**Challock Parish Council Virtual Minutes**

Memorial Hall, Audrey Allen room

Thursday, 19th November 2020, 7.36 pm

Members of public present: 2

Apologies

None

Present

Michael Fisher (Chairman), Tracy Brown, Anthony Aitken, Duncan Hardie, John Ramsden, Max Thomas Russell Jaques (Vice-Chairman), ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause & Di Sandy (Clerk).

Welcome

At the start of the meeting Chairman Fisher sent his apologies as he was having technical difficulties joining the meeting.

Vice-Chair Jaques thanked everyone for attending.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors’ no new changes to the declarations of interest.

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Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of 15th October 2020 meeting were signed by Vice -Chairman as an accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Aitken

All agreed.

**Jasmine Bloomfield PCSO Monthly Report**

There has been very little Crime reported this month in your area. In other areas there have been Thefts of tools and Pedal Cycles. To protect your property, I would urge you to make sure you have a record of the make; model and serial number of the item and get it security marked. Then put up stickers/signs showing the property has been marked. It is a good idea to have a photograph of it saved too. There have also been several thefts of catalytic converters so please take notice if you see anyone acting suspiciously around parked cars.

Police met with the Parish Council for Challock in relation to reports of damage, thought to be caused by catapults. If you see anyone with a catapult, please report it on our website with a description of the person and any CCTV or photos you may have.

Clerk’s Report

**Highways**

Overgrown vegetation along the footpath at Buck Street has been completed by Highways.

A salt bag to be delivered at St Cosmas Close.

Village Highways Inspection – Wednesday, 18th November took place.

With the following action plan: -

Raise work for drain issue adjacent to Chestnuts, Canterbury Road.

Multiple potholes along Canterbury Road adjacent to Help Hire.

Cut back overgrown vegetation side edging on the footpath at the junction to Church Lane/Canterbury Road.

Raise work for manhole cover adjacent to entrance to Mill Lane, Faversham Road.

Cut back overgrown vegetation side edging on the footpath, Buck Street.

Multiple potholes along Blind Lane. Loose kerb stones along footpath adjacent to Little Beside, Blind Lane. Junction at Blind Lane/Buck Street resurface section.

Overgrown hedge at properties Meadowside & High Lea. Highways to send out letters to parishioners requesting hedge to be cut back.

**PROW – Public Rights of Way**

PROW AE96 the Beeches overgrown vegetation has been cleared.

Grounds man has trimmed back vegetation that was covering the finger sign at footpath, adjacent to the Old Vicarage, Canterbury Road.

**Play Park**

The grounds man has replaced 2 wooden rails on the fence, adjacent to gate entrance.

Weekly sanitization of play park equipment and refill hand sanitizer pump is continuing for the time being.

Correspondence

* Received an email from parishioners of Trees, The Lees regarding the measurement’s reduction of the driveway. Awaiting confirmation from the Parish Council on agreement to the measurements.
* Received an email from Michelle Byrne - On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Challock  Parish Council for the support you gave to your residents and communities during lockdown – it was invaluable to know that local support was available and could be relied upon to provide the help needed by residents. A number of support mechanisms are still in place.
* Received an email from National Search and Rescue Dog Association requesting a donation to their voluntary organisation that is called upon by the emergency services to assist in the searching for, finding and rescuing vulnerable missing people. Search Dogs are used to search for hill walkers, climbers, the elderly and confused persons that may be suffering from Alzheimer’s and Dementia, those that are despondent, children, and sometimes victims of crime.
* Received an email from Ashford Advice concerning their opening times during the current lockdown. They are open for telephone and email advice.
* Received 2 emails from parishioners concerning the closure of the post office and enquiring if the Parish Council have looked into Community Shop and have canvassed village opinion. Parishioner is happy to volunteer support but unable to take on major role.
* Received an email from Ashford Borough Council concerning the Concurrent Grant and Council Support Grant. Due to Covid-19 and resulting recession has put significant pressure on the council’s finances and following a review on expenditure will need to reduce costs with the initial pressure reported to be 19m over the next 5 years. The Concurrent Grant and Council Support Grant would be part of the savings accumulating to £70,000 saved per annum.
* Received an email from Solicitors concerning Trees driveway. With the understanding the driveway has been reduced and disappointed that the parishioners are not willing to pay towards the parish council solicitors fees, though not surprised. Solicitor advises that we should not allow the parishioners an easement when they come to selling their property.
* Received an email from the Charity Commission concerning the William Oure Charity that we have been inactive over the last 5 years and not using the income for its purpose. The Revitalising Trusts Programme helps charities who find it difficult to spend their income for the public benefit by assisting them to use their income and assets effectively.

