

CHEVENING PARISH COUNCIL

Judith Hayton - Clerk

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Minutes of the Zoom Council Meeting of Chevening Parish Council, held at 7.30pm on Monday 5th October 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 - video
	Mr N Williams	Councillor – video
	Mrs J Hayton	Clerk - video
	Mr J London	SDC - video
	Mr K Tudor Member of the Public	1
Apologies:	Mrs L Weavers	Councillor

158 Exclusion of the Public.

The Chairman confirmed that item 168 would be conducted without any members of the public present. He would take no part in the debate and Cllr Branton will chair that part of the meeting

159 Apologies and Absences

Cllr Weavers sent her apologies which were accepted by the Chairman. Cllr Weavers has injured her back and the Council sent her their best wishes for a speedy recovery

160 Declarations of interest or lobbying

There were no other declarations apart from item 168

161 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7-9-20 which had been previously agreed by email were formally agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman

162 Questions from the Public

There were no specific questions from the public in attendance

163 Open Spaces

a Open Space Inspection

Cllr Clark mentioned the posts on Chipstead Common – a number have been knocked down due to the amount of parked construction vehicles in Barnfield Road and therefore the restricted width of the road. No action will be taken for a month in the hope that the amount of construction reduces and therefore

b Playground

The playground is now up and running. Hand sanitiser and anti bac spray have been provided. Cllr Burgess asked whether there would be signs posted to notify the use of CCTV. The Clerk confirmed

these were being provided by the installers shortly and the Council's CCTV policy will be presented to the November meeting for resolution

164 Correspondence Received and General Issues

a Remembrance Sunday.

The Clerk raised the upcoming Remembrance Sunday commemoration. The Council confirmed there appeared to be no reason why the outdoor event could not still go ahead

b Pavilion Management

The Council had agreed in principle changes to the charging model for the Sports Clubs but this has not been discussed with the clubs as no Pavilion Committee meetings have been held. It was resolved to organise a meeting as soon as possible. The Chairman confirmed that as there were normally only 6 attendees we could potentially hold the meeting "face to face" rather than via zoom.

165 General Information and proposals for Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items but at the close of the meeting the Chairman asked the Council to consider whether organising a fete or a general event to bring the community together in celebration would be something to consider for next year.

166 Finance

a Income Received and Cheques Payable

The payments for October were resolved and the Payments and Receipts for September reviewed

b H1 Financial Review

Cllr Eastwood presented H1 Financials which showed the Parish Council finances are in good shape. We now have an additional account opened (with Nationwide) which means the Council's funds are all safely below FSCS Thresholds. Cllr London asked whether there are any concerns with any budget

167 Planning Applications

Applications Granted or Refused

There were 3 applications all of which were granted. Cllr London mentioned 2 planning applications which had been called to committee and which neither the PC or neighbours had attended. He was concerned of the waste of planning officers time if a case is called to committee and the PC does not attend. The Chairman commented that as the PC has a 100% record of going to committee and losing every time it can be viewed as a waste of PC time attending Committee. The Clerk suggested that for any application where a Councillor recommends objection they can advise the Clerk whether they want to take the objection to committee and she will advise Cllr London accordingly

168 Complaint against Cllr Andy Clark

Cllr Branton as vice chair took over the position of Chairman at this point

Cllr Andy Clark asked whether the Council wished him to close his Zoom call at this point and effectively withdraw from the meeting completely. The Council resolved that he could stay on line but take no part in the discussion or debate.

The Vice-Chairman then asked the Complainant for details of his complaint in its entirety:-

The Complainant firstly expressed surprise to find the item on the agenda as he had raised his complaint with the Clerk and left it for the Clerk "to do her stuff".

The Complaint stemmed from the Complainant's decision to "name and shame" Mr Clark on the Chipstead Village facebook page. There had been a village organised litter picking session and only 6 people had turned up. The Complainant was annoyed that on the same day (but in the evening) a large number of villagers expressed their willingness to try a free tri swim session, one of which was Mr Clark. The extract from the post is below in blue italic

Obviously it appears that the "more important" issue, is getting "Free, Open Water" classes from L Ansell!!!!" this evening!!!.

Good to see where your priorities are - including the Chair of "Our" Parish Council (Andy Clark!!!)

Shame on ALL of you!!!! (Mostly!)

Since that time he had tried to contact Cllr Clark and he was annoyed that he did not respond to his texts.

The "final straw" was when he was in the pub and he called across to Mr Clark whilst he was there with a group of friends. Mr Clark said "Do not even go there" to the Complainant.

The Complaint is that Mr Clark who by his own admission walks around the village and people stop him to talk about Parish business every 10 yards but Mr Clark is refusing to speak to the Complainant. The complainant believes this is prejudicial.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the Complainant for his time and the Complainant left the meeting.

