**Challock Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

Memorial Hall, Audrey Allen room

Wednesday, 13th October 2021 7.36 pm

Members of public present:0

Apologies

Councillor Duncan Hardie & ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause

Present

Michael Fisher (Chairman), Russell Jaques (Vice Chair), John Ramsden, Tracy Brown, Anthony Aitken, Max Thomas & Di Sandy (Clerk).

Welcome

Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors no new changes to the declarations of interest.

Councillor Aitken declared an interest under planning application 21/01717/AS.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of 15th September 2021 meeting were signed by Chairman Fisher as an accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Aitken and seconded by Councillor Ramsden.

All agreed.

**PCSO Luke Jones Monthly Report for September**

Nothing to report for Challock.

Clerk hasn’t heard back from ABC regarding request for a review regarding incident which took place early September.

Clerk’s Report

**Highways**

Reported to KCC Highways for side edging of footpath, adjacent to Assaye House, Canterbury Road, towards the entrance to Green Lane. Grounds man has trimmed back nettles. Grounds man to also trim back conifer hedge along the same footpath.

Clerk requested street cleansing of footpaths at Canterbury Road and Buck Street.

Clerk requested to the Forestry Commission to trim back overgrown vegetation along footpath adjacent to entrance to Forest Office, notice board. Grounds man to carry outside edging.

**The Lees**

Grounds man filled potholes at the top section of the Lees, Church Lane. Unable to fill entrances opposite the garage & High Snoad Wood entrance due to large puddles. When areas have dried out the grounds man will fill the entrances.

The Lees inspection took place with Councillor Ramsden & Councillor Brown. It was proposed to remove some of the concrete bollards at the entrance to the Lees track, opposite High Snoad Wood entrance to the Lees track, Church Lane. Councillors to consider this early spring next year.

The grounds man to carry out a final end of season full back up around the perimeter of the Lees and the wildflower areas. This normally takes place at the end of October to coincide with the final main grass cut.

**Play Park**

The matting and concrete base around the nest swing to be removed. Clerk to arrange for a mini skip to remove matting and concrete. Clerk to arrange for delivery of further bark to meet the required levels towards the end of October upon Councillor’s approval.

Inspection highlighted safety matting not aligned with the nest swing. Estimated 20 bulk bags £1500.

Repairs to the toddler slide posts and monkey bars post to be carried out by the grounds man.

**Village Notice Board**

The village notice board at Westwell Lane’s junction to be removed completely and placed in the hired mini skip.

**Funding**

Clerk to submit ABC capital grant application to match fund CCTV for the village hall and Cricket Pavilion. The total amount of funding is £2022. Requesting £1000 from ABC and the remaining shared by the Parish Council, Village Hall & Cricket Club less VAT. Clerk is waiting on a second quotation from Ashford Security. The grant agreement for funds over £1000 is to obtain 2 quotations.

The CCTV monitor will be set up in the parish office, Memorial Hall. To access CCTV footage from home would require a broadband internet connection. Clerk has made enquiries with BT and Shell Energy. Shell Energy are offering the best price at £15.99 per month. For the time being access the CCTV footage from office.

**Training**

A representative from the PC is invited to join a team’s ABC planning training course which includes a short presentation which will cover General Planning training, Stodmarsh / impact and mitigation and Enforcement. Councillor Brown is unable to attend. Clerk to attend.

Correspondence

* Received an email from parishioner of overgrown footpath, adjacent to Assaye House, Canterbury Road towards the entrance to Green Lane. There is loose debris on the footpath.
* Received an email from a parishioner from Charing enquiring about the property in Chapmans Close. Parishioner has made a bid through ABC housing options website.
* Received an email from Lord Lieutenant office to consider joining the Queens Canopy project as part of the Queens Platinum Celebrations.
* Received an email from the Mayor of Ashford, Councillor Alan Knowles, invitation to attend Environmental Action Event at the Singleton Environment Centre on the 2nd November, 10 am – 2 pm.
* Received an email from Angela Bishop, ABC notifying Parish Councils a request for 2022/23 precepts by the 7th January 2022.
* Received an email from Michelle Byrne notifying the Parish Council we have been awarded £522 grant towards the new website.
* Received an email from Matthew Scott Police Commissioner requesting parish council and parishioners to complete on-line Police & Crime plan survey.
* An email from ABC regarding RECOUP plastic recycling project for town/parish councils to join. These advisory groups will form part of the year long live study to gain insights into how communications can be improved and to drive uptake in plastic recycling in Kent. Requesting representatives from parish councils to participate.
* An email from parishioner regarding tree planted in memory of Mr John Mitchell. Requesting access onto the Lees to trim the tree and install the bench.
* Received a telephone call from parishioner concerning speeding traffic on Church Lane. Their dog was injured, and the driver didn’t stop. Parishioner concerned if it was a child that could have been injured. Traffic calming measures and lower speed limit should be in place.
* Received an email from ABC Housing concerning land adjacent to 18 Chapmans Close and their intention to build a bespoke property for a family with complex needs. The process is that they will be drawing up plans, submitting them to planning for pre-application advice. Once they have this informal view, they will share the drawings with the parish council and talk them through. They will then refine them if necessary and submit them, and at this point the wider residents will be able to comment on the proposals too. Obviously full survey work – including topographical, and traffic will be undertaken if required by planners and other consultees, such as Kent County Council Highways. We will then await a decision from the planning committee.
* An email from KCC Alan Osuoha regarding A252 Challock roundabout - works proposed include adding uplighters for the keep left arrows on the roundabout and replace a damaged lighting column. The works is scheduled to start November 1st, 2021, for a duration of three days, under 4-way temporary traffic lights.

