

CHESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2016

Present: Parish Cllr Steve Bailey (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Tricia Chapman
Parish Cllr Philip Lennard
Parish Cllr Andrew Rabey
Parish Cllr Pat Gibson
Parish Cllr Paul Clayson
Parish Cllr Chris Ellis
1 x vacancy
Ms Amanda Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

Two residents

130. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Cllr Chris Breal (bereavement).

131. MEMBERS' INTERESTS – None.

132. VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL- NOTED that the vacancy has followed due process and the parish council is able to co-opt a suitable candidate. The Clerk has an appointment later in the week to talk to a possible interested resident.

133. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016

Cllr Bailey proposed and Cllr Rabey seconded and the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed them.

134. POLICING

Cllr Rabey explained he completed the Police and Crime Commissioner's survey but it had not really given an opportunity to offer comments and thoughts. He felt that the parish council could invite the police crime commissioner to a future meeting.

135. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Bailey commented that there was a report in the local free paper that stated that Swalecliffe is the worst local area.

Neal Fowler, Vice Chairman of the Canterbury and District Neighbourhood Watch had provided a report to the meeting which had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

1. A new coordinator has taken over the Shepherds Walk/Mymms Close/part Cherry Orchard scheme;
2. A local man has been detained for a number of offences, including burglary on the construction site of new homes in The Drove in September. Enquiries are ongoing - if you can assist please ring 101 and quote ZY/34454/16.
3. On 19-20 November between 15:30 and 08:05, a door and locking bar had been damaged to a hut located close to hole 13 on Chestfield Golf Course. Various items were taken including soft drinks, a charity tin and a charity box. Fridges were left open and taps turned on, causing minor flooding.
4. On 20-21 November between 12:00 and 06:30, the wooden door had been damaged at a halfway house situated close to hole 12 on Chestfield Golf Club. Various confectionery and soft drinks were taken, and diesel syphoned from tractors.
5. An elderly lady, living close to the Chestfield, allowed two 'gentleman' access to her property to view her garden when one of them admired it and asked if he could see it. She took him out into the garden when the two men had left she found that her handbag was gone.

136. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING – The two residents present at the meeting had no questions, so there was no adjournment. The meeting continued.

PLANNING

Councillors considered planning applications in Appendix 2 previously circulated. Decisions reached and latest information now attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

Withdrawal of hard copy planning applications

CCC has advised that they have upgraded their planning portal pages with a measuring tool and the upgrade is part of a wider move by them towards greater digital working with customers being able to self-serve via their website. To reduce costs they will stop sending parish councils in the district hard copy paper plans at the end of December 2016. They will also stop holding paper copies at the CCC offices.

After the last meeting the Clerk sent a letter detailing the parish council's objections and concerns at this, but a response has stated the withdrawal will go ahead: "With regard to the service to residents, when the Council receives planning applications we not only write to the Parish Councils inviting their comments we also write directly to immediate neighbours to the site and in that letter we explain that the application drawings are available to view on our website. If a resident does not have access to the internet we have terminals here at the council offices and also at our divisional office in Herne Bay, however we have found that only one or two people per week currently use this facility. If a resident is not familiar with viewing applications online our contact centre can provide assistance. With regards to your proposed solution we are not able to increase the application costs to cover printing as planning fees are set nationally by central government. As a Council we promote digital working so asking for additional hard copies of documents is not something we can reasonably do."

Cllr Bailey explained he had spoken to a Women's Institute contact about the parish council paying to provide wifi in the hall, but the WI have questions and will need more detail. Cllr Rabey and Cllr Lennard agreed to check out details both financial and otherwise and contact the WI about this. The Clerk and Cllr Brealy had explored 'tethering' after the last meeting, in both the office and outside the WI hall locations – and whilst this mobile to laptop internet access worked it was a very data hungry exercise and may prove to be a costly option.

