



# Chailey Parish Council

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## Minutes

**A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. L. Waller (Chairman)  
Cllrs. P. Atkins, D. Cowan, D. Cranfield, J-P Ellis, M. Evans,  
S. Griffin, J. Millam, P. Olbrich, J. Tillard.

**Public present:** Nine (part)

**In attendance:** V. Grainger (Clerk).

**11/122. Representations from members of the public:**

A number of residents attended the meeting wishing to discuss the planning application LW/101/1010. The Chairman explained that the Full Council meeting agenda did not have the planning application as an item for discussion. The Chairman advised that a visit to the proposed site had been made and the Council had a number of further queries which it wished to discuss with the applicants; in order for the Council to provide a considered and balanced representation to the Planning Committee. There would be further debate on this matter at the next Planning & Environs Committee meeting due to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November. A comment was made that previously a gentleman from Pouchlands had expressed a view in support of the application but that there had been 200 letters of objections. A recording of traffic movements in Mill Lane near to Chailey School was provided to the Chairman for consideration.

**Mrs S Varlow** attended the meeting to comment upon the Lewes District Council emerging Core Strategy. Mrs Varlow had attended a public meeting at Newick about the Core Strategy and enquired whether Chailey Parish Council was aware of the document and would be making a response. There was particular concern that there seemed to be a lack of publicity about the matter. Cllr. Waller responded that Lewes District Council officers had attended the Planning & Environs Committee meeting on 4th October to provide an outline of the Core Strategy. Not all Councillors had had the opportunity to view the document which was available electronically and she had therefore collected that day a printed copy of the strategy from Lewes District Council. The Parish Council had previously commented on available sites identified for housing, a larger amount had been identified for Newick than for Chailey, as access to services and reducing travel need were considerations. It was confirmed that the Core Strategy would be reviewed in detail and a response agreed at the meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Mrs Varlow had specific comments to make and confirmed that she would consider making her own response to the consultation.

**11/123. Apologies:** None.

**11/124. Declarations of interest:** None.

**11/125. Items considered as a matter of urgency:** None.

**11/126. Minutes: To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011:** The minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, (Council resolution 11/ 226).

**11/127. Appraisal of outstanding Small Grants applications:**

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- i) **Chailey Bonfire Society:** A letter of thanks had been received from Chailey Bonfire Society for the £600 grant awarded. It had been confirmed that representatives would attend the Council's meeting in January to provide an update on activities.
- ii) **Chailey Cricket Club:** A quotation for the required additional ground work had been received. Some of the work would not be needed until the Spring but the remainder needed to be completed immediately. There was concern that a further quotation should be obtained for comparison; that the amount requested exceeded that generally awarded; and queries about the ground area to be covered. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Millam would obtain another quotation and report further, before a decision to complete the work was confirmed.

#### 11/128. To receive reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations

- **Chailey Parish Hall-** Cllr. Cowan advised that the Parish Hall committee were prudently managing finances, the Hall was running to capacity and the committee was optimistic for the future and intended to hold charges at present levels. Some new chairs were needed and part of the car park (overflow) needed resurfacing. Cllr. Millam agreed to inspect the car park and offer some advice. Cllr. Tillard mentioned that the committee should agree any changes with the owner of the car park. It had been suggested that a community garden could be established around the Hall with picnic benches and tables etc. in celebration of the Queens Jubilee. It was agreed that a plan of the proposed garden would be requested to inform further discussion.
- **Chailey Windmill-** Cllr. Evans reported green algae was appearing on the North side of the Windmill and he welcomed opinions as to whether this was harmful to the fabric of the building. It was agreed that this was not harmful, it was possible to clean this off to improve appearance.
- **ESCC Highways SLR meeting-** Cllr. Evans confirmed that the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September meeting had been circulated. The 40 mph speed limit had been applied to Beggars Wood Road and North Common Road. There had been no progress in establishing the use of the Pump House as a Bus Shelter. Efforts to resolve the matter would be renewed.
- **Commons Management Committee-** Cllr. Evans enquired whether there was only one Council representative on the committee (being himself) as there used to be two representatives. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Olbrich would serve as the other representative. It was suggested that in reviewing the Parish Council precept for 2012/13 the Council might consider a contribution towards the Chailey Commons Management as part of the annual budget.
- **Warrs Hill Footpath-** enquiries were being made as to whether access to sec106 funds could be extended. If this was not possible ESCC would assist the Parish Council in creating a footway area but there could be some insurance liability implications.

#### 11/129. To update Risk Assessment schedule

Cllr. Cranfield confirmed that he had added some comments to the risk assessment schedule. Cllr. Evans suggested that a small working group should look at this in more detail, particularly those items flagged as medium risk. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Cranfield, Cllr. Evans and Cllr. Tillard would form the working group to consider the schedule in detail and provide a report to the next Full Council meeting.

#### 11/130. Finance Report to Council

##### i) Financial Summaries for August and September:

The financial reports for August and September were circulated indicating a balance of £24,342.81 in Barclays Bank Community account as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, with six un-presented cheques totalling £1061.80. Opening cash as at 1.4.11 was £50,892.29 with a current operating surplus of £24,283.00, Total expenditure to date amounted to £26,306. The second precept payment of £24,000 had been received and other income totalled £2,589. The precept had been automatically paid to the Bank of Ireland account. It was

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**agreed** to transfer this to the Barclays Bank account and advise Lewes District Council that future payments should go to this account.

**ii) Approval of Expenditure:** The list of payments for September and October was circulated and approved. The invoice for a replacement Finger post at Markstakes Lane had been received. The Clerk would write to ESCC Highways to request reimbursement for part of the cost.

**iii) Budget Update:** The budget return for quarter two had been circulated and noted. Although there had been some unexpected expenditure such as lightning damage to the Parish computer, some of this should be reclaimed from insurance. Total expenditure amounted to £26,306 and net expenditure amounted to £23,717, this represented about half the budget of £48,000 at the half-way point in the financial year.

**11/131. To consider Council Tax Precept 2012/13**

The first draft of the proposed budget for 2012/13 had been circulated. The proposed budget provided a precept history and Council Tax Band D equivalent details. In previous years the Council had taken into account the increase in inflation and applied this to the existing budget, this approach would result in a precept of £50,380 an increase on the current precept of £48,000. It was suggested that a zero based approach should be adopted which would identify essential expenditure and make adjustments for one-off expenditure in 2011/12 and negotiated fixed costs for 2012/13. With some adjustment it should be possible to retain the precept at the 2011/12 level. It was agreed the Clerk would provide a further detailed budget for consideration at the next Full Council meeting. There was some discussion that Chailey Commons Management should be supported on an annual basis from the Council budget rather than as an annual community grants. It was **agreed** that this matter would be considered as part of the budget setting procedure.

**11/132. Correspondence for noting**

i) Boundary Commission consultation- Details of the boundary commission proposed changes had been circulated. The proposals set out that Chailey would fall within a Lewes and East Brighton constituency; to include Woodingdean, East Brighton and East Saltdean. Newick would fall within the Uckfield constituency together with Ringmer, Alfriston, Forest Row and Seaford. The proposals were considered unacceptable on the following grounds:

- The decision to group areas together had been made on population figures alone and ignored geographical differences.
- The proposals ignored the historic links between Chailey and Newick
- Lewes was the historic County Town and these links were ignored
- The needs of rural areas would be subsumed by Brighton urban areas

Individual comments could be made in addition to the Parish Council's response. Comments were required by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011. It was **agreed** that Councillors would forward their comments and the Clerk would collate these and draft a response.

ii) Letter from Chair Lewes District Council- The letter from Lewes District Council, regarding the support for volunteers and voluntary organisations was noted and it was **agreed** that Cllr. Russell would be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting in January.

iii) ESCC waste and minerals plan update was noted. Further consultation on the new plan would be undertaken. The five areas for landfill/landraise in the low Weald identified in the previous plan had been investigated and it had been found that there was no real opportunity to develop a land disposal site in these areas.

iv) Public footpath Chailey (64) Definitive Map Modification Order: The Planning Inspectorate had received an objection to the making of the order and consideration of the order will take the form of an exchange of statements. Statements by the order making authority (ESCC) were to be made by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

v) A Letter had been received from British Legion Poppy appeal. Cllr. Evans agreed to present a Remembrance Day wreath on 13<sup>th</sup> November on behalf of the Parish Council. It was **agreed** that a donation of £25.00 would be made for the wreath.

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- vi) A request had been received for use of the Reading Room for dog training purposes. The request was rejected as it was agreed that the use was impractical. A listing of all recent correspondence was circulated and noted.

**11/133. Items for information and further discussion:**

- Cllr. Griffin mentioned that in Newick a committee had been formed to co-ordinate Queens Jubilee celebration events. Cllr. Griffin agreed to contact local organisations in order to ascertain what was being planned to celebrate the Queens Jubilee in Chailey and provide a report to the Council.
- Cllr. Ellis reported a car theft in North Chailey. It was agreed that PCSO Steven Knowles would be invite to the next available Council meeting to provide recent crime data and crime prevention advice.
- Cllr. Cowan reported that Green Lane had been resurfaced but there had been some severe and unsightly cutting back of the hedgerows. It was **agreed** that this would be referred to ESCC Highways and enquiries made as to whether some form of restrictive barrier could be installed to prevent vehicular access along the length of the Lane.
- Cllr. Waller had received notification from Nationalgrid that pylon work at North Chailey was to be undertaken shortly.
- Correspondence had been received regarding the remains of the old mill in Mill Lane, South Chailey. It was noted that since clearing of the mill site it had been necessary to secure the building to prevent intruders.

**11/134. Risk Implications:** None

**11/135. Implications of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17:** None

**11/136. Date of next meeting of Full Council:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.30 p.m.  
The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

**Signed:**

**Chairman**

**Date:**

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