**Challock Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

Memorial Hall, Audrey Allen room

Wednesday, 15th September 2021 7.30 pm

Members of public present:0

Apologies

ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause

Present

Michael Fisher (Chairman), John Ramsden, Tracy Brown, Anthony Aitken, Duncan Hardie & Di Sandy (Clerk).

Welcome

Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Declarations of Interest

Councilors no new changes to the declarations of interest.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of 14th July 2021 meeting were signed by Chairman Fisher as an accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Aitken and seconded by Councillor Brown.

All agreed.

**PCSO Luke Jones Monthly Report for August**

Glad to report, very low in crime for the Downs West area. There have been reports of youths with catapults in the Challock area. There have also been 2 crime reports for criminal damage which are suspected to be related to catapults. I am keen to gain evidence of the youths responsible and if this is gained, I can assure you, they will be dealt with robustly. More and more incidents are being reported which I am thankful for but if we could gain evidence, the youths can be dealt with.

Clerk’s Report

**Highways**

Reported multiple potholes in Monkery Lane.

A251 Faversham Road reported drain cover defect causing loud noise traffic driving over it.

Reported side edging overgrown vegetation along footpath, Buck Street, Forest Cottages.

Reported side edging overgrown vegetation along footpath, Canterbury Road, The Old Vicarage & footpath adjacent to Help Hire. Requested pavements is cleared of debris.

Reported multiple potholes at Church End, Church Lane. Requested KCC arranges for the potholes to be filled in time for the Flower Festival.

Requested horse & rider triangle sign for The Firs, Buck Street. Horse & riders cross over from The Firs into the Forest. Clerk whilst carrying out speed watch witnessed a runaway horse.

Grounds man strimmed overgrown vegetation at the bus stop, Buck Street, opposite Halfway, Church Lane footpath towards the school and A252 footpath adjacent to Barn Shop.

Reported to Highways damaged/raised footpath, Blind Lane due to recent water repairs.

**Public Rights of Way**

Reported half buried milestone adjacent to Tanglewood, the Lees. Reported no footpath through field, the Lees.

Re-reported overgrown vegetation and broken glass footpath AE96 The Beeches, Buck Street. Request an update.

**The Lees**

Loose planings for the potholes was delivered in July.

**Play Park**

Received ROSPA inspection report and routine inspection checklist for play park.

Inspection highlighted safety matting not aligned with the nest swing. Clerk has made enquiries with Playdale who installed the nest swing for solution to the safety matting. Playpark requires further bark replenishment. Estimated 20 bulk bags £1500.

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

Grounds man strimmed overgrown vegetation surrounding play park area.

Grounds man raked bark around swing areas.

**Village Notice Board**

The village notice board at Westwell Lane’s junction to be removed completely. Prices starting from £479. Clerk to make enquiries and precept for next year.

**Funding**

Clerk submitted ABC capital grant application to match fund new village website.

Correspondence

* Received an email from KCC re A252 Scheme Update.
* Received an email from parishioner concerning Romney House and proposed new gates and curved wall, requesting further clarification.
* Received an email from parishioner concerning the Lees tracks.
* Received an email from John Burden re Rewilding Group area 1 & 4. Future plans.
* Received emails from parishioners concerning rubble waste on farmland in Squids Gate Lane.
* Received email from Westwell PC copying in their objection to constituency boundary changes for Downs West to Faversham and Mid Kent Constituency.
* Received an email from KCC regarding the consultation seeking views on the continuation of the booking system to visit KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres.  The 6-week consultation is available until Thursday 30 September 2021, and we would like to invite you to comment. The consultation questionnaire and supporting documents can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kent.gov.uk%2Fwasteconsultation&data=04%7C01%7Cnichola.hood%40kent.gov.uk%7Cf490082bc3924e9f77c408d95e476ab5%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637644483098201013%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=iMmmc43FN1eRuKDKf9iQzoEBq1HNIRxH2EK5dIa0Smc%3D&reserved=0)
* Received an email from John Britt, Chair to Lenham Parish Council an invitation to attend a meeting concerning the proposed garden community and the implications this may have for surrounding areas.
* An email from Michelle Byrne, ABC invitation for a parish councillor and clerk to attend the grant panel on the 16th of September to discuss application for village website.
* Received an email from Ben Maseya, KCC concerning the resurfacing works on the A252 adjacent to Pony Park section and Clerk’s enquiry concerning the rest of the A252 from Beech Court up to Halfway. The resurfacing extents are initially identified based on a priority system, which I am aware sounds absurd based on the state of the section you highlighted.

