk will chase KCC as she has raised it with them in the past

Cllr de Turberville said the drain on the A25 opposite Markerstudy still floods in heavy rain. The Clerk will chase that one up as well

102 Open Spaces

a Open Space Inspection

There were no reported issues with the open spaces – although the planters need some attention

***b* Playground Inspection**

The RoSPA inspection of the playground is due this month

103 Chevening Parkland

The Council resolved the representation on the Chevening Parkland liaison group would be Cllr Weavers (as PC representative) and Wayne Hardy (member of the public)

104 Request from the Football Club that the Parish Council increases it's contribution to the maintenance of the Recreation Ground

Currently the Council pays £2,500 towards maintaining the Rec. This has not changed since 2015. Cllr Jarrett explained that the costs of seed and sand to maintain the Recreation Ground (which also benefits Parishioners) have increased astronomically post Covid. Although the Club has sponsorship deals these are also increasing hard to come by in the post pandemic era. Increasing subscriptions for junior members has been considered but the Club would like it to be a last resort as the last thing they want to do is to prohibit children from playing football because of lack of affordability.

The question of grant income was raised – but this is only available for new initiatives – for example when the club began girls football a grant was available.

The Chairman confirmed the Council was keen to do anything to promote children playing sports to give them healthy activities to do and to prevent any anti social behaviour from young people in the Parish as much as possible

Cllr Eastwood suggested he and the clerk meet before the meeting in September to review budgets and spending and see if there was any potential to increase the Council's contribution. This was unanimously resolved and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Football Club thanked the Council for it's consideration

105 Bus shelter at Chipstead Corner

The Clerk has found a local company (Chiddingstone) who will supply and fit the bus shelter for £5860. A 4 inch deep concrete base will also need to be provided in addition to that. The Clerk confirmed she was trying to obtain permission from KCC as land owner to put the shelter on their land.

The Clerk confirmed that she also had to investigate planning permission and the underground services if the Council wished to proceed with the shelter.

The Council voted unanimously to proceed with the bus shelter as soon as possible

106 Parking and Traffic in Chipstead

A member of the public had a number of suggestions/requests regarding traffic and safety

- The footpath which crosses the A25/A21 slip road is steep and slippery in bad weather which is dangerous. Could a handrail be installed?
- Where traffic comes off the M25 slip road travelling west toward Sevenoaks on the A25 – could a flashing 30mph sign be installed to encourage motorists to slow down?
- Chevening Cross Roads – could a flashing sign be installed at that junction to encourage abide by the 40 mph limit
- The “give way” section of the High St – could Give Way signs be installed or right of way be established as very few cars take notice of the white lines

Another member of the public requested double yellow lines on the brow of the hill on the bridge over the motorway on Chevening Road. At school time there are cars parked and it is dangerous with no sight lines

107 New bin on Chipstead Green

The council debated a request from residents for another bin on Chipstead Green. The existing bin suffers from both birds and foxes pulling out the contents. The Clerk confirmed that the waste was not as a result of usage of the pub (it wasn't bottles or crisp packets). The Clerk confirmed there were 3 bins in close proximity down Sailing Club Road (by the gate, at the end of the parking bays and down towards Stairfoot Lane)

The Council felt it was an unnecessary expense both to buy the bin and have it emptied and would be unsightly to have a further bin on the Green

108 To review and resolve the Council's Data Privacy Notice and Information available under FOI requests

The documents had been reviewed by the Councillors prior to the meeting and were formally resolved

109 Correspondence Received and General Issues

- a As the Church are planning to hold their Annual picnic on 2nd Sunday in June each year, the annual picnic planned by the Council would take place in July or August
- b The Clerk provided examples of art work done by a local artist. The images would not be part of the properties identified as part of the "blue plaque" buildings. The Clerk suggested there may be other local artists who could do similar work. SDC had produced a map of the District last year under their "Sevenoaks So Much More" brand launch last year.
- c Chevening School PTA requested permission to have a bouncy castle on the Rec for their Year 6 leavers party. The Council resolved that as long as it was completely at their risk and the company concerned had the appropriate public liability insurance, permission would be given

