

CHESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2013

Present: Parish Cllr Steve Bailey (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Christopher Brealy (Vice-Chairman)
Parish Cllr Len Claisse
Parish Cllr Chris Ellis
Parish Cllr Tricia Chapman
Parish Cllr Joe Hunter
1 x Vacancy

KCC Cllr Mike Harrison*
Canterbury City Cllr, Cllr Mrs Jenny Samper*

Ms Amanda Sparkes, Clerk to the Council

GUEST SPEAKER: Ryan Truelove, Community First responder (standing in for previously advertised speaker Dr Michael Dadd, of the British Heart Foundation Healthcare Practitioner from the South East Coast Ambulance Service.)*

6 x residents (Two for part of the meeting)

* For part of the meeting

226. OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Cllr Eileen Watkins (unwell) and Dr Mike Dadd the previously advertised guest speaker.

227. MEMBERS' INTERESTS and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Chapman declared an interest in update on the Clerk report re the parcel of land owned by Sainsburys due to the proximity of her property. There were no requests for dispensations.

228. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2013

Cllr Claisse proposed and Cllr Brealy seconded that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting.

229. ACTION LIST APPENDIX 1a

The list was talked through and deletions and progress noted..

230. POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Bailey advised he had heard nothing further from Detective Superintendent Jo Sugden from Herne Bay Police station and agreed to follow this up.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Claisse advised there was a break in on the ground floor of Brook House, Reeves Way and the theft of an Apple phone. The Police have reported a large increase in car crime and burglary and have set up a task force for this – enquiries to Mark Root on 07870 252 466.

231. GUEST SPEAKER: The Chairman welcomed **Ryan Truelove, Community First Responder** (standing in for the previously advertised guest speaker, Dr Michael Dadd, of the British Heart Foundation Healthcare Practitioner from the South East Coast Ambulance Service.).

Ryan and Cllrs are delighted that there is now a defibrillator, available 24/7 for community use, located at the rear of the Chestfield Golf Course club house, in an unlocked heated cabinet to keep it in optimum condition. The defibrillator was provided for the Parish of Chestfield by Chestfield Parish Council and the Rotary Club of Chestfield, with assistance from Community First Responders and Chestfield Golf Club. We hope it is never needed, but if it is, anyone is welcome to borrow it and try and save a life. The defibrillator is fully automatic, gives complete voice prompts on use, and will not administer a shock to anyone not needing one.

Ryan explained he and Dr Dadd had provided familiarisation training on 3 April, which had been attended by 15 people including representatives from the parish council, Chestfield Golf Club, Rotary Club, Whitstable and Seasalter golf club. Infact the Whitstable and Seaslater Golf Club placed an order for a new defibrillator for community use at the training session.

In addition, one of the representatives has asked to know more about becoming a Community First Responder for the parish. Community First Responders are volunteers and the first point of call to start help before ambulance assistance arrives. They are first aid trained for heart attacks. They would not be sent to fires or thefts or any risk incidents. A 999 call triggers a text to a Community First Responder if there is one available locally, and also alerts the ambulance service at the same time.

Anyone over 18 years of age may become one. Ryan explained they were looking for local people as the ambulance service is becoming more stretched . Full training is given (during daytime weekend days). Ryan and the Clerk had already arranged to meet to draw up an article from Ryan's viewpoint of what a Community First Responders does and achieves and enjoys for the next magazine. Cllr Bailey confirmed a press release would now be arranged. And that the unit would be advertised to the residents of Chestfield through the website, noticeboards, Minutes, magazine and Annual Parish Meeting. The Chestfield Golf Club representatives now have the defibrillator unit and cabinet – Cllr Bailey agreed to check they have installed it. A system of regular checks such as battery level has been set in place.

Ryan advised if the unit is used then replacement pads will be required. Ryan and Dr Dadd may be able to supply these free of charge and should be asked in the first instance. The Clerk will devise a Record of Use and Information of incidents and supplies sheet to be held with the unit – this will include Ryan's telephone number for re-ordering.