The Council then debated the complaint as explained. The Council expressed surprise that this set of circumstances let the Complainant to formally complain to the Clerk about Cllr Clark, indeed from the post on Facebook, the Council felt that the implication Cllr Clark was in some way negligent in his duties within the Parish Council was bordering on libellous. The Council did not feel that the description of the events was in any way prejudicial. The Council felt that everyone in the voluntary position of a councillor has the right to time when they are out with friends where they should not have to respond to Parishioners

The Vice Chairman then moved to a vote. Having reviewed the Code of Conduct and the evidence presented by the Complainant concerning the actions of Cllr Clark, does the Council feel there is any merit in the Complaint and should the Council take any action regarding Cllr Clark's behaviour.

The Council unanimously voted there was no case to answer and correspondingly no action to be taken against Cllr Clark

Cllr Clark rejoined the meeting.

He expressed his thanks to the Council for debating this issue and expressed his regret and apology that the only formal complaint which had been made against a Councillor for many years had been made against him.

He confirmed the work he does for the Council, including many meetings outside the formal Council meetings, and correspondence with various parties. He stated that in addition to being employed full time (and in addition being re-employed by the Met Police during Covid to take on a role in Child Protection Services) he holds positions within Sevenoaks Rugby Club which take up a great deal of his time, he remain committed to the Parish and once again felt it necessary to apologise that a complaint had been made against him

The meeting closed at 20.27

Cheque No	Payee	Reason	Net	VAT	Total
200536	Chevening Parish Council	Transfer from Co-op (made for FSCS Reasons 7-9)			£30,000.00
Santander Payments					
693	MDH Horticultural Services	Monthly Open Spaces Maintenance	£1,210.50	£242.10	£1,452.60
694	HMRC	Tax & NI	£230.67		£230.67
695	J Hayton	Salary	£1,085.90		£1,085.90
696	MDH Horticultural Services	Monthly Gang Mowing	£248.57	£49.71	£298.28
697	J Hayton	Expenses Mobile phone & santizer & anti viral spray	£134.53	£26.57	£161.10
698	DRM Trees	Fallen tree Sailing Club Rd	£120.00		£120.00
699	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Kent Surrey & Sussex Air	Donation	£100.00		£100.00
700	ambulance	Donation	£100.00		£100.00
701	Samaritans	Donation	£200.00		£200.00
702	Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	£200.00		£200.00
703	VC Handyman	Bench and Electric box repair	£180.00		£180.00
704	Chipstead Football Club	Anti Covid purchases for Pavilion	£496.27	£6.69	£502.96
705	A Clark	Printer ink	£58.00		£58.00
706	Action for Communities in Rural Kent	Subscription	£105.00		£105.00
707	Sevenoaks District Council	Dog waste bins	£718.90	£143.78	£862.68
708	JGC Sports Turf	Part bill for cricket square	£576.78	£68.96	£645.74
709	PKF Littlejohn	Annual Audit Fee	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
710	Speculise	Website hosting	£250.00		£250.00
711	Crook Security	Post and labour	£750.00		£750.00
712	Crook Security	Equipment for CCTV	£538.00		£538.00
713	JGC Sportsturf	Balance of payment for Cricket square	£1,068.59		£1,068.59
714	Streetlights	Repair Column	£117.30		£117.30
715	Chevening Parish Council	Transfer to Nationwide	£50,000.00		£50,000.00

Payments and Receipts for September

Opening Balance		£105,536.62
03/09/2020	CHEQUE PAID IN AT SEVENOAKS HS Burial Ground fees	£415.00
05/09/2020	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.BRENDA POPE FROM B POPE Donation for bench	£651.58
07/09/2020	BILL PAYMENT FROM MRS NOKUTHULA COOMES, REFERENCE PLOT 444 .	£220.00
09/09/2020	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.CHIPSTEADFC-BOURNE FROM CHIP FC	£476.00
13/09/2020	FASTER PAYMENTS RECEIPT REF.ST BOTOLPHS BG FROM CHEVENING PAR CH	£196.20
17/09/2020	BANK GIRO CREDIT REF AVISON YOUNG CLNT, 67MB3259 Mobile phone mast	£100.00
06/09/2020	CHARGES FROM 2020-07-22 TO 2020-08-21	£7.50
08/09/2020	J HAYTON REFERENCE TRANSFER	£14.33
08/09/2020	TREECRAFT REFERENCE 13467	£57.00
08/09/2020	CHEVENING ESTATE REFERENCE SI11479	£60.00
08/09/2020	VC HANDYMAN REFERENCE CHEVENING PC	£160.00
08/09/2020	SLCC REFERENCE MEM230594	£161.00
08/09/2020	SCRIBE REFERENCE 1239	£174.00
08/09/2020	HMRC REFERENCE 577PV00161414	£230.87
08/09/2020	MDH HORTICULTURAL SERVICES REFERENCE 2028	£298.28
08/09/2020	CHIPSTEAD FC REFERENCE CHEVENING PC	£542.92
08/09/2020	BOURNE SPORT REFERENCE 1355	£571.20
08/09/2020	MEMORIAL BENCHES REFERENCE 63011	£589.80
08/09/2020	CROOK SECURITY REFERENCE 20200704	£805.00
08/09/2020	J HAYTON REFERENCE TRANSFER	£1,085.70
08/09/2020	MDH HORTICULTURAL SERVICES REFERENCE 2027	£1,452.60
08/09/2020	CHEVENING PARISH COUNCIL REFERENCE TRANSFER	£30,000.00
24/09/2020	DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT TO PUBLIC WORKS LOANS REF CHEVENING, MANDATE NO 0006	£2,549.93