110 General Information and proposals for Future Agenda Items

- a Our new beat officer PC Peter Wilson PC 46030058 will attend the September meeting to introduce himself to the Council and Parishioners and hear any issues

111 Finance - Income Received and Cheques Payable

The payments for July were resolved and the Payments and Receipts for June reviewed

112 Planning Applications

- a Applications for consideration by the Council
Cllr Eastwood reviewed the planning application for a large outbuilding at 6 Sandilands. The Council resolved that should the Planning Officer be mindful to grant the application in it's current form the Parish Council would wish it's objection to be heard at DCC, providing the neighbour who also objected agreed to attend as well
- b Applications granted or refused were reviewed

The meeting closed at 9.10

Payments and Receipts for June

	Opening balance	£82,352.13
12/06/2023	WELHAM JO BELLINGH FROM WELH FUNERAL	£255.00
05/06/2023	GOCARDLESS REF KENTCABLES-77MEMBH, MANDATE NO 0008	£30.00
08/06/2023	EDF ENERGY REF 673109647889, MANDATE NO 0009	£11.00
10/06/2023	CHARGES FROM 2023-04-22 TO 2023-05-21	£7.50
14/06/2023	OCTOPUS ENERGY REF A-E621DDFB-001, MANDATE NO 0012	£177.08
26/06/2023	SOUTHERN ELECTRIC REF 910036741, MANDATE NO 0005	£368.40
28/06/2023	VEOLIA ES UK LTD REF 04937801, MANDATE NO 0010	£30.22
	Closing balance	£81,982.93

Payments for July

	Santander Payments			
MDH Horticultural Services	Open Spaces	£1,525.06	£305.01	£1,830.07
HMRC	Tax & NI	£530.00		£530.00
J Hayton	Salary	£1,142.13		£1,142.13
MDH Horticultural Services	Gang mowing	£321.75	£64.35	£386.10
J Hayton	Expenses	£174.84	£32.78	£207.62
Musketeer Services	Water testing at Pavilion	£148.00	£29.60	£177.60

Signed as a true record

4th September 2023

Planning Applications - Decisions

Planning Decisions					
23/01173/HOUSE	116 Chesterfield Drive Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2EF	Proposed garage conversion, facade alterations, associated works. Rooflight.	No objection	John E	Granted
23/00695/OUT	Land At 76 Chipstead Park Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2SH	Outline application for a detached four bedroom house with car parking and ancillary amenities with all matters reserved.	Objection. Overdevelopment of the site. Concerns about sight lines and potential access issues adding to the existing traffic issues on Chipstead Lane	John B	Granted
23/00633/HOUSE	53 Westerham Road Bessels Green Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2QB	Alterations to vehicular access	No objection	Nigel	Granted
23/01103/HOUSE	6 Westerham Road Bessels Green Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2PU	Demolish existing single storey rear extension and conservatory to facilitate a new single storey rear extension with rooflights. A new single storey side extension. Alterations to fenestration	No objection	Nigel	Granted

23/00855/HOUSE 23/00856/LBCALT	22 High Street Chipstead Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2RP	Internal reconfiguration of the ground floor, first floor, second floor and basement levels; waterproofing; incorporation of new stair and walls to basement; incorporation of new stair to loft; reconfiguration of first floor bathroom, provision of new ensuite shower room and wc to first floor bedroom: conversion of loft to provide with new bathroom. Fire upgrades. Erection of conservatory to the rear with solar glass and associated landscaping. Refurbishment of the existing annexe with removal of rooflights, new mezzanine level with plant room, new dormer, new fenestration and air source heat pump.	No objection	Val	Refused
23/01047/HOUSE	7 Woodfields Chipstead Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2RA	Demolition of existing garage. Erection of replacement structure with habitable basement and sunken courtyard, with a link extension to the main dwelling. Alterations to external materials and fenestration. Changes to landscaping. Extension to garage.	No objection	Jamie	Granted