**Challock Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

Audrey Allen Room, Memorial Hall

Thursday, 23rd February 2023 7.30 pm

Members of public present:2

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Aitken, Cllr Ramsden and Cllr Thomas.

Relevant Legislation: Local Government Act 1972, s 85.

Present

Michael Fisher (Chairman), Cllr Hardie, Cllr Brown, Cllr Jaques & D Sandy (Clerk).

ABC Ward Cllr Deputy Mayor Larry Krause & KCC Youth Councillor Perla Hardie.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

Relevant Legislation: Localism Act 2011, s 31.

Approval of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr Jaques

Seconded by: Cllr Hardie

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the council held on Thursday, 5th January 2023

The Chairman signed the minutes as a correct record.

Relevant Legislation: Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 41 (1).

**PCSO Report**

The Police Community Support Officer for our parish is PCSO Joshua Hammond replacing PCSO Megan Macleod. The Police can be contacted by email [csu.ashford@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.ashford@kent.police.uk)

Clerk’s Report

**Highways**

Reported multiple potholes in Blind Lane, opposite Hillside near the entrance to the village hall car park and Clockhouse Park.

Reported loose BT manhole/drain cover, Buck Street near entrance to Blind Lane.

Reported hole adjacent to drain cover, opposite Paddocks, Faversham Road.

Reported multiple potholes Canterbury Road, adjacent to Tectona Grandis, near the old post office entrance, Prospect House, and Maple Barn Molash direction.

**ABC**

Reported damage to grass verge in Chapmans Close caused by the refuse lorry.

**Highways Inspector**

The new Highways Inspector is Thomas Anderson . Clerk to arrange a meeting within the next couple of months.

**The Lees**

The Christmas tree was collected by Pilgrims Hospices for recycling.

**Training**

The clerk attended on-line teams meeting with ABC Electoral for a briefing on Elections Act 2022.

The clerk attended an on-line Clerk in Action training course towards CILCA qualification.

The clerk attended the Achieving the CILCA course at Lenham Community Hall.

**Funding**

The clerk has applied for the National Lottery Awards for £2,000 towards the Kings’ Coronation Celebrations.

The funds applied for are an ice cream van, posters and decorations, magician, and coronation mugs to give to the children and older parishioners.

Correspondence

* Received an ABC briefing - Stagecoach bus users in the Southeast are set to benefit from three months of bus fares of no more than £2 for a single journey as part of the Department for Transport’s new fares initiative. All of Stagecoach’s local bus services across Kent and East Sussex will offer a maximum fare of just £2 for any single journey between 1 January and 31 March 2023.
* Received an email from a parishioner concerning the damage verge in Chapmans Close, caused by the refuse lorry.
* Received an email from ABC and an updated version of the Land Commission brochure. The document will be considered by the Full Council on 2nd March 2023, at which point it will become a publicly available document.
* Received an email from ABC about a new waste and recycling contract that has been awarded to SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Ltd, worth around £19m per year across the whole Mid Kent contract. Mid Kent Waste Partnership, comprising of Maidstone, Swale and Ashford, have awarded the eight-year contract to Suez after a joint tender process. The new service begins in March 2024 and will bring in new technology and industry improvements, whilst retaining large parts of the existing service. Fortnightly collections of waste and recycling will continue across the three boroughs, with one wheeled bin for dry recycling, alongside the regular weekly food waste collections. The new contract offers the chance to increase recycling rates, improve efficiency of the routes, lower emissions vehicles, and better technology to keep residents up to date.
* Received a copy in email from a parishioner regarding the outstanding works of repeater signs for the A252 road improvement scheme.
* Received an email from Damian Green MP concerning the Faversham Road footpath. “It is extremely difficult to see how the original project could be completed within anything like the original budget, given the amount of inflation particularly in construction. So, I think your latest suggestion of a partial build is a good and creative one. If the authorities (presumably KCC) object I will take it up with them.”
* Received an email from a parishioner who will be moving into Buck Street and is concerned for her 13-year-old son walking along Buck Street. There has been an increase in houses built along Buck Street, residents that would walk into the village and cross the busy road. How do we go about bringing down the speed limit to 30 mph.
* Received an email from a parishioner concerning a number of bonfires at 18 Chapmans Close, resulting in plumes of dark, noxious smoke billowing into the air and across residents’ gardens.

It is not known if they have a license for waste collection and disposal.

