

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF EAST CHILTINGTON
held on 4th May 2016 at 7.00 pm in
Beechwood Hall, Beechwood Lane, Cooksbridge.

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

Present: Cllr. B.Harrison

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

16 members of the public. Cllr..S.Osborne. LDC

	Meeting commenced: 7.00pm
1	Apologies for absence were received from : Cllr. S,Israel. Cllr.Farmelo Cllr.Harrison (vice-chair) welcomed the public and gave an overview of the last year.
2	Inspector Rob Lovell gave a report on changes to the local policing programme.Sussex Police have to save £35m by 2020 and will be looking at the PCSO role within a shrinking workforce. Lewes District will only lose one pcso but there will no longer be a single named contact per parish. From July 4 th 2016 a team of 4 will cover a larger area being mostly deployed in areas of greatest need. There is not a great demand in East Chiltington. There will be no cuts to response officers and the pcso role will have more power. A resident asked about the types of incidents covered by either pcso's or warrant officers.
3	The chair had sent his report (attached)
4	Council noted the report from the clerk and financial officer, as attached to the agenda. Council ask those present to note that the reduction in reserves was a decision made by council in 2014/2015 to reduce the amount held in reserve, following questions from the external auditor. Costs of repairs, a new finger post, consultant costs and election costs were all met from reserves, thus reducing the balances held.
5	Minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2015 were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
6	County Councillor Jim Sheppard was not in attendance and had sent no report. District Cllr.Sarah Osborne reported on the merging of some services between LDC and Eastbourne District council, which will bring over £3m in savings. She said LDC had a staff shortage at the moment. The government housing bill will force LDC to sell about one third of its housing stock and to increase rents. A resident asked if stock would be sold under the 'right to buy' scheme? Ans. No. Stock will be valued and LDC will need to sell one third of the most valuable properties. The treasury will fine them each year they fail to meet targets set. In future tenancies will be for 5 years maximum. A resident asked what was being done to fill LDC vacancies? Ans. A recruitment drive for key staff. Q. How will the merger save costs.? Ans.Some posts are doubled up so there would be a saving by sharing roles. Q. Any news on putting Broadband services underground? Ans. That is a county council issue not LDC.
7	Questions from the floor There were no more questions from the floor.
	The meeting closed at 7.45

JT 9/05/2015

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

East Chiltington Parish Council - Chair's report, 2015-16

This has been quite a momentous year for ECPC.

It was the year that LDC's regeneration policy, which included the plans to build 39 houses on the Hollycroft field, was fought tooth and nail by ECPC, the East Chiltington Action Group and by many other communities in the Lewes District. The community spirit shown in our hamlet was fabulous, and bears testament to what a wonderful parish this is to live in. The plans were shown to be non-consultative and deeply flawed and were eventually thrown out by LDC.

However, this still might not be the end of this issue, which is why we are continuing with our application for Village Green status for the Hollycroft Field. LDC objected to our original application and there has since been a further exchange of evidence. LDC has been given various extensions of deadlines to respond to our latest evidence and we are still waiting for this response, more than two months later. ECPC is confident that it is in strong legal position and continues to press ESCC to hold a panel to decide the application as soon as possible.

After many many emails and phone calls from ECPC to ESCC Highways, flood markers have eventually been placed in East Chiltington in all the places that roads flood - and eventually they put them in the correct position! Hopefully this means that we lose no more vehicles to flooding in the future.

Novington Lane received a facelift over this last year, with a marvellous new surface which recycled the old surface and added to it. Sadly the same cannot be said of the verges on Novington Lane. After the upgrade they were left somewhat mushy, exacerbated by the over-usage of Novington Lane due to the closure of the Plumpton Level Crossing, and the very wet winter. This method of relaying the road surface seems to have increased its height, and when this was added to mushy verges, we have been left with significant drops at the sides of the road. ECPC has been liaising with ESCC Highways, Network Rail and our local MP, Maria Caulfield, to try to get these drops filled in. As of yet, we have had no joy with this lobbying, but we will continue.

The telephone box book swap is still doing a good amount of trade, both with locals and from those from outside the Parish. I often meet people from outside the Parish and say that I come from East Chiltington, and their response is to say "isn't that where the phone box book swap is? Isn't it a wonderful thing!".

Community usage of the Church is continuing apace with a successful concert with the English electro folk group, Telling the Bees, and an inspiring theatre piece called In Transit. More events are planned for this year, and I think there will be a free rehearsed reading over the next month or so. The removal of the pews seems to have taken a back seat at the moment, but ECPC will continue to lobby the Church Wardens to make the Church more user-friendly for community events.

The Parish Council organised the erection of a beautiful new finger post opposite Church Lane as the old one had rotted away. It was half paid for by ECPC and half by ESCC Highways. A new village sign is also about to be erected on Mill Lane showing the entrance to the parish from the north-east, and also emphasising that a large proportion of our population lies in this area.

There was another successful village fun day on 27th June last year, with the 1970's theme inspiring some great costumes. 'Opportunity Knocks' hosted by 'Nana Mouskouri' was very funny, and brought out all the local talent. This is always an important social occasion, and as usual many local people put a lot of time and thought into making it a hugely enjoyable occasion.

I would like to say a big personal thank you to our Clerk Jenni Toomey, who has worked so professionally over the last year, has kept us in administrative order, and has continued to guide the Parish Councillors on the legal requirements of all issues.

Lastly having acted as Chair for the last 3 years, I will not be submitting myself for re-election to this post, but wish the next incumbent the best of luck in the role.