In answer to a question Ryan confirmed First Responders are not set to take over the traditional role of the ambulance service or replace it. On a typical weekday day there are 3 ambulances and one responder car per station, rising on weekend days to 5 ambulances and one responder car per station.

Cllr Bailey advised Dr Dadd is looking to locate more units in the redundant red phone boxes as these make ideal locations. He thanked Ryan for attending and confirmed that he felt the units are very worthwhile units and the role of the First Responders is very worthwhile and valuable.

232. The meeting was adjourned for parishioners' questions.

A resident spoke about the rubbish at the bottom of Maydowns Road. The Chairman explained that the stores and fast food outlets cannot be blamed – it is members of the public of course who litter. However this matter was already in hand, the clerk had already rung MacDonald's to ask them to litter pick, the council had already spoken about a volunteer litter pick for this and other areas, and Cllr Brealy advised he had been in the garage on three occasions to speak to the garage manager about the wind blowing plastic gloves around, but had so far missed her but would continue to try.

A resident advised that a field on Radfall Road that occasionally homes a horse has a huge amount of builders' rubbish that is an eyesore. Cllr Samper explained this is private land but contrary to planning so is a matter for enforcement.

The meeting continued.

233. CITY CLLR REPORT

Cllr Samper explained the city council had set its budgets, with an increase of 1.9% to keep the tax base up and try to meet current and future demands. They had tried to preserve front line services.

Traffic management experiments had been a success in some streets but not others so the roads will revert back to previous, with some modifications. She also commented that Chestfield Road is of course a main artery in to the city and is getting busier.

The city council is preparing the New Local Plan which is due for consultation soon. She explained that not all of the planning possibilities included in it will eventually be built on. She explained she has been concerned with the preservation of the green gap.

Cllr Samper advised there had been recent reorganisations in the planning department of the city council. Also that the new waste and recycling centre is now re-opened. KCC Cllr Mike Harrison explained they are looking to copy an idea elsewhere of selling “nearly new used goods” in a shop there.

Cllr Bailey commented on some road name plates needing repair or replacement and agreed to send details of these to Cllr Samper.

234. COUNTY CLLR REPORT

KCC Cllr Mike Harrison explained parking restrictions in Whitstable are out to consultation currently. The County elections on the 3 May mean county cllrs are in a period of Purdha. Cllr Harrison commented that the Environment Agency has a new Chairman and suggested the parish council invite him as a guest speaker to a future parish council meeting. The Clerk will invite him.

Cllr Harrison also commented that rubbish on the highways is a disgrace and explained a letter has been sent to the Minister suggesting the pay back team be used to clean up. He also explained road surfacing is taking place in some CT5 areas.

235. PLANNING

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

236. FINANCIAL MATTERS

RECEIVED bank statements for March 2013, and RESOLVED the signature of the Chairman thereon;

NOTED a payment of £16.33, for the Plusnet Internet account taken by direct debit.

NOTED that the necessary information forms and P46 HMRC form to outsource the pay roll with effect from 1 April had been completed and sent. A further form of engagement was signed by the Chairman and to satisfy money laundering regulations the Clerk and Chairman were asked to supply photograph ID, a copy of their latest bank statement and a utility bill.

NOTED that from 1 April 2013 the Clerk is using all her personal allowance with regards to income tax at the Chestfield employment – previously all income on this employment was taxed at basic rate 20%. NOTED that as resolved at Minute No127 from the parish council meeting held on November 2012 that the Clerk salary with effect from 1 April 2013 includes a small uplift in hours, since she now does so many additional in-house duties such as magazine, website, speedwatch, and Christmas activities.

NOTED payment by BACS into the council's bank account for the VAT refund claim for the period 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2013 was made on 19 March 2013.

NOTED that the pension pay bands have been reviewed. The Clerk has checked and the contribution rates for employee and employer remain the same.