* Received a request from John Burden, Friend of Challock Church who are organizing the Open Garden event on Sunday, 28th May for use of the Lees for car parking.
* The clerk received a telephone call from a Charing parishioner, raising concerns of the ash tree removal at Lees Woodland Walk. The parishioner was concerned the ash trees were being removed unnecessarily and went to a biomass plant at Sandwich. Parishioner raised concerns of the number of trees being felled at North Long Beech under the management of National Woodland Trust.
* Received an email from a parishioner who has moved into Wayside, Canterbury Road and is concerned about the speeding traffic. There has been an increase in houses built along Canterbury Road and request for consideration to lower the speed limit.

**Matters arising from correspondence**

* ABC responded concerning the damage verge in Chapmans Close and requested vehicle registration details.
* The clerk has emailed Alan Osouha for an update on outstanding works for the repeater signs to be installed along the A252 Monkery Lane & Westwell junctions.
* The clerk has responded to parishioners concerning road safety in Buck Street and Canterbury Road and our efforts to date on tackling road safety in our village. Parishioners will consider joining community speed watch once settled in the village.
* The clerk has reported to ABC parishioners concerns of bonfires in Chapmans Close.

It was resolved to approve the use of the Lees for car parking for the Open Garden event.

Relevant Legislation: Inclosure Act 1845; Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908

Finances

The current account balance on 31st January 2023 is £21786.39

The NS&I account balance is £15670.71

William Oure Charity £3403.26

Received £260 John Harvey donation Jubilee Prints

**Ash Trees** – The removal of the ash trees is near completion and the tree surgeon to tidied up area when area is not so muddy. The grounds man to plant the tree saplings. A cheque payment for £6,000 (£1000 VAT incl) has been made to Josh Buggins Clean Cut Trees.

Relevant Legislation: Open Spaces Act 1906.

**Lees Maintenance Grass Cutting Contract**

It was resolved to approve the Lees maintenance to be carried out by Landscape Services for Gang Mowing 15 cuts at £1640.70 and the Grounds man for the back-up (4 occasions), strip of land Barn Shop (8 occasions) and the Lees Woodland Walk (2 occasions) £1270.

Relevant Legislation: Open Spaces Act 1906.

Planning

To resolve observations to Planning Applications affecting the parish

Relevant legislation: Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

PA/2022/3071

Location :4 Faversham Road, Challock, Kent TN25 4BQ

Proposal: Conversion of existing outbuilding to provide a residential annexe.

Comments: Challock Parish Council supports this application providing the neighbours’ comments are taken into consideration.

PA/2023/0174

Location: Lords Poultry Farm, Canterbury Road, Challock, Kent TN25 4BB

Proposal: Proposed change of use from outbuilding to annex

Comments: Challock Parish Council supports this application providing the neighbours’ comments are taken into consideration.

PA/2023/0141

Location: Eastbury, Church Lane, Challock, Kent TN25 4DE

Proposal: Replacement single storey rear extension, rear roof extension, garage conversion, new entrance canopy, solar panels to rear roof extension and associated fenestration

Comments: Challock Parish Council supports this application providing the neighbours’ comments are taken into consideration.

**Ratification of Planning Applications**

The following planning application was ratified

PA/2022/3171

Location:18, Kiln Close, Challock, TN25 4DA

Proposal: Extension to existing outbuilding

Comments: Due to the return date for comments, it has not been possible to discuss this application at a Parish Council Meeting. Parish Councillors have emailed the following comments, and these will be sought to be ratified at the next Parish Council Meeting. Challock Parish Council have no objection and supports this application providing neighbours comments are taken into consideration.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Alleged Breach: Alleged breach of condition 3 of 15/00801/AS - Landscaping

Location Address: Fair View, Mill Lane, Challock, Ashford, TN25 4BQ

I acknowledge receipt of your recent communication concerning the above and can confirm that there is a current investigation into this matter.

**May Elections**

The changes that will come into force for the elections in May 2023 are, the requirement for photo ID, the provision of free voter Photo ID for those without suitable ID and the new accessibility requirements at polling stations.

There will be a TEAMS briefing on the election process for parish clerks and councillors at the end of February. A link will be sent to all parish clerks nearer the time.

The clerk will assist in distributing nomination packs to existing parish councillors and to provide nomination packs to local candidates wishing to obtain one. In addition, the council may ask the clerk to provide initial guidance to candidates on the nomination process and arrange for the return of nominations to the Returning Officer. Parish Clerks should be clear on the deadlines stated on the statutory timetable. Nomination papers should be submitted in good time to allow for any errors to be corrected.

All sitting parish councillors must submit nomination papers for the 4th May election if they wish to continue in office. Polls will be held where there are more nominations than seats on the parish council.

Parish Cllrs all retires together in every ordinary year of election on the fourth day after the day of the election. In 2023 the fourth day after the ordinary day of election will be Tuesday, 9th May.

The Clerk has advertised the up-and-coming elections and the requirement for photo ID in February and March Forester.

