



Chevening Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 7th October 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
	Mr J London	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
	PC Pete Wilson	Kent Police
	Members of the Public	1

135 Apologies and Absences

All Councillors were present. There were therefore no apologies.

136 Declarations of interest or lobbying

There were no declarations of interests or lobbying regarding items on the agenda

137 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 2nd September 2024 previously agreed by email were formally resolved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record

138 Updates from KCC.

Cllr Chard was not present at the meeting

139 Updates from SDC

Cllr Alger

Cllr Alger updated that the recycling bags for life are starting to be rolled out across the District. Clear plastic sacks will still be available to purchase for anyone who cannot cope with the bags for life but this is hoped to be a very small number as it will save £200k a year introducing bags for life instead of the current plastic waste sacks. Many councils across the country have introduced them with no issues

Cllr Alger also confirmed that the tenders for running the District's leisure centre businesses are being received with a decision on the provider to take place at the end of November

Cllr Robinson

Cllr Robinson had no specific update but has been reviewing the SDC Financials and budgets so offered take any questions anyone may have on it in the future

Cllr Williams

The member of the public attended to ask about progress on the crossing on Bessels Green which was an initiative started by Cllr Williams and his (then) SDC colleagues. Cllr Williams reaffirmed his commitment to getting a crossing in place somewhere in Bessels Green. There is a resident who is gathering a petition to confirm support for a crossing. Cllr Nielsen commented that a traffic light controlled crossing would be much safer than a simple pedestrian crossing.

140 Questions from the Public

The member of the Public attended to hear about the progress on the crossing from the SDC Councillors

Cllr Eastwood raised 2 questions/comments relayed to him from members of the public Noticeboards. The noticeboards may need varnishing before winter to keep them in good condition

Street Name Signs. The street signs (specifically in Chesterfield Drive) are in very bad condition. The Clerk confirmed these were maintained by SDC not KCC

PC Peter Wilson attended the meeting and gave the following update:-

Burglaries

Unfortunately it is the time of year where more burglaries occur. There are more hours of darkness and therefore it is more obvious when homes are empty. Key preventative measures are lights on a timer, leaving a radio on, anything which gives the impression of signs of life. Leaving car keys (keyless ignitions) near doors and windows should also be avoided. Shed break ins are also on the increase. It is possible to get wireless shed alarms. CCTV is also a visual deterrent and a record of activity. PC Wilson will share preventative advice to the Clerk.

Halloween is also approaching and he advised no-one has to open their door to anyone. If anyone gets abusive call the police to attend

PC Wilson has offered to attend any events within the Parish coming up (if he can) and the Clerk will advise those as she is told of them

A question was raised concerning fireworks as they have already started this year. PC Wilson confirmed that the nuisance from the noise of fireworks is an Environmental Health (& therefore SDC) issue, not one for the Police

The chairman thanked PC Wilson for his attendance and update

141 Open Spaces

a) Open Space Inspection

There were no issues raised with open spaces

b) Playground Inspection

There were no issues raised with the playground

142 Quarter End Financial Update

Cllr Eastwood presented the H1 numbers and confirmed the Council was in a robust financial state with no areas of financial concern

143 Update on VE Day celebrations

The Council debated whether to have tables and a marquee and resolved to have both. Cllr Woodruff volunteered to handle the sales of tables. The Clerk had contacted Ian Fox and he is booked in. The Edenbridge Town Band had been contacted twice by email with no response. Eynsford Band are highly recommended and therefore they will be approached as an alternative. Cllr Woodruff confirmed attendance of Batch 18. The Dragon Boat Festival has Pirouni and the Red Pizza Van present and these will be invited too

144 Parking

Cllr London had suggested a working party to look at the issues of parking throughout the Parish holistically rather than piecemeal as at present. It was resolved to have a working party of Cllrs London (as Chair) Nielsen Firmager Woodruff and Williams and they will report to the council in 3 months as to their findings and recommendations

145 Update on Football following Chipstead FC's decision not to play any adult football on the Recreation Ground

Cllr Jarrett has confirmed at least 1 other club may well be interested in renting the Recreation Ground on an ad-hoc basis for adult football and will provide details to the Clerk.

The issues with parking continue. There is no one who marshalls the traffic which is normal at other venues (Greatness for example). The path to the Pavilion is left filthy after Saturday morning football and the boot scraper needs to be reinstalled for winter or other provision made to stop mud being left on walkways rendering them slippery and dangerous. The parking signs are left out all week. The removal of the football posts on Chipstead Common has left dangerous holes as there have been no plates put over them.

The Council will convene a working party to look at the model for the Sports Clubs and how they should be charged going forward

146 Highways Improvement Plan & Footpaths

The Parish Council resolved the quote to install a railing on the path between A25 and A21. It was noted that a letter of thanks had been received for restoring the rail on the footpath in Bessels Green

It was decided that a full review of the HIP will take place by all Councillors. Riverhead apparently only have had one item on their HIP for several years (Chipstead Lane) and this seems to have given it complete focus for both the KCC Councillor and Highways who have devoted hours of time and consultation to it whereas we appear to only get push back and no action on any items. However it was agreed that we need to identify and record all issues within the Parish as it would look negligent to Parishioners if we did not identify all key hot spots the Council is aware of and risk the accusation that as it was not on the HIP the Council did not care about it. The Council will review the items on the HIP and agree priority order and top priority at the meeting in November.