CONSIDERED that the Clerk has sourced a second insurance cover quotation with Zurich Municipal for comparison in time for the annual renewal of 1 June 2013 with the current provider, AON. Zurich have offered identical levels of cover and all assets included for a much reduced premium and offered a 3-year tie-in long term agreement to 31 May 2016. (This also gives an option to extend for a further 2 years at the end of the 3 year term, using the same rate.) All Cllrs were in agreement that the 3-year deal should be taken up. The Clerk will appoint Zurich and cancel AON at the end of the term.

CONSIDERED £1,379 developers' contributions allocated to Chestfield by Canterbury City Council. The money must be spent on something for an open space, equipped playground, outdoor sports pitch, or semi-natural space project – or roll over for a further year or match

funded with external grant funding or parish council own funding. Cllr Bailey suggested that the Clerk investigate costs to provide a basketball hoop and tarmac area at the play park as there is very little for older children to do. The Clerk will advise the city council officer and get quotes. Cllr Bailey also agreed to try and get information.

REVIEWED the parish councils Grant Giving Policy (previously circulated as Appendix 5), Funding Agreement (previously circulated as Appendix 6) and Grant Application Form (Appendix 7) - to support new and existing community groups in the village. Cllrs were happy with the previously devised policy and the Clerk will now upload details to the website and advertise it in the June magazine. Details of external funding streams would also be useful to advertise – the Clerk explained about Kent County Council's external funding bullet Inside Track and agreed to give details and links to this on the website and in the magazine.

237. AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk presented finance sheets for cheque payments requiring authorisation totalling £2,064.45, together with an additional sheet totalling £4,574.99. Cllr Bailey proposed and Cllr Hunter seconded and it was RESOLVED that the financial matters and accounts be authorised for payment.

238. CLERK'S REPORT

- (a) Whitstable Society newsletter
- (a) The first edition of the new Kent Police Commissioner's newsletter - describing some of what has been achieved in Ann Barnes first 100+ days in Office
- (b) Kent Wildlife Trust newsletter
- (c) Canterbury City Council's Parish Councils e-newsletter
- (d) Update from the DCLG tendering for a Sustainable Communities and Neighbourhood Planning Programme to include the extension of direct, hands-on support in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and grants of up to £7,000 to Parish Councils and neighbourhood forums to contribute towards the costs of Neighbourhood Plans. DCLG announced 15/03/13 that Locality and other partners will deliver this £9.5m 2 year programme. The programme launches on 15 April.
- (e) An invitation to the Kent Police first ever Community Speed Watch Mini-conference on 20 April at 10:00am to 12:30pm in the main lecture theatre of the Kent Police College, Maidstone.
- (f) Announcement of a new KALC Community Awards Scheme supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Chairman of Kent County Council and Mayor of Medway being launched on 25 March. The aim of the scheme is to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community
- (g) Action with Communities in Rural Kent "Rural News" e-newsletter
- (h) Invite to the 90th Anniversary Conference of Action with Communities in Rural Kent, on 19 April 2013 at East Malling Research Conference Centre. This conference will focus on the 'hidden rural economy' that is underpinned by community-led development and regeneration on a daily basis across Kent.
- (i) Invitation to Anne Barnes' second 'Meet Your Commissioner' Event on 24 April 2013 at the Shepherd Neame Brewery in Faversham. The first event attracted 150 people. Every event will be unique with different partner and policing issues being debated openly in a public forum. The Kent Chief Constable, Ian Learmonth, will also be attending the event and it will be chaired by an independent person. Cllr Young has agreed to attend.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

After the February meeting the Clerk made enquiries about what services Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) offer to vulnerable residents. They do *not* actually offer an access alteration service as previously thought, but they do have a service for vulnerable people where a fire risk exists – such as residents living with dementia. This is a free service that looks to take precautions to reduce fire risk. A KFRS officer from the community safety team has agreed to attend the June parish council meeting to give a presentation. She also agreed to ask the KFRS media team to give the Clerk some information for inclusion in a future magazine.

