



Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to East Chiltington Parish Council  
 Bowling Green, Chiltington Lane, East Chiltington BN7 3QU, East Sussex Tel: 01273 890621  
[www.eastchiltington.net](http://www.eastchiltington.net) email: clerk@eastchiltington.net

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF EAST CHILTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
 held on **2nd May 2018 at 7.00 pm in Plumpton Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllr. E.Harrison - Chair                      **Apologies:** Sarah Osborne LDC Cllr.  
 Cllr.C.Farmelo    Cllr.C.Funnell - Vice chair  
 Cllr.J.Tingle    Cllr.J.Smith  
 Cllr.M.Symes    Cllr.Nurse

**In attendance:** Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>5/18/01</b>	<b>Election of chair/vice chair &amp; Apologies for absence</b> Cllr.Symes proposed Cllr.Harrison as chair for 2018/19 seconded by Cllr.Tingle and agreed by all. Cllr.Harrison took the chair and proposed Cllr.Funnell as vice – chair. Seconded by Cllr.Farmelo and agreed by all. Cllr.Osborne had sent a report (attached )	
<b>5/18/02</b>	<b>Any questions from the public</b> None	
<b>5/18/03</b>	<b>Declaration of interest</b> on any of the agenda items and update of interests. None	
<b>5/18/04</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March.2018</b> were agreed and signed as a true record.	
<b>5/18/05</b>	<b>Matters arising from last meeting</b> None.	
<b>5.18.6</b>	<b>Financial matters</b>	
5.18.6.1	<b>Council approved payment of the following invoices:</b> Cheque No: 975 £342.95 Clerk salary/expenses March. inc. CofT funds Cheque No: 976 £131.46 ESALC/NALCsubscription Cheque No: 977 £15.00 Ouse and Adur Trust subscription Cheque No: 978 £41.60 Plumpton Village Hall – room hire Cheque No: 979 £361.19 Clerk salary/expenses April Cheque No: 980 £90.00 S.R.Brentnall Internall Audit fee Cheque No: 981 £150.00 Plumpton and EC Newsletter	
5.18.6.2	<b>Council noted</b> the current financial situation.	
5.18.6.3	<b>Council agreed</b> to declare that East Chiltington parish council is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015	
5.18.6.4	Council considered the findings of the internal audit review	
5.18.6.5	Council approved the Annual Governance Statement	
5.18.6.6	Council considered the Accounting Statements and approved the Accounting Statements	
5.18.6.7	Council ensured the Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the chair	
5.18.6.8	Council noted that the accounts and accounting records will be available for public inspection between the 9 <sup>th</sup> June and the 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2018.	
5.18.6.9	Council noted the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2018/19 of £7.86 per elector.	
<b>5.18.7</b>	<b>Planning Matters:</b>	
5.18.7.1	<b>Council noted the following application:</b> <b>SDNP/18/02175/HOUS</b> Novington Oak ,Novington Lane - Proposed two storey and single storey side extensions. Three members of the planning committee, made a site visit on Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> April and met with Mrs Symonds. Council unanimously expressed its objection on the grounds that the proposed extension constitutes an excessive increase in floor space from the original cottage and also from the replacement dwelling granted by Committee on 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2009 under LW/09/0182. The house as it now stands, post Appeal granted in 2011, has an increase of	

