



Chailey Parish Council

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minutes

A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 19th October in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. P. Olbrich (Chairman)

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

Public present: none

In attendance: V. Grainger (Clerk).

10/43. Apologies: Cllrs J-P Ellis, K.Gould.

10/44. Declarations of interest: None

10/45. Items not on the agenda which the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency:

It was noted that Lewes District were planning to hold a meeting concerning the future of Housing in the District on 10th November and a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was being completed. It was agreed to discuss these items in detail at the next available Full Council meeting.

10/46. Minutes: To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 21st September 2010

The minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 21st September 2010. (Council resolution 192/10)

10/47. Matters arising for information:

- Regrettably, Cllr. Downey had confirmed his resignation from the Parish Council. The Clerk had advised the Monitoring Officer at Lewes District Council that there was now a Councillor vacancy. It had been **agreed** that a replacement would not be sought to fill the vacancy, as elections were planned for the Spring of 2011 when all Councillors would be required to stand for election to the Parish Council.
- The removal of tree debris at Downsvew had been raised as an outstanding item at the Planning & Environs meeting held on 5th October. Concerns had been expressed that this posed a fire hazard. It was reported that the debris had been removed.

10/48. Reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations:

- **Village Hall** - The Chailey Parish Hall accounts had been circulated to members for noting.
- **Chailey Windmill Advisory Committee** – Cllr. Evans advised that due to the resignation of Cllr. Downey a replacement Parish Council representative was required for this committee. It was duly agreed that Cllr Davies would replace Cllr Downey as the Parish Council representative having expressed her willingness to attend on behalf of the Council.
- **Chailey Common Local Nature Reserve Committee**- Cllr Evans advised that the retrospective planning permission application for the erection of brick piers

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outside White Cottage, North Chailey had been refused by Lewes District Council Planning Committee. The application was considered to be contrary to ST3 of the Lewes District Council local plan. It was considered to be an encroachment on common land being two metres from White Cottage and there were other similar encroachments in the vicinity. Plans for the fencing project were being agreed with Natural England.

- **Chailey Youth Group-** Cllr. Olbrich confirmed that the annual accounts for the Youth Group had been received and the Clerk had received the signed grant application form. The Council had agreed to make a community grant to the Youth Group subject to receipt of these items.
- **Village Information Point-** Cllr. Waller reported that information sessions were being held at the Free Church at South Chailey in conjunction with the Wednesday morning Coffee Stop and on alternate weeks at the Horns Lodge. Other specific events were also being held at the Childrens' Centre.

10/49. Finance report to Council

The financial reports for August and September were circulated to members and included details of receipts and payments. In addition a quarterly budget report for quarter two (July to September) had been provided. The reports for end of September indicated a balance at bank of £41116.04 with un-presented cheques of £670.00 and a ledger balance of £3446.04. The report indicated monies on deposit of £25,123.97 and £38,538.59 and an operating surplus of £26,541.00. The Investment of £25,000.00 with Halifax had come to maturity and it was confirmed that Norwich & Peterborough Building Society were not prepared to accept the investment from a Parish Council and this sum would be reinvested with Halifax on the same terms as previously.

The second quarter budget return indicated that administration costs were more than the planned budget but Reading Room expenditure was less. This was because all of the insurance costs had been deducted from the administrative costs budget rather than being apportioned, as was previously the case. Other expenditure was in line with budget.

10/50. Council Tax Precept 2010/11 & 2011/12

A first draft of 2011/2012 precept and budget was circulated to members. There were alternative bases for budget setting which were outlined, including zero based budgeting. The aim would be to retain the precept at the current level. However with inflation only added to present expenditure would result in an increase. There was discussion concerning the earmarked reserves as these the allocation for the Sports Pavilion had been reduced previously. Planning approval for a new building had now been granted and further funds would now be required. In addition the District Council had indicated that £4,400 (maximum) would be required for a contribution towards election costs in 2011. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would complete a further detailed budget and precept 2011/12 report for consideration and agreement at the next Full Council meeting in November.

10/51. Encroachment onto Common – Impact of Commons Fencing Project

Cllr Evans indicated that he wished to raise concerns about the commons fencing project. The planned fencing would follow the boundary line of Parish Council land. In some areas if a straight fencing line were to be taken, it will exclude some small areas currently used for parking cars. This affected Yew Tree Cottages and four spaces in the vicinity of Milnthorpe Cottage. Parking had been established in some areas for many years, although it is possible to park on the road opposite. Mr John Smith and Ms Jane Willmott (ESCC) had been inspecting and fixing the proposed fence line. Some home owners were aware of the situation but others had not been advised.

It was **agreed** that the fencing would stop any further encroachment of common land and parking was not an established right. There was a need to communicate the situation clearly to residents and prevent any unnecessary legal costs involved in the explanation of the issues. It was agreed that Cllr Evans would liaise with Mr John Smith and Ms Jane Willmott and update members. A site visit could then be arranged to ensure that residents understand what is involved and the implications of the fencing project.

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10/52. Correspondence for Noting:

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

10/53 Risk Implications: Councillors had recently completed a site visit at Warrs Hill and it was agreed that High Viz jackets should be worn on such occasions. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries to purchase these for use by Councillors making site visits.

10/54 Implications to Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17: The Clerk had been contacted by Police about concerns raised by a resident of Chailey Green and parked vehicles on the access road to A275. The access road and Chailey Green were not owned by Parish Council and it was **agreed** that Parish Council had no responsibility for the access road and no powers to enforce parking restrictions. It was concluded that if the road were to be adopted this would be the responsibility of ESCC Highways.

10/55. Information Exchange:

- **Warrs Hill Site Visit-** Cllr Davies distributed diagrams which set out the alternative proposed solutions for Warrs Hill footpath. The options were to:
 - a) Widen the road and improve drainage (underground)
 - b) Create a one way system Banks Road/Warrs Hill
 - c) Create Passing points and a walk way

Ms Jane Willmott had discussed the possibility of creating a walk way (not a raised path), with Natural England. It was possible to create a metre wide walk way – some trees could be cleared back (these were Ash Trees). The response from Natural England had been that they would be agreeable to a path way being created provided it was in keeping with common land. ESCC Highways were completing a site visit and were proposing a path running along the common side, including half a metre of grassland. Kerb stones would not be used but a metre wide path created by using pressed down gravel (not tarmac). The path would be higher than the road and the road would be resurfaced. There was still an issue about the path junction with the road at Neals Farm. The proposals would be costed for both projects (Pedestrian crossing at South Chailey and foot path) for further consideration. The next meeting with ESCC Highways would be held in Chailey in the Reading Room at 9.30 am on 16th December. This would enable Councillors to attend. Mr Alan Cook (ESCC) had requested the Councils views on what type of crossing was required and the preferred siting. North of Mill Lane seemed the obvious location but was not the preferred site. The north side seemed the only option due to various road access points on the south side. It was **agreed** that Highways would be requested to complete a survey and advise the most appropriate site. It was also agreed that it should be stressed that the crossing should not be brightly illuminated.

- **Road works A275** - Members expressed their appreciation concerning the recent resurfacing of the A275 at Chailey Green and the fact that this had been done with the minimum disruption possible. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would pass on the Parish Council's appreciation to ESCC Highways whose staff had handled the situation well.
- Cllr Cranfield reported a number of horse thefts in the locality and warned owners to be vigilant
- Cllr Davies advised that Taylor Woodrow were leaving the New Heritage site and no work had commenced on the Chapel. Cllr Davies agreed to contact LDC about this to ascertain when work would be completed.

10/56. Date of next meeting of Full Council: Confirmed as 16th November 2010

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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Date: