



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 14th March 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr.M.Symes
 Cllr.M.Elms
 Cllr.C.Funnell
 Cllr. C.Medvei

Apologies: Cllr. P.David
 Cllr.R.Nurse
 Cllr.Matthew Milligan (ESCC)

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. LDC Cllr.Rob Banks

		Action
3/23/01	Any apologies for absence – As above To note the vacancy on the council – the vacancy has been advertised but as yet no one has come forward.	
3/23/02	Any declaration of interest on any of the agenda items/update of interests None	
3/23/03	Any questions from the public None.	
3/23/04	Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2023 were agreed and signed	
3/23/05	Matters arising from last meeting None	
3.23.6	Financial matters	
3.23.6.1	Council approved payment of the following invoices: *Cheque No: 101148 £10.00 Hire of Beechwood Hall for Jan.meeting *Cheque No: 101149 £80.00 Grant (2.137) to Springett & Campion trust *Cheque No: 101150 £ Clerk salary/expenses for January 23 *Cheque No: 101151 £156.06 Countrymans Contractors – mowing (cut 6) *Cheque No: 101152 spoil *Cheque No: 101153 £10.00 Beechwood Hall. Room Hire *Cheque No: 101154 £ Clerk salary/expenses for February 23	
3.23.6.2	Council noted the current financial situation	
3.23.6.3	Council noted income received: £50 from sale of wood. £375.98 donation from the Jolly Sportsman to cover the cost of defibrillator parts.	
3.22.7	Planning matters:	
3.23.7.1	Council noted and discussed any current application SDNP/22/05709/HOUS Novington Oak Farm, Novington Lane East Chiltington: Below ground swimming pool and pool house with plant room - <i>no objection</i> SDNP/23/00155/FUL Novington Manor, Plumpton Lane: Retrospective application for holiday let <i>no objection but concerns over drainage</i> SDNP/23/00159/FUL The Jolly Sportsman, Chapel Lane: Erection of single storey garden bar – <i>no objection</i>	

3.23.7.2	<p>Council noted any decisions by LDC:</p> <p>SDNP/22/05709/HOUS Novington Oak Farm, Novington Lane East Chiltington: Below ground swimming pool and pool house with plant room - <i>approved</i></p> <p>SDNP/23/00155/FUL Novington Manor, Plumpton Lane: Retrospective application for holiday let – <i>refused</i></p> <p>SDNP/23/00159/FUL The Jolly Sportsman: Single storey garden bar – <i>approved</i></p>	
3.23.7.3	<p>The chair noted that council had been asked about alterations to a cottage near the church which is in a conservation area. There have been new windows, a drive and a porch added. Cllr.Banks advised checking if permission was needed from the park authority/LDC and supplied the clerk with contact details.</p>	Clerk
3.23.7.4	<p>The LDC call for sites – EC2 and EC11 and the LDC planned LCA</p> <p>Noted: the council has responded to the NPPF consultation</p> <p>Noted: the council has contacted all local councillors regarding proposed gov.changes to planning.</p> <p>Noted: the council has written to Michael Gove to question the use of the Standard Method</p> <p>Noted: Cllr.Banks had met briefly with Leigh Palmer, LDC but had no new update on the North Barnes site. Work is progressing very slowly on the new district plan.</p>	
3.23.8	<p>Council considered any reports:</p> <p>a)Finance & Staffing: Cllr.Medvei is now a signatory on PC cheques</p> <p>b)Hollycroft grass and maintenance: Cllr.David had sent no report but has offered to remove the thorn saplings that are migrating into the grass area from the hedge.</p> <p>c)Communications/website: vacant</p> <p>d)Magazine: Cllr.Funnell (news). Cllr.Medvei said there has been no meetings of the magazine committee</p> <p>e)Environment/Litter pick: Cllr.Nurse organised the litter pick. The collected rubbish is still awaiting collection by LDC who apparently came but left without taking it.</p> <p>f)Community events: Cllr.Elms asked if the PC felt they should organise an event over the coronation weekend. It was felt that there would not be enough volunteers for this as the parish party was already scheduled for July 1st. Hamsey PC will light the beacon and all are welcome. There will be events open to all held in Plumpton. Cllr. Elms asked to attend the next TECT meeting to discuss the July event.</p> <p>g)Highways, Verges: through the clerk to ESCC /Cllr.Milligan/Cllr.Banks To note that the clerk reported the collapsed road in Highbridge Lane had been repaired but the repair is blocking the ditch. It is still flooded under the rail bridge in Beechwood Lane. The drain was cleared but has now silted up again. Clerk continues to report this weekly. The condition of Chapel Lane is still deteriorating. Council noted the damage caused to verges at Novington rail bridge by the ongoing works. Clerk to try and contact the contractors for repairs.</p>	<p>Cllr.David</p> <p>Cllr.Nurse</p> <p>Cllr.Elms</p> <p>Cllr.Milligan</p> <p>Clerk</p>
3.23.9	Council noted all correspondence received since last meeting.	
3.23.10	<p>TECT – The East Chiltington Trust</p> <p>The children’s forest school have fenced the tree nursery ready for planting the saplings in the future. TECT will meet in April.</p>	
3.23.11	<p>Any report on possible replacement of the parish marquee</p> <p>Cllr.Elms felt the framed marquees as used by pubs were quite strong but complicated to erect. There is a possibility of one or two marquees being available locally. Chair will follow this up. The old marquee will be used again this July.</p>	Chair

