**Challock Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

Memorial Hall

Wednesday, 8th February 2022 7.38 pm

Members of public present:7

Apologies

Apologies received by ABC Ward Councillor Larry Krause.

Present

Michael Fisher (Chairman), Russell Jaques (Vice-Chairman), Duncan Hardie, 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.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of 5th January 2022 meeting were signed by Chairman Fisher as an accurate record.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas and seconded by Councillor Aitken.

All agreed.

**PCSO Adam Brooks**

There have been reported catapult incident at High Snoad Wood and trespassing and threatening behaviour towards parishioners at a property in Pested Lane. Clerk has informed ABC and PCSO Adam Brooks.

Clerk’s Report

**Highways**

Clerk has reported abandoned VW car in Church Lane to ABC Environment and PSCO Barnes. Car has no tax. Clerk has also made a complaint to ABC as the car is blocking the footpath and pedestrians and wheelchair users have to go into the road which is a hazard. Car has now been removed.

Salt Bin Request - KCC have responded to inform the Parish Council that they are currently not taking any orders for salt bin. Clerk to re-apply in September 2022.

Remaining tree stump in Church Lane has now been cleared.

Reported damage to the triangle area at the junction at Westwell Lane. Highways will seed and repair area after the building works have been completed. No fencing can be erected as liability will fall to Highways.

**The Lees**

The grounds man has filled the potholes along the Lees tracks 1 & 2 and flattened the ridges at the entrances.

The grounds man has flattened the mole hills at the top section of the Lees, Haverbrack.

The grounds man has cut and cleared the fallen tree branch in the wooded area top of the Lees. The tree branch had fallen over into Beech Court Gardens field.

**PROW**

Clerk has reported damaged footpath sign at Beech Court Gardens. Clerk has also chased up damaged footpath sign at the village hall.

Clerk has chased up broken glass at footpath adjacent to The Beeches, Buck Street.

Grounds man has adjusted the lever handle on the gate in the cricket ground.

**Notice Boards**

The grounds man has replaced the damage glass in the notice board at the village hall & removed the rest of the notice board at Westwell junction.

**Playpark**

The play park has been disinfected on two occasions in January.

Correspondence

* An email from Ashford Borough Council launching a community lottery to support voluntary sector organisations in raising their own funds.
* An email from Recroup organisation regarding the Kent Understanding Plastics project, running another round of Advisory Group meetings for Parish Councillors and Council Leaders.  The Advisory Group meetings will be held virtually on 8th, 9th & 10th February.
* Received a complaint from a parishioner concerning the state of the Lees grass adjacent to Colleena where building works are in progress.
* Received by email carbon footprint tool and guidance notes from KALC. The carbon footprint tool is for the use of parish councils only and have requested not to be shared. The carbon footprint primarily is based on fuel consumption.
* Received an email from KALC regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the lighting of the beacons. The beacons are due to be lit at 10 pm on the 2nd June 2022.
* An email from KALC regarding the Community Awards Scheme. If the Parish Council wishes to nominate a parishioner would need to agree to adopt the Scheme. The Council would then need to submit its nomination by Monday 14 February 2022.
* To mark Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. ABC will be participating by aiming to plant a tree representing every person living in the borough in the Platinum Jubilee year, as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC). ABC intend to plant 135,500 trees across the borough in the next three years. Parish councils are invited to apply for trees and hedging plants, provided by ABC, to be planted within their own parish areas. Each parish council can apply for as many trees or hedging plants that the proposed site can accommodate. All parishes in the borough will be individually invited to take part and give an overview of each proposal, details of the site to be planted, what will be achieved and how sites will be prepared, planted, and maintained to ensure the project is sustainable and aligned to our green pioneer objectives. The closing date for applications to be returned will be the 31st March 2022. Clerk has placed in February’s forester asking parishioners suggestions. To discuss in full at the parish meeting in March.
* Received an email reply from Mr Damian Green MP regarding Faversham footpath.
* Received an email and letter from Leader of Ashford Borough Council Gerry Clarkson notifying Challock PC that funding for the Faversham Road Footpath has been approved. A maximum of £50,000, which includes £2,500 contingency allowance. Challock Parish Council to contribute £1500 and ABC to contribute £1,000.
* An email from Southeast Water regarding consultation - Have your Say on meeting region’s growing water supply. Deadline to complete survey is the 14th March 2022.
* An email from ABC regarding the Crowd Fund Kent Spring round.The programme is focused on giving local organisations and groups the opportunity to take forward projects and ideas to improve their local area.  Along with pledges from local people and the community, Kent County Council has committed £500K of funding to support crowdfunding campaigns as part of this programme. From this funding, campaigns can receive up to £20k per project, up to 50% of their target.The deadline for projects to have created their page and pitched to the fund is the 20th of April.
* An email from ABC launching Ashford Community Lottery, inviting local voluntary and community groups to join and have their own webpage created within the Ashford Community Lottery website.
* An email from Ashford Borough Council wants to know what the need is for affordable housing in our parish. ABC can help by offering to fund a ‘local needs survey’ and the council has agreed to increase the number of surveys carried out so that a clearer picture emerges of the real need for affordable housing in the rural parts of the borough. The aim of a local needs survey is to provide an independent and evidence-based picture of the scale of housing need in a village or parish.
* OFCOM has launched a consultation into its review of the postal service regulation from 2022 – 2027. The aim of the review is to support the financial sustainability and efficiency of the universal postal service, promote competition and improve protection for consumers. The consultation closes on the 3rd March 2022.
* An email from Alan Osouha KCC Highways -The update is the damaged lighting column on the side has been replaced. The roundabout lights require a return visit to provide a new connection to the centre of the roundabout. The recent works was to determine the location of the existing connection which we found pot-ended on the island and no connection to the island. In simple terms, we need a return visit to dig a connection to the lights in the middle of the Roundabout. I will send an update when my contractor provides me with a new date to complete this task. Some of the arrow signs on the roundabout have been removed to improve visibility in response to concerns of driver and pedestrian safety.
* Received an email from KCC regarding the Queens Jubilee organising a street party. Residents/neighbours can apply for permission to hold a street party in cul-de-sac or quiet estate roads. Application forms to be sent by 31st March 2022. Clerk to publicise in March Forester.
* Received a letter from Shirley Barth requesting permission to hold an Easter Bonnet Parade on 30th April at 2 pm. The Methodist Chapel will be doing a cake stall with refreshments. Guest will be James Bond in a Jaguar and Mary Poppins in a red MG. Proceeds to go to the Primary School & Methodist Chapel. Also, permission to hold the Scarecrow Competition on 22nd to the 29th July. Money raised to both Challock Church & Methodist Chapel. There will be 5 prizes. A raffle. A bric-a-brac stall at Shirley’s property. Methodist Chapel will be doing cakes and refreshments. Shirley will be also doing cakes and teas on the Sunday.

