



Chailey Parish Council

www.chailey.org

Minutes

A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 16th November in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 7.50 p.m.

Present: Cllr. P. Olbrich (Chairman)

Cllrs. D. Cowan, D. Cranfield, J Davies, J-P Ellis, M. Evans, K. Gould, J. Millam, J. Tillard and L. Waller

Public present: none

In attendance: V. Grainger (Clerk).

10/57. Apologies: None

10/58. Declarations of interest: None.

10/59. Items not on the agenda which the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency:
None.

10/60. Minutes: To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th October September 2010

The minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 19th October 2010. (Council resolution 196/10)

10/61. Matters arising for information:

- Lewes District Council had commissioned a Strategic Housing Availability Assessment report. The email link to the document would be circulated to Councillors with access to email. LDC Cllr. Davy had contacted Cllr. Waller and suggested that a joint Parish meeting would be helpful. The Clerk indicated that the Chairman of Wivelsfield Parish Council had advised that they were arranging a joint Parish meeting on this subject (to include Burgess Hill Town Council) to be held on 25th November. However, this date had proved difficult for attendance by a representative of Chailey Parish Council. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would circulate information about the meeting and any alternative dates.

10/62. Crime & Disorder- an update from PCSO Steven Knowles:

- **Thefts from Outbuildings:** PCSO Knowles explained that across the district the main crime and disorder issues remain break-ins to garages and out buildings. There have been a number of reported thefts of garden equipment, such as chainsaws, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers etc. It was advisable to keep items out of sight and securely locked and to ensure that locks on sheds/garages are in good condition.

In Chailey, there had been a number of reported incidents over the previous few months. The properties targeted were those which are most secluded with little chance of offenders being seen by members of the public. There was also an indication that offenders "check out" properties for potential valuables before hand. Residents should therefore remain vigilant and report any suspicious people or

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vehicles to the Police. PCSO Knowles advised that on a positive note an offender had recently been arrested and many stolen items returned to their owners. It was explained that crime prevention advice was available to anyone who would like it. If contact is made with the local officer an appointment can be made at a date or time most convenient. Sussex Police also offer a free tool marking facility and the marking acts as a good deterrent against theft.

- **Vehicle Crime:** Vehicle crime continues to be a problem across the District. Chailey has had a number of reported thefts from vehicles. PCSO Knowles commented that he would remind all residents to ensure that nothing of value is seen on display even for a short period. Items such as hand bags, Sat. Navs. are all temptation to thieves.
- **Quality Street Event in Mill Brooks:** It was reported that on 28th September a Quality Street event was held in Mill Brooks, South Chailey. This type of event has taken place in a number of locations across the District. The idea of these events is to give residents a chance to have a say on what they want from organisations and how those organisations may help. The event was attended by Sussex Police, ESCC Fire & Rescue service, ESCC representatives, Environmental Health and many others. Included in the event were members of the community payback scheme who completed a number of clean up jobs in the area. Following the event, visits were made by PCSO Knowles and members of Lewes Neighbourhood Policing Team. Mill Brooks has been designated a DPA (District Patrol Area) and regular patrols are being made. A further Quality Street event is being planned for Chailey, in a different location.
- **Chailey Bonfire event:** Chailey Bonfire event was held on 6th November and Officers volunteered to attend the event which was attended by approximately 1,300 people and passed without incident. It was considered to be a thoroughly enjoyable event for all those attending. The road closure remained in place for longer this year until the event ended, due to the larger numbers attending.
- **Speeding Traffic in Chailey:** A number of reports had been made regarding speeding vehicles in Chailey. Recently, there have been a number of road traffic accidents across the district. Operation Crackdown was mentioned and this is an initiative offering the opportunity to report anti-social driving such as the use of mobile phones or vehicles driving dangerously or inconsiderately. The contact details were circulated. (www.operationcrackdown.org.)

The Chairman thanked PCSO Knowles for his helpful presentation and the support he provided to Chailey residents. Cllr Evans noted that there was a meeting of local Councils and the Chief Constable planned to be held shortly and queried whether any decision had been made regarding the continuation of financial support for PCSOs. It was confirmed that no decision had been communicated. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would write to the Chief Constable to express the Council's concern that future funding should be found to support the continuation of Police Community Support Officers, whose work was highly valued at a local level.

Councillors further reported specific local incidents and it was agreed that contact would be made with Cllr. Evans regarding Neighbourhood Watch.

10/63 Reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations

- **ESCC Highways liaison meeting-** The next meeting will be held on 16th December in Chailey at 9.30 a.m. and Councillors were welcome to attend.
- **Chailey Youth Group:** The Chairman reported that he had attended a session of the Chailey Youth Group and the young people seemed to be having an enjoyable time. Chailey Youth Group had also entered a float in the Bonfire procession and had won first prize.
- **Chailey Sports Club:** Cllr Ellis reported that he had been unable to attend the last committee meeting but would endeavour to attend the next meeting. The Clerk had been contacted by Mr M Beard who advised that since Cllr. Downey's resignation there was only one representative on the Chailey Sports Club Committee. It was

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agreed that Cllr. Ellis would be the representative and would seek a substitute if he was unable to attend any meeting.

