

CHART SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8TH JULY 2024 AT CHART SUTTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: - Cllr S. Waring in the Chair, together with Cllrs V. Underdown, R. Sagrott, J. Killick and W. Gatward; Mrs Lesley Windless, Parish Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE : Joe Mullen, representing SGN

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mr Joe Mullen, representing SGN, was in attendance for the public open session and updated members on the forthcoming gas works due to take place on Plough Wents Road and Chart Corner in July and August. Plans and details of the diversion routes were presented and Mr Mullen answered members' queries.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Ward and Borough Councillor, Anne Dawes.

2. FILMING OF MEETINGS

There were no requests to film, photograph or record any items.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2024

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved that the draft minutes be approved as a correct record. This was agreed and the Chairman was authorised to sign off the official copy.

6. POLICE / KCC WARDEN MATTERS

The clerk noted that, since the last meeting, one crime had been reported on the e-watch.co website, as follows :
*On Tuesday 24th June around 19:19 in Chart Hill Road. Somebody stole a white Citroen DS3, LB61*** from the road*

7. CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY

Cllr Sagrott advised that Cllr Ward had attended the most recent Parish Council Environment Network meeting.

8. THREE YEAR STRATEGY

The following updates were provided :

- Playing field car park – awaiting further response from the Salmon Trust
- TPO's – information on MBC website <https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/planning-and-building/heritage-and-landscape/trees>
- Garage site – the clerk advised that it would not be possible to list the garage as an asset of community value as it was not currently used for social / recreational purposes
- Footpath accessibility – nothing to report
- Communication with residents – it was noted that Cllr Underdown manages the e-mail list which a good number of residents have signed up to

Parking in the village green layby was discussed. Cllr Waring offered to get some 'no parking' signs made up. This was agreed. **CLLR WARING**

9. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Killick noted that road markings had been refreshed on Plough Wents Road and he had sent KCC a message of thanks.

It was noted that the road edge on Plough Wents Road was broken in places. Cllr Killick offered to report this to KCC via their online portal. **CLLR KILLICK**

Cllr Waring noted that carriageway repairs had been carried out on Church Road.

10. VILLAGE HALL UPGRADE WORKS

The clerk advised that the main upgrade works would be starting on 22nd July. Cllr Underdown stated that there would be a 'tea and cake' open day in the village hall on 14th September, to mark the re-opening of the upgraded hall.

11. CLEAN & GREEN GROUP

A request had been received from a resident for a Clean & Green group to be set up, to carry out small aesthetic and biodiversity improvement projects around the village, such as clearing and planting up the area around the bus stop. Discussion followed and it was agreed that an article should be included in the next edition of Village News, advertising the new Clean & Green group and encouraging residents to find out more by attending an initial meeting. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to give the group a budget of £400 to carry out minor improvements. The clerk agreed to head up this group and arrange an initial meeting. **CLERK**

12. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The clerk advised that she had set up a free, trial Hugo Fox website and had copied all the data from the existing to new site as well as adding a significant amount of additional information. She advised that the free trial was for 30 days but the cost thereafter would be £239.88 + VAT per year, in comparison to current provider Net Wise at £350 + VAT per year. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to subscribe to the new Hugo Fox website. The clerk advised that it may be necessary to change the domain name.

Website to be advertised to the public, once domain name confirmed.

CLERK

13. FOOTBALL CONTRACTS

A copy of the existing contract for hire of the football pitch was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that pitch fees should be increased from £600 to £650 per year for a maximum of 12 matches, with any additional matches charged at £55 each. It was agreed that the contract wording should otherwise remain the same. Clerk to send new contracts out to Coxheath and Bearsted clubs. **CLERK**

Cllr Waring suggested that additional pitch spiking may be needed, to keep the ground in good condition. Thanks were expressed to Peter Underdown for looking after the pavilion.

14. MATTERS OF REPORT

14.1 County and Borough Councillors Report

County Councillor, Lottie Parfitt-Reid and Borough Councillor, Anne Dawes were not in attendance.

14.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman noted that the clerk had contacted Landscape Services regarding the lack of grounds maintenance work in the village this year, leaving areas such as the village green looking untidy. The clerk advised that she had not received any response but would chase. **CLERK**

14.3 Cllr Waring noted that the Post Office should be providing a service in the village shop on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings but were not attending. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the postmaster at Headcorn post office to express concern and find out why they are not attending. **CLERK**

Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Gatward stated that a new highway entrance had been formed to Chart Hill Fisheries. It was noted that a planning application for this work had recently been approved.

Cllr Killick spoke regarding the recent meeting with Golding Homes and noted that several properties were empty. The clerk stated that Golding Homes had advised these need to be updated before they can be re-let.

Cllrs Underdown and Sagrott had nothing further to report.

14.4 Clerk's Report

The clerk had produced a written report which was included in members' agenda papers. Further update as follows:

. Spy Alarms have replaced one CCTV camera but need to return to replace the second. Clerk to chase **CLERK**

- . Unknown Tommy statue ordered and paid for in May but still not delivered. Clerk to chase **CLERK**
- . A resident has asked if the noticeboard near Laxton Drive can be refurbished. Cllr Underdown agreed to ask Peter Underdown if he will kindly varnish it
- . Date of ward cluster meeting now changed to 23rd July. Clerk to send link to Cllr Underdown **CLERK**
- . Correspondence received regarding fire hazard from lithium batteries in E-scooters etc. It was agreed to offer the Parish Council's support to this campaign **CLERK**
- . Details of KCC highways surveys added to the Parish Council website and Facebook page
- . It was agreed that the clerk should ask new MP, Katie Lam if she wishes to have a paid advert in the Village News **CLERK**

15. FINANCE

5.1 Budget Monitoring to 30th June 2024

The budget monitoring report to 30th June 2024 was agreed.

15.2 To note Income received since the meeting held on 10th June 2024

Members noted payments received during the period as follows:

MP Helen Whately – Village News advert fee	£30.00
Unity Trust bank – quarterly interest	£706.31

15.3 To approve payments already made

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved that the following payments should be ratified. This was agreed.

ICO – annual data protection fee – paid by direct debit	£35.00
Unity Trust bank – quarterly bank charges	£18.00

15.4 To resolve to make payments as presented for signature

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved that the Council approve the following payments. This was agreed.

HMRC – tax and NI – June	£237.16
L. Windless – clerk's expenses – stamps	£10.20
S. Whitehead – litter picking - June	£62.40
MBC – sweep / litter pick – June	£84.02
KALC – training course for Cllr Killick	£60.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog waste bag dispenser and post	£157.80
JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog waste bags	£144.66
Invicta Heating Ltd – disconnect gas to village hall	£80.00
Jane Nagle – first aid kit for D-day 80 event	£34.99
Castle Water – water supply to pavilion	£14.79
Npower – electric supply to street light	£46.38
V. Underdown – flowers for planters	£15.96

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted the next meeting will be held on Monday 9th September 2024 at Chart Sutton village hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.