Make Kent Quicker Update: March 2013 - Faster broadband is coming to Kent and Medway! Kent County Council is working with the government's broadband agency, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), to bring better broadband to Kent. KCC have signed a contract with BT to build the network. This will mean that, alongside existing roll-out plans, that:

- At least 95% of all properties in Kent will have access to higher-speed fibre broadband by the end of 2015;
- every property in the project area will be able to broadband service of at least 2mbps;
- a minimum of 91% of premises will get superfast broadband of at least 24mbps.

Kent County Council is investing over £10 million to enable this upgrade, which has been matched by £9.87 million from the Government. BT is also investing £19.6 million towards the costs of delivering the project.

Sainsburys and the parish council's letter of complaint

The parish council letter of complaint dated 12 December 2012 to Sainsburys head office was referred to Mr Patrick Goodgame, the local Store Manager. He replied on 19 March 2013. He explained Sainsbury's at Whitstable is passionate about working closely with local community as can be seen through their work with local schools, local scout and beaver groups, and local and national charities. He reiterated his desire to work with the parish council for the continued benefits of residents and visitors alike. In response to some of our concerns he said:

- The rubbish bin at the top of the stairs leading to the public footpath – now that the parish council has placed a bin here, he will ensure that it is now emptied on a daily basis.
- The litter on the footpath: He is aware that this is the property of Sainsbury's and has agreed with their contract cleaners for them to carry out regular litter picks.
- General landscaping and trimming: He is currently working on an agreement with their gardeners on regular maintenance going forward.

For the parcel of waste land at The Brook – Patrick met with all the relevant parties to come up with a permanent resolution to this area. Workers will erect the heras fencing on 9 April 2013. Work to take 1-3 days. They are intending to secure two runs of fencing, one each side of the river bank, and to chain and padlock the fence runs at each end to existing structures on site.

Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme Consultation

The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme is the sector-led standards scheme for parish councils. Councils holding Quality Status demonstrate that they meet nationally agreed benchmarks in the way they engage with their communities, manage their corporate governance and follow best practice and professional standards. The scheme was first launched in 2003 and last reviewed in 2008. In September 2012 the National Stakeholder Group for the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme agreed to review the Scheme with the aim of re-launching an updated standards scheme. Since then, the National Stakeholder Group has considered the scope and content of the sector consultation which will inform the review. There is an on-line survey open to County Associations, Councils and individuals. The Clerk completed the Survey on 12 March 2013 on behalf of the council. The consultation is due to close on 1st April 2013 after which the results of this survey and the structured interviews will be analysed and the results used to inform a review of the scheme. The results will be shared in summer 2013 with the aim of reopening the scheme for applications in autumn 2013.

Street lighting

Last year Kent County Council consulted on its proposals for street lighting. KCC's latest proposals are now being considered at the Joint Transportation Board meetings. The proposals have been revised since the previous report. Information on the main proposals are at http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/highway_maintenance/street_lights/next_steps.aspx The main proposals are for two things: **1 - Trial Switch off of surplus lights** - KCC has identified 3,100 as not being necessary -generally located on roads leading to or out of local settlements. KCC propose to switch these off for a trial period of 12 months. Crime levels and road safety will be monitored throughout the trial period and lighting columns on sites being adversely affected will be switched back on. KCC are aiming for the trial switch off of surplus

lights to begin early in the Summer. **2 - Part Night Lighting** – columns lit only from 12 midnight until 5.30am (during British Summer Time off between 1am and 6:30am.) This would apply to two categories of roads; minor roads (which include residential, industrial estates and rural roads) and high speed roads. KCC feel there are 70,000 street lights which could be changed to part-night lighting.

KCC have set out a list of exclusion criteria, as follows:

- Main routes and locations with significant night-time traffic
- Town centres.
- Areas having an existing record of crime or having the potential for increased crime levels if the street lighting is changed.
- Areas with sheltered housing/residences accommodating vulnerable people.
- Operational emergency services site including hospitals and nursing homes.
- Formal pedestrian crossings, subways and enclosed footpaths and alleyways where one end links to a road that is lit all night.
- Where road safety measures are in place in the highway, such as roundabouts, central carriageway islands, chicanes, speed humps, etc.
- Roads that have local authority CCTV or Police surveillance equipment.
- Sites with existing or with potential road safety concerns.

