



Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to East Chiltington Parish Council
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EAST CHILTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
 held on 12th January 2017 at 7.00 pm in Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge.

Present: Cllr. E.Harrison - Chair **Apologies:** LDC Cllr.S.Osborne
 Cllr.C.Funnell - Vice chair
 Cllr.C.Farmelo Cllr. J.Fleming
 Cllr.J.Tingle Cllr.J.Smith

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 16 members of the public.

		Action
01/17/01	<p>Any apologies for absence & Council to consider co-option to fill a council vacancy Council noted an apology from Sarah Osborne. Council had advertised the vacancy for a parish councillor and were pleased that Mary Symes had stepped forward. Mary had been a parish councillor previously. The chair proposed Mary should be co-opted, seconded by Cllr.Funnell and agreed by all. Mary signed the acceptance of office and joined the council.</p>	
01/17/02	<p>Any questions from the public Everyone attending was there in regard to LW/16/1045. The tenant of the new forge building felt the development would diminish the viability of the site as a whole. The old forge is one of few assets in East Chiltington and was still in use in 2015. - A comment was made that the application states the forge has not been in use since 2005 but the applicant explained this was a typing error. The present tenant said the forge has not been offered for rent or offered for his use and that it was not true that there was no demand for it. Also, he felt the parking proposed was shown blocking access to his unit and this would cause problems with his deliveries etc. A resident explained that he was the son of a blacksmith and his father knew Roland Emmett whose work was made at East Chiltington forge. He said the forge has operated for 100's of years. A resident said she had studied the industries of the Weald. She was concerned about dust, noise, fumes and deliveries from the existing forge if the old forge was redeveloped as a residence. A resident was not just concerned about the loss of the old forge but also the difficulties it would cause the new forge. He asked the developer what the plans were for the newer forge. Is his intention to further develop the site? A resident said East Chiltington is recognised as not suitable for new housing as not sustainable so it is wrong to remove employment to provide a house which is not needed. A resident suggested a house could be built to the rear of the old forge. The developers agent said they had looked at the rights of access and felt parking problems could be solved. (at 7.25 Cllr. Smith arrived) The tenant explained he has weekly deliveries of steel on large lorries and has had no discussion with the new landowner about parking. The developer said the building was redundant and that use as office space was not viable. Contamination in the building would need to be dealt with. Converting the old forge to residential was not viable so rebuilding on the site is the most viable option. As far as he was aware the applicant is not planning to get rid of the existing blacksmith. The tenant said his surveyor felt the costs had been exaggerated and the building is still usable as a forge, he only felt it was not viable because the developers motive is profit.</p>	
01/17/03	<p>Declaration of interest on any of the agenda items and update of interests. The clerk asked council to note that her husband would be making a comment on LW/16/1045.</p>	

01/17/04	Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November were agreed and signed as a true record.	
01/17/05	Matters arising from last meeting - None	
1.17.6	Financial matters Council approved payment of the following invoices: *Cheque No: 939 £336.65 Clerk salary/expenses for November *Cheque No: 940 £343.95 Clerk salary/expenses for December	
1.17.6.1	Council noted the current financial situation	
1.17.6.2	Council considered a donation to CPRESussex. Chair proposed a donation of £50 seconded by Cllr. Symes and agreed by all.	
1.17.6.3	Council approved the appointment of Steve Brentnall as the internal auditor	
1.17.7	Planning Matters: To discuss any current application:	
1.17.1	LW/16/1045 Land Adjacent To Mount Pleasant, Highbridge Lane. Demolition of 3 buildings and a shed and erection of a new dwelling with associated parking and landscaping Councillor Fleming explained that many see the forge as being of historical interest and want to see it remain. Any application has to stand on planning law only and not what might happen in the future. The main objection would be loss of B2 status and accompanying rural employment. He acknowledged the building may need some work but the parish council had been assured by the present blacksmith and in a letter from the lecturer in blacksmithing at Plumpton College that there is a demand for forges. The forge had only been out of use since 2015 not 2005 so not long enough to be termed redundant. Cllr. Farmelo felt there had not been sufficient effort to look at further use of the forge. Cllr. Tingle said the planning issue was – is it desirable for the village? She was concerned about the outcome of taking this business away. Cllr. Harrison thought financial viability was being put forward as the principal reason to go against planning policies and this is not an adequate reason. This was not an exception site and housing would not normally be allowed. Cllr. Fleming felt the council did not think the plans did enough to preserve the existing building. The proposal was out of character and too big for the site. Cllr. Tingle said she would object on the loss of a B2 status building. Cllr. Funnell said the forge should be retained in its present state. Cllr. Harrison said she would object because redundancy was not proven and no attempt had been made to preserve its use, she would also object to the design proposed for the new building. Cllr. Farmelo agreed and Cllr. Smith said he would object on B2 grounds as a community needs people working within it and having the opportunity to earn a living. Cllr. Symes agreed and Cllr. Fleming would also object on B2 grounds. Cllr. Harrison had spoken to LDC Cllr. Sarah Osborne who strongly objects and would be calling the application in to committee. Cllr. Fleming will circulate the parish council's response and ask the clerk to inform LDC.	Cllr. Fleming
1.17.7.3	Council noted decisions made by LDC: LW/16/0695 Land South Of Chilington House, Chilington Lane - Creation of ponds (part retrospective), provision of buildings and a dwelling to service a fish farm. - <i>refused</i> SDNP/16/05184/FUL Wootton Farm, Novington Lane BN7 3AU – Retrospective application for mobile home for residential use by the livery manager - <i>refused</i> LW/16/0734 North Hall, East Chilington. Conversion and extension of redundant agricultural buildings to form a single residential dwelling – <i>approved</i> No decision yet on - SDNP/16/04886/CNDC Novington Sand pit, Plumpton - Variation of condition 2 of LW/386/CM to allow extraction of sand and restoration of the site to be completed not later than 2 nd October 2026	
1.17.7.3	Cllr. Fleming had spoken to the applicant of a recent planning application regarding changes that had been made to the application, which the PC were not made aware of. He will contact LDC to request that the PC is informed when material changes are made.	Cllr. Fleming
1.17.8	To receive any reports:	
1.17.8.1	No report from the Chair	
1.17.8.2	TECT: Cllr. Farmelo, Cllr. Fleming - There is still a vacancy for another trustee. The new	