**Matters arising from correspondence**

* Clerk has sent a letter to the residents at Colleena reminding them to re-instate the grass area adjacent to their property and opposite on the main Lees.
* Damian Green MP suggests the Parish Council and Ashford Borough Council put in a joint application to the Road Safety Trust in September 2022 for funding towards the Faversham Road Footpath. Clerk has emailed Aaron Hickman to check update on costs.
* Local Housing Needs Survey – Clerk has arranged a meeting with ABC to discuss carrying out a review.
* Councillors approved Mrs Barth’s request for the Easter Bonnet Parade to be held on the Lees and the Scarecrow Competition. Clerk to check with Mrs Barth public liability insurance regarding vehicles on the Lees.

Finances

**Bank Reconciliation**

The current account balance on 31st January 2022 is £10,065.69

NS&I account interest received £1.68 interest rate 0.01%

The NS&I account balance is £15670.71

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 Bollards for the Lees

William Oure Charity £4109.80

The following cheques for February signed by Councillor Jaques & Councillor Aitken

Chq No. 022159 Ashford Borough Council – Forester Printing £492.00

Planning

The following applications were discussed:

22/00123/AS & 22/00124/AS Green Lane Farmhouse, Green Lane, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4BL

Single storey side extension and internal and external alterations.

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

22/00043/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; new cladding; replacement windows

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

22/00034AS Little Paddock Farm, Canterbury Road, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4DW

Change of use of land for the keeping of horses and the erection of 1no. stable block

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

22/00026/AS 1 Kiln Close, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4DA Proposed first floor extension of the western elevation, proposed two storey extension to the eastern elevation, proposed conversion of the double garage into habitable space, and the erection of a veranda on the Northern (rear) elevation.

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

21/02200/AS Applewood Farm, Pested Lane, Challock, Ashford, Kent, TN25 4BD 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 (Re-submission of Application 20/00959/AS)

Challock Parish Council does not support this application and no change to the previous comments made on application 20/0959/AS. 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. Pested Lane is in ANOB.

KCC AS/94/1155/R11B Hegdale Quarry, Challock ME13 0JX

Request for approval of replacement weighbridge & office & new fuel tank pursuant to condition 11 of planning permission AS/94/1155.