In the meantime the Clerk will download documents from the planning portal to a memory stick incase any residents come to a meeting to view an application. The Clerk will need to do this for all applications until March, as there is currently no way of knowing which application, if any, a resident may wish to look at. After that date, advance notice of a desire to view documents for an application well ahead of a parish council meeting may be asked for, to save the Clerk downloading and saving material for no reason.

The Clerk will keep the item on the next agenda for an update and do information notices on the village noticeboards in due course to keep residents informed. Residents will need to view applications online themselves or go to the CCC reception terminals. The Clerk will do an article in the March magazine explaining the new requirements.

Gladman development – land at Grasmere Road

Gladman Development Ltd is proposing to submit an outline planning application for residential development for up to 185 quality family homes and associated open space on this Whitstable site. Gladman is currently at the pre-application stage and commencing a public consultation on their proposals.

The site is bound by Thanet Way to the west and existing development to the north, east and south. There are three potential accesses into the site, one at Grasmere Road, South Street and Hillside Road. They have advised that the site is approximately 13 hectares in size and could accommodate approximately 185 high quality family homes, of which up to 30% would be affordable homes suitable for local people.

They have invited the involvement of Chestfield Parish Council in developing their proposals. The Chairman and Clerk will meet informally for a without prejudice meeting, as although the site is not in the parish it does have an impact on it. There is concern over the unadopted bit of Grasmere Road and the fact that it is not a public highway. (Grasmere Village Residents Association (GVRA) are aware of these proposals.)

138. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

RECEIVED the bank statement for November 2016 2016, and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon;

NOTED a payment of £16.33, for the Plusnet Internet account was taken by direct debit on 18/11/2016.

NOTED that on 30 November 2016, the Clerk completed the Local Boards grant form for a £1,000 grant from KCC Cllr Mike Harrison (offered at the November parish council meeting) – towards the costs for the additional new trees to be planted at the play park, Chestfield Road.

NOTED that on 10 December 2016 the Clerk completed a VAT refund Claim for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 November 2016 totalling £614.95.

NOTED that the Clerk arranged the annual PAT testing of the office electrical equipment on 28 November 2016

KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme

CONSIDERED the KCC Invitation to partake in the KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme. Volunteers work alongside existing KCC Community Wardens; and are directly supervised by the KCC Warden Service. KCC cover all supervision and administration costs, induction and training, and unforeseen costs relating to equipment and training in years one and two.

Deadline to partake is 20 January 2017 and minimum commitment is for two years. Cost is:

Year 1 £1,075 (for one off costs for uniform, equipment and mobile, advertising and recruitment) and Year 2, £585 (for recurring costs – logging out of hours system, mobile handset and training)

Parish Councils may also consider sharing a volunteer warden with another parish. The Clerk had been approached before the meeting from the Clerk of Hackington and Blean parish councils who were keen to explore the possibility of sharing with Chestfield. (The Clerk advised that Fordwich are keen to explore sharing with Westbere – or another parish too.)

There was some discussion about the role of the wardens. They are intended to be the eyes and ears of the community and can provide a reassuring visible uniformed presence to residents. Cllr Rabey commented that they have no powers to enforce and that a commitment of five hours a week is not a lot, especially if shared with other parishes, after travelling time. Presumably they patrol with another employed warden? Councillors felt that there would be no control over them as a volunteer, and volunteers may well leave within the two year parish commitment period, which could cause problems, and the turnover could be high.

Crime levels in Chestfield are very low.

Cllr Rabey felt that Chestfield parish council should not decide now, but see how the scheme progresses elsewhere over the next two years. He felt that a special constable (who is also a volunteer) may be better equipped to deal with Chestfield issues of flytipping and illegal parking.

The Kent Police force has now become a re-active police force rather than a pro-active one. Whilst specials are deployed on the basis of need every time when they come on duty, this means that there is no guarantee of a presence in Chestfield. Cllr Rabey offered to speak to the Police sergeant and ask to meet with him and the Clerk, to discuss uniformed visibility, accessibility and fly tipping issues etc.

The councillors felt that they did not want to take part in the volunteer warden scheme at present, and the Clerk will reply to the Hackington and Blean Clerk.

