



Chailey Parish Council
www.chailey.org

Minutes

A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 18th March 2014 in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. D. Cranfield (Chairman).
Cllrs. P. Atkins, S Avery, D. Cowan, M. Evans, J. Millam, P. Olbrich, J.Tillard
ESCC Cllr. J. Sheppard.

Public present: Four.

In attendance: V. Grainger (Clerk).

14/31. Apologies: Cllrs. J-P Ellis, S.Griffin, K. Matthews.

14/32. Declarations of Interest: None.

14/33. Questions/ Comments from members of the public: None.

14/34. To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2014.
the minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 18th February 2014 (Council resolution 14/306).

14/35. Crime and Disorder Report by PCSO S. Knowles:

PCSO attended the meeting to present his Crime and Disorder update to Councillors. The numbers of crimes relating to Chailey was listed: 43 crimes in December, 47 in January and 34 for February. 91 offences were listed as "other" and included reports of anti-social behaviour. There had been 3 burglaries over the three month period. Burglaries continued to be a District concern and residents were encouraged to report suspicious vehicles or behaviour to Police as soon as possible. Reports of "Cold Calling" to elderly residents had increased; primarily via telephone but occasionally there had been reports of home visits. Vehicle crime remained a District priority but had declined locally. Thefts from vehicles usually occurred in Chailey at car parks on the common and residents were advised not to leave valuables on display.

The recent stormy weather had caused problems on the roads, due to water and tree debris on the roads. There had been 12 Road Traffic Accidents reported in the three month period.

PCSO advised that he was now in charge of Speed Watch for the District. Volunteers had now been trained and would be active in the Village over the coming months; speed checks near to St Peters Primary School and the Village Stores at South Chailey were likely locations.

PCSO mentioned the recent Police action which had identified a cannabis factory at North Chailey; some 15,000 cannabis plants had been confiscated.

Questions from Councillors:

Cllr. Millam advised that he had received a report that Speed Watch volunteers had not been wearing Viz Jackets and had not been able to produce authorisation when challenged by a motorist. PCSO Knowles confirmed he would look into the matter and advise Cllr. Millam.

Cllr. Cranfield expressed the Council's appreciation of PCSO Knowles' efforts and questioned whether his job was safe from any cut backs.

Cllr. Olbrich asked if any arrests had been made following the burglary at North Chailey.

PCSO Knowles responded that as far as he was aware his job was safe for the time being; and arrests had been made following a spate of related burglaries.

Finally, PCSO Knowles was made aware of recent thefts from the allotment site. The Crime Prevention Officer had visited. It was mentioned that CCTV and signage might be worth pursuing as a solution.

14/36. Proposal for Dispensary at South Chailey Surgery:

Doctors Narasimhan, Gaylor and Nunn attended the meeting to advise of the application for a license to dispense medicines at South Chailey Surgery. An application had been made previously, but was not pursued as there was unexpected opposition from Newick residents due to concerns about the impact on the viability of Lloyds Chemists in Newick.

It was stressed that Doctors did not wish Lloyds Chemists to close what was intended was to offer a dispensary of a limited number of medicines, particularly those that were often needed urgently such as antibiotics. Lloyds' business had increased over time and the dispensary would not be a replacement for the services that they offered and posed no threat to the current delivery service operated. The dispensary would be of particular assistance to those who did not have access to transport to Newick or to other pharmacies.

ESCC Cllr. Sheppard explained that he had fought the decision to provide the dispensary previously; as it would place Lloyds Chemists in jeopardy. Newick Parish Council was presently undecided about the matter, but Cllr. Sheppard had spoken to Dr Nunn and was now in support of the proposal due to the increased business demands on Lloyds in Newick.

Finally, it was stressed that the proposal was for a dispensary only (not a pharmacy), to be open at surgery times only. The Parish Council's support was not formally required but it was confirmed that the Council would not have any objections to the proposal.

14/37. Items considered as a matter of urgency:

Cllr. Cranfield advised that he and Cllrs. Avery, Evans and Tillard had met earlier in the evening with ESCC Officers Mr S Fathers and Mr S Cordery to discuss changes to the Commons Local Nature Reserve Agreement. Mr Fathers and Mr Cordery had already spoken to LDC Cllr. S Davy and Ms C Knight, Head of Legal and Democratic Services for LDC. The Parish Council was concerned about the impact of the proposed changes on the LDC Scheme of Regulations; the enforcement of bye laws and a point of contact for reporting. It was proposed that LDC would be contacted in order to arrange a meeting to discuss the relevant matters.