1.17.8.3	basic payment had been received and was more than previously at £1300. There will be a fund raising quiz on February 27th at the Jolly Sportsman	
1.17.8.4	Springett & Campion trust: Cllr.Fleming said there was still a vacancy for one trustee. He said they had received substantial donations in 2016 but no applications for grants.	
1.17.8.5	Finance & Staffing: Cllr.Farmelo- nothing to report	
1.17.8.6	Communications/magazine/website: Cllr.Farmelo (Cllr.Harrison). Copy needed by 13.1.17	
1.17.8.7	Environment: Cllr.Smith -The village litter pick will be on March 5 th starting from the Rotunda. Council agreed to spend up to £50 providing refreshments for volunteers on the day. Cllr.Funnell has been dealing with reports of a padlocked gate on footpath 37a. ESCC have informed the PC that the landowners are installing a kissing gate.	
1.17.8.8	Community events/facilities: Cllr.Harrison (all) – no report	
1.17.8.9	Community Care: Cllr.Funnell (Cllr.Smith) – There had been little enthusiasm for a Xmas meal for the elderly and maybe there was more demand for a social group. The PC should not make assumptions about what people want so it is necessary to do some research on this. It was suggested that a 'good neighbours' scheme should be investigated.	
	Highways: Cllr.Tingle No report Verges: Cllr.Funnell - Following correspondence from a resident concerned that East Chiltington verges were too overgrown to access safely when riding or walking, Cllr.Funnell had carried out a survey of the parish and found all verges had been cut to at least 1 metre width. No more to be done. Council noted that the clerk had contacted ESCC to request bollards to be installed to prevent vehicles parking on the verge in Honeypot Lane and creating an unofficial layby. ESCC will not fund these so the PC would need to find the funds and would need permission to install them on the edge of the highway. Cllr.Tingle said just 2 bollards would help. Council did not feel the expense could be justified.	
01/17/09	Any reports from meetings attended by councillors or the clerk None	
1.17.10 1.17.10.1	Council noted all correspondence received since last meeting. Local MP Maria Caulfield had noted in her report to the PC that there were opportunities to obtain a defibrillator for use in the parish. Cllr.Funnell will ask for more details.	
01/17/11	Update on the Village green application / SDNP Local green spaces ESCC have appointed barrister Trevor Ward to compile a report on the Village Green application. He will visit the green in the week beginning January 23 rd and will make his recommendations to the ESCC committee.	
01/17/12	Update on production of a Local Landscape Character Assessment This will be a topic at the next ECAG meeting. So far 32 surveys have been completed but from just 14 individuals. This is not enough to be representative of the community. The surveys comprise the evidence base for the report.	
01/17/13	Any update on cost to upgrade the community website The chair had investigated an upgrade and obtained quotes from Python online and Upperbridge. Python would charge £850 initially and £200 each year. Upperbridge will charge £270 to upgrade and £156 per year and have the advantage that we keep the same domain name. Cllr.Fleming proposed Upperbridge, seconded by Cllr.Farmelo and agreed by all. The chair will progress this. The council gave a vote of thanks to the chair for taking this on.	Chair
01/17/14	Any update on boundary sign in Honeypot Lane The clerk is waiting for details of the dimensions of the sign, depth of installation and method of installation in order to obtain the necessary licence from ESCC for the single post village sign. Cllr.Tingle said she was still waiting for quotes and details.	Cllr.Tingle
01/17/15	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda. Cllr. Fleming will attend SALC councillor training 9/3/17 at Mid.Sx.Golf Club East Sussex ALC Spring Conference - 14 th March 0930-1530 Blackstock Farm, Hellingly, £40 SSALC Year end finance & Meeting procedures training day: 23 rd February at The Felbridge Hotel & Spa, London Road, East Grinstead, RH19 2BH - £75	
01/17/18	The 2017 meetings of the PC will be : 2nd March, 11 th May, 13 th July, 7 th Sept, 9 th Nov.	

Meeting closed at 9.0pm

JT 16/1/2017

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