To give some clarity, there are various parameters used other than just appearance. For example, a derestricted extent of the carriageway may require restoration due to vehicles travelling at faster speeds, hence receiving a higher priority. I hope the above helps make some sense to how the surfacing is approached. I’ve also had to explain the same to a resident from Challock who asked the same question about the stretch of carriage heading to the roundabout.

* An email from Andy James regarding the electrical work that has been undertaken in Challock, we now have all the cables installed with the plan to carry out the connection work W/C 13/9 with the whole project completed by the 17/9. The last phase will involve connection the new cable installed in the grass verge and once this is completed, we will reinstate the joint holes and tope soil and seed the grass and will arrange for the key to be returned to the Clerk.
* Received an email from parishioner concerning ragwort on the Lees. This is a highly toxic weed, to both humans and most animals, it is also very invasive. Its control is governed by the Weeds Act 1959. Please can you arrange its removal before it sets seeds again (anytime now). The seeds can lay dormant for many years, so it needs keeping on top of. Parishioner has also requested a copy of the council's cash book for the last three years.

**Matters arising from correspondence**

* Clerk has requested resident at Paladin whose property is under construction and UK Power Networks to fill area at the entrance to the Lees track opposite High Snoad Wood. Clerk to do a site meeting with UK Power Networks upon completion of works to check for any damage. Resident at Paladin commented that Cobbs & Hurstwood have construction works carried out as well and should also be helping to maintain the potholes on the Lees track.
* Clerk has emailed planning enforcement concerning the building rubble at Squids Gate Lane.
* Clerk has arranged for the ragwort to be removed. Clerk has emailed parishioner payments and receipts scanned spreadsheet. Discussion took place on Freedom of Information requests and ethical practice.

A252 Road Improvement Scheme Formal Update

Crossway’s roundabout (Challock) – Yet to install new ground uplighters in the roundabout island and replace the damaged lighting column. Our contractors Bouygues were commissioned to complete these works and we are expecting the works to be completed under 4-way traffic lights for a period of a day.

Church Lane (Molash) – Deep bore and works around existing soak away completed

Charing – Install new quieter road studs delayed owing to suppliers back-log on orders. I have requested our contractor Amey to install temporary traffic cones to discourage vehicles from overrunning the road studs asap in the meantime.

Police Speed Monitoring Bay – mid-late August two speed monitoring bays to be installed east of Pested Lane and use of one parking bay in Chilham (next to the gateway). A location in Charing has been identified as the car park of the East of India restaurant which will need an agreement with the local business owner.

Average Mobile speed camera site – Currently investigating the use of average speed monitoring cameras mounted on a demountable post, which covers vehicles average speeds over longer distances. This technology is currently being trialed elsewhere in Kent, with the view of installing on the A252 as a mobile site.

Speed Surveys – KCC commissioned speed surveys to capture the post scheme speed surveys to compare it to surveys which were conducted in the summer of 2019 pre-COVID. The attached summarizes the findings of the speed surveys. The attached survey summary along with Speedwatch information received via the police will be used to inform us on what has worked and what further improvements are needed.

To summarize, the attached surveys indicate the average and 85th %tile speeds recorded matches the new speed limit changes installed on the route.

The combination of the Police monitoring bays and average mobile speed camera proposed on the route is proposed to tackle the speeding above the upper limit.

Community Safety

Further to catapult incidents around the village. The Parish Council have requested for a review to be carried out between Ashford Borough Council and other parties involved. Evidence has been collated and forwarded onto Ashford Borough Council & the police when carrying out their review. ABC to update the Parish Council on the outcome of the review which has recently taken place.

Finances

**AGAR – Notice of Conclusion of Audit**

Received notification from PKF Littlejohn of review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return with no concerns.

Clerk prepared a Notice of Conclusion of audit and details of the rights for inspection and displayed on the notice boards along with the certified AGAR (Sections 1,2 & 3).