5.18.7.2	<p>88% on the original cottage. Therefore the proposed further additions are contrary to policy Res 14. In addition, the proposed rear flat roof to the north elevation is out of keeping with the gables above and extending this by approximately two thirds, would result in it jutting out incongruously.</p> <p><b>Council noted any decisions by LDC</b>  <b>SDNP/17/06243</b> Stantons Farm Chapel Lane East Chiltington BN7 3BB - Variation of conditions 2, 3 and 4 relating to application reference number: SDNP/15/05709/HOUS for an extension to the letting period to 12 months – <i>granted</i>  <b>SDNP/17/06306</b> Chapel Grange, Chapel Lane, East Chiltington BN7 3BA -Proposed single storey extension, external cladding, new windows and doors and PV solar panels- – <i>granted</i>  <b>SDNP/17/06486/FUL</b> Unit 3 Wootton Farm Novington Lane BN7 3AU -Change of use and conversion of commercial food preparation unit to one bedroom holiday let unit – <i>granted</i>  <b>LW/18/0016</b> Hurst Barns Farm Chiltington Lane - Creation of a new farm access to A275 – <i>withdrawn</i></p>	
<p><b>5.18.8</b> 3.18.8.1</p> <p>5.18.8.2</p> <p>5.18.8.3</p> <p>5.18.8.4</p> <p>5.18.8.5</p> <p>5.18.8.6</p> <p>5.18.8.7</p> <p>5.18.8.8</p> <p>5.18.8.9</p>	<p><b>To receive any reports:</b>  <b>Report from the Chair</b>  The chair had nothing to report</p> <p><b>TECT</b>  No meeting held since the last PC meeting.</p> <p><b>Finance and staffing:</b> Cllr.Farmelo had reviewed the audit requirements for 2018/2019</p> <p><b>Communications/magazine/website:</b> The website is getting regular use. This will be reviewed next meeting.</p> <p><b>Environment:</b> Cllr.Smith will contact OART regarding the quality of the Bevern Stream. The Litter pick was well attended.</p> <p><b>Community events/facilities:</b> The parish party is now planned for July 7<sup>th</sup>. Clerk will apply to LDC for permission to use the green and for a bar licence. The PC will need to arrange for the grass to be cut.</p> <p><b>Community Care:</b> There were problems with the rescheduled bus service 168 which cut 15mins off the already short time residents had in Burgess Hill before the return journey. Clerk has asked Cllr. Osborne to support a return to the old timetable.</p> <p><b>Highways: Highways and items for SLR meetings:</b> Cllr.Tingle attended a joint (with Plumpton PC) SLR (strengthening local relationships) meeting with highways on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Although ESCC failed to include the EC items on the agenda, Cllr.Tingle raised several matters and will continue to attend these meetings. ESCC will replace the faded No through route sign in Chapel/Novington Lane. The response from ESCC re.Quiet Lanes was passed to an interested resident.</p> <p><b>Verges:</b> ESCC will only carry out 2 cuts each year.</p>	<p>Chair/ Cllr.Farmelo</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<b>5.18.9</b>	<b>Any reports from meetings attended by councillors or the clerk</b> None	
<b>5.18.10</b>	<b>Council noted all correspondence received since last meeting.</b>	
<b>5/18/11</b>	<b>Update on boundary sign in Honeypot Lane</b> ESCC will contact the clerk when they are ready to remove the sign and the PC will erect it on the actual boundary.	
<b>5/18/12</b>	<b>Update on a defibrillator for East Chiltington</b> Cllr.Funnell is dealing with this.	
<b>5/18/13</b>	<b>Council considered the role of parish tree warden</b> The council was happy for this to remain with Mr R.Symes with Cllr.Tingle acting as council liaison.	
<b>5/18/14</b>	<b>To consider any TPO's on trees within the parish</b> Council will use the website to ask residents who know they have trees covered by TPO's or trees they think are of special merit, to get in touch.	
<b>5/18/15</b>	<b>Update on the Village Green</b> Lewes District Council have contacted the PC regarding an offer of devolution. Council felt any decision would need to go to a consultation with residents and more information will be needed – costs etc.	

<b>5/18/16</b>	<b>Council considered the role of Data protection officer</b> Cllr.Nurse will circulate the guiding principles to all. Agenda item for July.	Cllr.Nurse
<b>5/18/17</b>	<b>Items to note or for a future agenda</b>	
<b>5/18/18</b>	<b>The next meetings of the PC will be : May 3<sup>rd</sup></b> Wed. 11th July, Wed.12 <sup>th</sup> Sept., Wed. Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> - Smaller Meeting Room, Plumpton Village Hall	

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

JT 8/5/2018

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

Glossary:

- LDC – Lewes District Council
- SDNPA - South Downs National Park Authority
- ESCC - East Sussex County Council
- SSALC – Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils
- TECT – The East Chiltington Trust
- LDALC – Lewes District Association of Local Councils
- CPRE – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- RPA – Rural payments agency
- AIRS – Action in Rural Sussex
- ECAG – The East Chiltington Action Group
- SLR – Strengthening Local Relationships (meetings with ESCC highways)

Report from Cllr.Osborne:

**County Report**

Sadly the news from County is grim. The administration put up council tax by almost 6% and there will be cuts of over £17m this year and even bigger cuts in the following 2 years at least.

The Chief Executive (Becky Shaw) summed up the challenges.

"The reductions being put forward for 2018/19 and beyond will increase the longer- term demand and costs facing the East Sussex public sector. They are, therefore, not those Chief Officers would choose to make

"If there are no new resources from Government, by 2021/22 the Council will be left with a minimum service offer"

This means that central services will be reduced to a democratic core with minimum support for departments and more self-service. County will not be able to fund early intervention or prevention services in Adult and Children’s Social Care or support to schools to improve attainment and management in highways will be towards more reactive maintenance, leading to long-term deterioration of condition.

**My grave concerns**

I am really worried about the proposed major cuts to community-based support services, refuges for those experiencing domestic abuse and to the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme, which supports the very poorest residents. I fear the enormous cuts will not only increase the suffering of those residents in our area that need our help most but will result in a false economy as many people

will instead need help from other higher cost services (such as the health and adult social care and children's services sectors) These vital community support services currently enable people to continue to live independently and without them many will not be able to manage.

**Examples of cuts already decided or being consulted on presently or in the near future.**

ESCC are to close seven libraries and cut funding for The Stroke Association.

We are awaiting decisions on cutting or closing 4 day centres for the elderly and disabled including The Phoenix Centre in Lewes.

Cuts to support services for carers.

Cuts in funding for the Home Works service by 50%.

Home Works is a crisis support service for people and families in East Sussex, aged 16 to 64, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Cuts in funding for STEPS

This service plays a key role reducing demand for these at present with many of our customers continuing to live independently despite significant health problems rather than requiring care.