Frequently Asked Questions at

http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/highway_maintenance/street_lights/frequently_asked_questions.aspx

WASTE

POTENTIAL SCHOOL PROJECT

For information: Cllr Ellis contacted Mr David Brazier, KCC Cabinet Member who earlier this year gave a presentation on the history of waste management and ideas for future work in Kent. At the end he asked for suggestions for minimising waste. Cllr Ellis suggested that schools could be used to foster awareness of the importance and future of waste management if they were given learning materials that linked to their curriculum, and the pupils could be asked to survey their own families, to reach youngsters and adults with one shot. The local primary school, Swalecliffe, has already worked with the Parish Council, where they had Year 6 survey the circular parish walk, and the boys and girls returned a range of suggestions. Cllr Ellis suggested to David Brazier that the Headteacher, staff and pupils would be game to test out a project either constructed by KCC officers, or based on the materials they could supply.

SAINSBURYS FOOD WASTE

For information: The parish council made enquiries about Sainsbury's food waste procedures. All their food waste goes to various different places. All the fruit and vegetables go to Wildwood wildlife park to be used for animal feed. Any floral goes to a nursing home, and any other waste they send back to depot which then gets converted into bio fuel.

COMMUNITY PAY BACK

Canterbury City Council liaises with the probation service to find projects for Community Payback groups. They currently have groups on a Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. At the moment they have projects but are always looking for more, especially Herne Bay or Whitstable areas. Cllrs drew a list at the March parish council meeting and the Clerk suggested these. The Clerk will chase for a reply/update on this.

A SECOND FLASHING SPEED INDICATOR DETECTOR (SID) REQUEST FOR THE MAYDOWNS END OF CHESTFIELD ROAD

There is a flashing 30mph SID at the South Street end of Chestfield Road. The parish council have a desire for a second one at the other end of the village for traffic entering the village from the Old Thanet Way. They have agreed to fund the costs of provision and installation if Kent Highways agree it may go ahead. When the Clerk met with a Highways Officer she agreed to ask her supervisors about the criteria for the provision of SIDS, and obtain a rough costing if allowed. The SID will need an electricity supply or alternative energy source such as wind or

solar energy. The Clerk has formally requested to find out how to proceed with installing a second one and for more information on types. The reply and information is awaited. Cllrs agreed they would prefer the type that actually gives the speed the vehicles are travelling at in the display and the Clerk was asked to obtain a costing of this type.

WEBSITE - The Clerk met with Cllr Ellis to look for improvements and ideas for the parish council website. The aim is to make the parish council's website more attractive, current and relevant. Actions to be undertaken include a better Introduction - To explain to residents about navigation and contact etc early on the home page. To create new immediate and more links around the site, and grouped by theme, in a table at the top of the home page. (see screen print); to take and add photographs of the circular walk and some key houses and scenes (seeking necessary householder permissions where appropriate), to check that all existing links actually work and are current; and to format and customise – to give a uniform feel and better flow through the site and pages.

Now that the Clerk produces the magazine in-house there are PDFs that may be uploaded – the Clerk can create a new page and upload the last 3 editions of the magazine and future editions also. Also add information around advertising and pricing can be included.

For Planning applications – A new table and record of all planning applications and the decisions will be created and updated regularly. For Minutes – A new way of viewing and obtaining the Minutes will be created – instead of a page per year, all the available electronic versions of the Minutes will be uploaded into a single table, and added to each month. And for Cllr responsibilities – A new layout and page for these when known and finalised next month.

There was a suggestion for sixth former doing IT to help with the website. But Herne Bay High School advised the Clerk that pupils do not study web design as part of the IT course and are not able to support the parish council due to A level commitments and work load already. Cllr Bailey also pointed out the issue of password security together with the restrictions of the KCC umbrella hosting the parish website at no cost.