Noted. Chairman Fisher joined the meeting at 19.50 pm.

Matters arising from correspondence

**Driveway, Trees, The Lees –** Chairman updated the Councillors of outcome of telephone conversation with Andrew Watson, Solicitor. Councillors agreed to the proposed letter to send to the parishioners concerning the trespass. The access way must be reduced by 50 cm on both sides along its length, making good on both sides. Once the work has been completed, an accurate plan should be produced and supplied to the Parish Council to demonstrate that the trespass has been abated. They should also make a payment in relation to the Parish Council’s legal costs. Refusal to do so, will result in the Parish Council to commence proceedings in the County Court to recover such monies and furthermore deal with the trespass.

**William Oure Charity –** Clerk emailed Revitalising Trusts Programme welcoming their advice on revitalising the William Oure charity. Parish Councillors discussed where to donate the monies too if the charity were to wind up. Suggestions were Friends of Challock Church and Cancer Research. The Councillors agreed to wait to hear back from Revitalising Trusts Programme on their advice.

Finances

The current account balance on 31st October 2020 is £12,791.30

Current Account £7,510.40 transferred to NI Savings

£8,000 easement money received less £489.60 additional solicitor fees.

The NS&I account balance is £19,429.45

William Oure Charity £3945.85

**Easements**

Outstanding £2,000 easement payment for plot 4, The Gables. Clerk has sent a letter to parishioners for an update on when payment will be made.

**Budget 2021/22**

Regarding recent correspondence from ABC concerning the Concurrent Grant and Council Tax Grant, currently amounts to £900 for Challock. Councilors to consider increasing the precept or to look to reducing our expenditure. The Chairman Fisher commented on the expenditure for the footpaths appeared to be low at £300. Clerk explained the £300 is for winter emergency response i.e. salting the paths and that KCC Highways are responsible for clearing the overgrown vegetation from the side edgings. It was agreed for Councillors to consider the budget and to let the Clerk know before the next parish meeting any amendments or proposals. Councillors will need to approve budget/precept on 7th January parish meeting.

ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause commented that he has not been informed of the proposed changes to the concurrent and council tax support grants and has only heard about this via parish council meetings.

Noted. ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause left the meeting 20.07 pm.

The Lees

**Securing the Lees - bollards**

Received quotation from Landscape Services for all threeareas £24,630.Awaiting further quotations. Andrew Lamb, Gypsy Sites Solutions Consultant quoted £545 to carry out a survey of the Lees to advise on securing the Lees. At the last meeting Councillors agreed to go ahead with survey. After careful consideration, the Councillors have decided not to proceed with the survey as funds would be better spent on securing the Lees.

Post Office

Pop-Up Service – Samantha, Post Office Ltd is currently organising for a postmaster to do the pop-up service in Challock, Selling, Doddington & Leaveland. The pop-up service in Challock would be for a couple of hours per week. Clerk received a reply from Sam Coe stating “we are in the process of sorting out the paperwork for this and we are trying to get it in place to start as soon as possible. As soon as I have an official update to you for this, I will let you know.” Councillor Ramsden commented on the poor communication with Post Office Ltd and a pop-up service for 2 hours per week would not be enough.

Community Shop – The Plunkett Foundation – Guide how to set up a Community Shop. Discussion took place regarding a Community Shop in the village. Following comments – existing post office is not profitable and would need to look at alternative premises i.e. village hall. Village hall would need to have an extension to accommodate a community shop. Need to do a lot of fund raising, commitment from the village.

Councillors agreed for the Clerk to gauge initial community feeling via the forester.

