



Chailey Parish Council

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Minutes

A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 15th November 2011 in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 8.35 p.m.

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

Public present: 13 (part)

In attendance: V. Grainger (Clerk).
PCSO S Knowles

11/137. Crime and Disorder Report by PCSO S Knowles:

For the benefit of PCSO and members of the public present it was agreed to receive the crime report as the first agenda item.

PCSO Knowles detailed the crimes which had taken place in Chailey since 1st September 2011. This included theft of lead from Chailey Heritage School; thefts from motor vehicles and from out buildings; criminal damage incidents, in total 18 incidents which also included road traffic accidents.

Cllr. Millam mentioned the theft of taps from the Parish Allotments, the taps being stolen twice within 48 hours. PCSO Knowles confirmed that a search of surrounding fields had been made to no avail. Thefts from motor vehicles were discussed further and PCSO explained the process of investigation and how these crimes are prioritised.

PCSO Knowles was asked if road traffic accidents increased during the Autumn when the sun was low. PCSO Knowles confirmed that this was a factor but driver's lack of attention was the main cause.

The priorities for Chailey were outlined as follows:

Speeding- Two new sites had been approved for speed camera use, the A275 St Peters School and Haywards Heath Road. Several drivers had been stopped and dealt with appropriately. Checks would continue in these locations.

Anti-Social Behaviour- Anti-social behaviour issues in Chailey have reduced. Anti-social behaviour covers a range of incidents such as underage drinking and rowdy behaviour.

Vehicle Crime- During the previous month there had been a significant number of vehicle crime incidents, mainly in the area of Mill Brooks. Patrols were taking place in the area.

Parking- Parking at the Village Shop continued to be an issue. This had been tackled with words of advice being given and the use of warning signs. The use of Fixed Penalty Notices may be required in the future, if the situation did not improve.

Chailey Bonfire event- There had been reports of fights occurring after the event had finished, these were believed to have been caused by visitors to the Village.

Garage/Shed Breaks- Sussex Police advise anyone with high value tools to secure them as well as possible and not leave them on display. PCSO Knowles confirmed that he is able to visit and provide crime prevention and security advice on request.

Vehicle Crime- Sussex Police had taken a number of calls in relation to vehicle crime both thefts from and of vehicles. Larger vehicles such as Land Rovers seemed to be targeted. The advice given is not to leave valuables of any kind on display.

Heating Oil Theft- Several methods have been used to steal heating oil and this is made easier by the particular location of oil tanks at some properties.

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Winter Weather- Most road collisions occur in winter and drivers were reminded to drive to the conditions and if possible avoid driving in the snow.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Knowles for his time and helpful report.

Cllr. Evans confirmed that a letter of thanks had been sent to the Chief Constable on behalf of the Parish Council, in appreciation of the work undertaken by PCSO Knowles.

11/138. Questions from members of the public:

Mr D Dembrey enquired as to the progress of the consideration of the grant for Chailey Cricket Club. It was confirmed that a second quotation for the grounds work was still awaited. Mr Dembrey explained that the work was required to be done in the autumn, as a matter of urgency. The Cricket Club had therefore requested Barcombe Landscapes to complete work on the cricket square. It was unanimously **agreed** that the Chairman should make an immediate decision about the grant, once the second quotation is received. In order to prevent further delay of the work required.

Cllr. Tillard had noted the letter sent to Mr Norman Baker MP by Mrs Mutter of Mill Lane, and wished to make a comment as a local resident. It was requested that a letter of clarification should be sent to Mr Baker stressing that there was no intention to dismantle the old Mill at Mill Lane. A draft letter would be prepared by the Clerk and circulated for comment.

11/139. Apologies for absence: Cllr. J-P Ellis.

11/140. Declarations of interest: None.

11/141. Items considered as a matter of urgency: None.

11/142. Minutes: To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2011: The minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 18th October 2011, (Council resolution 11/ 229).

11/143. To agree co-option of Parish Councillor:

Mr R. Trussell attended the meeting and confirmed his eligibility for service as a Parish Councillor. Mr Trussell explained that he lived in Chailey, was a school governor at Chailey School and had business experience in conflict resolution. Mr Trussell wished to be considered to be co-opted to the Council. It was unanimously **agreed** to co-opt Mr Ron Trussell as a Chailey Parish Councillor, (Council resolution 11/230). Mr Trussell accepted the invitation to become a co-opted member of the Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Register of Members.

