



Chailey Parish Council
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Minutes

A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 15th October 2013 in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 7.46 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. Cranfield (Chairman).
Cllrs. D. Cowan, M. Evans, S.Griffin, J. Millam, P. Olbrich, J.Tillard, R.Trussell.

Public present: One (part of meeting).

In attendance: V. Grainger (Clerk).

13/124. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs. P. Atkins, J-P Ellis and were accepted.

13/125. Declarations of Interest: None.

13/126. Questions/ Comments from members of the public: Mrs Cudby joined the meeting at 8.15 p.m. to provide information relating to an item of correspondence.

13/127. Items considered as a matter of urgency: There were no matters of urgency but several Councillors advised that they had attended the public drop-in sessions held by Hadstone Energy Ltd. regarding the proposed Solar Farm at Cinder Hill.

13/128. To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2013: The minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 17th September 2013 (Council resolution 13/293).

13/129. Reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations:

- i) **Friends of Chailey Windmill** – Cllr. Evans advised that The Windmill and Rural Life Museum opened for the last time this year, at the end of September. There had been well over one hundred visitors this year. The numbers attending had been encouraged by a splendid tea and cake stall being held, which raised over £500 in aid of MacMillan Nurses. It is hoped that this event would be repeated next year.
- ii) **ESCC SLR Meeting** – Cllr. Evans confirmed that ESCC Highways had advised that the lay-by opposite St Mary's Church at North Chailey was owned by the Parish Council. The lay-by was outside the fenced area of the common and beyond the ESCC 1.5m verge. Cllr. Millam **agreed** to check the condition of the lay-by and report back to Council with recommendations for appropriate repair.
Pedestrian Refuge at North Chailey- The costing of the construction of a pedestrian refuge at A272 North Chailey, accessing Lower Station Road had been revised to £37,000 (from the original estimate of £10,000). As the cost was prohibitive, alternative solutions now needed to be considered. The alteration of bus routing was possibly not a viable solution; the use of warning lights was suggested and would be considered.
- iii) **Parish Hall** – Cllr. Cowan advised that the Parish Hall Committee had agreed to redesign the web site and provide more information for hirers. It was suggested that a local student or member of the Chailey Youth Group might have the expertise and be interested in undertaking this project,

Initials:

Date:

which would benefit the local community. Councillors agreed to make enquires. Enquiries were also being made to provide Wi-Fi at the Hall.

- iv) **Chailey Youth Group-** Cllr. Olbrich reported that the Youth Group would be taking part in the Bonfire Society procession.
- v) **Chailey Children's Centre-** Cllr. Griffin advised that she had attended the recent Lewes Cluster Local Advisory Group (LAG) meeting at the Children's Centre. It had been confirmed that the Centre was not closing but would open five mornings per week.
- vi) **Lewes District Association of Local Councils-** Cllr. Cranfield advised that he had attended the LDALC meeting on 30th September 2013. Matters discussed included special expenses (a later agenda item), Neighbourhood Plans, and the new Community Infrastructure Levy.

13/130. To Review Correspondence for Response:

8.15 p.m. Mrs Cudby of Longhurst Cottages, North Chailey joined the meeting and it was agreed that this item would be discussed at this point, prior to the discussion relating to other correspondence. Cllr. Millam declared an interest in this matter as he had a professional interest and did not take part in the discussion. Mrs Cudby was seeking permission to make good the surface of the track owned by the Parish Council which was used to access her property. Mrs Cudby provided some photographs of the pot holes in the track. It was **agreed** that permission would be granted for a compacted hard core base to be applied; to make good the surface of the track. In addition the drainage points would be cleared of debris. Mrs Cudby thanked the Councillors for their assistance and left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

13/131. Confirmation of Procedure to Fill Casual Vacancy

It was noted with regret that Cllr. Loraine Waller had resigned from the Council. Cllr. Waller had served as a Councillor since 2007, and had acted as Chairman of the Council and Planning Committee. Councillors expressed their appreciation for the hard work and commitment shown by Cllr. Waller. It was **agreed** that the Council would proceed to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy and would advise Lewes District Council accordingly.

13/132. Financial Reports to Council

i) Financial Summaries for September:

The financial reports for September had been circulated indicating a ledger balance at the end of September of £67,368.55 in Barclays Bank community account. There were five un-presented cheques totalling £2022.80. The Barclays deposit account balance was £100,233.21. Total expenditure to date was £27,923 and the current operating surplus was £33,890.

ii) **Approval of expenditure:** The list of payments for October was noted and approved. The list included the expenditure to refund the Sports Club Bat survey costs; and it was agreed to deduct this amount from the earmarked reserve for the re- build of the Sports Pavilion.

iii) **Certification of Annual Return 2012/2013-** The Annual Return had been approved by External Auditors and the report had been circulated to Councillors for noting. The External Auditors had not brought any financial matters of concern to the Council's attention. The report was therefore formally approved and would be added to the Council's web site.

13/133. Review of refurbishment of Parish Assets:

i) **Pump House:** The quotation for works to the Pump House was still awaited for future consideration.

ii) **Reading Room-** Refurbishment works had now been neatly completed. The works had revealed some wood worm infestation and this would require specialist attention. There was also some damp evident in the corner of the storeroom. Wood worm infestation had also been reported at Chailey Windmill. The Clerk agreed to identify suitable companies for the work.

and the new bench would be ordered and delivered directly to the contractor for installation.

- iv) **Goal Posts at Roeheath-** It was confirmed that the goal posts had now been repainted.

13/134. Budget Report 2013/2014 and Draft Budget and Precept 2014/2015

Councillors noted the budget update for 2013/2014 and the first draft budget proposals for 2014/2015. It was noted that the precept for Chailey Parish Council had remained the same for three years at a total of £48,000.00. A small increase would be necessary for 2014/2015. The Clerk would review all budget items and identify any savings which could be made.

13/135. Response to LDC Consultation- "Paying for Open Spaces"

LDC were undertaking consultation on the option to move away from the costs of all open spaces being paid for by all council tax-payers in the district; to a system of "special expenses" under which the costs of open spaces in a Town or Parish Council area, are paid for by the council tax-payers living in that area only. The proposed changes would result in a saving to Chailey Parish Council residents. However, Councillors were uncertain about the future ramifications of the decision. It was also commented that Chailey residents probably made use of recreational spaces in other areas. Cllr. Trussell proposed that the response should be that the Parish Council would await the outcome of the proposals with interest, before raising any reservations. This was seconded by Cllr. Griffin and unanimously agreed.

13/136. Items for Information and future Discussion:

- i) **Roeheath Village Green:** It was confirmed that LDC had advised that no planning permission was required for the installation of a Basketball net, provided it didn't require any significant hard surface play area. Quotations would be sought for the equipment and further consideration.
- ii) **Chailey Common:** Cllr. Griffin was concerned about a recent event which had encouraged residents to plant bulbs on the common. It was suggested that an item should be included in Chailey News to stress the importance of protecting indigenous species, as Chailey Common was a SSSI.

13/137. Correspondence for Noting and Response:

LDC Planning Application pre-screening process- Information provided by LDC regarding its pre-screening advice for planning applications was circulated for information and noted. A listing of other recent correspondence was circulated and also noted.

13/138. Risk Implications: None

13/139. Implications to Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17: A spate of petty thefts in the area was reported.

13/140. Progress of Relocation Parish Office:

The draft lease agreement had not yet been approved by Scaynes Hill Village Centre Trust and was to be reviewed by Chailey Parish Council, before any relocation was finalised. Cllr. Cranfield and Tillard agreed to review the lease and provide comments.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

13/141. Date of next meeting of Full Council: Tuesday 19th November 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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Date: