

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
EAST CHILTINGTON held on 24th May 2021 at 7.00 pm  
in Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge.  
[www.eastchiltington.net](http://www.eastchiltington.net)  
email: [clerk@eastchiltington.net](mailto:clerk@eastchiltington.net)**

**Present: Cllr. M.Symes**

**In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 5 members of the public.**

	Meeting commenced: 7.00pm
1	Apologies for absence were received from : Cllr. Goodenough, Cllr.Durham, Cllr.Elms, Cllr.Rob Banks LDC, Maria Caulfield MP, Cllr.Symes 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. There was a short discussion on council finances regarding the reserves which stand at £6,319.63 with £1,557.36 ring fenced, leaving only £4,762.27. Council agreed that around £3,500 to £4,000 should always be kept as a reserve in case of unexpected emergencies.
5	Minutes of the meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019 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 25/05/2021

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

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

**Chair's report for meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Parish Council has continued to meet throughout the Coved pandemic via Zoom. We are grateful to Roger for his unlimited Zoom account.

**Holly croft Field**

A Tree inspection was carried out and remedial works undertaken on the oak trees at the entrance and an ash tree that had advanced die back.

Thank you to Paddy and Mark for making good the grass area on the left hand side and installing posts.

Thank you to Steve Funnell, for the attractive new planters that have been placed at the entrance.

Two new swing seats to replace old ones will be purchased soon.

The grass cutting paid for by the Parish precept is in the second year now. We think we get good value for money and thank you everyone for their interest in the Field

### **Litter pick**

The Annual litter pick took place. Thank you to residents who turned out to help.

### **Summer Parish Party**

This could not take place last summer. It is hoped a gathering can take place later in the summer when the lockdown rules have been relaxed. I think there is a strong desire amongst residents to organise a party. A provisional date of 4<sup>th</sup> September has been pencilled in.

### **Planning**

Planning Applications have continued to fill a good deal of councillor time. Site visits were undertaken in a socially distanced way; with the exception of a cattle barn adjacent to North Barnes farm track due to drainage and flooding problems, and No lands development in Plumpton Green, the PEC has not otherwise objected.

However, looming on the horizon is the Eton proposal for 3000 homes at North Barnes Farm. This will detrimentally change East Chilmington beyond recognition.

In January we learned the Lewes Local Plan Part 1 would reach its 5th anniversary of adoption in May 2021. This meant Lewes District Council could no longer decide applications on that Plan alone with the housing need number agreed as part of 2016 Local Plan. A much higher housing need number, arrived at using the Government's algorithm, would be the starting point for assessing sites in the creation of a new Local Plan. This will take at least three years and during that time green field sites are much more vulnerable to development. An Interim Policy Statement was drafted by LDC and we submitted our comments.

We met with Leigh Palmer to ask questions on the process of creating a new Local Plan. The Parish council submitted extensive document in response to the call for sites local knowledge request from LDC. We also submitted comments on the Methodology statement on assessing sites. Since then we have learned a different Methodology will be adopted to assess a site as large as North Barnes Farm.

Maria Caulfield joined the March meeting to clarify the situation on housing numbers. We are not reassured.

Meanwhile the government set out its white paper, Planning for the Future. Policies are now heavily biased towards granting permissions to develop on green field sites, like Nolands in Plumpton Green. Developers and land speculators have lobbied Policy makers to change policy in their favour so they can build in expensive parts of the south east. Local Planning Authorities have to stand up for their districts and rebuff this whenever they can. Many people I have spoken to have said it will never happen, the concept is so ludicrous; we are under no illusion, we have to expose this proposal for what it is. To this end there has been excellent support from the community and I feel positive that we can persuade Lewes District Council not to be conned by financially incentivised consultants and land owners.

I thank my fellow councillors for being so supportive at this time.

I'd also like to thank the clerk, on whom I rely for excellent clerking, attention to detail and dry humour in the face of adversity.