11/144. To receive reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations:

- **Chailey Commons Management-** Cllr. Evans reported that a resident of Mill Lane North Chailey had made a complaint about the noise from the recently installed cattle grid. Noise was generated by vehicles crossing the grid at speed. Rubber inserts beneath the grid had reduced noise but it was felt that measures were needed to reduce the speed of traffic and thereby reduce the noise impact. The track at Mill Lane was owned by the Parish Council. It was agreed that rubber type speed ramps could be installed on a trial basis subject to advice from ESCC Highways.
- **Chailey Commons Management -** Cllr. Evans reported that he had enquired about the use of mowers previously purchased by the Parish Council and whether these were still in service. Cllr. Evans had been advised that one mower purchased for £1,000 was still in use by the Commons Ranger and the more expensive mower had been written off as not fit for purpose.
- **Chailey Parish Hall –** Cllr. Cowan Provided an update on progress of the plans to create a community garden next to the Parish Hall. It was clarified that this was not an ornamental garden but for use as part of the Parish Hall facility. Cllr. Griffin

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considered that as the Parish Council already contributed financially to the cleaning and insurance of the Parish Hall, a garden project would be better placed in South Chailey to involve young people of the Village.

- Cllr. Cowan explained that the Parish Council had requested ideas for celebrating the Queens Jubilee which coincided with the Parish Hall wanting to improve the surroundings of the Hall. A young garden designer at Plumpton College had been approached but expressed the need to have an idea of the budget available for the project.

Cllr. Tillard supported the idea of raised beds but not for the area to be concreted over.

- **Comments from a member of the public:** Mr Sheridan of South Chailey had attended the meeting to comment on the Queen's Jubilee celebrations He did not think a community garden at the Village Hall would benefit residents in Chailey and requested that the Parish Council considered other uses for the funding.

Cllr. Cowan explained that the Council had requested ideas for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in Chailey News but no ideas had come forward except the production of a local map.

Cllr. Tillard suggested that the Jubilee Celebrations should be an item for discussion at the next available Council meeting. In the meantime he would inspect the Parish Hall car park and discuss the proposals with the Parish Hall committee.

11/145. Finance Report to Council

i) Financial Summaries October:

The financial report for October was circulated indicating a balance of £46,526.90 in Barclays Bank Community account as at 31st October, with six un-presented cheques totalling £961.62, a ledger balance of £45,565.28. Opening cash as at 1.4.11 was £50,892.29 with a current operating surplus of £20,614.00, Total expenditure to date amounted to £30,042.14. The second precept payment of £24,000 had been received and other income totalled £2,589. £24,000 had been transferred from Bank of Ireland to Barclays Bank account, as previously agreed. The bank credit ratings were noted and other possible alternatives accounts for investment discussed.

ii) Approval of Expenditure: The list of payments for November was circulated and approved.

iii) Budget Update: The budget return had been updated to include October's payments and receipts, in order to consider the Council Tax precept and budget for 2012/13.

11/146. To consider Council Tax Precept 2012/13

The second 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 incurred 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 and approval at the Full Council meeting in January. 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.

11/147. To consider granting permission for mobile vendor use of Commons Car park:

Due to the late start of the meeting and consideration of the Police and Crime report, Cllr. Evans proposed that discussion relating to this item, the item "correspondence for noting" and the item "consideration of the risk assessment schedule", should be postponed to the next available meeting to allow sufficient time to consider the items fully. This was supported by the Chairman and unanimously **agreed**.

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11/148. Correspondence for noting:

Item deferred to next available meeting.

11/149. Items for information and further discussion:

- Cllr. Atkins suggested that the preferred site for the New Heritage notice board was on the footpath next to the sign and post box. There were practical difficulties in siting the notice board in this location and the matter was referred back for an alternative suggestion.
- Cllr. Waller reported that LDC Cllr. S Davy had suggested having a Chailey beacon on 4th June 2012, when other beacons around the country would be lit to mark the Queen's Jubilee. It was confirmed that representatives from Chailey Bonfire Society would be invited to the Parish Council meeting in January and it would be possible to discuss this suggestion with the Society.
- Cllr. Millam reported that at Plumtree Crossroads/A272 the commons fencing erected obscures sight lines.
- Cllr. Olbrich reported difficulties with the flag pole on Remembrance Day and it had been suggested that this was due to the wrong type of rope being used.

11/150. Risk Implications to include update on progress of Risk Assessment Schedule:

Item deferred to next available meeting.

11/151. Implications of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17: None**11/152. Date of next meeting of Full Council: 13th December 2011 at 7.30 p.m.**
The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

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