RECEIVED suggestions from a resident for website text for the Circular Walk (previously circulated as Appendix 10). Cllr Ellis and the Clerk will explore:

- i) links to the NHS website and an app which elaborates on exercise benefits at **www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/** - The parish council could sign up the circular walk and exercise park on this part of the NHS website.
- ii) Helping families to get involved - The walk is long for younger children but the section from the recreation ground over towards the golf course and Shrub Hill is brilliant. The NHS fun generator (website as above) has some great ideas for family activities out in the environment and additionally another website is **www.naturesbase.co.uk**. A few of the activities from the National Trust “50 things to do before you're 11 and three quarters” can be achieved at various points. Cllr Ellis and Clerk to consider all of these links and ideas being fostered through the website and magazine.
- iii) Geocaching - Two geocaching points already exist on the walk. Access the scheme which is great for mapwork with KS2/3 children (and adults!) at www.geocaching.com Geocaching is a free real-world outdoor treasure hunt. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using a smartphone or GPS and can then share their experiences on line. Cllr Ellis and Clerk to consider publicising as a feature to be found along the Circular Walk.
- iii) Learning from and about the natural environment - strongly emphasised in the new proposals for a National Curriculum. The science curriculum emphasises that “Pupils should use the local environment throughout the year to identify plants and animals in their habit, and how the habitat changes through the year.” The geography and history proposals also emphasise fieldwork in the local environment. Although some distance from local schools the provides some great opportunities for geography fieldwork, science related activities, creative approaches through the arts and stimulus for literacy development. There are numerous possibilities either for direct school work or the encouragement of follow up activities with and alongside parents. A couple of national websites that support this are www.opalexplornature.org, www.rspb.org.uk/getoutdoors

and locally the Kent Downs Education Project <http://education.kentdowns.org.uk/>

Cllr Ellis will contact Swalecliffe primary with reference to the new Primary Curriculum and its pressure for using community resources.

The Clerk will devise text and upload details of the above as agreed by Cllrs to the website and next magazine. The text will advise readers that their views are welcomed on these ideas, and they may contact Cllr Ellis or the Clerk with any comments.

CONSIDERED whether the Clerk should set up a Facebook page for the parish council. Whilst this could encourage and initiate feedback from residents and users it would need monitoring and 'policing'. It was felt it could be a good idea but would need further investigation at a later date, after the Clerk and Cllr Ellis have concentrated on the council's own website first. There were concerns that 'friends' would not be known. It may be better to encourage some village young people to set up a Chestfield Teenagers face book page.

239. CIRCULAR WALK AROUND THE VILLAGE

Cllr Ellis explained that he had updated the website text that accompanied walks would only take place on request and that he should be contacted direct first. He also said that Whitstable library had requested some circular walk leaflets – the Clerk will post 100 direct.

The Clerk explained that The Barn had kindly sponsored a perch seat for the walk. However Kent County Council now no longer stock them and so Cllr Bailey has sourced a specification for making a traditional perch. The Clerk has contacted a local carpenter who will make a pine version initially then if all is well an oak version. The Clerk confirmed signage for the perch to recognise the sponsorship by the Chestfield Barn is in hand. The Golf Club want to see the mock up before giving permission to site it at Shrubhill.

Circular Walk at the Rugby Club

The Whitstable Rugby Football Club was contacted by KCC estates department to meet to discuss clearing and widening of the area around the netball court and pitch for the Circular Walk. They met on 22 March. KCC's intention was to 'tarmac' the whole area of the Circular Path route near the rugby pitch after clearance. In the case of the area behind the goal posts, WFRFC feel that this could be dangerous for any players involved in match play at that end of the ground as any tarmac or hard standing would offer injury risk. After a very constructive site meeting, it was agreed that the contractor will clear and tarmac the space behind the netball court only. They will also remove approximately one metre of the earth bank behind the playing pitch but not tarmac it afterwards. Then level it and replace with grass turf for walkers. This is the basic agreement which all are content with. The work has now taken place.

This now brings all of the Public Rights of Way forming the Chestfield Circular Walk upto an open and safe condition. The Clerk will do a thank you letter to KCC PRW department officers on behalf of the parish council to thank them for their help on this and the waymark posts and signs that have been provided in connection with the circular walk.

