



Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to East Chiltington Parish Council  
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**DRAFT minutes from the annual meeting of EAST CHILTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
 held at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.15pm.

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

**Apologies:**

**In attendance:** Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. Cllr.Matthew Milligan (ESCC)  
 4 members of the public Cllr.Daniel Stewart-Roberts (LDC) from 8pm

		Action
5/23/1	<b>Election of chair/vice chair and any apologies for absence.</b> Cllr.Symes proposed Cllr.Medvei as chair, seconded by Cllr.David and agreed by all. Cllr.Medvei took the chair and proposed Cllr.Symes for vice chair, seconded by Cllr.David and agreed.	
5/23/1a	<b>To consider co-option to fill any vacancies on the council</b> Chair advised council of 3 candidates willing to fill the vacancies. They were Roger Nurse, Carol Funnell and Mark Marsh and proposed that all be co-opted, seconded by Cllr.Symes and agreed by all. Roger and Mark joined the table. Carol was on holiday. All councillors signed their acceptance of office paper.	
5/23/2	<b>Any declaration of interest on any of the agenda items/update of interests</b> None	
5/23/3	<b>Any questions from the public</b> A resident wanted to raise his concerns regarding one of the 2 ancient Yew trees in the conservation area at EC.church. The council was aware that ongoing groundworks were affecting the tree at Chapel Cottage. In February trenching close to the tree destroyed roots on the leeward side and branches were removed from the canopy. A second trench dug to lay a garden path then destroyed roots on the windward side, this was quickly followed by a deep trench to lay a water pipe. The parish council contacted the district who sent their tree officer to investigate and to speak to the owner. An urgent request was made for a TPO. The clerk and Cllr.Funnell had spoken to the owner who gave assurances that planning consent had been given by SDNPA and that she wanted to protect and not damage the tree. The parish council wrote to the owner on 19 <sup>th</sup> April asking for copies of the planning consent but no reply has yet been received. Despite the TPO being in place, further damage was done on May 5 <sup>th</sup> when the ground was dug to lay hard standing for parking. District council officers attended again on 11 <sup>th</sup> May. No remedial work has been carried out and more hardcore has been added. Piles with severed roots remain on site. Cllr.Elms said that if wilful damage to a protected tree was a criminal offence could the police be involved? The owner and the builders may be subject to criminal prosecution. The parish council agreed they would contact the owner again as well as seeking further advice from LDC, SDNPA and the ancient Yew society.	Clerk/Chair
5/23/4	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b> were agreed and signed	
5/23/5	<b>Matters arising from last meeting</b> Min.no 3.23.13. A letter was sent to Claire Dowling (ESCC) 18.3.23 regarding the	

