

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
EAST CHILTINGTON**
held on 23rd April 2019 at 7.00 pm in Plumpton Village Hall
www.eastchiltington.net
email: clerk@eastchiltington.net

Present: Cllr. E.Harrison

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council.
5 members of the parish council.

	Meeting commenced: 7.00pm
1	Apologies for absence were received from : Cllr.Smith Cllr.Harrison opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.
2	There were no questions from the public.
3	The chair gave 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 2nd May 2018 were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
6	There were no reports from the District or County councillors.
	The meeting closed at 7.25

JT 24/04/2017

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

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

East Chiltington Parish Council - Chair's report 2018-19

The Parish Council

The membership of the Parish Council has remained stable over the last year.

Councillor roles and responsibilities reflect key areas of work of Parish Council.

In addition to the Chair (Buzz Harrison) and Vice-Chair (Carol Funnell), these roles are:

1. Chair of Planning and Environment Committee: Mary Symes (other members selected from PC as available, always including Chair or Vice-Chair)
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, Roger Nurse.
8. Highways and verges: Julia Tingle, Carol Funnell

The term of the current Parish Council comes to an end this year and neither Chris Farmelo nor I are standing for re-election. Unfortunately, only two nominations were received by the recent deadline, so it will be necessary to run the process again. Hopefully the PC can be quorate by June and co-opt other Parish Councillors as necessary to make up the numbers to the required seven.

Jenni Toomey, our clerk, has been her usual efficient and well-organised self over the year. I would particularly like to thank her for all of the efforts she has put into seeking solutions to the problem of quoracy with which we have recently been faced.

Overview of the year

Much of the work of the Parish Council involves commenting on planning applications and liaising with other bodies such as ESCC Highways (for example with regard to signage, road safety and so on) and LDC. In addition, councillors participate in meetings of bodies such as the SDNP and CPRE and respond to individual requests and enquiries from residents. I would particularly like to note Julia Tingle's tireless efforts with regard to highways; it is through her hard work and lobbying that improvements to the safety and maintenance of the lanes in the Parish take place.

Highlights from 2018-9 include the following.

July 2018. Parish Party

The 2018 Parish Party was one of our best ever. The theme was 'carnival', which somehow still involved wheelbarrow races! Thanks to TECT to joining us in helping with the organisation. As usual, a great many residents – beyond the PC and TECT – also helped.

Devolution of the Hollycroft Field

Following our successful application for village green status for the Hollycroft field in 2017, we carried out a consultation in autumn 2018 regarding devolution of the field and other land at Hollycroft to the Parish Council. LDC proposed to devolve the current football pitch, the playground, and all other public areas at Hollycroft to the PC. Although this was with zero purchase cost, there would be financial implications for maintenance and management of the land, so proper consultation was essential. All residents were sent a leaflet that set out the costs and benefits of the proposal, along with a survey to find out their views. We were interested in finding out whether or not there was broad support for the proposal, along with ideas on the best way to fund it and for future use of the field. In addition, a well-attended meeting was held in the Jolly Sportsman at which these issues were discussed.

We received a response from 25% of households. This is not especially high but quite typical (if not slightly higher) for a community survey of this type. Response rates were somewhat higher for the centre of the village than for other parts of the parish, but not markedly so. **98%** of respondents felt that devolution was a good idea, with just one household feeling that the Parish Council should not accept LDC's offer.

In terms of how the costs should be funded, of those that agreed it was a good idea, 50% felt that they should be wholly funded through an increase in the precept, 36% felt that there should be a combination of an increase in the precept and community fundraising and 14% felt that the costs should all be paid for solely through community fundraising. There were numerous ideas for future use of the field, among which an area set aside for wildflowers, a community meeting room and a BBQ area were among the more popular.

Given this clear steer, the PC decided to accept the devolution offer. This process is now underway and the LDC Cabinet recently voted to accept the proposal. The important next step will be to decide on a procedure for managing the land once devolution is completed. A committee involving the PC, TECT and local residents might be the best way forward.