- **Friends of Chailey Windmill:** Cllr. Davies advised that Mr J Smith had provided an attractive print of the windmill which could be displayed in the Reading Room. The print needed to be framed at a cost of £40.00 and the expenditure of £40.00 was **agreed**. It was further **agreed** that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Smith.
- **Chailey Bonfire Society:** It was noted that this years event had been attended by an increased number of people. It was appreciated that a number of volunteers had worked extremely hard to make the event a success. Never the less there were some health and safety and organisational issues which were of concern, exacerbated by the large numbers attending. It was agreed that Cllr. Gould would raise the Council's concerns with Bonfire Society representatives.

10/64. Finance Report to Council

The financial reports for October were circulated to members and included details of receipts and payments. The reports for end of October indicated a balance at bank of £3521.67 with un-presented cheques of £480.00 and a ledger balance of £3041.67. The report indicated monies on deposit of £25,128.99 and £34,546.24 and an operating surplus of £22,449.00. The Investment of £25,000.00 with Halifax had come to maturity and had been reinvested with a small amount of gross interest added to the original balance of £25,000.00. Concerns were expressed about the deposit account with Bank of Ireland. There had been no change to the credit ratings as indicated in the report and the Bank of Ireland had notified that it was transferring its UK assets to a UK subsidiary. It was however **agreed** that it would be prudent to transfer £10,000 to the Barclays Bank account at the earliest opportunity.

The Council had received a request from Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for a donation of £15.00 for payment for the Remembrance Day wreath presented on behalf of the Parish Council. It was **agreed** that a donation of £30.00 should be made.

10/65. Council Tax Precept 2011/12

A first full draft of 2011/2012 Council Tax Parish precept and detailed budget was circulated to members for consideration. It was noted that the forecast budget total for 2010/2011 was in line with the agreed budget, based on actual spend to 30th September 2010. The detailed budget expenditure report was provided with totals updated as at 30th October. The predicted minimum budget requirement for 2011/12, taking into account known increased expenditure to date and inflation would be £46548.00, making some allowance for election costs spread over two years. This amount made no general provision for repairs to Windmill or Reading Room and other specific maintenance or for training involved in seeking quality Council status and adoption of the Power of Well being. Taking these provisions into account would result in the net precept being increased, unless other income could be increased. Members attention was drawn to the Reading Room costs estimated to be £177 per month (excluding administrative costs) with an average income of £35.00 per month. There was suggestion that the Reading Room could be better advertised to increase usage. However, the Reading Room was suitable for small groups and meetings and had no catering facilities other than the making of hot drinks. Members felt that the Reading Room offered local groups a valuable and useful venue and that increased charges would bring in a marginal amount of income which might detract from use of the room. It was **agreed** that charges would therefore remain unchanged. With regard to ear marked reserves, the Chailey Sports Club now had planning permission for the demolition and rebuild of the Sports Pavilion and the earmarked funds were crucial in providing seed funding for the project. It was considered that the Council's reserves should be used to provide services for local people but that it was prudent to retain the recommended minimum reserves for contingencies. Members were therefore requested by the Chairman to vote on whether the Parish Council should increase the precept to take into account future repairs and expenditures. It was **agreed** that the precept should be increased by seven votes in favour of an increase to include these costs. The Clerk would prepare a detailed budget for final approval in December.

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10/66. Correspondence for noting:

A listing of correspondence received was circulated to members for information and duly noted.

10/67 Risk Implications: A sample High Viz vest was shown to members and it was agreed that the Clerk would order these for use on site visits.

10/68 Implications to Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17: None

10/69. Information Exchange:

- **River Farm-** It was confirmed that there had been no update on progress concerning the property and access issues. The Clerk would further contact the Parish Clerk at Newick to confirm that no application had been received.
- **Commons Fencing Project-** A site visit had been requested but to date it had not been possible to confirm a meeting date when both Councillors and Mr J Smith were available.
- **Bus Stop at South Chailey-** Cllr Cowan reported a request to move the bus stop at South Chailey (opposite Chailey stores) to the Pump House shelter or to provide a bus shelter, as residents had no shelter from the weather at this point. It was confirmed that this matter had previously been raised. Historically, the Pump House had been erected to cover Village pump and covers a deep well and therefore could not be moved to the bus stop.
The bus company had been approached previously to move the bus stop but the Pump House was situated well below the road level and moving the stop wasn't possible. The same difficulty relating to land levels applied when considering the provision of a bus shelter at this point. It was therefore suggested that a path could be provided between the Pump House and bus stop to allow residents to walk to the Pump House for shelter. It was agreed that the matter could be raised with ESCC Highways at the forthcoming liaison meeting to seek suggestions for a solution.
- **Allotments-** Cllr Davies reported that 2/3 allotments appeared to be overgrown. It was agreed that a letter would be sent with the allotment rent renewal notifications in March 2011, requesting relinquishment of any allotments not fully in use. Under the terms of the rental agreement allotments may be relinquished in April or September. One allotment plot had relatively recently been re-let and was known to be in need of intensive work.
- **New Heritage-** Cllr Davies reported that Taylor Wimpey had now left the New Heritage site without renovations being completed to the Old Chapel. Cllr Davies had contacted Norman Baker MP who had advised that he would take the matter up with Taylor Wimpey.

10/70. Date of next meeting of Full Council: Confirmed as 14th December 2010
The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Chairman

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