

Chedburgh Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 15th January 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Michael Chester (Chair), Margaret Rickard, Pat Fisher, Teresa Landymore, Alan Noyes and Sam Parrett .

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council);
21 Members of the public.

65. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Varney and were approved.

66. Declarations of Interest

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

67. Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th November 2017 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th December 2017 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

68. County and Borough Councillor's Reports

- a. County Cllr Soons had sent apologies that she was unable to attend but her report had been circulated in advance and was received.
- b. Borough Cllr Mike Chester presented a written report and particularly highlighted matters related to highways and locality budgets.

69. Public Forum

Several members of the public spoke against planning application DC/17/1267/FUL on the grounds that they felt that the application had grown and that its visual impact has worsened. A number of matters outwith the application process were also raised.

70. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority

There were no relevant matters to report.

71. Clerk's Report

- a. Progress on actions arising from prior meetings:
 - Speed Stickers for wheelie bins - the Clerk reported on issues relating to the use of stickers which replicate speed signs. It was agreed that use of such signs was legally questionable and so it was resolved to obtain wheelie bin stickers reading 'Speed Kills - Please Slow Down' at a cost of £220 for 500.
 - Several other matters appeared on the agenda as substantive items.
- b. The Clerk reported on correspondence received and other matters of information:
 - Letter from the Leader of St Edmundsbury Borough Council about Strategic Framework for West Suffolk 2018-20, now available to view on the West Suffolk web site.

- Letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council regarding electoral review of ward boundaries. Councillors can view and make comments on the West Suffolk web site.
- *General Data Protection Act* - The Clerk reported that, following on from his report at a previous meeting, further negotiations and discussions had taken place regarding the legislation that comes into effect in May 2018. SALC had brokered a deal with a firm of Data Protection consultants which can provide a service to parish councils that will meet the requirements for both independence and expertise. The service is offered on a sliding scale fee, based on the level of a council's precept and Councils may opt for the relevant point on the scale or another point if they feel that it would meet their particular needs more appropriately. The precept-based point on the scale for Chedburgh would cost £800 in the first year and £400 thereafter but the Clerk advised that he felt that the service offered at £280 and £180 respectively would be adequate. This covered initial review and advice, bi-monthly checks and one advice telephone call or email per month. The Council resolved to adopt the latter service level. It was noted that a provision of £500 had been made in the draft budget for 2018/19 and that this would therefore result in a saving.

72. Planning and Environment

- Responses to the following planning application consultations were considered:

DC/17/1267/FUL - Open College of Equine Education at land bounding Queens Lane and Queens Hill, as varied - change to single storey and reduced size of house, revised placement of buildings including closer grouping of the admin/classroom building and house to reduce overall mass and revised/ detailed landscaping. After lengthy discussion and consideration it was resolved to support the application.

DC/17/2684/HH - Two storey side extension, 31 Elizabeth Drive, Chedburgh, IP29 4XB. Consideration was given to the mass of the extension and to its position in relation to neighbours. It was resolved to support the application.
- Update reports on applications considered previously were received:

DC/17/1585/OUT: Up to 10 Dwellings and associated infrastructure and provision of 11 parking spaces to serve the public open space. It was noted that the application had been withdrawn in December 2017.

SE/11/0384, DC/13/0492/FUL and DC/16/1750/VAR: Two dwellings on Plot 33 of previously approved plans. The previous plan having been for a single dwelling on this plot. The Clerk reported that no decision had yet been made and that the planning authority was in discussions with the applicant concerning matters of design.
- Update on Brocket Park development. The Clerk reported that, further to the enforcement notice that had been served on the developers in relation to completion of the Public Open Space, which required that it be completed by the end of 2017, works had been due to be finished by Friday 12th January. News is awaited.
- Marquis Cornwallis Pub - A Community Interest Group had been established and had had its first meeting on the 8th January with a follow-up meeting coinciding with this meeting.
- Alleviation of parking problems in Paddock Way - The Clerk reported that initial discussions with the Highways Department at the County Council had been neutral and that the general proposal for action was being considered. He expected to hear back this month. Indications were that the works would need to be funded, at least to some extent, by the parish council. The ongoing problems and risks to safety caused by insufficient parking were noted.
- Ian Leggett's report (Village Handyman) was received. Amongst the matters discussed, was the lack of responsiveness of the Highways department, which has become increasingly bad

and frustrating. It was noted that the department had suffered a 40% cut in its budget over the past 10 years with no reduction in its workload. It was agreed that this was unsustainable and that the County Council needed to address the issues; the loan of £21m that the CC had recently announced was not felt to be sufficient to address the back log in routine maintenance. The Chair will speak to C.Cllr Soons.

A vote of thanks and acknowledgement of Ian's huge commitment to making the village a pleasant place live was proposed and carried.

- g.** The viability of purchasing and installing a roundabout for the play area, suitable for use by all children (including those with disabilities) was discussed. Initial research suggested that the project could cost between £5,000 and £7,500 although some of this could be mitigated by using local businesses for preparatory groundworks. It was resolved to move ahead with the idea as a medium term project and seek the maximum available Locality grants from both Borough and County Councillors early in the new financial year. Subject to success in this regard an appeal would be launched more widely for financial support, some of which had already been offered in principle from members of the community. It was noted that a contribution from reserves could also be afforded.

73. B4RN Hyper-fast Broadband

It was felt to be both unfair and unsatisfactory that a single landowner, especially a charity, should be able to thwart the wishes of the village. A letter had been drafted to the trustees of the Henry Smith Charities and their response is awaited.

74. Responsible Finance Officer's Business

- a.** The Summary Accounts for Quarter 3 of 2017/18 were received and considered.
- b.** The draft budget for 2018/19 was discussed and after brief discussion was adopted.
- c.** The precept for 2018/19 was discussed and it was agreed to set the precept at £9,726.
- d.** The Bank Reconciliation at 31st December 2017 was received, inspected by Cllr Parrett and signed by him, along with the relevant bank statement.
- e.** The schedule of receipts was received and noted
- f.** The schedule of payments was received and Council resolved to approve it.

75. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas **LISTS/NOTES AT TOP OF AGENDA**

- a.** There were no reports on meetings attended.
- b.** There were no forthcoming meetings requiring representation of the Council.
- c.** Items for future agendas: Discussion of the overgrowth would go forward to the next meeting.
- d.** Cllr Rickard reported that gas-fired portable beacons were available at £360 plus VAT, this was felt to be rather expensive and the matter will be discussed further as a substantive item at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date