Resolved. Councillors to email comments after viewing documents online. To be ratified at the next parish meeting.

**Ratification of Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to be ratified.

**A251 Faversham Road**

The funding for the construction of the footpath has been secured. Further funding is needed for the additional costs: -

1. Tree removal and stump grinding (to include conifers that currently form the current boundary between private land and public highway)
2. Accommodation works to private driveways to tie into new footway
3. Demolition of existing boundary fences and walls
4. Replacement of fencing to private land (1M or 2M close boarded fencing proposed)
5. Kent lane rental fees
6. Replacement tree planting
7. Any legal costs associated with land transfer/dedication of land

We have further funds to cover the legal fees and demolition of existing boundary fences & walls from our precept and VAT money.   We are working with KCC Darren Hickman to try and keep these additional costs down as much as we can, getting the cheapest quotation. Clerk is to seek funding for the additional costs. Clerk has emailed Michelle Byrne at ABC for the Footpath & Cycling grant application still to be considered. Clerk has a team meeting with Darren on the 21st February.

Clerk to inform residents to commence deed of dedication process.

The footpath construction start date is planned for July 2022 during the summer holiday.

Councillor Thomas thanked the Chairman for his efforts in getting the footpath construction funding secured. Councillors were unanimous and thanked the Chairman.

**Anti-social Behaviour**

The Parish Council has written to PSCO Adam Brooks and PSCO Hammond and Ashford Borough Council. Response received from ABC that they were unaware of any recent reported antisocial behaviour. PSCO Brooks, they have had no recent reports of antisocial behaviour and only one report which is unconnected. Clerk requested for a review last September but received no acknowledgement that a review would be instigated. Councillor Larry Krause suggests we continue to write to ABC and include Head of Housing.

It was agreed for the Clerk to request a meeting with Ashford Borough Council and PSCO Adam Brooks. Councillor Jaques, Councillor Hardie & Councillor Brown to attend the meeting.

**Kent Plan Bee & Wildflower Policy**

In line with Kent Plan Bee, Wildflower Project Group and Kent Wildlife Trust the Parish Council has drawn up Wildflower Policy working document.

At the parish meeting on 17th November 2021 the Parish Council agreed for the Wildflower Project Group to manage areas 2 & 3. The Parish Council agreed to extend area 5. A meeting with KWT and Wildflower Project Group took place in January. The Clerk attended for the purpose of gaining advice in areas 2,3 & 5. Councillor Brown attended in capacity as a parishioner to gain knowledge.

Kent Wildlife Trust suggested in area 1 that a compromise could be reached to allow the wildflowers under the middle lime tree to grow during the early months to cut back by August. Kent Wildlife Trust said the mowing of a path around the perimeter of the wildflower areas 2 & 3 was a good idea and said the wildflower areas can be messy after growing season has stopped. In area 5 suggested leaving the wildflower plot as it is and consider a border at the back of area 5 containing shrubs and flower plants such as dahlias. In area 4 Kent Wildlife Trust suggested planting more flowering shrubs. Kent Wildlife Trust are keen to work with Parish Councils. Clerk would like the opportunity to meet with Kent Wildlife Trust again to do a complete tour of the Lees and consider the wooded area. Clerk would also like to meet up with the Woodland Trust for advice regarding the Lees and in particular the wooded area. During the meeting it was brought to our attention that wild primroses had been planted in area 1. The Parish Council was later informed that the 3 wild primroses were removed from Mill Lane due to the felling of trees in the area and transferred to area 1 of the Lees.

Noted. The primrose is protected by law and shouldn’t be uprooted or destroyed. In early spring after flowering can be divided. The Parish Council were not informed of any wildflower plants or plugs had been placed in area 1. The Parish Council were informed of plugs in areas 2 & 3 only.

The Wildflower Project Group have emailed the Parish Council raising their disappointment in the Parish Council’s decision not to include area 1 and 4 as part of the project. They hope that the involvement of KWT and their suggestions may result in the PC reconsidering this decision. We believe that perseverance with these areas would benefit the project greatly and that we can convert any doubters in the long run.

Resolved - Councillors agreed to keep to the original decision made at the 17th November 2021 parish meeting. The Wildflower Group to manage areas 2 & 3 and for area 5 to be extended.

Councillors were unanimous, Councillor Aitken commenting the wildflowers in area one is not cut too soon, with Councillor Hardie abstaining.

Resolved - Parish Councillors approved the Wildflower Policy as a working document.

