

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
EAST CHILTINGTON held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7 pm
in the small hall, Plumpton VH.**

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

Present: Cllr. M.Symes

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. 7 members of the public.

	Meeting commenced: 7.00pm
1	Apologies for absence were received from : Carol Funnell, Maria Caulfield MP, Daniel Stewart-Roberts. Cllr.Symes opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.
2	There were no questions from the public.
3	The chair gave her report (attached)
4	Council noted the report from the clerk and financial officer, as attached to the agenda.
5	Minutes of the meeting held on 11 th May 2022 were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
6	County Cllr. Matthew Milligan gave his report. ESCC has appointed Balfour Beatty as highway contractors. A resident asked if the repairs will be better in future. Cllr.Milligan said there is a “Get it right first time” policy. ESCC received apx. £2m from government for pothole repairs. Presently ESCC define a pothole as 30cm square and 4 inches deep. He hoped the definition would be expanded to include a greater range. Cars damaged by potholes need to prove that ESCC were aware of the problem so it is always best to report potholes when they appear. Fix my street is an easy one to use.
	The meeting closed at 7.12

JT 12/05/2023

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

Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to East Chiltington Parish Council
Bowling Green, Chiltington Lane, East Chiltington BN7 3QU, East Sussex

Chair's report 2022-23

Planning

The EC planning committee viewed and commented on several planning applications in the parish; most were approved by the planning authority but two in the SDNP were refused. It demonstrates to me the difference in policies between LDC and SDNP. It is an important role of the Parish Council to make site visits and comment.

The creation of a Parish Priority statement is in process. These are like neighbourhood plans but much simpler, for parishes with their centre within the Park boundary. They will inform the SDNP Local Plan review. I'd like to thank Buzz Harrison and Chris Farmelo for their help with the residents' consultation questionnaire in anticipation of it being released soon. East Chiltington engaged in the NPPF consultation. The key point was to object to the government retaining the Standard Method as a way of imposing housing numbers on Planning Authorities. In the interim, developers have won appeals in Wivelsfield and Plumpton on land not allocated for housing development in either neighbourhood plans or the District Local Plan. It's a bad time for local decision making and it remains to be seen what difference the NPPF changes make to decisions going forward.

The schedule for delivering the Lewes District Local Plan has moved into late 2024 with Regulation 18 set for the end of this year and Regulation 19 by Winter 2024. Leigh Palmer came to the January meeting to give an overview and take questions. He told us the land promoter for North Barnes Farm will not back off even if they do not get their site in the Local Plan.

Elections

Four parish councillors put in nomination papers, with at least one councillor to be co-opted back on this evening therefore no election this time round. We have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council. I would encourage anyone with an interest in their local area to come forward. The Parish Council forms an important voice for local democracy.

We say goodbye to Rob Banks, Liberal Democrat district Councillor and thank him for attending our meetings and taking forward the issues of the day on our behalf. He has been our representative at LDC in the true sense of the word and we wish him well.

Hollycroft

Pollarding of the lime trees this spring and mowing of the field last summer sees the area in generally good condition and the expenditure remains within budget.

South downs National Park donated a dozen trees which have been planted on the left-hand side of the field. The Jubilee wood trees are all coming into leaf this spring and will mature into an attractive tree canopy.

Other matters

Parish councils across Wealden and Lewes made a joint protest to East Sussex Highways and the lead councillor for Highways over the state of the roads. Massive potholes, blocked drains and overflowing ditches in wet weather making driving hazardous.

TECT

Trustees have taken the decision to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the main advantage being trustees won't have personal liability in case of a claim.

Regular due diligence and field/tree inspections for insurance purposes are being carried out. Paths will be cut twice a year.

The TECT field is being used by the Childrens Forest project who won £10,000 in grant funding for this year. A tree nursery has been created, trees have been planted and it would be good if the project could endure into the future.

Parish party

The Queen's Jubilee gymkhana Parish party last year was a lovely celebration and great fun. Thanks to all who organised, took part and came to the event.

There is some doubt as to whether there will be a party this year. The Council hopes someone will step up to take on the planning etc. Discussion about the old marquee's remaining life and whether to replace, or not, continues.

I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for keeping the show on the road, but mostly to the clerk, Jenni Toomey, for unfailing duty and ability to keep us on cue.