

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF EAST CHILTINGTON
held on 11th May 2017 at 7.00 pm in
Beechwood Hall, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge.

www.eastchiltington.net
email: clerk@eastchiltington.net

Present: Cllr. E.Harrison
In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.
6 members of the public.

	Meeting commenced: 7.00pm
1	Apologies for absence were received from : Cllr. S.Osborne (ESCC, LDC). Cllr.Funnell Cllr.Harrison welcomed the public
2	There were no questions from the public
3	The chair gave sent her report (attached)
4	Council noted the report from the clerk and financial officer, as attached to the agenda.
5	Minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2016 were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
6	District Cllr.Sarah Osborne had advised the council that she would be unable to attend until 8pm County Councillor Jim Sheppard was not in attendance and had sent no report.
	The meeting closed at 7.15

JT 12/05/2017

Signed.....(Chairman) Dated.....

Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to East Chiltington Parish Council
Bowling Green, Chiltington Lane, East Chiltington BN7 3QU, East Sussex Tel: 01273 890621

3. Chair's report - The Parish Council 2016-7

This year, there has been considerable change in the make-up of the Council. We have said goodbye (and thank you) to Stephen Israel, Justin Fleming, Michael Webber and Simon Clarke. We are very happy to have been joined by Jodie Smith and Mary Symes, with Roger Nurse due to be co-opted at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

We have re-organised Councillor roles and responsibilities to reflect key areas of work that the Parish Council does. In addition to the Chair (Buzz Harrison) and Vice-Chair (Carol Funnell), these roles are:

1. Chair of Planning and Environment Committee: Mary Symes.
2. Finance and staffing: Chris Farmelo.
3. TECT Trustees: Chris Farmelo, Mary Symes.
4. Environment (footpaths, rights of way, trees, flooding, organising litter-pick, phone-box maintenance, sandpit): Jodie Smith, Carol Funnell.

5. Community Care (provision for those in need within the parish, e.g. elderly, those without transport, young children, teenagers, etc; link to Plumpton and EC Good Neighbours Scheme): Carol Funnell, Jodie Smith.
6. Communications (Parish magazine, website): Chris Farmelo, Buzz Harrison.
7. Community events and facilities (Parish Party and other social events, leisure and community facilities and fund-raising for these): Buzz Harrison.
8. Highways and verges: Julia Tingle, Carol Funnell

Councillors attend meetings of local and regional bodies (e.g. SDNPA, LDALC, SSALC) as and when these take place.

We are also very lucky to be served by our wonderful clerk, Jenni Toomey. Jenni not only takes our minutes and deals with correspondence; she also patiently ensures that we conduct ourselves legally, as well as being the responsible financial officer of the Council. We are very grateful.

Overview of the year

This has been a very full year, to say the least. Some highlights are:

July 2016 - Parish party

We had another great parish party, this time with a Greek Olympics theme. There was chariot racing, Greek wrestling and javelin throwing during the day, with poetry reading and a 'Greek ceilidh' in the evening, all culminating in dancing round the rotunda to the theme tune of Zorba the Greek! It was a memorable day indeed.

November 2017 – Caviar farm proposal defeated

A proposal to build a caviar farm on land in Chiltington Lane was turned down by Lewes District Council following a campaign organised by residents and supported by the Parish Council. Well done to everyone involved in this – it is great that good sense prevailed.

Feb 2017 - new website launched

The new parish website went live in February. If you have not already signed up for news alerts on this, please do so at www.eastchiltington.net

March 2017 - best ever litter pick?

The litter pick this year had such a fantastic turnout of litter pickers (despite the weather) that we were able to clear parts of the parts of the parish that we normally can't reach. Thanks very much for yet another example of East Chiltington's excellent community spirit.

March 2017 - Village Green Application success looks likely

In March, we learned that the Independent Counsel commissioned by ESCC to provide an opinion on the application for Village Green Status for the Hollycroft Field had found in our favour. ESCC will consider this report and refer the decision to a Town and Village Green Panel, which will probably meet in June. Given the strong recommendation, we would expect the Panel to confirm our application.

This has been a very long process. The original application for Village Green Status was submitted in December 2013, following a survey of the parish. There have been delays, objections, new evidence and counter-evidence, and a protracted building of the case, which culminated in our final submission back in August 2016. Along the way, we learned a lot, both about the law and about the history of East Chiltington. Thank you very much to everyone who has helped along the way, particularly our fantastic barrister, Joe Newbigin and the Environmental Law Foundation for facilitating access to Joe at a greatly reduced rate.

Ongoing – The Forge planning application

An application to build a house next to the old forge building has provoked considerable local opposition. The Parish Council has objected to this application on a range of planning grounds and we await the planning officers' recommendation.