



Chevening Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.30pm
at the Pavilion, Chipstead Recreation Ground Chevening Road Chipstead TN13 2SA.**

Present:	Mr N Williams	Chairman
	Mr J Firmager	Vice Chairman
	Mr A de Turberville	Councillor
	Mr J Eastwood	Councillor
	Mr J Jarrett	Councillor
	Ms J Nielsen	Councillor
	Mrs L Weavers	Councillor
	Mrs V Woodruff	Councillor
	Mrs J Hayton	Clerk
	Cllr M Alger	SDC
	Cllr S Robinson	SDC
	Members of the Public	0
Apologies	Mr J London	Councillor

32 Apologies and Absences

Cllr London had sent his apologies which were duly accepted by the Chairman

33 Declarations of interest or lobbying

Cllr Jarrett confirmed his non-pecuniary interest in the Football Club was ended when he left the Committee and his role as vice-Chair (item 38 b)

Cllr Williams is on the Board of Governors for the School (item 47)

34 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 5th February 2024 previously agreed by email were formally resolved by the Council and signed by the chairman as a true record

35 Updates from KCC.

As he was unable to attend the meeting Cllr Chard received written questions from the Public and Council. The questions received were answered by Cllr Chard in Appendix 1 – together with an action for the Clerk recorded in bold

36 Updates from SDC

Cllr Alger reported the People and Places Committee will be discussing the Leisure Centre on 5th March

Cllr Robinson mentioned the concern raised from Parishioners concerning a proposed Childrens nursery in Chipstead Park. She thanked Cllr Williams for responding so quickly. This is now with planning enforcement but there are concerns that the responses from the business owners to residents and the Council do not correlate to those in their advertising – stating only 5 children will be there whilst advertising places for 13

Cllr Eastwood expressed his delight that the value of the grant to Citizen's Advice from SDC had been restored to its previous level

37 Questions from the Public

There were no members of the public present

38 Open Spaces

Open Space Inspection

- a) The list of jobs for the handyman for March were resolved
- b) A request had been received for a fenced off area at the Rec for dogs to go off the lead. The Council debated whether this was something they would want to investigate further. There are fields which are available to hire for people to exercise their dogs and therefore the Council felt this was not something to pursue
- c) Chipstead Football Club had submitted a request to use a soil conditioning treatment instead of vertidrainage sanding and seeding as in previous years. Cllr Firmager had googled the Company concerned and raised concerns about the fact the product can be toxic to dogs and cats. Following the concerns about toxicity for cats and dogs there are also concerns about school children picking up dead worms and any potential dangers from that. The data sheet on the product also states "Do not apply within 3 metres of, and do not allow run-off into, water courses." which is extremely concerning as the drainage installed by the Football Club runs into the flood channel and into Chipstead Lake.

The Parish Council forbade the use of this product under any circumstances.

A debate then took place concerning the Parish Councils additional payments to the Football Club which were made to ensure the drainage put in was maintained as effectively as possible. This proposed treatment will kill the worms but will not do anything to enhance the drainage for the Recreation Ground. For 2024-5 the Parish Council had increased the amount of maintenance they would pay for because of the rising costs of such treatments (especially the sand).

The Parish Council resolved that:-

Under no circumstances can any treatment go ahead without the prior written permission of the Parish Council

The Parish Council needs to see the Football Clubs Accounts to ascertain their ongoing financial health before any Parish Council money is spent.

As the Football Club are using the pitches less (no Junior Football has been played for 3 months of the season) The football club needs to explain their planned future use of the Recreation Ground

The Parish Council requires the Football Club to maintain the treatments required to keep the drainage working effectively (– i.e. vertidrainage, sand dressing and seeding) Failure to do so will render the drainage and the amount already paid by the PC towards maintain the drainage (£20,000 since 2014-5) wasted money which is not acceptable

Details of the Public Liability insurance (min £10m) for anyone undertaking any treatment on Parish Council land

The Parish Council in accordance with its financial regulations require 3 quotes being obtained for the work given the value of the contribution from the Council and the total cost of the work

39 Playground Inspection

There are no issues with the playground

40 Local Plan

Cllr Williams updated that the draft of the plan will go to DCAC on 26th March. The draft will be available for public scrutiny as part of the agenda for the meeting.

41 Bus Service through Chipstead

The bus companies are currently awaiting budget from KCC for school buses which is the priority for transport. The problem with bus usage throughout the day is that most people using the buses are also using bus passes and this impacts on the commerciality of any proposal. The Council resolved to take no further action at present

42 Electricity Supply costs for Streetlighting

It was resolved to fix the street lighting prices for 24 months

43 To agree subjects to be covered in Chairman's Annual letter and report

The contents of the Chairman's letter will be drafted and agreed by email for distribution at Easter

44 Correspondence Received and General Issues

A parishioner who was unfortunately burgled on the High St had asked a Councillor whether the Parish Council had considered putting up CCTV. The Clerk confirmed the Council cannot put up CCTV on land or property which is not owned by the Council

45 General Information and proposals for Future Agenda Items

The Chairman proposed having an Annual Parish Picnic. The date suggested is 30th June subject to confirmation no cricket is taking place in the afternoon

46 Finance

The payments for March were resolved and Payments and Receipts for February reviewed. It was resolved to have any additional invoices received during March agreed by email in order to be paid before the end of the Financial Year

47 Planning Applications

Applications for consideration by the Council

Chevening (St Botolph's) CEP School, Chevening Road, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2SA