**Matters arising from correspondence**

* Property in Chapmans Close – Clerk has responded to parishioner to wish her well with her application, unfortunately the Parish Council has no influence when deciding on applications.
* The Queen’s Canopy Project, Platinum Jubilee during the Lees inspection with Councillor Ramsden & Brown it was suggested to propose planting a tree at the top end of the Lees, adjacent to Lily Buds development, wooded area.
* Clerk has arranged with Parish Council Websites to install our new website and to set up email addresses for Clerk & Councillors.
* Clerk to email KCC Community Safety Unit concerning traffic measures in Church & Blind Lane. Clerk also to mentioned footpaths around the village i.e., Buck Street & Canterbury Road. These are included in the Highways Improvement Plan.

KCC Highways Village Inspection Report

The Highways village inspection took place on Wednesday, 6th October. The following issues were raised:

1. Redundant telegraph pole adjacent to junction Green Lane/Westwell Lane. Request it to be removed. Clerk has contacted UK Power Networks who hasn’t responded. Highways Inspector to take the matter up with UK Power Networks.
2. Pothole adjacent to Assaye House, Canterbury Road – Highways to raise a job order.
3. Footpath adjacent to Assaye House towards the junction at Green Lane – to raise a job for side edging to be carried out.
4. Blocked Drain at roundabout, Halfway Pub – Highways to liaise with drainage team to clear drains.
5. Pothole close to drain adjacent to Lane Side, Faversham Road – to raise a 7-day job for repair to pothole and reinforce drain perimeter.
6. Pothole adjacent to Blue Bells & Red Oaks, Buck Street – to raise a job for repair to potholes.
7. Junction to Blind Lane/Buck Street condition of entrance & entrance to The Bungalow, Blind Lane – to take up matter with project manager, A252 Road Improvements Scheme and to raise a job to get repaired.
8. Blocked drains adjacent to School and entrance to Kiln Close, Church Lane – raise job with drainage team to clear drains.
9. Junction to Pested Lane/Faversham Road – Regularly floods due to blocked drains and debris – raise matter with the drainage team.

Other matters raised concerning the condition of the A252 Canterbury Road, The Lees towards the roundabout, Pested Lane and Blind Lane. Clerk has raised this on Highways Improvement Plan. The chevrons at the roundabout at the Halfway has been reported to KCC Project Manager Alan Osuoha and awaiting on audit report. Condition of footpaths in the village have previously been included in the HIP. These issues come under capital cost budgets. General maintenance and repairs come under the remit of Highways Inspector subject to budget allocated for the year.

Chairman Fisher commented the roundabout uplighters should have been done by now.

William Oure – Christmas Pack

Councillors agreed for the clerk to put a Christmas pack together to issue to elderly parishioners who are living on their own. Suggested Christmas pack to consist of a selection of some of the following: - socks, gloves, hat scarf, hot water bottle, thermal flask, pen, puzzle, biscuits, chocolates, mince pie, mug & energy saving light bulbs. Clerk will also arrange for Christmas dinners to be provided.

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to mention in the parish magazine for nominations of vulnerable/elderly parishioners who are living alone that would like to receive a Christmas Pack.

Councillors suggested the pack to consist of festive food items and microwave hot water bottle. Vice Chair Jaques offered to fit energy saving light bulbs in parishioners homes if required.

Vice Chair Jaques inquired if the William Oure funds would cover the broadband costs for the CCTV.

Chairman Fisher the William Oure fund is for parishioners in need.

