

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
EAST CHILTINGTON held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7 pm
in the small hall, Plumpton VH.**

Due to Covid-19 concerns, numbers attending may be limited. ECPC encouraged members of the public to make written representations on issues rather than attending in person.
www.eastchiltington.net email: clerk@eastchiltington.net

Present: Cllr. M.Symes

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 7 members of the public.

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| | Meeting commenced: 7.00pm |
| 1 | Apologies for absence were received from : Cllr.Funnell, 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. |
| 5 | Minutes of the meeting held on 24 th May 2021 were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising. |
| 6 | County Cllr. Matthew Milligan gave his report as did District Councillor Rob Banks. Mark Durham gave a vote of thanks to the chair for her hard work over the past year. |
| | The meeting closed at 7.15 |

JT 12/05/2022

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

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

Chair's annual report 2022

The Parish council met in May, August, November 2021 and March of this year to carry out parish business, four meetings instead of the usual six. Between meetings the planning committee has viewed and commented on planning applications raising no objections

Planning

In the early spring the Local Plan Land Availability Assessment was published with the North Barnes Farm site included. With the able help of residents, the Parish council hosted an event in Plumpton Village Hall ahead of the Issues and Options consultation. We invited Lewes district councillors, County Councillors, ESCC Highways personnel, South Downs National

Park officers and MP to view the Eton site with the aim of demonstrating the unsuitability of the site for a largescale development.

Over the following weeks, Don't Urbanise the Downs campaigned in the surrounding villages and Lewes to urge residents to engage with the Issues and Options Consultation. As a result, people overwhelmingly voted against opting for a large settlement in the countryside. The Council submitted a full and thorough response.

For now, the site is being assessed separately by independent consultants. We have yet to learn details of the brief given to the consultants to carry out such a task.

Highways and SDNP are also being consulted on the suitability of this site and two other larger sites in Cooksbridge and Ringmer – we have sent them documents, informed by traffic consultants GTA Civils which outline legitimate travel, traffic and environmental concerns should the Eton College proposal be considered.

The local plan completion date now stretches beyond the original 2023 deadline set down by the Government.

Alongside this work, the Inter Parish group headed up by Nick Beaumont at Plumpton PC, continues to discredit the Standard method and the Government's Planning Policy that allows speculative landowners to 'have a go'. Indeed, only this morning on Radio 4's Today Programme the minister for Housing and Levelling up Michael Gove, when challenged on not meeting the Government's own housing target, said of the numbers "it is making someone's arithmetic the enemy of the common good."

Jubilee Parish party

On a lighter note, the Council decided to bring the Parish party forward a month to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee in June. Thank you to residents who have come forward to make the event memorable. We look forward to pantomime horse gymkhana, jubilee cake baking competition, tombola, BYO BBQ, cash bar and live music. I do hope to see *everyone* there on 4th June. The beacon will be lit on the evening of Thursday 2nd June so clamber up to Mount Harry for this spectacle which is not to be missed.

Other matters

I'd like to thank Charlie Boulton and Chris Farmelo for taking on the broad band project, cables have been laid and we look forward to plenty of speedy gigabytes in the near future.

We sadly lost a former Parish chair and dear resident, John Anderson last year. A memorial tree was planted in Hollycroft field, thank you Carol for organising this.

Residents turned out for the annual litter pick. Thank you to them and the residents who pick up litter throughout the year. The spate of fly tipping last year seems to have abated.

Finally, thank you to my fellow councillors for not falling by the wayside and to Jenni the Clerk for excellent clerking throughout the year.

Report from East Sussex County Councillor, Matthew Milligan

I have been the County Councillor for just over a year following the elections in May 2021. I would like to thank Jim Sheppard for his years of service as the previous County Councillor and I have been glad to continue his work on areas such as our Children's Services which Jim was very involved in and I have been able to take up his place on the Corporate Parenting Panel which oversees the looked after children of our county.

East Sussex County Council is responsible for a number of areas such as Roads, Schools, Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

Over the past year we have continued to make additional investment in our roads, we recently announced additional one-off funding of £5.8 million which will be spent on improving our road signage, pavements and road surfaces.

At the budget in February 2022 we also announced that we are increasing the Highways Budget by 15% as we recognise that residents want to see more investment in this area to ensure our roads are maintained to a good standard.

I have been making representations to cabinet members about issues such as the intervention level for pothole repair as I know many residents believe that the current criteria is too strict on the depth, length and width a pothole needs to be before it can be repaired.

We are also in the process of tendering the new highways contract, 3 bidders have been shortlisted and we expect the announcement of the preferred tenderer in September 2022. The council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) was submitted to the Department for Transport in October last year and we have recently been informed that we have been allocated £41.4 Million of indicative funding which is one of the highest allocations from the scheme.

Council officers are currently looking into the detail on how this money will be spent and I have been pushing for rural bus services to be a priority. As soon as I have more information about how this will affect our local area, I will let residents know.

The Council are also investing in measures to mitigate climate change, including a £3 Million investment to replace boilers with low-carbon heating in schools and offices, installing solar panels at 10 council sites and spending £140,000 on low-energy lighting in 12 schools and care homes.

Due to the difficult decisions that previous administrations have had to make, I am glad that the County Council is now in good financial standing and has not had to make any additional savings this year.

I would like to thank you for your time today and I will continue to work with residents to deliver on the priorities they would like to see from the County Council.

Report to Parish Meeting, May 2022 Cllr Rob Banks, District Councillor

The "Standard method" and the local plan

Much of my time has been spent on planning issues.

I support the letter about to be sent to LDC from the parishes on lobbying over the "standard method" which is a government formula for housing numbers LDC have to aim for in the local plan. Worth noting the District Council has already been working on this issue.

There have been two LDC motions on the subject of planning reform, one in autumn of 2020 then a follow up in July 2021. I proposed one and seconded the other.. Both expressed opposition to having to use this formula. The Lewes District portfolio holder for planning is meeting with other portfolio holders from nearby councils.

I will be tabling a question at next full council asking what further steps can be taken.

The 3 largest sites– including the potential Eton College site – are being separately assessed show that the government inspector's mantra of "no stone has been left unturned" has been met. Landscape will be a key factor. The National Park will also have a key role to play in this process and I appreciate both the parish council and Don't Urbanise the Downs have submitted evidence.

Levelling up and Regeneration Bill was in the Queens speech which may mean some changes – we don't know the full detail yet. The key question to my mind is: will it allow local constraints and local housing need to be the starting point and not a national government formula that is far too high?

I continue to meet with parishes and Don't Urbanise the Downs on the issue and encouraged people to write into last summer's issues and options consultation. I stand with the local community in continuing to oppose the proposed Eton site.

Possible boundary changes

I submitted a second set of comments about this, in opposition to the lumping in of East Chiltington into the East Grinstead parliamentary seat.

Flytipping

Reported throughout the year; eg bottom of Novington Lane; B2116; Chiltington Ferrings

Nolands Farm – I spoke against permission being granted, good to see LDC saw sense and refused planning permission – borders onto the East Chiltington boundary and onto the Eton College site.

Street signs

I got LDC to remove a redundant oil drum in Hollycroft, reported wonky/overgrown signs on Honeypt Lane and at the Novington Lane/South Road/Honeypt lane junction

B2116 road safety

I spoke to the county highways committee over road safety on the B2116. They have installed bollards and some boundary treatment by the accident hot spot as you come into the Parish – time will show how effective this is.

Recycling bins

A reminder that you can order an extra recycling bin free of charge from the council. Just visit www.lewes.gov.uk or phone 01273 471600.