Planning

20/01440/AS - Prospect House, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4BB Demolition of existing garage, construction of replacement garage with dormer windows and first floor storage.

Challock Parish Council supports this application.

**20/01458/AS - Zetland Lodge, Buck Street, Challock, Ashford, TN25 4AR**Demolition of existing bungalow, detached double garage, detached lodge, swimming pool and sheds. Erection of 3 chalet houses with integral garages, closure of existing access and formation of new access and drive.

**Challock Parish Council does not support this application. It is outside of the village confines. The application goes beyond the building line. Situated close to the bend making access dangerous on the A251.** This application should be refused on cramped overdevelopment of the site that would detract from the visual amenity of the street scene and wider landscape, including the AONB, and result in an intrusive form of development. **Section 13 indicates that the plot will use mains drainage, there is no mains drainage.**

**20/01500/AS - Boundsgate Corner, Baddlesmere, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0JX**Extension to the Commercial Workshop

Challock Parish Council supports this application.

**20/01510/AS - Collenna, The Lees, Church Lane, Challock, Ashford, TN25 4DE**Proposed single storey front and rear extension, extension to roof to include dormer windows and rooflights.

Challock Parish Council does not support this application. The front extension comes out too far and does not allow for adequate parking spaces to accommodate a 5-bedroom dwelling. The oversize of the dwelling would detract from the visual amenity of the Lees.

Noted. Subject to application 20/01510/AS permitted. Parish Council to send letter to applicant to request they maintain the Lees track whilst works are being carried out and permission will be re quired if skip is placed on the 2nd Lands and will be subject to a surcharge of £40 per week.

**Ratification of Planning Applications**

The following application was ratified.

20/01381/AS Challock House, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4DL

Single storey extension

Comments: Challock Parish Council supports this application

Items for Information

**Speed Watch** – Due to second lockdown Speed Watch training is currently on hold and will resume in the new year. Volunteers have been notified.

**A252 Safer Road Improvements** – works on the roundabout and road markings, signage is in progress. Upon completion –allowance for the new road improvements to be imbedded in and for the Parish Council to review whether the road improvements have made a difference. Clerk to compose a report by Spring 2021 of findings and comments received by parishioners. Councillors commented traffic is speeding up rather than slowing down and the arrow signage on the roundabout makes it worst. It was agreed for the Clerk to email Jamie Watson on an update when the road improvements will be completed and to mention the parish council’s concerns on speeding traffic.

**The Lees – 2nd Lands Trees** – There are planned works by UK Power Networks to trim overgrown tree branches along the strip of Lees at Leeside. The works will take approximately a week to complete. Residents will be notified of the commencement of works. Once the works have been completed arrangements for the conifer and tree to be cut down by G W Gardening.

**Remembrance Service Wednesday, 11th November** – Parish Council would like to thank Reverend Cathy Silgrist for leading the remembrance service. A social distance service took place and Challock Parish Council wish to thank parishioners and Mrs Sweet and class 5 primary school children for attending. Chairman Fisher commented on the service and that it was a good turnout.

A.O.B

**A251 Faversham Road Footpath** - Awaiting on topography report from Darren. Advised this will be received by the end of 2020.

**Hedge, the Lees** – Councillor Ramsden requests the Clerk writes to the parishioner to have the hedge trimmed back to the boundary as it is overgrown, narrowing the footpath. Parishioners are walking half on the footpath and half on the Lees.

Parish Forum

Parishioner concurred with Parish Council on the speeding traffic at the new roundabout.

**The meeting closed at 8.56 pm**

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2021

Next Zoom Parish Meeting Thursday, 7th January 2021

**Future Parish Meeting Dates:**

Thursday 18th February

Thursday 18th March

Thursday 15th April

Thursday 20th May

Tuesday 15th June 2021 Annual Parish Meeting Main Hall

Thursday 15th July

Thursday 16th September

Thursday 14th October

Thursday 18th November

NALC is currently working with the Local Government Association and others to press for a continuation beyond May 2021 of the flexibility to hold remote council meetings.

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

**Dated……………………………………….**