3.23.12	To consider the Parish Priority Statement – Chair/Cllr. David Council felt an online consultation was a good idea with details to go in the parish magazine. Chair, Cllr.Elms, Cllr.David and Cllr.Medvei will meet with interested residents to discuss the questions that will need answers to provide information to follow the SDNPA template	Chair, Cllr.Elms, Cllr.David Cllr.Medvei
1.23.13	Council considered a request from Hadlow Down PC for action re: ESCC highways Two detailed letters had been received noting the poor state of the roads and difficulty in communicating with ESCC highways. It was noted that the highways contract allows for a ‘gainshare’ arrangement whereby any underspending of monies allocated for repairs are shared between contractor and council thus perversely incentivising doing work as cheaply as possible and putting public monies into the pockets of the contractor. The parish council agreed to offer their support to the Weald councils trying to get changes and also agreed to raise concerns with Cllr.Claire Dowling, Lead member for transport.	
3.23.14	To consider the proposal for a Festival Church at East Chiltington Cllr.Medvei had nothing to report.	
3.23.15	Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda. To note the purchase of a new battery and pads for the defibrillator and thanked the Jolly Sportsman for their kind donation. Noted: replacement of the Boundary sign Parish council elections. To note that nomination papers were sent to all councillors on 27 th Jan. Nomination papers to be completed/returned to LDC between March 21 st and April 4 th ..	
3.23.15	The dates for the 2023 meetings of the Parish Council : The Annual parish meeting will be 7pm Thursday 11 th May followed by the Annual Council meeting. In the committee room Plumpton Village Hall. Then Tuesdays - 11 th July, - 12 th Sept, and 14 th Nov. All meetings at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge starting at 7pm	

Meeting closed at 20.35pm

JT 15/3/23

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

Glossary:

LDC – Lewes District Council
ESCC - East Sussex County Council
SSALC – Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils
TECT – The East Chiltington Trust
CouncilsCPRE – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
OART – The Ouse and Adur rivers trust
SDNPA - South Downs National Park Authority
AIRS – Action in Rural Sussex
LDALC – Lewes District Association of Local

Please accept my apologies that I am unable to join you at your meeting this week. I do however have the following updates for the parish. Maria Caulfield MP.

- **£440,000 in extra funding for South Downs National Park**
I have welcomed the news that £440,000 in extra funding is being invested into South Downs National Park as part of £4.4 million in extra funding from the Conservative Government.
This is to protect and conserve our natural environment and widen access to our scenic beauty spots, supporting tourism and growing the economy. The extra investment will support services for visitors, including education and visitor centres, ranger services, new trails, residential programmes, and provide more opportunities for people to enjoy National Parks.
- **New Cost of living payments from Spring 2023**
Millions of the lowest-income households across the UK will get up to £1,350 from the Government in 2023/4 to help with the cost of living. This includes a £900 low-income payment, a £150 disability payment and a £300 pensioner payment. More information on these payments such as eligibility and when they will be paid out can be found here: <https://www.mariacaulfield.co.uk/news/maria-caulfield-mp-lewes-welcomes-new-cost-living-payments-spring-2023>
- **Vulnerable Residents in East Sussex to Benefit from Household Support Fund**
I know many families in the Lewes constituency are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising prices caused by global economic pressures including Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine. That is why I am delighted that the Conservative Government has allocated a further £7,793,568 to East Sussex County Council through the Household Support Fund, doubling down on our Conservative commitment to help the most vulnerable families with rising costs. This fund is a lifeline for local residents, and this extension will ensure this vital support is available for families who are struggling for another year.
- **Reporting Potholes**
I know that many residents are concerned about the condition of the roads and potholes across the constituency, not just in Kingston. I have been raising particular concerns with East Sussex County Council and understand that some potholes have already been repaired. If there are more or residents are not happy with the repairs please let me know.
- **Sussex chosen to become hospital bed discharge front runner**
I have welcomed the news that Sussex has been chosen as one of the six areas of the country that will benefit from a trial of new innovative solutions to free up hospital beds. This will see Sussex NHS health services trialling a new data tool to help services manage performance, give operational oversight and manage demand. Whether it is ambulance delays, crowded A&Es or shortages of hospital beds, getting people home more quickly from hospital will improve our local health service immeasurably.