147 Correspondence Received and General Issues

a) Formal thanks to Parishioners who kept the sluices and waterways clear during the recent heavy rain

There has been an email thanks from a Parishioner for the work done by the flood team during the recent heavy rain. The Chairman formally gave a vote of thanks from the Council for the hard work of the Flood team and will write to each of them to thank them

148 General Information and proposals for Future Agenda Items

a) Plans for Remembrance Sunday service

The Rector plans to hold the 9am service at the Church on Remembrance Sunday, then hold the 10.30 service with the Act of Remembrance around the War Memorial at 10.30 (for the silence at 11. The proposed order of service was shared with the Council

b) Update on meeting with Bricklayers Arms

The Chairman and Clerk met the Operations Manager from Harveys and the new manager of the pub. Harveys have confirmed their support for seeing the Bricklayers as a successful pub. Plans for turning the upstairs rooms into a B&B are on hold until January and work is underway on the Bin Store to make sure it is kept clean and as hygienic as possible

c) Wintering the planters

Cllrs Woodruff and Nielsen will visit Coblands to obtain planting for winter and bulbs for Spring. Cllr Nielsen will house the geraniums in the Allotments in an attempt to keep them alive over Winter

d) Extending 20mph limit to schools

The Clerk has been advised that the plan to extend the 20mph zone past Chevening Schools and on Witches and Bullfinch Lane for Amherst will go to JTB in December

e) Bessels Green

Cllr Firmager commented that where the schoolchildren wait at the bus stop on Bessels Green because of the speed of traffic and the cars throwing up spray in the rain, they stand on the muddy grass by the bus stop. He proposed installing a concrete slab or grass paving

grids for them to stand on rather than having to stand in the mud. The Council resolved to get quotes to install

149 Finance

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

150 Planning Applications

a) Applications for consideration by the Council

109 Chevening Road Chipstead Kent TN13 2SA – No objection

Ragstones Chipstead Lane Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2RF – No objection

b) Applications granted or refused were reviewed

The meeting closed at 21.30

Payments and Receipts for September

30 September 2024	SDC General Accoun, Half Year Precept	£35,000.00
27 September 2024	Allotment Association	£60.00
04 September 2024	Burial plot Plot 117 From C Miles	£300.00
07 September 2024	Bowyer NEF 23	£217.50
14 September 2024	Arkell NEF 28	£217.50
03 September 2024	HCI Data	£114.00
03 September 2024	Scribe	£208.80
03 September 2024	MDH Horticultural	£144.00
03 September 2024	Community Responde	£100.00
03 September 2024	Judith Hayton	£28.01
03 September 2024	SLCC	£183.00
03 September 2024	Window Cleaner	£80.00
03 September 2024	Oliver Hoad	£364.93
03 September 2024	Cluttons	£60.00
03 September 2024	MDH Horticultural	£398.46
03 September 2024	Volunteer Trans	£100.00
03 September 2024	CAB	£100.00
03 September 2024	MDH Horticultural	£1,888.63
03 September 2024	Vicky - Cleaning	£40.00
03 September 2024	Air Ambulance	£100.00
03 September 2024	HMRC	£819.40
03 September 2024	JGC Sportsturf	£1,040.00
03 September 2024	Play Inspection Co	£123.60
04 September 2024	Transfer To Unity Bank	£20,000.00
04 September 2024	Kent Cables	£30.00
10 September 2024	Charges From 2024-07-22 To 2024-08-21	£7.50
10 September 2024	Octopus Energy	£52.00
17 September 2024	Judith Hayton	£1,080.45
18 September 2024	Castle Water Ltd	£6.26
24 September 2024	Public Works Loans Ref Chevening	£2,549.93
24 September 2024	Valda Energy Limit	£8.82
30 September 2024	Service Charge	£24.75
30 September 2024	Veolia Es Uk Ltd	£17.27

Payments to be Authorised for October

Unity Payments

1289	MDH Horticultural Services	Open Spaces	£1,573.86	£314.77	£1,888.63
1290	HMRC	Tax & NI	£819.40		£819.40
1291	J Hayton	Salary	£1,080.45		£1,080.45
1293	MDH Horticultural Services	Gang mowing	£332.05	£66.41	£398.46
1294	J Hayton	Expenses	£344.86		£344.86
1295	Victorias Housekeeping	Pavilion clean	£50.00		£50.00
1296	Sevenoaks District Council	Bin emptying	£695.50	£139.10	£834.60
1297	Mazars	Audit fee	£420.00	£84.00	£504.00
1298	JGC Sportsturf	Cricket Square maintenance	£866.67	£173.33	£1,040.00
1299	Kent County Playing Fields Association	Subscription	£20.00		£20.00
1300	Spectulise	Website and email hosting	£360.00		£360.00
1301	DRM Trees	Remove cherry tree on the Common	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
1302	Killick Cleaning	Windows cleaned at Pavilion	£30.00		£30.00