Cuts of 70% proposed for the Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme.

The main cause of homelessness is the termination of private tenancies with most people becoming homeless through no fault of their own. A large number of those who become homeless do not have the savings required to meet the demands for rent in advance and deposits and are completely reliant on the loan schemes supported by the DESSS.

Cuts to East Sussex Music Service, which will close the music instrumental service by 2019

Given the large cuts being made to frontline services I voted against the 37% pay rise for the Conservative Leader and the 8%rise in allowance for all councillors. As the administration voted this through I gave the rise I received to Charity.

**Other matters**

Given that the Centre for Public Scrutiny considers it 'best practise' for Scrutiny Committees to be Chaired by members of the opposition I proposed a motion to Council that ESCC should follow the advice. Unfortunately even though the Conservatives have a large majority and Scrutiny recommendations are only advisory they still voted it down.

In my role on The Health Overview Scrutiny Committee I have raised the difficulties we are experiencing locally in retaining and recruiting staff in the health and care sectors because of Brexit.

I have continued to raise and successfully resolve problems for residents faced with problems with Adult Social Care, got the restoration of school bus transport for several families and lost count of the number of highways problems I have reported!

I had a motion asking urging ESCC urging to tackle the problems caused by large HGV vehicles travelling down unsuitable roads. I requested they seek more enforcement powers to be given to Local Authorities. The Conservatives didn't support my request but did agree to write to Government highlighting the problems our area is facing.

**District Report**

Good News re the 168 Bus. Compass Travel has agreed to undo the changes to the 168 bus service from East Chiltington to Burgess Hill that meant users had even less time to shop/visit the doctors etc than they had before.

From Monday 14th May the 168 Bus from East Chiltonton will revert back to its previous departure time of 10:53. It will be timetabled to arrive in Burgess Hill at 11:25. The bus back from Burgess Hill to East Chiltonton will depart at 13:05, as before. Compass Travel is making arrangements to inform service users of this revision.

Thanks so much to Jenni Toomey the Clerk of East Chiltonton for informing me of the revision of the timetable and asking me to see if anything could be done.

Good digital connection is now widely seen as an everyday essential alongside traditional utilities yet many homes especially in the rural areas still suffer from very poor broadband connections. I am doing what I can to improve the provision both at a national (via The LGA cross party group on broadband connectivity, of which I am a member) and a local level.

I have asked the leader of LDC to ensure

1. That all new homes built by LDC as a policy include full Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) connectivity
2. That we look at options to include in future planning policy or guidance requirements that all new homes and premises built across the District have full FTTP connections.
3. In the meantime we require that all affordable homes secured by s106 agreements include full FTTP connections.
4. That we work with our partners at Coast to Capital LEP to make funding and provision of this infrastructure a priority in Newhaven Enterprise Zone."

I have had a promising response so far and I will update on progress.

Lewes District Council has launched a new service called **Neighbourhood First**. It's a team of advisors who will act as the link between the councils and the community to improve their neighbourhood. They will work alongside a range of volunteers, groups and other council staff and can help and assist you to try and resolve a range of issues, such as:

1. Dog fouling
2. Fly-tipping
3. Littering and street cleaning
4. Abandoned vehicles
5. Fallen trees

They carry out a range of inspections on our streets and open spaces to make sure the environment is well maintained. They can also give advice on access issues to local businesses.

You can report issues to Neighbourhood First via our website or via our [Report It smartphone app](#) or via our website

### **Some highlights from the past year**

I secured £2.2m to fund a new development of homes for in need of emergency accommodation.

£10,000 to install 10 on street recycling bins in the principal urban areas of the District and to run a campaign to support more recycling.

£10,000 is allocated from Reserves to do a feasibility study into the Council operating a trade waste recycle option for small businesses.

£50,000 to create an environmental initiatives fund.

To enable the Council to move towards a higher standard than the statutory requirements for planning and building control by creating an evidence base for enhanced sustainability in the local planning process, e.g. the creation of sustainable urban green corridors, insulation, renewable energy, water conservation etc. Many of these would be cost saving measures for residents/tenants.

£10,000 be set aside from reserves to fund events to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918. The events would support the promotion of equality and diversity in our society, increase participation in democratic process, consultations and inspire the next generation

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I got funds (£30,000) for voluntary agencies to assist residents affected by the impact of Universal Credit.

I did this because we already see residents struggling to get by and the situation is likely to worsen once Universal Credit is rolled out in Lewes District (now not expected until September 2018). There will be difficulties for anyone without access to a bank account or the Internet and the strong possibility of people being pushed into debt as UC is paid in arrears and any emergency cash payments treated as a loan to be repaid.

We know that voluntary organisations like the CAB will find their casework much increased once UC comes to Lewes and will need further resources in order to cope. I was deeply disappointed that the Conservatives were not willing to support this extra financial provision, but thrilled that the combined opposition groups were able to vote through a motion that is so important to the future well-being of all our constituents.

We have amended planning policy to require Electric Vehicle Charging Points to be included in new developments.