



Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to East Chiltington Parish Council  
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**DRAFT minutes from a meeting of EAST CHILTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
 held at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge, on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllr.M.Symes  
 Cllr. P.David  
 Cllr.C.Funnell  
 Cllr. C.Medvei

**Apologies:** Cllr.M.Elms  
 Cllr.R.Nurse

**In attendance:** Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. LDC Cllr.Rob Banks ESCC  
 Leigh Palmer from LDC Cllr.Matthew Milligan One member of the public.

		<b>Action</b>
1/23/01	<b>Any apologies for absence</b> – As above <b>To note the vacancy on the council</b> – the vacancy has been advertised but as yet no one has come forward.	
1/23/02	<b>Any declaration of interest on any of the agenda items/update of interests</b> Chair advised an interest in item 7a	
1/23/03	<b>Any questions from the public</b> None.	
1.23.7.3	Item 7c was brought forward and the meeting adjourned to hear from Leigh Palmer of LDC planning. LP advised there had been no real progress since he spoke to ECPC in August 2021. However, some work has been progressing in the background including analysis of 2 large sites in Ringmer, one in Cooksbridge and North Barnes. Evidence from a Landscape Character Assessment is being analysed and more importantly a landscape capacity study is underway – this will assess if a site can absorb the housing numbers suggested. He felt that the Reg.18 consultation on the local plan might be ready for consultation in Autumn/Winter 2023. LDC have twice met recently with a team from Eton College and Wellbeck who state they will not give up their desire to develop the site even if it is excluded from the Lewes local plan. LP said that in favour of the site is the scale which could deliver infrastructure such as new schools where smaller developments cannot contribute. Eton have again stated they would not put in a planning application prior to the plan being published. The earliest dates are likely to be spring 2024 when Reg.19 would mean the plan goes for inspection and another 12 months at least before it is final. Elections in 2024 could change the government approach to planning. Asked about the new policies from Michael Gove LP said not much has changed. The numbers remain. Cllr.David asked what it means when Eton say they are in for ‘the long haul’. Would they build and manage the new town themselves? LP said Eton would need to pay for the infrastructure themselves and would raise the funds selling off some of the land/properties first. Cllr.Medvei asked if Eton still claim journeys would all be within the site as residents will have no need to travel? LP said yes. They claim to be able to provide one job per house but this is perhaps not realistic. A member of the public asked if Eton have been able to give any example of this working anywhere in the world? LP. No they haven’t but that’s not to say it couldn’t work. Highways have not seen any evidence to back up these claims.	

	<p>Cllr.Banks said it is a contradiction that Eton claim the land is of little merit for agriculture but residents will all be able to grow their own food on it.  Chair asked why, if no one is buying into this idea, we are all having to go through this.  LP said it is simply because this government allows this to go on.  Cllr.Funnell asked how much control LDC would have over the site if planning is agreed  LP said there could be a policy for the site but whether there would be one developer or several is unknown.  Cllr.Medvei asked if the proximity to the SDNP was a factor?  LP was not sure but the site was not included in the national park.  There was a discussion about the duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities. All were in the same position of being unable to meet numbers dictated by government due to constrictions and new housing figures would not be updated until 2026. Even including the large sites LDC cannot meet the present targets and will have to justify a lower figure.  MOP pointed out that Maria Caulfield has said LDC need to produce a plan asap. Could it be done quicker if extra help was brought in?  LP. Not really as the evidence base takes time and the correct process must be followed the plan must go to examination with the right evidence to avoid any 3<sup>rd</sup> party challenge.  MOP asked about the split between housing within and outside the park. Presently 602 houses per year must be built outside the park but just 180 within. Shouldn't more go into Lewes where there are facilities and less in isolated rural areas?  LP. The numbers are arbitrary but LDC is not the planning authority for Lewes. There is space to develop within Lewes but SDNP are not obliged to build within the park.  Cllr.Milligan asked if LDC was delaying until after the May elections. LP – Yes  MM. Is there any real difference between LDC including North Barnes in the plan or leaving it out and an inspector putting it back in? LP. Not really. An inspector may see it as a long term solution since the site would be developed over 20-30 years. Politically it would be better for LDC if this was not their decision. Chair asked would the inspector accept LDC's constraints resulting in a lower number of homes being in the local plan and LP said that's just a "finger in the wind"  Cllr.Medvei asked what commercial space was planned for the site?  LP. That's sketchy. The main employment would be smallholdings/farmsteads and agriculture.  The council thanked Leigh Palmer who left the meeting at 7.53pm.</p>	
1/23/04	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022</b> were agreed and signed	
1/23/05	<b>Matters arising from last meeting</b> Min.11.22.7.3 Cllr.Banks – any update on the 3 large sites. Covered above. Min.11.22.8 Chair/Cllr.David gave an update on damage to grass near church. The damage was now less noticeable and no further action needs to be taken.	
1.23.6	<b>Financial matters</b>	
1.23.6.1	<b>Council approved payment of the following invoices:</b> *Cheque No: 101143 £ Clerk salary/expenses for November 22 *Cheque No: 101144 £ Clerk salary/expenses for December 22 *Cheque No: 101145 £289.56 Upperbridge LLP Website fees *Cheque No: 101146 £451.18 Safelincs LCS. Defib. Battery & pads (CIL) *Cheque No: 101147 £27.30 Bentham Ltd. Printer inks	
1.23.6.2	<b>Council noted</b> the current financial situation	
1.23.6.3	<b>Council considered a grant request</b> from the Springett & Campion trust and agreed a sum of £80.	Clerk
1.22.7	<b>Planning matters:</b>	
1.23.7.1	<b>Council noted and discussed any current application</b> SDNP/22/05656 School House, Novington Lane BN73AX – Porch to front/side – <i>no objection (The above application has now been approved by SDNPA )</i>	
1.23.7.2	<b>Council noted any decisions by LDC:</b> <b>SDNP/22/04463/CND</b> Denes House, Novington Lane East Chiltington: Amendment of condition 4 in relation to SDNP/22/00641/FUL – <i>refused</i>	



Please accept my apologies that I cannot attend the Parish Council's meeting this month but I have the following report for the council.

- **Welcome News Regarding Housing Targets**

**The Government has accepted** changes to the planning system, alongside the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill **and so mandatory local housing targets are to be scrapped and will become advisory only.** This is a huge victory for local campaigners and while it will not reverse the recent decisions made by the planning inspector it does now protect future sites - if our local councils can get their Local Plans published as soon as possible.

It also puts forward the government's Brownfield first Strategy in a win for the protection of green spaces. The Levelling and Regeneration Bill will continue its passage through Parliament shortly and we expect this to become law this year.

I have emailed the council with information on the consultation that has been launched on the National Planning Policy. I would encourage the council and constituents to respond to this consultation to help shape the policy.

- **Call to boost the take-up of Pension Credit**

There are already 1774 claimants of Pension Credit in Lewes but around a quarter of people who could claim the extra help do not currently do so. Pension Credit is a top up for our most vulnerable pensioners that is worth an average of £3,500. As well as a cash top up to the State Pension, this can help pensioners access other support such as help with housing costs, council tax reduction schemes, heating bills and a free over-75s TV licence. Pension Credit can be claimed online or over the phone. Information is available on Gov.UK website [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling the Freephone Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234.

- **Homeless Prevention Funding**

I am very pleased to see the Conservative Government taking homelessness so seriously. This is a serious problem and it is good to see the government providing the Homelessness Prevention Grant. In 2023 – 2024 the Lewes local authorities will have £535,213 and in 2024 – 2025, Lewes will see £541,980 which the local authorities will be able to use to help those who are homeless and in need of support.

- **Funding for Defibrillators**

The number of lifesaving defibrillators will be increased with new funding of £1 million, which the Department of Health and Social care estimates will increase the number of defibrillators by 1000. Organisations will be invited to bid to place defibrillators in areas in the most need.

Organisations and individuals that acquire defibrillators, or already own them, are urged to register them on *The Circuit*, a National Defibrillator database for ambulance services to quickly identify the nearest device.

- **East Sussex Lane Rental Consultation**

Under a Department for Transport backed initiative, highway authorities are able to charge utility companies for closing lanes for road works. I am pleased to hear East Sussex County Council have agreed that they would proceed with the scheme, it now awaits approval from the Secretary of State for Transport. It is likely that the scheme will start in 2023.

The lane rental encourages works promoters to reduce the time the works take, as well as the times in which they carry out their works, improve planning, co-ordination and working methods, as well as completing works to the required standard first time reducing the need for remedial work so as to not disturb commuters. Furthermore, I am very supportive of the surplus of money to be used for highway works as there are a number of roads in the Lewes constituency that could benefit from such money and I look forward to these works taking place and supporting the council where I can to ensure these works take place.