**Bank Reconciliation**

The current account balance on 31st August 2021 is £6829.65

Received VAT return £3527.82.

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 was signed by Councillor Aitken & Councillor Brown

Chq No: 022141 Challock Village Hall – Parish Meetings Room Hire £99.00

Chq No: 022142 D Sandy – Stationery & Mobile Phone Top Up £28.74

Planning

The following application was discussed:

**21/01541/AS - Paladin, 2 The Lilybuds, The Lees, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, TN25 4DH**Construction of single detached dwelling (plot 2) and garage (amended design of dwelling and addition of detached garage as revision to planning permission 21/00147/AS)

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

**21/01571/AS - Park View, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4DF**Demolition of detached garage; one and a half storey rear extension; alterations to existing roof; replacement windows

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

**Ratification of Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were ratified.

**21/01443/AS Meadow View, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4DL**

Erection of single storey infill extension detached two bay garage and associated hard landscaping.

I don’t have a problem with it, it’s fairly tucked away & not a huge difference. No problems with the additions to house. I have looked on the previous ABC planning for this and the original aerial photos show that the Annexe is in line with other houses/buildings. On the current planning it’s now changed name and reads as extension to house although it was originally classed as an Annexe. My thoughts are that if it is still classed as an Annexe to Leeway then it should remain as part of the main dwelling.

**21/01461/AS The Warren, Green Lane, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4BL**

Prior notification of proposed forestry development for the erection of a secure storage building.

ABC have refused this application and states they will have to apply for full planning permission.

**21/01363/AS 4 The Lilybuds, The Lees, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, TN25 4DH**Proposed double garage with games room & home office over.

I don’t see a problem. Most of the new builds in Challock have large garages. They have plenty of room Challock Parish Council supports this application providing neighbours comments are taken into consideration.

**21/01114/AS Church End, Church Lane, Challock, Ashford, TN25 4DB**Erection of a single-storey garden studio

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

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 speedwatch has recorded during the last month (August) 112 vehicle(s) and accumulative for the year 420 vehicle(s).

**3.Tidy Up Challock Campaign**

Ashford Borough Council are running tidy up Ashford campaign. Councillors agreed for the Clerk to organised subject to volunteers attending.

Chairman Fisher commented that tidying up the village is all well and good but leaves Buck Street with litter. Clerk to email ABC to request they carry out a litter pick along Buck Street.

**4.Village Stores & Post Office Closure**

The village store closed its doors on Saturday, 28th August. A presentation took place, wishing Angela a happy retirement and to thank her for the many years of service and for keeping the post office/village stores opened during the pandemic. A number of parishioners attended the presentation, and a bouquet of flowers was given to Angela from the Parish Council. A collection from parishioners of £270 was also given to Angela to treat herself for days out.

The post office has been set up at the Halfway House and operates on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons 2 pm – 4 pm. This is being trialled for one month. Parishioners are encouraged to use this service in order for future continuation**.** Chairman Fisher requested posters advertising the post office is displayed in the notice boards. Councillor Ramsden requested that the poster mentions the last arrivals no later than 3.55 pm to allow the post office clerk to start closing.

A.O.B

Councillor Aitken informed the parish council has contacted Mrs Angela Reynolds concerning the planting of a tree on the cricket ground.

Covid permitting, the Cricket Club are gearing up for a Halloween/Guy Fawkes event on the 30th October, fireworks have been booked. To be published in October’s Forester.

The Cricket Club are interested in the CCTV proposal.

Clerk to arrange annual village inspection with KCC Highways Inspector for mid-October.

Clerk to arrange annual Lees inspection with councillors at the end of September.

Queens Platinum Jubilee – 4-day event 2nd June to 5th June 2022.

Look to precept funds in December. Chairman Fisher suggested holding a firework/bonfire event on the cricket ground.

Parish Forum

No parishioners present.

**The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.**

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2021

Next Parish Meeting

Wednesday 13th October Main Hall

**Future Parish Meeting Dates:**

Due to possible continuation of social distancing measures the following proposed meeting dates will be held in the main hall and not the Audrey Allen room.

Wednesday 17th November Main Hall

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

**Dated………………………………………..**