14/38. Reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations:

- **Chailey Youth Group** – Cllr. Olbrich mentioned that the youth group had met the previous week. One parent was now involved in fund raising. Baking sessions with Chailey WI had been arranged and had proved popular. Links with other Village organisations were being sought.
- **The installation of the Basket Ball net at Rowheath** - Cllr. Olbrich thought this would encourage young people to participate in sporting activity. Cllr. Olbrich **agreed** to pursue the matters relating to the creation of the playing surface and the appropriate insurance cover.
- **ESCC Highways SLR** – Cllr. Evans provided an update of the meeting held on 18th March at 9.30 am:
 - ❖ The “Children Crossing” warning sign on the A272 should be installed by the end of the month.
 - ❖ The order for the advisory HGV signage at Oxbottom Lane had been placed and a count of HGV movements would be completed at the end of May.
 - ❖ The drain gullies at Chailey would be cleared as part of the annual maintenance programme.

- ❖ The ESCC Highways two-year road surfacing programme had been circulated to Councillors. The response to this consultation was required by 21st March. Councillors **agreed** that the re-surfacing of Warrs Hill Lane was urgent and the appropriate response would be made to ESCC.
- ❖ ESCC Highways were to deal with the overgrown footpath by Chailey Brickworks.

14/39. Response to Lewes District Council Street Trading Policy:

The draft LDC Street Trading Policy had been circulated to members for consideration. Councillors were of the view that street trading was not a nuisance in Chailey. It was commented that the policy was a “catch all” policy, which would have a detrimental impact on the sale of seasonal fruit and vegetables, a service valued by residents. The proposed change would mean that any Street Trader would have to purchase a licence to do so at a cost of £25.00 per day (£70.00 for a week). This would be prohibitive to anyone seeking to sell small quantities of produce.

Cllr. Evans proposed that the Council should oppose the introduction of the policy, Cllr Avery seconded the proposal and it was unanimously **agreed**. It was therefore resolved that the Council’s response to oppose the policy would be communicated to Lewes District Council.

14/40. Financial Reports to Council

i) Financial Summaries for February:

The financial reports for February had been circulated indicating a ledger balance at the end of February of £33,685.76 for Barclays Bank community account. There were three un-presented cheques totalling £177.50 outstanding. The Barclays deposit account balance was £100,567.77. Total expenditure to date was £74,018.70 and the current operating surplus was £325.

ii) Approval of expenditure: The list of payments for March was noted and approved.

iii) 2013/2014 expenditure - A report of 2013/14 actual expenditure compared to the budget allocation was presented. It was anticipated that the closing financial position would be slightly less than the year start total of £134,076.00. It was **agreed** that the position would be reviewed again at the financial year end.

14/41. Review of refurbishment of Parish Assets:

i) Damaged Bus Shelter at Station Road, North Chailey- The lower glass panel of the Station Road Bus Shelter had been broken by vandals. An urgent repair had been requested and the urgent expenditure of £142.80 was **agreed**.

ii) Damaged Bus Shelter at Mill Lane The glass panelled bus shelter at Mill Lane, South Chailey had been demolished by a motor vehicle. The Clerk had had placed an order for a new shelter of the same type; and removal of the old shelter at a cost of £3,687.64. The shelter should be installed at the end of May, or early June. A cheque had been received from the Insurers for £3,437.64 (less the excess); the insurers would pursue the uninsured losses through the driver’s insurers.

iii) Notice Boards- The community notice board at the bus stop at Mill Lane, South Chailey had been damaged and a new board had been ordered. The Notice Board at the Kings Head crossroads, North Chailey was to be re-painted.

iv) Allotment Garden Gate Lock – enquiries had been made to the lock smith for a suitable replacement gate lock, which would cost £57.00 plus £2.00 per key with additional engraving costs for individual key numbers. Councillor Millam advised that he had recently tried the lock and it worked.

Council was not obliged to provide the gate lock; and in the meantime other means of securing the site should be pursued.

14/42. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

Councillors discussed the format for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 28th April at the Parish Hall. It was confirmed that the Chairman would be required to provide a short report. It was suggested that the meeting should be more of a workshop style event with the aim of ascertaining whether there was local support for developing a Chailey Neighbourhood Plan. Tables and chairs would be arranged café style. Residents would be provided with a map of Chailey on which they would be able to indicate where development and community facilities should be sited. An example questionnaire had been circulated to Councillors and residents would be requested to indicate what they value about living in Chailey and what could be improved. This would help to inform the Council whether to pursue action to complete a Neighbourhood Plan, which would not be possible without support from local residents. Cllr. Olbrich agreed to assist in providing refreshments, as in previous years.

14/43. Correspondence for Noting and Response:

- A letter and photographs had been received from a resident at Redhouse Common regarding an over flowing ditch. The letter had been discussed with ESCC Countryside Management. It was **agreed** that Cllr. Millam would inspect the ditch to ascertain the problem.

14/44. Risk Implications including Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17: None

14/45. Confidential Information – Exempt items:

- ❖ Review of Clerks Remuneration.
- ❖ Review of Grazing Rents.
- ❖ Review of Allotments Tenancy Agreement.

Cllr. Cranfield proposed: That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public should be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cowan and unanimously **agreed**. The Meeting was closed at 9.10pm to complete discussion of exempt items. The Meeting was re-opened to confirm:

14/46. Date of next meeting of Full Council: The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Initials:

Date: