**Challock Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

Audrey Allen Room, Memorial Hall

Thursday, 14th March 2024, 7.30 pm

Members of public present:1

Apologies

Apologies were received Cllr Thomas (Vice-Chairperson), Cllr Walpole, Cllr Hardie.

Relevant Legislation: Local Government Act 1972, s 85.

Present

Cllr Brown (Chairperson), Cllr Aitken, Cllr ShallCrass, Cllr Elathwell-Fisher & Di Sandy (Clerk).

Welcome

Cllr Brown (Chairperson) welcomed everyone present to the parish meeting

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

Relevant Legislation: Localism Act 2011, s 31.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the ordinary parish meeting held on the 22nd February 2024 were signed by Cllr Brown(Chairperson) as a true record

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

PC Bradley Lindridge Downs West Ward

All in all, there have not been too many issues of note in the area and I have been patrolling

in the rural villages, both on foot and in marked police vehicles.

There have been some reports of nuisance youths and nuisance motorbikes in the area, mainly using fields and others’ land as a racetrack or skid pan. Rest assured some work has been done on this already and we will continue to crack down on this issue, alongside my colleagues in the Neighbourhood Task Force. I have been able to seize and recover a suspected stolen moped, found in some bushes near Charing. I will continue to monitor the problem and will have a bigger presence around the impacted areas.

Resolved. PC Bradley Lindridge for Downs West Ward was received.

Clerk’s Report

**Highways**

The pothole in Blind Lane has now been filled.

**Defibrillator Old Post Office**

Clerk has carried out check on defibrillator and accessories to check in date and the defibrillator is working. Updated on The Circuit.

Resolved. The clerk’s report was received.

Correspondence

* Received an email from parishioners concerning overgrown vegetation and debris obstructing the passing points on the way down to the Church requesting the Parish Council arrange with KCC to have it remove it.
* Received an email introducing Food Friends, a small charity, based in Kent, working to combat loneliness and isolation in communities through food and friendship. Our meal-sharing initiative connects volunteers - who are looking to share extra portions of home cooked food - with a neighbour - who would benefit from a nutritious meal delivered with company and conversation. Encouraging the community to support one another. Our volunteers have shared over 8,500 meals so far across the Canterbury District and Faversham. Food Friends is now operating in Ashford.
* Received an email from Kent Wildlife Trust regarding Biodiversity Net Gain. From the 12th of February development must leave the environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. This is mandated by the Environment Act 2021 which requires that development delivers a 10% uplift in biodiversity, with habitat creation or enhancement being carried out either within the development site or an ‘off-site’ location – referred to a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). These habitats must be managed and monitored for a 30-year period, providing longer term security for species that depend on them. Councillors to bear this new planning legislation in mind when commenting on planning applications. The Parish Council to review and update Wildflower policy to incorporate Biodiversity Net Gain.
* Received an email from the Stage about a meals on wheels scheme we would like to run. This would be specifically for the elderly and vulnerable who struggle to get out to shop. We would provide one hot meal for free per elderly individual once or twice a week. Looking to the Parish Council to assist with providing names of parishioners who would like to be included in the scheme.
* Email from Ashford Borough Council launching the new waste and recycling service on Monday 24 March. The new contract offers the chance to increase recycling rates, more efficient routes, lower emissions vehicles, and better technology to keep residents up to date on collections. It also includes improvements to the level of cleansing in rural and residential areas, as well as quicker response time to the removal of fly-tipping. The Main guide to be sent out to everyone in the borough W/c 11 March, alongside a recycling bin sticker, followed up with a specific letter with the day changes set out a week later.
* Received an email from a parishioner expressing concern about the number of dogs that are now being bought to the school and also being walked near young children. Awareness of an incident where a school Mum was bitten by a dog and another incident a couple of months ago. Parishioner concerned that it’s only a matter of time before a child is hurt. The headteacher of the school has asked dog owners not to bring them to the school gates, the parishioner requested the parish council to help enforce this. Suggesting that during school drop off and pick up, dogs are not allowed full stop.
* Received an email from a parishioner concerning hedge clearance and creating an entrance on the land adjacent to High Tree Lodge.
* Received an email from a parishioner concerning further vegetation removal works on the land adjacent to High Tree Lodge and damage caused to wildlife and disturbance during the nesting season.
* Received an email from a parishioner requesting permission to hide geocaches around the village i.e. the Lees, Church Lane, and the village hall. Geocache is a form of treasure hunt using gps on the phone.