The only issues that remain to be completed on the ground, in relation to the walk are some notice boards, incorporating the map of the route, to be positioned at the two optional starting points of the walk i.e. near the car parks at the Radfall Road & Play Park recreation grounds. Cllr Ellis and the Clerk will finalise these and get them made up and also chase the Rugby Club for the signage they ordered direct that should be nearly ready.

240. KIACC REPORT

Cllr Claisse advised the next Manston airport meeting will be held on 9 April 2013. He and Cllr Bailey attended a breakfast meeting on 2 April, to celebrate the inaugural flights by KLM to Amsterdam. Speakers were the general manager of Air France, who spoke of the history of aircraft development and links to England. KLM is the oldest airline in the world. The Chief Executive of Amsterdam airport also spoke about how they are opening up their service, and

Charles Buchanan, CEX of Manston airport said KLM was an opportunity for Manston and will create 42 jobs. Flights to Amsterdam are from just £79 return.

241. KALC

Cllr Claisse advised the next Kent Association of Local Councils meeting will be on 10 April.

242. SPEEDWATCH

There have been 28 vehicles travelling 37-47mph from two one hour checks at different locations since the last meeting. The Clerk advised she has collated all recent statistics together. She agreed to send this information to Cllr Bailey for a possible graph in the next magazine.

The Clerk also advised the equipment is currently faulty. She and a volunteer were unable to fix it. She has talked to Unipar Services and is unable to verbally fix over the phone or email so will take the equipment to them in Tunbridge Wells for repair.

243. TRAINS

Cllr Bailey advised the train services are working well and not currently affected by engineering works.

244. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

RECEIVED the Clerk write up of a meeting with Cllr Harrison and a KCC public right of way officer held on 19 March 2013 (previously circulated as Appendix 10)

245. HIGHWAYS

Cllrs considered a financial contribution to Ridgeway and Fern Close Residents Association to undertake road repairs and improvement of the section from Chestfield Road to Fern Close at the 11 March 2013 parish council meeting. Quotes are awaited. After the meeting the residents were given contact details for other residents associations with unadopted roads to obtain potential contractors details. After the meeting the Clerk obtained legal advice and whilst the parish council is able to offer financial assistance there was a strong caution against doing so to set a precedent for other areas and to lead to a potential obligation of future support, especially when future budgets are unknown.

As per the parish councillors steer at the March meeting, after that meeting the Clerk drafted a letter, which was approved by the Chairman and sent to KCC Cllr Mike Harrison asking for pressure to bear on Kent Highways to do some repairs. He acknowledged the letter but is unable to do anything during the period of Purdha prior to the county elections so this will be picked up after 4 May.

Cllrs commented that when residents buy properties on unadopted roads they are aware of the road status and the need for own financial contribution for ongoing maintenance.

246. ENVIRONMENT

The steps leading to Sainsburys are painted white to assist blind and partially sighted people but this paint has worn away. Cllr Chapman agreed to contact the store manager and ask for this to be repainted.

PROW MAINTENANCE

RECEIVED the report of the Clerk of her meeting with KCC Cllr Mike Harrison and a PROW officer on 19 March.

At the last parish council meeting residents had asked about new finger posts going up all around the parish. The Officer confirmed these are being done by the KCC PROW department as a response to the circular walk plus others identified. He also explained the KCC PROW department has had a recent restructure to change the way work load is allocated to share the load more easily. There is a vacant post to support volunteer activity that they are recruiting to currently. They are looking to develop and expand the volunteer side under the Countryside Access Service. There are 300 plus wardens under the Countryside Access Service – their role is to walk the public rights of way, and report problems. The PROW department don't

have an inspection routine so they do rely on public reports. They do give their volunteer wardens a rucksack, clipper, string, gloves, and hammer – in order for them to trim minor bits and put up way markers and posts etc. They have the right to cut back in this role. When the new vacant post is filled, Chestfield parish council will receive an early presentation of the Countryside Access Service and the role of wardens at one of the future parish council meetings.