	deteriorating condition of local roads and flooding issues –Ref: 13867001) Ruby Brittle has not yet replied. Min.no.3.23.8 Clerk has spoken to the site manager in Novington Lane who has given assurance that damage to verges will be made good.	
<b>5.23.6</b>	<b>Financial matters</b>	
5.23.6.1	<b>Council approved payment of the following invoices:</b>	
	*Cheque No: 101155 £ Clerk salary/expenses for March 23	
	*Cheque No: 101156 £150.00 Plumpton magazine EC page	
	*Cheque No: 101157 £ 240.00 Countrymans Contractors Mowing - April	
	*Cheque No: 101158 £ Clerk salary/expenses for April 23	
	*Cheque No: 101159 £11.60 Plumpton village hall - 11 <sup>th</sup> May	
	*Cheque No: 101160 £120.48 NALC/ESALC subscription 2023	
	*Cheque No: 101161 £140.00 S.Brentnall. Internal audit	
	*Cheque No: 101162 £272.52 CAS. Council Insurance	
5.23.6.2	<b>Council noted</b> the current financial situation	
5.23.6.3	Council declared that East Chiltington parish council is an exempt authority within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015	Clerk
5.23.6.4	Council considered the findings of the internal audit review	
5.23.6.5	Council approved the Annual Governance Statement	
5.23.6.6	Council considered and approved the Accounting Statements	
5.23.6.7	Council ensured the Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the chair	
5.23.6.8	Council noted dates that the accounts will be available for public inspection	
5.23.6.9	Council considered and agreed the annual subscription to NALC/ESALC - £120.48	
<b>5.23.7</b>	<b>Planning matters:</b>	
5.23.7.1	<b>Council noted there were no current applications</b>	
5.23.7.2	<b>Council noted any decisions by LDC:</b> LW/22/0418 Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of up to 56 dwellings (including 40% affordable housing), public open space, landscaping, and sustainable drainage systems and vehicular access point Land West Of A275 South Chailey - <i>refused</i>	
5.23.7.3	<b>The LDC call for sites – EC2 and EC11 and the LDC planned LCA</b>	
7.	Council had received another brochure from the Eton developers claiming that the building of the ‘New Town’ will actually improve the ecology of the farmland which they say ‘has been lost due to pesticide use and intensive farming’ (presumably by Eton College who have owned the site for the last 23 years). The brochure also claims to have a partnership with OART (Ouse and Adur rivers trust), but they have assured the council that this is definitely not true, the developers approached OART for a river survey which has been carried out. The river is in a good condition but the banks need to be improved to avoid damage from farming and livestock and to aid wildlife. The developers proposal was for a scheme to start at once and OART gave no support to that scheme or to the proposed new town. The brochure sites Poundbury as a similar development but it is very different with two trunk roads, two stations all infrastructure in place and is an annex to the county town of Dorchester. Cllr.Stewart-Roberts thought the lack of infrastructure for North Barnes makes it unlikely to proceed. The roads are not suitable even for construction traffic. Pinch points at Lewes prison and Ditchling crossroads are already beyond capacity. Wellbeck have no experience of developing sites at all and promote the site as a solution to a perceived housing shortage in Lewes District. The population in the district is actually falling, any increase is from commuters moving to the area, many from London. Council noted a private members bill designed to protect chalk streams, such as the Bevern which crosses the proposed site.	

5.23.8	<p><b>Council considered councillor roles and any reports:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Finance &amp; Staffing:</b> Cllr. David retained this role and had nothing to report.</p> <p>b) <b>Hollycroft grass and maintenance:</b> Cllr. David said the grass cutting was going well. He felt the thorn saplings forming a small clump in the field were not causing any concern, they mow around them. The lime trees had been pollarded.</p> <p>c) <b>Communications/website:</b> Cllr. Elms took this role and will also produce the input for the monthly newsletter (12<sup>th</sup> of each month prior)</p> <p>d) <b>Magazine:</b> Cllr. Medvei had attended an inaugural meeting with the publishers of the magazine, the Vicar and his counterpart on Plumpton PC to discuss how the community might be more closely involved with the newsletter. It was agreed that those present form an advisory committee which will meet 3 or 4 times a year to discuss any matters pertaining to the magazine. The next meeting will be 31.8.23</p> <p>e) <b>Environment/Litter pick:</b> Cllr. Nurse retains this role</p> <p>f) <b>Community events:</b> Vacant</p> <p>g) <b>Highways, Verges:</b> through the clerk to ESCC /Cllr. Milligan/Cllr. Banks</p> <p>Council noted the flooding 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.</p>	
5.23.8.1	<p><b>Council considered the makeup of the planning committee and agreed:</b></p> <p>Cllr. Symes (chair) Cllr. Nurse, Cllr. David, Cllr. Medvei</p>	
5.23.9	<p><b>Council noted all correspondence received since last meeting.</b></p>	
5.23.10	<p><b>TECT – The East Chiltington Trust</b></p> <p>The paths will be mown 6 times per year. A wildflower area is to be created. A grant has been received from SDNPA for fencing to allow some sheep grazing.</p>	
5.23.11	<p><b>Any report on possible replacement of the parish marquee</b></p> <p>Cllr. David said TECT were concerned that the old marquee leaked and this caused concern. Cllr. Marsh offered the council a large marquee provided it could be collected from Kent before 1<sup>st</sup> July. Council gladly accepted his kind offer.</p>	
5.23.12	<p><b>To consider the Parish Priority Statement – Chair/Cllr. Symes</b></p> <p>The questionnaire is being assembled and will go out to residents before the school summer holidays.</p>	<p>Chair, Cllr. Elms, Cllr. David Cllr. Symes</p>
5.23.13	<p><b>To consider any councillor wishing to apply to sit on the SDNP board</b></p> <p>The chair was willing to be proposed and council agreed to put him forward if his other commitments would allow it.</p>	<p>Chair</p>
5.23.14	<p><b>To consider any update on use of the Church at East Chiltington</b></p> <p>Chair had attended a very hopeful meeting regarding use of the church and removal of some pews to allow more flexible seating however there has been no further progress with this.</p>	
5.23.15	<p><b>Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda.</b></p> <p>None</p>	
5.23.15	<p><b>The dates for the 2023 meetings of the Parish Council :</b></p> <p>Tuesdays - 11<sup>th</sup> July, - 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, and 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. All meetings at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge starting at 7pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 20.55pm