**Matters arising from Correspondence**

* Resolved. Parishioner is permitted to hide geocaches around the village.

All correspondence has been circulated.

Finances

**Bank Reconciliation**

The current account balance on 29th February 2024 is £18995.92

National Savings Account £15806.65

Resolved. The bank account balances and reconciliations for 29th February 2024 were signed by Cllr Brown (Chairperson).

**Reserves Account**

Resolved. Skate Park funds of £6000 to transfer over to the MUGA project

Resolved. Interest received £121.65 to transfer to bollarding of the Lees fund

**March Payments**

The following cheque payments were approved and signed by Cllrs Aitken & Thomas

Cheque No: 102762 Kent Pcs Parish Pump £52.00

Cheque No: 102763 Parish Council Websites Annual Website and email £355.00

Cheque No: 102764 ABC Forester Printing £639.75

Cheque No: 102765 Clerk Stationery £50.74

Cheque No: 102766 Clerk KCC Legal Fees £500.00

The following cheque was signed at the parish meeting: -

Cheque No 102767 Clerk for purchase of Dell laptop £399.00

Resolved. The cheque was signed by Cllr Brown (Chairperson) and Cllr Aitken.

1. **Approval of Annual Grass Maintenance Contracts**

Last year’s costs £1060. (Back-up £185 x 4 and £40 per cut Land adjacent to the Stag)

Budget 2024/2025 £1465

Quotations for the perimeter of the Lees common (Back-up) & Area adjacent to the Stag were presented from Landscape Services, Dan Sherrin & Charlie Burr

Landscape Services estimated quote £5000.

Dan Sherrin £3800 (550 per backup & £200 per grass cut strip of land adjacent to the Stag)

Charlie Burr £1840 + VAT.

Resolved. Approved Charlie Burr £1840 + VAT.

1. **Approval of ground works**
2. Ash tree adjacent to Old Post Office

£990 Ash tree pollard James Brockman

£950 + VAT Removal of Large & Medium ash tree Josh Buggins

£890 Pollard ash tree reduction by 30% View Tree Ltd

Resolved. Approved Josh Buggins to remove 2 x ash trees.

1. Hedge adjacent to entrance to High Snoad Wood £330 James Brockman
2. Conifer Hedge adjacent to Assaye House, footpath £480

Resolved. Clerk to obtain additional quotes for the above works.

Funding

**Winter Grant Application**

Successful. Grant funding for £1000 to be shared between Ashford & Faversham food banks. Awaiting confirmation when funds have been deposited Challock Parish Council bank account.

**Highway Matters and Highways Improvement Plan**

1. **Faversham Road Footpath Scheme**

King & Johnston Deeds of Dedication

Advance payment of £500 has been paid to KCC Legal. Waiting to hear from King & Johnson’s estimated legal costs.

1. **Highways Improvement Plan Review**

Waiting for confirmation of a meeting with KCC Highways.

Relevant Legislation: Highways Act 1980

**10. Planning Applications**

To receive comments on following planning application:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  | PA/2024/0361Boundsgate Corner, Faversham Road, Challock, Kent ME13 0JXConstruction of detached tea hut/officeResolved. In support. Challock Parish Council have no objection to the application. |

**Planning Enforcement:**

Reference: **ENF/2024/0090**

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Alleged Breach: alleged removal of hedge and clearing of site

Location Address: Land South West of 1 Chestnut Cottages, Buck Street, Challock

Cllr Elathwell-Fisher. Concerned about the removal of the shed which housed bats. Recorded by Russell Jaques.

