

# Chedburgh Parish Council

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## MINUTES

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

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Margaret Rickard (Chair), Pat Fisher, Alan Noyes, Clare Varney and Michael Chester (Part).

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

**1. Election of Chair**

Cllr Chester was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected.

**2. Election of Vice-Chair**

Cllr Rickard was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected.

**3. Signing of Declarations of acceptance of office.**

Declarations were signed by the newly elected Chair (later in the meeting) and Vice-Chair.

**4. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Landymore and Parrett and were approved. Cllr Chester had advised that he would be late for the meeting due to Borough Council business and his apologies for the first part of it were recorded and approved.

**5. Declarations of Interest**

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

**6. Minutes of the last meetings**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were agreed to be a true record and the Chair was authorised to sign them as such.

**7. Public Forum**

A member of the public spoke to indicate that she hoped that any future planning application by the Open College of Equine Studies would be clear and not subject to what she felt had been too many changes on the part of the applicant. She asserted that members of the Council had not been able to understand the recent application, had not grasped some of the points that had been made by objectors and had been under-prepared; she wanted the Council to be well prepared before it considered any future application. Another member of the public made similar points and felt that the minutes of the last meeting were not accurate but did not state in what respect.

Responding, Cllr Varney asked what basis the member of the public had for her assertions which seemed ill-founded. Speaking for herself she could confirm that she had both prepared thoroughly and understood the application and believed that other members of the Council were equally able to understand. She pointed out that there is a difference between not understanding and not agreeing with objections and pointed out that the Council had listened carefully to all sides of the debate and in the event had objected to the application. Cllr Noyes agreed and also pointed out that many of the additions and changes to the application in question had been produced, as is often the case, at the request of the Planning Authority.

Cllr Varney reported that she had felt intimidated by the behaviour and manner of a member of

the public at the previous meeting, who had also spoken at this meeting. She said that this had been somewhat frightening. The member of the public said that such behaviour happened when feelings were strong but Cllr Varney pointed out that it was always inappropriate and hoped that it would not happen again.

Another member of the public thanked the Council for its efforts.

County Cllr Soons gave a verbal report covering several areas including that the ruling Conservative group in the County Council had elected a new Leader who would assume the post later in the month. A new cabinet would then be appointed. Other matters included the fact that in the recent round of school allocations over 90% of children had been allocated to their first choice, a new specially designed vehicle for carrying out road repairs had been put into commission which should improve the quality of repairs whilst minimising costs and a new fire engine had also been brought into use, along with two drones to enhance fire-fighting.

C Cllr Soons also reported that on-call fire-fighters are being sought, especially from under-represented groups and that grants for up to 100% of the cost of central heating installation are currently available to households with no such heating at present. Finally, C Cllr Soons drew attention to a recently produced road safety video aimed at young drivers; the video is taken from a driver's eye viewpoint during a serious accident and she recommended it to all, especially those with children who had started to drive.

## **8. Decisions taken since the previous meeting under Delegated Authority**

There were no relevant matters to report.

## **9. Clerk's Report**

*General Data Protection Act* - The Clerk reported that, following on from his recent reports, the Government had now responded to concerns raised about the impact on smaller local authorities. Such Authorities, including Parish Councils, would not now have to appoint a specialist data protection officer, although such authorities will still have to be GDPR compliant.

## **10. Planning and Environment**

a. There were no new applications to consider.

b. Update reports on applications considered previously were received:

*DC/17/1267/FUL Revise - Open College of Equine Education at land bounding Queens Lane and Queens Hill. Sui generis changes.* It was noted that application had been withdrawn. In response to a question from a Councillor, the Clerk stated that he thought that a fresh application would be made but that this would be likely to be simpler to manage, albeit that it would probably remain a complex application.

c. Brocket Park Development - Completion of the whole is expected within about three months.

d. Marquis Cornwallis Pub - The Community Interest Group had had a photo call with residents in the run-up to an announcement to be made soon. In the meantime the Council was asked to apply the previously approved grant funding to the cost of the valuation survey. The Council resolved to approve the payment of £420 including VAT which had been included in the schedule of payments for consideration later in the meeting.

e. The Handyman's report was received and noted.

## **11. Boundary Review**

The Council considered the Borough Council's recommendation to merge Chedburgh and Chevington with Dalham and Lidgate. It was also noted that it seemed to be proposed to re-name the Ward Chevington and Chedburgh, despite the fact that Chedburgh was recorded as being a Service Centre. In discussion it was felt that such a change would be disadvantageous for a number of important reasons:

- ◆ Chedburgh has no existing relationship with Dalham and Lidgate;
- ◆ Chedburgh tends to look to Bury St Edmunds whereas Dalham and Lidgate tend to look to Newmarket and have common interest with other villages that do the same;
- ◆ Transport links are very much focused on different places - roads and public transport serving Chedburgh are orientated towards Bury St Edmunds rather than Newmarket.
- ◆ Children from Chedburgh almost universally go to senior schools in Bury St Edmunds, with attendant common social links, whereas children from the other two villages tend to go to Newmarket.
- ◆ Chedburgh has well established social and community links with villages nearer by. For example Chedburgh, Chevington, Depden and Rede, are all served by a single Community Council. The Community Council manages the Erskine Community Centre in Chedburgh which is a common resource, and runs events such as the Summer Fair with and for all four villages. Chedburgh, Chevington and Whepstead own a Vehicle Activated Sign which is rotated around the villages on a fortnightly basis;
- ◆ The proposed new ward would not only be incohesive for the above reasons but would also be sprawling and therefore potentially stretch its political representatives too far.

It was agreed that representations would be made to the Boundary Commission to express these views and that the other nearby villages mentioned above would be asked whether they wished to make similar representations.

## **12. Insurance for 2018/19**

- a. It was noted that 2017/18 had been the last year of the Council's three year agreement for insurance with Hiscox.
- b. The Council considered insurance proposals for the coming year with Inspire and resolved to accept their quotation.
- c. The Council resolved to enter into a three year agreement for insurance from Inspire, with the benefit of a 5% discount.

## **13. Finance & Governance**

- a. The Council reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations, without change.
- b. The Council reviewed and approved the Standing Orders, without change.
- c. The Council reviewed and approved the Financial Risk and the Risk Management assessments.
- d. The Council approved the 2017/18 Accounts, including the Bank Reconciliation and Asset Register.
- e. The Council considered the Internal Auditor's Report, noting that no additional action was needed.
- f. The Council considered and approved the Governance Statement at Part 2 Section 1 of the Annual Return and authorised the Chair to sign it on behalf of the Council.
- g. The Council considered the information provided at Part 2 Section 2 of the Annual Return and authorised the Chair to countersign it on behalf of the Council.
- h. The Council considered the grounds for exemption from external audit (Limited Assurance Review) and agreed, as the criteria applied to the Council, to authorise the Responsible Financial Officer and the Chair to sign the Certificate of Exemption.
- i. The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and approved the payments.
- j. The Council set dates the following dates for Council Meetings for the coming year:  
2018: 9th July; 10th September; 12th November;  
2019: 14th January; 11th March and 13th May.

**14. 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. There were no items for future agendas.
- d. No other matters were reported.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council:

..... Chair

..... Date