CHEVENING PARISH COUNCIL - REPORT TO SEPTEMBER 2020

	Actual to Sept 18	Actual to Sept 19	Actual to Sept 20	Budget 2020/21
OPEN SPACES				
MDH gang mowing	1,601	1,465	1,487	3,500
MDH general work	3,511	3,567	3,673	7,300
Maint/improve	1,435	3,204	260	5,000
Sports pitches	4,646	5,209	5,758	10,000
Playground	85	85	85	100
Empty dog bins	1,056	615	741	2,500
Trees	4,284	90	48	3,000
Winter maintenance				500
Sailing Club Road			2,118	2,000
Chipstead Common Football hut	951	944	448	800
Allotments	60	60	60	60
	17,629	15,239	14,678	34,760
Amherst School		318		320
Chipstead Common Football hut	564	794	155	1,000
Recreation Ground	2,422	2,994	3,258	9,500
Allotments		0		60
Sundry	100	175		100
	14,543	10,958	11,265	23,780
PAVILION				
Rates				600
Loan repayment	2,550	2,550	2,550	5,100
Maint/improve	148	633	228	1,000
	2,698	3,183	2,778	6,700
Rates				600
	2,698	3,183	2,778	6,100
BURIAL GROUND				
Clerk's salary	364	338	382	750
Rates	149	168	196	180
MDH Maint work	3,511	3,567	3,673	7,300
Sundries	68			350
	4,092	4,073	4,251	8,580
Fees	2,830	2,825	4,210	5,000
Rates	149	168	196	180
	1,113	1,080	-155	3,400
ADMIN				
Clerk's salary	6,913	6,425	7,253	14,500
Audit fee	560	160	160	600
Insurance	2,165	1,575	1,613	1,600
Subscriptions	125	196	181	200
Sundries	45	45	45	300
Computer	189	266	344	1,000
Office expns	34	294	202	300
Training			100	250
Meeting room	565	50		600

Printing/stationery	337	263	16	300
	10,933	9,274	9,914	19,650
Bank interest	41	68	907	100
Insurance	967			710
Sundries	355		100	
	9,570	9,206	8,907	18,840
			Actual	
	Actual to	Actual to	to Sept	Budget
	Sept 18	Sept 19	20	2020/21
LIGHTING				
Energy	1,831	2,093	2,284	4,000
Maintenance	1,225	1,225	1,524	3,500
Repairs	471	110	204	1,000
	3,527	3,428	4,012	8,500
MISCELLANEOUS				
Donations	338	100	400	400
Chairman's expenses	50	53		200
Speed Watch Equipment (net cost)	220	228		1,500
Election expenses		470		0
Sports pitches drainage project				
New benches			652	0
Parish Events	712	882	293	1,000
Covid costs			3,467	
Highways items				1,000
Sailing Club Road reserve				0
20 MPH zone project	165			0
	1,485	1,733	4,812	4,100
Sundries/donations			652	0
Covid Grant			10,000	0
CIL Income				
	1,485	1,733	-5,840	4,100
			Actual	
	Actual to	Actual to	to Sept	Budget
	Sept 18	Sept 19	20	2020/21
SUMMARY				
Open Spaces	14,543	10,958	11,265	23,780
Pavilion	2,698	3,183	2,778	6,100
Burial ground	1,113	1,080	-155	3,400
Admin	9,570	9,206	8,907	18,840
Lighting	3,527	3,428	4,012	8,500
Miscellaneous	1,485	1,733	-5,840	4,100
	32,936	29,588	20,967	64,720
Adjustment to/from reserves				-280
				65,000

SDC Decisions on Previous Planning Applications

20/01922/HOUSE	32 Larkfield Road Bessels Green KENT TN13 2QJ	Erection of a first floor rear extension and a 2 storey side extension.	No objection	Nigel	Granted
20/01942/FUL	Timbers Chevening Road Chipstead KENT TN13 2SA	Erection of a two-storey three-bedroom dwelling.	Object Too much development for a site in greenbelt and AONB in terms of the layout and density of building and the design, appearance and materials of the proposed building	Nick	Granted
20/02308/HOUSE	1 Chipstead Park Sevenoaks KENT TN13 2SL	Proposed 2 storey rear extension with internal alterations, alterations to roof and addition of rooflights. Patio to rear.	No objection	Andy	Granted