The Council resolved to support the application as it will enhance the offering of the school and the lives of the pupils and staff

The applications granted were reviewed

Update from Cllr Chard

Covers Farm

Nick is in contact with the Senior Planner who is waiting for the Developer to answer further questions. There is a meeting arranged this week (5th or 6th) with the most affected Parish/Town Councils Laura Trott and the SDC Councillors to formulate their opposition statements for the Planning Hearing

Update on timescales for potential crossing at Bessels Green

There are several issues with the crossing at Bessels Green

- Will enough people actually use it? There are counts taking place of the number of people crossing at the Green.
- Suitability of the location – both in terms of the site lines and also that on the Green itself where a crossing would potentially be very close to driveways on the Chipstead side of the road
- He mentioned that a potential solution for the technical issues might be moving the location of the bus stop to a place where the crossing would be better situated
- He is contacting the Highways engineer to see if they have considered any location other than specifically at the Green.

Is it possible to reintroduce the flashing 30 mph sign on A25 at Homedean/Westerham Road

Rather than having permanent signs in one place KCC now favour having mobile signs which can be moved to different locations. The request would need to go on the PC's HIP

The Council instructed the Clerk to obtain pricing to purchase a sign funded by the PC

How did the current proposal for a 20mph in various parish roads come about? Why Now.

It was introduced alongside the issues with Chipstead Lane as a logical extension to the 20mph zone introduced by the Parish Council and in Chevening Road to extend the limit up to the school which has been a source of many complaints that it stopped short of the school

How many of our parishioners made representations to the Council?

The number of parishioners isn't known but many parents from both schools have raised it

Is councillor Chard aware of the traffic calming measures already in place in Witches lane and Bullfinch Lane?

Yes. Speed bumps are not considered an appropriate traffic calming measures any more (people tend to speed between them and they are noisy) but there are no plans to remove them

Finally how many such proposals are being currently considered throughout Kent?

Cllr Chard is unaware of the number across Kent but it is a logical extension to the proposals from Sevenoaks Town for a 20mph zone through the town. 20mph areas around schools are increasingly being introduced and there has been demand from parents for the speed restriction around both Amherst and Chevening Schools

Payments & Receipts for February

	Opening Balance - Santander	£47,554.92
26/02/2024	LEWIS G27 FROM ARTISA MEMORIALS LTD	£220.00
06/02/2024	EDF ENERGY, 673109647889	£30.48
28/02/2024	Veolia - Pavilion Bin	£51.80
26/02/2024	VALDA ENERGY LIMIT REF VALDAENERGY, MANDATE NO 0014	£9.12
23/02/2024	CAMPAIGN TO PROTEC REF 017255, MANDATE NO 0003	£36.00
22/02/2024	SSE ENERGY SUPPLY REF 0014194, MANDATE NO 0013	£518.95
16/02/2024	CASTLE WATER LTD REF 546134, MANDATE NO 0011	£5.99
10/02/2024	CHARGES FROM 2023-12-22 TO 2024-01-21	£7.50
05/02/2024	GOCARDLESS REF KENTCABLES-77MEMBH, MANDATE NO 0008	£30.00
	Closing Balance Santander	£47,176.04
	Unity Trust Bank - Opening Balance	£17,738.32
06-Feb-24	MDH Horticultural	-£386.10
06-Feb-24	Judith Hayton	-£1,292.06
06-Feb-24	Judith Hayton	-£308.06
06-Feb-24	HMRC	-£607.79
06-Feb-24	Newlands Nursery	-£144.00
06-Feb-24	MDH Horticultural	-£1,830.07
	Unity Trust Bank - Closing Balance	£13,170.24

Payments for March

Unity Payments

1210	MDH Horticultural Services	Open Spaces	£1,525.06	£305.01	£1,830.07
1211	HMRC	Tax & NI	£607.99		£607.99
1212	J Hayton	Salary	£1,291.86		£1,291.86
1213	MDH Horticultural Services	Gang mowing	£321.75	£64.35	£386.10
1214	J Hayton	Expenses (Salt bin, heater for Pavilion)	£309.79	£38.44	£348.23

Signed as a true record

8th April 2024

Planning Applications

Planning Applications for Consideration at the Meeting

KCC/SE/0248/2023	Chevening (St Botolph's) CEP School, Chevening Road, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2SA	Single storey kitchen extension together with 1st floor extension to flat roof to create an office space adjoining the staff room.	The Parish Council supports the application will enhance the offering of the school and the lives of the pupils and staff	Jamie	
Planning Decisions					
23/03141/HOUSE	12 Witches Lane Riverhead Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2AU	Demolish part of existing garage and overhang. New single storey side extension with mono-pitched roof with rooflight. New hip roofed open porch. Alterations to fenestration. Re-rendering and oak detail. Landscaping and driveway extension.	No objection providing the planning officer is satisfied that the visual appearance of the front of the house will not adversely affect the street scene	Nigel	Granted
23/03359/HOUSE	40 Woodfields Chipstead Kent TN13 2RB	Two storey front extension with entrance porch. Alterations to existing garage and fenestration.		Jamie	Granted
23/03447/HOUSE	30 Woodfields Chipstead Kent TN13 2RA	Demolition of existing garage, external store and carport to be replaced with two-storey side extension. Single storey rear extension with roof lights. Replacement front porch. Changes to elevation treatments. Alteration to fenestration.	No objection	Jason	Granted