Items for Information

**Parish Council Village Website**

The website is near completion and the Clerk to send over minutes and financial information.

**Speedwatch**

In January no sessions took place. Speedwatch sessions to recommence towards the end of February.

**Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The Platinum Jubilee will run from Thursday, 2nd June until Sunday, 5th June. Councillor Aitken has provisionally booked the firework display on Friday, 3rd June. Clerk to apply to ABC Events grant to go towards funding the celebrations. Clerk to notify ABC who are collating events taken place around Ashford Borough. Councillors agreed for the firework display to go ahead on Friday, 3rd June 2022. Clerk to make enquiries for entertainment and Chairman Fisher suggestion of a funfair on the Lees. Clerk to apply for funding towards the entertainment.

**William Oure**

The Parish Council received thank you cards from parishioners in receipt of Christmas winter pack.

A.O.B

Councillor Aiken to confirm with company the date of the firework display.

Councillor Brown informed that there are no 40-mph speed sign approaching Challock, Monkery/Green Lane. Clerk to notify Highways.

Councillor Brown requested when decided on accepting tree saplings for the Jubilee, some are planted in the wooded area at the top of the Lees.

Parish Forum

Parishioner felt the majority of the village is in support of the wildflowers on the Lees and the Parish Council taking views of a few who are against the rewilding. Councillor Jaques responded the Parish Council are to protect the Lees for everyone and try to be fair. The Parish Council needs to reach a middle ground for the whole of the village.

Parishioner said the wildflower group are looking to do flyers to circulate to all parishioners for feedback on the wildflowers in the village. Chairman Fisher suggested parishioners to attend the Annual Public Meeting to give their views on the wildflowers.

Parishioner commented on their disappointment that the wildflower group hadn’t been consulted on the wildflower policy.

Parishioner suggested that the wildflower areas 2 & 3, when at the end of the season when the grass is cut to box it up and put in another area of the Lees. This will give the opportunity for wildflowers to flourish. Parishioner suggested putting the cuttings at the back of area 5 near the planings. Parishioner understands there would be a cost.

Parishioner inquired if there was a conflict of interest when voting took place on area 1 at the meeting in November. Councillor Thomas responded that he received a number of complaints from neighbours concerning area 1 looking messy and spoiling the outlook of the Lees and as Councillor representing parishioner’s views.

Chairman Fisher commented that a democratic vote took place. There is an undercurrent of rudeness and bullying if the group don’t get their own way. Chairman Fisher said the comments made by a member of the group towards the clerk was disrespectful. The parishioner objected to the comments made and what was said was incorrect. The clerk is very conscientious.

Parishioner suggested having wildflower meadow at the top of the Lees along the bollard posts as this is more open and wildflowers will grow better rather than shaded areas. Parishioner questioned why the Parish Council didn’t consider Selling’s policy and did the Councillors receive the email. Clerk responded that the policy was considered along with Brook’s policy when drafting our own policy.

Discussion took place regarding the strip of land adjacent to Challock roundabout creating a wildflower meadow as a focal point. It was agreed for the clerk to check with Highways for permission.

Parishioner asked when the village website is going to be available. Clerk responded within the next month and is in the process of sending over information and photos of the village. Parishioners can send in photos of the village to the Clerk.

Parishioner questioned Kent Wildlife Group’s suggestion of dahlias as they are not pollinating plants. Clerk confirmed that Kent Wildlife Group definitely suggested planting dahlias in a border at the back of area 5. The Parish Council have no intention of planting dahlias. Parishioner informed the Parish Councillors that cotoneasters are not recommended to be planted in public areas.

Parishioner questioned area 5 becoming a memorial. Clerk said that area 5 originally was considered as a memory garden in response to receiving increased number of requests from parishioners to have memorial benches on the Lees. No reason not to have a memorial bench as well as wildflower area. Parishioner commented that having the bench in area 5 would attract teenagers to congregate and suggested having two benches either side of the memorial cross.

Parishioner requested if name plates of the Councillors can be seen.

Parishioner confirmed the Country Fair would be going ahead on the 10th September at the cricket ground.

Clerk offered to get a quote for the printing of the flyers from Ashford Borough Council and suggested that the flyers can be put in the foresters.

**The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.**

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2022

Next Parish Meeting

Tuesday, 8th March 2022 in the main hall.

**Future Parish Meeting Dates:**

Wednesday, 13th April

Tuesday, 10th May

Tuesday 17th May 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday, 15th June

Wednesday, 13th July

Wednesday, 14th September

Wednesday, 12th October

Wednesday, 16th November

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

**Dated……………………………………….**