139. **AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk presented finance sheets for cheque payments requiring authorisation totalling £1,153.75, together with an additional sheet totalling £4,164.56. It was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts be authorised for payment.

140. **PLAY PARK TREE IMPROVEMENTS**

The new trees are on order and the old tree stumps have been removed by KCC. The two new benches for the play park are due for completion in January 2017. The Clerk and Chairman are arranging a contractor to get bases ready.

141. **ANNUAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS**

Porchlight have agreed to be the Guest speakers for the Annual Electors' meeting on 27 March 2017. The Clerk will advertise this in the March magazine.

142. **FUN DAY 2017**
The date is confirmed as Sunday 23 July 2017. The Clerk will suggest a Monday evening in early January for another meeting for the sub-committee to meet again.
143. **VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU EVENTS**
As there are extra volunteers to thank this year (mainly due to the survey project), the parish council is holding two split functions – one was held on 09 December and the other to be held at the end of January. The December event went well. Most volunteers have been happy to have their name printed in the March magazine, in recognition of what they do – although some prefer their first names only to be printed.
144. **CHESTFIELD VILLAGE SURVEY 2016 (PARISH PLAN REFRESH)**
All the surveys for every village household have been delivered to every house in the parish. An article in the December magazine urges anyone not receiving one to contact the Clerk. The Clerk has nearly finished the inputting. There have been over 450 responses so the response rate is over 30%. The Clerk will get prize draw winner vouchers and the draw will take place at the 27 January 2017 second Volunteers Buffet event. The Clerk and Cllr Rabey will offer a 'treasure or trash' survey with children and young people in the village and invite them to send their best and worst photos with their comments. They will run an article in the March magazine. Cllrs felt too, that Swalecliffe primary school and the two closest senior schools could also be approached.
145. **CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**
Thanks to Cllr Bailey and Cllr Brealy who installed the Christmas tree and Christmas lights at St Joseph's Catholic Church. The Carols event is scheduled for 15 December and all arrangements are in hand. The Christmas lights competition has been shortlisted by Cllr Gibson and Cllr Ellis and Cllr Bailey and his wife will undertake the final judging and invite the winner to the Carols to be awarded a hamper.
146. **IN REMEMBRANCE**
Wreath for Remembrance Day - The Chairman thanked Father David Vannerley, for the moving remembrance service held in November, after the event. Cllr Bailey had placed a wreath on behalf of the parish council for the first time. The Chairman would like to make this one of the parish council's standing duties in the future.
The Chairman and Father David also had a brief discussion concerning the creation of a World War II memorial listing at St. Johns Church. The Chairman explained that they are keen to sift those names from the fallen who originate from the Chestfield area, but this is proving difficult. Cllr Ellis agreed to ask his History Society contacts to see if they have any information.
147. **CLERK'S REPORT**
Revised Parish Charter consultation
The charter is a document describing the relationship between a City Council and the Parish Councils. The Clerk reported at the November 2016 meeting that CCC is seeking feedback on the charter and its implementation to explore any issues with the way the charter operates. NOTED that the Clerk sent a response after the meeting on behalf of the parish council. (Revisions to be considered at RAMP in January 2017 with any recommendations presented to the Policy and Resources committee in February 2017.)

Possible Merger of five East Kent local authorities
The Clerk attended the Rural Area Member Panel on 10 November 2016 at The Guildhall. City Cllr Simon Cook talked about the potential merger of five East Kent councils (Canterbury, Dover, Shepway, Ashford and Thanet). It will be a decision for all five districts. A feasibility study of what the costs would be to implement this and what the cost savings would be, and what the cost dis-benefits might be is being undertaken by "Local Partnerships" – an association set up by HM Treasury and DCLG (This report has cost Canterbury City Council only £5,000 with The Treasury paying £120k for the report.)

The Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) are meeting with Local Partnerships on 14 November 2016 to look at the potential merger from a parish councils' point of view. The timescale of the merger is that the commissioned report is expected in January 2017 to all the five local authorities for each to make a decision in March; followed by a six week consultation, and resolved perhaps in May 2017.

The aim is to take effect for the next elections in 2019. The Secretary of State has to finalise any request for all or any of the five authorities to merge – there are lots of possibilities on which might or might not – and the Secretary of State also has the power to defer the elections if necessary.

The key issue is that there would be just one council for East Kent –this would not be a shared services arrangement. The population of this area is 700,000, which would make it the 2nd or 3rd biggest council after Manchester and Birmingham. There are some positives and some negatives; for example, there would be just one Local Plan for the area so looking at the housing requirement could be done more strategically across East Kent. It would also be an opportunity to empower parish councils and create new Town Councils, and pass roles to parish councils that are willing and able to take these on. For example, parish councils could make small scale planning decisions themselves, such as for small extensions. Devolution of other facilities, such as public conveniences, and parks in urban areas could also be considered. Cllr Cook has confirmed that a unitary council with merging with the county council is not achievable at this time.

148. **SPEEDWATCH**

In addition to the “Annual All Day Out” which was well supported by the Chestfield volunteers, there have been a further two checks since the last meeting with 59 vehicles recorded doing 36-52 MPH. Kent Police supported the all day out with attending for two and a half hours in the village with some tickets issued.

149. **HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk explained that she has twice reported a broken street light by the Chestfield roundabout, which was knocked earlier in the year by a vehicle leaving debris and ruts in the grass verge. The Clerk will report it again and request a repair.

A car travelling from Herne Bay direction towards Whitstable went straight across the Chestfield roundabout by Maydowns Road leaving visible evidence of its path straight across the roundabout.

Railings hit - There has been another vehicle hit a section of the railings at the Chestfield roundabout by Swalecliffe Train station. The Clerk will add this to the parish council's accident incident log.

In view of the above the Clerk will speak again to a highways contact about the request for lane markings and possible chevrons at this area.

In addition, the parish councillors felt that the parish council should request whether it is possible for the parish council to pay for a possible Traffic Regulation Order to get a speed limit reduction from 60mph to 40mph at the Chestfield stretch of the old Thanet Way. The Clerk will add this as a possible item to the next agenda and make some initial enquiries and report back.

Thanet Way repairs and resurfacing

The parish council have tried to influence the surface treatment of the major road repairs along the Thanet Way A299. A response from Kent Highways has explained that given the resource pressures all local authorities are under, the material and resurfacing method chosen is determined purely on the maintenance issue that they are seeking to address and type of road. (In other words, they select the right treatment for the right road at the right time, subject to resource).

Works to address the various areas of undulations on the A299 have necessitated KCC implementing a temporary 50mph speed limit. Whilst this work has not specifically sought to reduce noise, and the design is to principally address undulations, the top layer is a product

known for reducing noise. The flat, machine laid surfaces and uniform negative surface texture mean this surface type is significantly quieter than conventional surfacing such as hot rolled asphalt and concrete. Residents ought to hear a benefit, particularly in the areas of resurfacing.

Residents' petition regarding flooding issues at Radfall Road

As reported since the November 2015 parish council meeting, the Clerk has been chasing for investigations by The Business Performance Team at Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, and The Land Drainage Team at Canterbury City Council. There is still no update. .

Right hand sign for Radfall Hill to alert drivers to the junction at Dukeswood

Ongoing – As previously reported, the parish council would like a right hand sign prior to the junction of Radfall Hill with Dukeswood. The parish council was told they needed to appoint a traffic consultant to try and achieve this. The Clerk contacted an officer at Amey and was progressing this. Unfortunately that officer has left the company. The Clerk will try and make fresh enquiries.

150.

ENVIRONMENT

The Clerk advised that Cllr Brealy has kindly reported a further incident of flytipping along Molehill Road.

Cllr Bailey advised that the old Share and Coulter public house has had all its Kent peg tile roof tiles removed.