JT 12/5/23

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

**Glossary:**

LDC – Lewes District Council                               SDNPA - South Downs National Park Authority  
ESCC - East Sussex County Council                NALC – National Association of Local Councils  
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   OART – The Ouse and Adur rivers trust

**Report from East Sussex County Councillor Matthew Milligan May 2023**

During April I continued to regularly report potholes and other road defects and undertook various casework from local residents. I attended a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel where we received updates from the children’s homes in East Sussex and reviewed the data from the past 12 months regarding our looked after children in the County. The new Highways contractor, Balfour Beatty, took over on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. I am currently awaiting a meeting with the new team, I have also been assured that parish councils will be communicated with more effectively than was the case previously. As always if you would like to contact me to report any concerns or anything else please do email me at [cllr.matthew.milligan@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.matthew.milligan@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**Update from Maria Caulfield MP, for East Chiltington Parish Council - May 2023**

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.

- **Meeting with the Housing Minister**

Last week I met with the Housing Minister, Rachel Mclean, to discuss the Governments plans to end national housing targets, so local areas can decide their own and to end the practice of Planning Inspectors overturning local planning decisions which has in the past impacted residents in East Chiltington. It is important to protect our green spaces and I will keep the parish informed on any developments in regard to this.

- **Extra School Funding**

The Government is investing an extra £2 billion into schools this year and next, with every state school in England benefiting and schools in Lewes constituency receiving £1,931,188 in extra funding. The extra funding will deliver the highest real terms spending per pupil in history by 2024–25. A typical primary school will receive approximately an extra £35,000 and a typical secondary school will receive an extra £200,000. This is delivering on the Government’s commitment to provide a world class education and deliver opportunity for all – wherever they come from and whatever their background – particularly those who face challenges or who need extra support.

- **Extended Cost of Living Payments**

I know many families are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising prices. That is why I am delighted that the Government has allocated a further £7,793,568 to East Sussex County Council through the Household Support Fund, doubling down on the 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.

- **New Sewage Update**

Not only has the Government produced the £56 billion Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, but last week we voted on several new measures to make sure water companies are taking immediate action .

Firstly, we are lifting the cap on civil penalties for water and sewerage companies, raising them up to unlimited penalties so that polluters pay for their impact on the environment, with funds now being reinvested into further improving rivers and water bodies. Secondly, the Government has now put targets in the Storm Overflows Reduction Plan on a statutory footing, making them legally binding so water companies have to comply.

The Government are working hard to not just transform our sewage system but ensuring our water companies are held to account for their performance.

- **Pothole Contractor**

There is a new contractor for East Sussex County Council which is now in place and hopefully we will see better quality road repairs. The new contractor is Balfour Beatty and potholes and other repairs can be reported here: <http://live.eastsussexhighways.com>