The Vegetation Contract was discussed. Historically Chestfield had two paths on the vegetation contract – CW27 and CW39. There were funding cuts and contracts were cut – using a priority criteria to remove from contract. Chestfield's were cut and the village left with none supported in summer 2011. There have been two further rounds since with other areas hit. The PROW department in fact adopted a strategy to reduce further than they needed in order to give a 'reserve' to react to some reports. This means that Chestfield (and any parish) may report problems and these will be considered (although prioritised against others). As Chestfield does employ their own contractor for certain paths this is a bargaining tool of match funding. Since 1 January 2010 there have been 78 issues on PROWs reported (the majority from the general public) – and 65 of these have been dealt with.

It is important to note that this is purely vegetation clearance. Chestfield still receives significant financial and other support from the PROW department – such as assets, furniture, protection, surfacing, and this does not include officer time, inspection and enforcement. For example, there have been two lots of recent works to the private Grasmere Road Bridge - support and repairs were carried out despite KCC not having any ownership or maintenance responsibility to have to undertake this. Plus new installations of new finger posts, way marker posts, a sleeper bridge and a new kissing gate. The Clerk was also advised that there is an ongoing programme to look at sleeper bridges – including to increase the widths to 3 sleepers and to add grip surface and also to add a handrail if appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Signed..... (Chairman) Date.....

**CHESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING REPORT, 11 March 2013**

APPENDIX 2

New Applications

44	CA//13/00406/LUP	39 Primrose Way Certificate of proposed lawful development in respect of the conversion of an integral garage to provide a study and utility room.	The Clerk did not receive an application and papers from the city council for this proposal. This is an unusual case as it is just seeking a Certificate of Lawful Development - that is, that the proposal falls under permitted development rights and therefore does not need planning permission – hence possibly why the Cllrs have not had any papers as there are no grounds to object anyway.
45	CA/13/00537/FUL	58b Chestfield Road Single storey side extension to create annexed accommodation.	This is an amended application to a previous one which included additional accommodation on the first floor, to which the parish council raised an objection. The new application deletes the upper floor and is quite acceptable. The neighbour at No 58c is happy with the amendment.

Notifications

CA/13/00011/FUL	51 Chestfield Road Proposed rear extension	Granted by CCC
CA/12/02158/FUL	Queens Acre, Broomfield Gate Application to replace extant planning permission CA/09/01888/FUL for the demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings and erection of detached dwelling and garage in respect of extension of time limit for implementation	Granted by CCC
CA/13/00123/FUL	4 Grasmere Park Conversion of double garage into games room	Granted by CCC
CA/13/00143/TPO	Molehill Bungalow, Molehill Road Thin crown by 25% and remove major dead wood of two oak trees subject of TPO No 2. 1968	Granted by CCC

Trees

1. Appletree Cottage, 1 Cherry Orchard

- Remove deadwood from various trees in the front and back garden

2. Dane Mead, The Drive:

- Plum tree, located to the left front boundary line, reducing back the re-growth as previously done.
- Dense growth located from the front roadside boundary (right side facing neighbours hedgerow) trimming back any re-growth keeping tidy.
- Pear tree, located to the left side of the rear garden, pruning the tree down to its previous cutting points and to maintain the shape as much as possible.
- Tidy back the neighbours macrocarpa tree.
- Plum tree, located to the left side of the rear garden area, removing the re-growth to its previous cutting.
- Trim back the overhang from the neighbours Prunus tree.
- Trim back the re-growth to the trees to the right boundary line (Neighbours) trimming the growth to its previous cutting points.

3. 81 Chestfield Road

Reduce the height of a willow by 8ft, located in the rear garden

Cllr Watkins and Cllr Chapman, the parish council's tree wardens went to inspect the three tree works applications above. They have no objection to any of the requests as they all constitute responsible tree management by the owners

Ash Dieback Disease

This was reported at the November 2012 parish council meeting. Cllr Chapman has agreed to keep a watching brief on this.

Enforcement - None.