



# Chailey Parish Council

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## Minutes

**A Meeting of Full Council was held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December in the Reading Room, Chailey Green, commencing at 8.10 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. P. Olbrich (Chairman)  
J Davies, J-P Ellis, M. Evans, K. Gould, and L. Waller

**Public present:** one

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

**10/71. Apologies:** Cllrs. D. Cowan, D. Cranfield, J. Millam, J. Tillard

**10/72. Declarations of interest:** None.

**10/73. Items not on the agenda which the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency:**

**i). Representation from member of the public:**

Mr M Berry a resident of New Heritage advised that he was attending the meeting as he wished to raise issues relating to the New Heritage, specifically that:

1. There was no street signage for the New Heritage
2. There was no notice board on the site which advised residents what was happening in the area
3. The renovations of the old Chapel had not been completed to provide a community meeting room.

Mr Berry had previous involvement in his local Parish Council before moving to Chailey and considered that these were matters for the Parish Council to resolve.

Cllr. Davies provided an update on these issues. Norman Baker (MP) had been contacted and had taken up the issue of the conversion of the old Chapel with Taylor Wimpey (the developers). A meeting had been planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> December but this had been cancelled due to the bad weather. Work had been halted on the conversion of the Chapel as bats had made the Chapel their winter habitation. Provision of the road sign was the responsibility of Lewes District Council and this matter would be discussed at the next New Heritage Management Committee meeting. The Health Authority had sold the land for development and this was then eventually sold onto Taylor Wimpey. There were road signs at the access at Warrs Hill Road.

Cllr. Evans confirmed that ESCC Highways would take up the issue of damage to the road surface caused by developers. Chailey was a dispersed settlement with no clear Village centre. There was a notice board at the North Chailey cross roads. The Secretary of State had decided to permit the development of 71 dwellings on the New Heritage site, over ruling representations that there should be a lower number of dwellings. The obvious place for a community notice board would be on the wall of the old Chapel and this could be considered once works were complete.

Mr Berry queried the impact of the Government's Localism Bill on the Parish Council and the new powers that had been given to Parish Councils. The Chairman confirmed that at present no new powers had been confirmed and it was not possible to anticipate the impact at this stage.

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### ii) The Commons Fencing Project

A letter had been received from ESCC regarding the funding for the fencing project. Natural England had agreed to fund 80% of the project with an expectation that part of the balance would be met by the Parish Council. Chailey Parish Council had been requested to contribute £5,000 for 2010/11 and £5,000 for 2011/12.

Members were concerned that this represented a significant sum for the Council against its precept and no budget allowance had been made in 2010/11 for this. It was suggested that there may be some available funding from s106 monies for the New Heritage from the environment purposes allocation. It was understood that this funding was already meeting the cost of a Ranger for one day per week for three years.

Concerns were raised that several Councillors were absent from the meeting and were unable to make their views known. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Ms J Wilmott of ESCC would be advised accordingly.

### iii) Community Notice Board for Village Information Point - Horns Lodge

Quotations had been received for the provision of a community notice board at South Chailey. Originally it had been intended to replace the notice board at South Chailey stores which had recently been damaged by a vehicle for the second time. External funding had been received to cover the cost of the notice board. Having accepted the lower quotation this had subsequently been revised as the specified measurements and materials had been amended.

It was agreed that the notice board at Chailey Stores should be retained for Parish notices and a single door notice board installed adjacent to the Horns Lodge which could contain travel information and access to services information/bulletins. It was agreed that the lower quotation would be accepted.

**iv) Request for Donation-** A request had been received from Lewes District Councillor Sharon Davy for a contribution of £100 towards the Quad Project at Chailey School. Members confirmed that it had been agreed that grants would be considered in June providing sufficient time for all applications to be submitted. Members were of the opinion that there was insufficient information to agree the request and it was agreed that an application form would be forwarded to Cllr. Davy requesting further information.

### 10/74. Minutes: To agree minutes of Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010

The minutes were **Agreed** and signed as a true record of the Full Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010. (Council resolution 199/10)

### 10/75. Matters arising for information:

#### River Farm and Common Encroachment

No further information had been received concerning the sale of River Farm and concerns were expressed that the matter was in the hands of the Official Receiver and the property could be sold without the opportunity to raise the issue of the land encroachment being raised. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to obtain further information.

### 10/76. Reports from Council Representatives on Village Organisations

- **Cllr Gould** reported that there was fly tipping occurring at the bottom of the playing field of Chailey School. It was agreed that this would be reported to LDC.
- **Cllr Ellis** was currently the Council's representative on the Sports Club Committee. Since Cllr Downey's resignation there had been one representative only. Cllr Evans agreed to attend meetings as the second representative, replacing Cllr. Downey.

### 10/77. Finance Report to Council

The financial reports for November were circulated to members and included details of receipts and payments. The reports for end of November indicated a balance at bank of £5,173.72 with un-presented cheques of £524.00 and a ledger balance of £4,649.72. The report indicated monies on deposit of £25,128.99 and £30,553.73 and an operating surplus of £20,137.00. As previously agreed £10,000 had been transferred from the Bank of Ireland to the Barclays Bank account which would be indicated on December's statement.

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**10/78. Council Tax Precept 2011/12**

A second full draft of 2011/2012 Council Tax Parish precept and detailed budget had been circulated to members for consideration. The present precept was £46,500 and based on the previous budget (2010/11) expenditure, the minimum budget requirement would have been £46,548.00 (this had been indicated in the first draft budget). However this budget precluded any allowance for predicted changes over the forthcoming financial year. It had been agreed that a revised budget based upon an increase required to take into account the necessary expenditure changes and allowance for training to progress towards quality Council status would be prepared and presented to members for consideration.

The cost of Parish Maintenance, Insurance and Internal Audit fees had been retained at the same level for two years. Internal Audit fees would be retained at the same level for a third year. Insurance costs, maintenance costs and professional and other fees would increase in line with inflation in 2011/12. The Parish Council would also need to meet the costs of elections in May 2011. External funding for additional village information services would cease from April 2011 (and the service would be continued) and necessary repairs were required to the reading room and other Parish assets. These adjustments resulted in a net expenditure requirement of £48,000.

The RPI applied to last years precept would result in a net expenditure figure of £48,685 (£48,034.00 based upon CPI).

It was **agreed** that the precept should be set at £48,000.

**10/79. Correspondence for noting:**

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

**10/80. Risk Implications:** None.**10/81. Implications to Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17:** It was suggested that PCSO S. Knowles should be invited to the February meeting of the Parish Council.

The Clerk agreed to arrange this.

**10/82. Information Exchange:**

- **Footpath at Whitegates-** Cllr. Gould confirmed that the footpath had been completed to a high standard.
- **Cllr Davies** advised that she would be taking up a short term post in Zanzibar and would be unable to attend meetings in January, February and March but was able to receive Council papers and respond by email.
- **Dates of Future Council meetings** – a further note of 2011 meeting dates was circulated. The date of the Annual Council meeting was subject to change due to elections and room availability.

**10/83. Date of next meeting of Full Council:** Confirmed as 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**Signed:**

**Chairman**

**Date:**

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