

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

of Meeting held at the Erskine Centre, Chevington Road, Chedburgh on

Monday 18th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Michael Chester (Chair), Margaret Rickard, Teresa Landymore, Alan Noyes and Clare Varney.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);
Borough Councillor Peter Stephens (part)
County Councillor Karen Soons (part);
31 Members of the public.

30. Apologies

Cllr Pat Fisher and Cllr Sam Parrett tendered apologies which were received and were approved.

31. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations for which dispensations had not been duly authorised.

32. Minutes of the last meetings

- a. The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th July 2017 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.
- b. The minutes of the extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th July 2017 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

33. County and Borough Councillor's Reports

CCllr Karen Soons' report had been circulated in advance. In relation to proposed changes to school transport arrangements Cllr Soons said that she was keen to campaign for a fair system that at least honours existing arrangements. It was pointed out that while some children have a choice of three schools by virtue of where they live, others have no choice.

Borough Cllr Peter Stephens attended as temporary cover, until the by-election. Cllr Stephens reported on the proposed formal merger of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath and the fact that the Borough Council would be considering the Master Plan, following the public consultation. Cllr Peters was asked if he was in favour or retaining the Bus Station in Bury and he responded that he had an open mind at present.

34. Public Forum

Several members of the public spoke in relation to the revised planning application at Queens Hill, for the Open College of Equine Studies. Among the points made were that the new building was not in keeping with the landscape, that the access to the highway would be hazardous due to the speed and volume of traffic and that flooding on the site made it unsuitable for any form of development. The meeting was informed that Highways had approved the access arrangements, that flooding had been controlled since the introduction of attenuation ponds and that the siting of the new building was on an area designated as of minimal flood risk (Level 1), specifically in response to Environment Agency comments.

Several members of the public spoke about the problems facing residents of Paddocks Way in relation to parking arising from an era of multiple car-owning families living on a 1970s development that anticipated one car per household. Residents were often unable to park and

so use of the grass or pavement has become the norm. Spill-over parking on the main road has also become common and it was reported that this has raised safety issues. Residents felt that the addition of a line of parking, either side on or herringbone, around the grassed area would alleviate the problem considerably and asked the Council to investigate this. It was agreed that the matter would be considered at the next meeting and that some investigatory work would be carried out in preparation.

Several members of the public spoke to object to the proposed further development of the former Fireworks Factory (Brocket Park). Among the points made were the reduction of the public open space, the impact on facilities (such as school buses) and the impact on trees.

It was suggested that a formal welcome to new residents in the Brocket Park development should be extended. The Chair will consider this and come to the next meeting with his thoughts.

It was suggested that a roundabout of a type also suitable for use by children with disabilities could be installed in the play area. This will be discussed at a future, but not the next, meeting.

35. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority

There were no relevant matters to report.

36. Clerk's Report

a. Progress on actions arising from prior meetings.

- VAS - The manufacturer had been unwilling to accept any responsibility for the failure of the sign and had insisted on the Council's bearing the full cost of repairs. The sign will now be repaired and brought back into use as soon as possible.

b. The Clerk reported on correspondence received:

- Little Teapots - The Clerk reported that Little Teapots Pre-School had found themselves to be in a better financial situation than they had expected and had therefore informed him that they would not need the grant that had previously been approved by the Council.

37. Planning and Environment

a. **DC/17/1585/OUT:** *Up to 10 Dwellings and associated infrastructure and provision of 11 parking spaces to serve the public open space at the Old Fireworks Factory site.*

Among the issues arising in discussion were: the destruction of trees (some subject to TPOs), the reduction in the amount of open space, (which had been hard-won in the original proposals and which had still not been completed), matters connected with pressure on schools and school transport, inaccuracies in the application suggesting that the increase in traffic would be insignificant (whereas, by the figures cited in the application, the increase would be around 20%) and the fact that the development would sit in contradiction to the core plan. In the latter regard the Council considered recent case law (Suffolk Coastal Council v Hopkins Homes) which decided that regard for the core plan should be given highest consideration. It was resolved to object to this application.

b. **DC/17/1267/FUL:** *Variation to the previous application for change of use and associated building at Queens Hill:* Arising from the Environment Agency's response to consultation it was now proposed to erect an additional building for office and classroom purposes, instead of using the existing barn for those purposes. It was resolved to hold an additional meeting to discuss this application as full details of the variation were not available.

c. Marquis Cornwallis Pub - There was no news to report.

d. Ian Leggett's report (Village Handyman) was received. Amongst the matters discussed, it was agreed that all Councillors would try whenever possible to enter Highways issues into the on-line system although it was acknowledged that this was not always possible. The issue of

speed restriction stickers for bins was touched upon. The Council was reminded that this had been discussed at a previous meeting and that it had been agreed not to proceed with such a scheme. It was agreed to bring the matter to the next meeting for re-consideration.

- e. Involvement in the Armistice anniversary beacons scheme was discussed and it was agreed to explore lottery funding.

38. S106 monies deriving from the Brocket Park Development

There was discussion about previous consideration of this matter and it was agreed that it would be carried forward to the next meeting, to allow for reference to the minutes of the discussion held in January 2014.

39. Use of the Playing Field for the 2018 Summer Fete

A request to use the Playing Field for the 2018 Summer Fete on 23rd June 2018 was received and approved.

40. B4RN Hyper-fast Broadband

An update on progress was provided by Cllr Varney and the Clerk. Matters had proceeded well with the routes for cables and siting of equipment having been agreed with the various parties involved. The Clerk expressed concern that the Council was being asked to sign wayleaves without the corresponding written agreements about the supply of free broadband to the Erskine Centre. There was no lack of faith that this was the intention of B4RN but it was felt that written agreements should be in place before the Council gave carte blanche for the use of its land. Accordingly it was resolved to sign the necessary wayleaves (and endorse the wayleave signed by the Community Council in respect of the land under their management but for which the Council serves as joint custodian trustee) as previously agreed but to retain the wayleaves until the other formal documentation becomes available.

41. Annual Audit

It was noted that the Audited Return and Certificate had been received from the external auditor and these were duly received by the meeting.

The Clerk reported that new national arrangements were being put in place for the 2017/18 external audit but that not all details were available. Hew would report more fully as soon as complete information becomes available.

42. Responsible Finance Officer's Business

- a. The schedule of receipts was received and noted
- b. The schedule of payments was received and Council resolved to approve it.

43. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- a. There were no reports on meetings attended.
- b. There were no forthcoming meetings requiring representation of the Council.
- c. Items for future agendas.
- d. Cllr Chester reported that he would be standing for Borough Councillor, to succeed the late Angela Rushen, and the by-election would take place on 28th September 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date