Relevant legislation: Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**11. The Lees Common**

1. **Lees Track Quotation**

Cllr Brown. Mark Wildish has confirmed that he will not supply a quotation for the Lees track. Not interested in existing road ways only new road ways.

Swift Surfacing 1. Binder course only (as per specification laid in Eastwell Manor entrance road) £29,680.00 + VAT

Swift Surfacing 2. Binder course plus surface course using existing formation a solid foundation for surface construction. £46,500 + VAT

J&M Resurfacing Ltd 1. Excavate & Resurface the sub-based road 1480 square metres £18600.00 + VAT.

J&M Resurfacing Ltd 2. Plane off and resurface the tarmac road from entrance to large fir tree

£7970.00 + VAT.

Resolved. Clerk to obtain clarification on the above quotes.

Resolved. Clerk to obtain a further quotation.

**12. Multi Use Games Area**

1. **Planning Consultant**

Update on BTF planning consultant. Clerk has a telephone mtg on Monday, 18th March.

Received quote from Urban Vista £5880

S106 monies outstanding £9578.82 for outdoor sports capital – Clockhouse Farm

S106 monies outstanding £1.973.12 for outdoor sports capital maintenance

Further S106 monies outstanding £30,191.00 Multi Use Games Area – Outdoor sports capital – Old Clockhouse Green

S106 monies outstanding £6,194.00 Multi Use Games Area – Maintenance

Resolved. Clerk to request Sovereign provides details of a recent MUGA installation local to the area.

Village Community Events

**DDAY 80 Commemorative Thursday, 6th June 2024**

Parish Council planned event in commemoration of D-Day 80 years.

The lighting of the bonfire beacons at 9.15 pm and the community/nation undertakes the International Tribute. The reading of the Tribute. Fish & Chips supper/picnic on the recreation ground starting at 8 pm. RINGING OUT FOR PEACE: we are encouraging every Cathedral and Church throughout the UK, to ring their Bells at 6.30pm on 6th June, so we ask you to contact your local Churches etc, inviting them to take part. They are also keen to encourage as many locations as possible to take part in the [Lamp Light of Peace](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=2a253a6bf0&e=f2d0f95fb9) and for those with relatives who were involved in D-Day or the Second World War to purchase a [pin badge in commemoration](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=86ccf0debb&e=f2d0f95fb9). The Parish Council have a stock of lanterns used during the World War Centenary Commemoration that can be used for Lamp Light of Peace.

Clerk has booked the village hall just in case of poor weather. Clerk has booked DH Event savoury crepes and barista coffee/beverages. Cricket Club to run a bar and set up bonfire beacon.

It is hoped that funding will be available to have the fish n chips at a reduced rate. Chilham are holding a fish n chip supper for up to 1000 parishioners are also looking to apply for funding.

**Challock Community Litter Pick**

Resolved. Village Litter Pick Sunday, 14th April 2024 10 am. To meet at the Village Hall car park.

Public Participation

Parishioner concerned regarding the removal of part of the hedge and tree works being carried out at High Tree Lodge whilst the planning application is still under consultation.

Relevant Legislation: Local Government Act, s 100.

**Items to be placed on the next Agenda**

Any items to be emailed to: clerk@challockparishcouncil.gov.uk no later than Tuesday, 9th April 2024.

**Next Meeting** 18th April 2024

**Future Parish Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, 18th April

Thursday, 16th May AGM

Tuesday 21st May 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday, 20th June

Thursday, 18th July

Thursday, 19th September

Thursday, 17th October

Thursday, 21st November

**Meeting Closed 20.25 pm.**

**Signed as a true record by: ……………………………Tracy Brown Chairperson Challock Parish Council**

**Dated……………………**