Circular walk

Cllrs Rabey, Clayson and Ellis and the Clerk walked the circular walk on 9 December 2016. The route is clear but some improvements could be considered. There is the possibility for more perches or more benches. The councillors decided to delay this discussion until the play park benches are received. There will of course also be land owners permissions to overcome. Some surfaces get very muddy and can be impassable at certain times of year, for example the stretch at the bottom of the golf course path. Shingle may be a solution although this may wash away, although may be mesh would keep it held in place. Another treatment could be a wooden duck board with chicken rail to keep it from being too slippery – and even a hand rail. Cllrs Rabey, Clayson and Ellis and the Clerk walk the route again when hopefully the muddy part(s) are more apparent. Cllr Ellis also agreed to walk it again and take photos if useful.

Access to the ball court at Whitstable Rugby Football Club

A very productive meeting was held with WRFC representatives and Cllr Bailey, Cllr Rabey and the Clerk on 28 November 2016. The Rugby Club have agreed to open the ball court during school holidays with the key to the lock to be obtained from the new Club Steward who runs the burger van. Chestfield Parish Council will advertise this and also run articles for the Rugby Club in future magazines.

The meeting closed at 9.05p.m.

Signed: Date:
Chairman

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

New Applications

43	CA/16/02646/MIN – 9 Chestfield Road Non-material amendment to planning permission CA/15/00146/FUL for proposed front, rear & side extensions, single-storey to create entrance hall, kitchen extension, utility, sunroom, bedroom, lounge extension and double garage, to allow internal layout alterations.	This application was withdrawn – presumably replaced with a full application CA/16/02783/FUL below at No 46/
44	CA/16/02712/FUL – Greenlee, Radfall Road Extension and alterations to dwelling	The parish council has no comments
45	CA/16/02741/FUL – 37 Plantation Road Proposed single-storey and two-storey extensions to side and rear and porch to front.	The parish council has no comments
46	CA/16/02783/FUL – 9 Chestfield Road Proposed front, rear and side single-storey extensions.	The parish council has no comments
47	CA/16/02784/ADV – McDonalds Restaurant Ltd, Thanet Way A2990 Erection and display of 3 yellow internally illuminated golden arch fascia signs, 3 white internally illuminated McDonald's lettering fascia signs and 1 externally illuminated good times fascia sign.	The parish council has no comments

Notifications

CA/16/02117/FUL – 75 Plantation Road Application for lawful development certificate for proposed single-storey rear extension and ramp to provide disabled access	Granted by CCC
CA/16/02183/FUL – 33 Grasmere Road Proposed single-storey side and rear extension and front porch following demolition of existing side and rear extension	Granted by CCC
CA/16/01878/FUL – 22 Maydowns Road Proposed two three-storey semi-detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling	REFUSED by CCC
CA/16/02250/FUL – Pen Marrick, Radfall Ride Proposed two-storey extensions to front and rear, and single-storey side extensions; with replacement annexe in rear garden	
CA/16/02327/ADV – Sainsbury's Superstore, Reeves Way Erection and display of 4 x non-illuminated totem signs, 1 x internally illuminated totem sign and 2 x internally illuminated panel signs	Granted by CCC
CA/16/02294/FUL – 24 Longtye Drive Proposed two-storey detached dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling	Refused by CCC
CA/16/02166/FUL – McDonalds, Old Thanet Way Proposed extension, with aluminium cladding to the roof, with the installation of a new storage area to the east of the building following the removal of the existing storage area and a new stand alone storage area in south eastern corner. Installation of new style booth windows, inclusive of a new fast forward booth, new goal post height restrictor and associated works to the site	Granted by CCC
CA/16/02168/ADV – McDonalds, Old Thanet Way Erection and display of 8 x free standing internally illuminated signs, 2 x non-illuminated banner signs and 1 internally illuminated directional sign.	Granted by CCC
CA/16/02323/FUL – Ravenscroft, 7A Grasmere Road Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory with new hedge and gates to site entrance	Granted by CCC