**Highway Improvement Plan**

1. **Faversham Road Footpath**

Clerk has drafted a letter to Damian Green MP regarding the exorbitant increased costs on the Faversham Road footpath. Clerk has emailed parishioner Mr Stuart to assist with an additional letter with parishioner’s signatures to send along the Parish Council’s letter. Damian Green has responded and agrees with the Parish Council suggestion of carrying out the project in phases.

KCC Darren Hickman has responded to our request for the footpath scheme to be carried out in phases and has in principle agreed providing the parish council can commit to the whole of the project costs. Due to impending nesting season the oak tree cannot be taking down until next Autumn. KCC Darren Hickman has warned of further increase costs. Clerk has emailed KCC Darren Hickman to request if the tree can be taken down in February.

It was resolved for Catherine Stephens (Invicta Law) to chase up the outstanding deeds of dedication queries.

Relevant Legislation: Highways Act 1980

1. **Road Safety A251 & A252**

Ongoing concerns from parishioners of road safety along the A252 and A251. Molash PC has instigated a petition to lower the speed limit to 30 mph. There has been mixed response from parishioners on social media whether to petition for 30 mph along the A252 or installation of speed average cameras.

Through our speed watch campaign over the last 2 years, at least 33% of vehicles recorded are driving in excess of the 40 mph, at Beech Court entrance, Westwell Lane junction and Buck Street, Forest Cottages entrance.

The Chairman motioned for speed cameras to be implemented around the village.

It was resolved for the Clerk to make enquiries to Alan Osouha regarding the A252 Road Safety Improvements and an update on proposals for speed cameras along the A252.

Relevant Legislation: Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

**KCC Youth Councillor Perla Hardie**

Perla Hardie gave a presentation on her role as a KCC Youth Councillor

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The Kent Youth Council is open to members aged 11 – 18 years. Elected deputy member stays for a year unless re-elected. A member can stay for 2 years or can be re-elected. One of the biggest issues concerning Kent Youth Council is mental health. Other projects are the environment and safety in Kent. The opportunity for young people to learn life skills. Perla is involved in Safety in Kent project consisting of 30 members. Looking to introduce campaign that is running in London “Ask for Alice”. A young person can go into a pub, restaurant and “Ask for Alice” in order to get help. There are mini groups on stop racism and discrimination.

A leaflet on mental health, a postcard “Does not define me” social media awareness and a board game produced by Kent Youth Council have been sent out to schools. Kent Youth Council are run by the young people alone with help and support from parents/adults who oversee.

The Chairman thanked Perla Hardie for the presentation, very informative.

**ABC Ward Councillor/Deputy Mayor Larry Krause**

Ashford Borough Council budget will be looked at next Thursday, 2nd March. Ashford Borough Council deficit but have reserves to cover it. Central Government has given Ashford Borough Council more money from the Levelling Up Fund for housing and construction of the Universal Studios at Newtown. Ashford Borough Council have not fulfilled housing numbers, though housing development continues at Cheeseman’s Green and Kingsnorth

**The Kings Coronation 6th May 2023**

The Kings Coronation event on Bank Holiday Monday, 8th May. Daisy Chains band has been booked. Smokey Rebel and DH Event Catering has been booked. The Cricket Club to run a bar.

It was resolved for the clerk to look into organising a cream tea afternoon for the older parishioners.

Relevant Legislation: Local Government Act 1972.

**Village Spring Litter Pick**

It was resolved for the clerk to organize a Village Spring Litter Pick.

Relevant Legislation: Open Spaces Act 1906

Public Participation

The parishioner asked the Councillors of their awareness of the tree felling at North Longbeech under the management of the Woodland Trust in which the wood is being transported to be burned at a biomass near Sandwich. The parishioner is concerned about the number of trees with TPOs in an ancient woodland are being felled. The parishioner has been in contact with ABC, MPs Damian Green and Roger Gayle who has put her in touch with Grant Shapps Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero without success.

Chairman Fisher Spoke to the tree surgeon who said that they have a tree felling license.

Clerk Charing Parish Council have contacted Ashford Borough Council.

Chairman Fisher Suggests parishioner contacts ITV investigator journalist.

Councillor Jaques offered to lend a book The Oak and Ash and Thorn by Peter Fiennes (an campaigner/activist)

Relevant Legislation: Local Government Act, s 100.

**There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:00 pm.**

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2023

Thursday, 23rd March 2023

**Future Parish Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, 20th April

Tuesday, 16th May 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday, 18th May

Thursday, 22nd June

Thursday, 20th July

Thursday, 21st September

Thursday, 19th October

Thursday, 23rd November

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

**Dated……………………………………….**