Finances

**Bank Reconciliation**

The current account balance on 30th September 2021 is £16416.22

Received second half of precept £10,500

The NS&I account balance is £15669.03

Funds Ring-fenced

£4190 Faversham Footpath

£6000 Skate Park

£2800 Faversham Footpath legal fees (land transfer/dedication of land)

£2000 High Tree Lodge planning application consultation fees

£679 Bollarding of the Lees

William Oure Charity £4109.80

The following cheques for September/October was signed by Councillor Fisher & Councillor Ramsden

Cheque No 022143 J Sandy – Ground works Play Park, The lees footpaths £146.54

Cheque No 022144 HMRC – Clerks Tax Payments £341.60

Planning

The following application was discussed:

Under declarations of interest Councillor Aitken left the meeting room whilst the following planning application was discussed.

**21/01717/AS 4 Orchard Lane, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4AD**

Erection of rear conservatory

Challock Parish Council supports this application providing neighbours comments are taken into consideration.

**21/01695/AS Eversleigh, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4DL**
New detached double garage and car port

Challock Parish Council supports this application providing neighbours comments are taken into consideration.

**Appeal**

**20/00959/AS Appeal Opened 14th September. Appeal Closes 19th October 2021.**

**Applewood Farm, Pested Lane, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4BD**

Proposal: Erection of dwelling with associated ecological and landscape enhancements (revised scheme to Planning Permission 20/00238/AS) and erection of an Agricultural Barn (replacement building to that approved under a Deemed Consent 19/00771/AS) to switch the two approved buildings with each other.

Challock Parish Council does not support this application. agricultural barns are being built everywhere and then turned into to new dwellings because of the current planning relaxation.

This in turn means that housing is being built where it would not be allowed under normal circumstances. There is another agricultural building on this site already. Is the plan to get this permission and then duplicate the same? i.e., another permission for the existing barn to be turned in to a dwelling then ask for yet another barn.

This could rapidly turn into quite a few houses under the current legislation.

Ashford Borough Council Planning decision remains the same.

Challock Parish Council have no further comments to make.

**Ratification of Planning Applications**

There are no planning applications to ratify.

Items for Information

**1.Faversham Road Footpath**

Update from ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause - No news at this time though I have spoken to Leader this week and he assures me he is still in conversation with KCC over moving project forward, so we just need to be more patient sorry.

**2.Speedwatch**

To date the community speed watch has recorded during the last month (September) 165 vehicle(s) and accumulative for the year 584 vehicle(s). Recorded 3 vehicles speeding in excess of 69 miles. Liaising speed watch sessions with Molash, Chilham & Chartham. We have not received permission from Victoriana Nursery to operate speed watch sessions at the entrance and therefore looking for an alternative site along Buck Street.

**3.Tidy Up Challock Campaign**

Clerk has organized a tidy up Challock campaign for Sunday, 24th October at 10 am. Clerk will arrange for volunteers to receive a drink from the Halfway after the litter pick. Funds kindly provided by Crossroads Garage.

**4.Remembrance Service**

Clerk to organize remembrance service to take place on Thursday, 11th November at 11 am at the Memorial on the Lees. Clerk to liaise with Primary School and Vicar, Cathy Sigrist. Clerk to order a wreath.

**5.Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Councillor Aitken has provisionally booked the firework display for Friday, 3rd June.

A.O.B

Vice Chair Jaques to arrange admin access to the Clerk for PC Facebook.

There has been no update from the Rewilding Group. There have been a number of complaints from parishioners concerning the wildflower areas, Church Lane & opposite the garage.

Councillors agreed for the 5 concrete bollards at the entrance to the Lees, opposite High Snoad Wood to be transferred to the entrance to the Lees, Church Lane to prevent cars parking at the gap between the salt bin and the newly planted tree saplings. Councillor Brown has offered use of lorry grab to transport the bollards at no cost. Clerk to arrange for the grounds man to install the wooden posts.

Vice Chair Jaques enquired if the skate park is still needed by the children. Suggested a viewing platform in a shape of grass mound to view the cricket or for Kingswood Players to put on shows.

Chairman Fisher commented the parish council were approached for a skate park to be installed several years ago. The Clerk said a couple of years ago parishioners commented that they were looking forward to the installation of a skate park. Councillor Ramsden said of the renewed interest since the Summer Olympics.

Councillor Ramsden informed the parish council the post office pop up is now running from the village stores for the time being until a permanent venue can be found.

Councillor Ramsden requested for the hedge adjacent to Heycroft is cut back to the boundary. During the summer received a number of complaints from parishioners who were getting caught up in the brambles and stinging nettles. The hedge has recently been trimmed but not enough and the hedge will soon be overgrown again.

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to write to the owner of Heycroft to arrange for the hedge to be cut back to the boundary.

Parish Forum

No parishioners present.

**The meeting closed at 9 pm.**

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2021

Next Parish Meeting

Wednesday 17th November Main Hall

**Future Parish Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, 6th January 2022

**Signed as a true record by: ……………………………Michael Fisher Chairman Challock Parish Council**

**Dated……………………………………….**