

CHART SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT CHART SUTTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: - Cllr Forknall in the Chair, together with Cllrs S Waring, V Underdown, M FitzGerald MBE, C Webb, R Sagrott and Miss T Jenkins, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: - Borough Cllr S Munford was present throughout.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ward.

2. FILMING OF MEETINGS

There were no requests for notification of whether anyone intends to film, photograph or record any items.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2022

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that the draft Minutes be approved as a correct record**”. This was **Agreed** and the Chairman was authorised to sign off the official copy.

6. POLICE MATTERS

The PCSO is unavailable until the end of November, so no crime figures were provided.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY

Members considered adopting a similar policy to Linton Parish Council’s Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. All Members **Agreed** & Cllr Sagrott agreed to adapt it to suit our Parish for further approval.

8. THREE YEAR STRATEGY

Cllr FitzGerald suggested arranging a meeting in the New Year to discuss car parking at the Memorial Playing Field.

9. GOLDING HOMES

Members **Noted** the summary notes from the meeting held on 12th October with Golding Homes (GH). The next meeting is scheduled for 7th December.

As GH will only plant wildflowers on their own land, Members discussed the possibility of the Parish Council planting wildflowers on the strip of land in front of the Memorial Playing Field. It was **Noted** that the soil may be too good for wildflowers and that it would require quite a bit of initial work and ongoing weeding. Cllr Waring agreed to look into it.

Cllr FitzGerald advised that we are waiting to find out if GH will provide the Parish Council with an annual contribution to the ‘Embellishment Fund’, however, perhaps this money could go towards a Coronation Event if the Parish Council decides to hold one.

10. BEARSTED FC

Members **Noted** that Bearsted FC U15s & U18s won’t have many home matches this season. Members therefore considered a reduction in fees, with them only paying for the matches actually played, rather than a set fee of £550 for 12 matches per team. Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that Bearsted FC U15s and U18s should be charged £45 per match played, rather than a set fee for 12 matches**”. This was **Agreed**.

11. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Cllr Sagrott advised that he is still in the process of obtaining the views of the residents who would be affected with regard to moving the boundary along Chart Hill Road (i.e. moving the boundary so that it follows the road after the Lord Raglan Public House). It was **Noted** that this would affect the precept and the Council Tax cost for these residents.

12. MBC PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

As MBC will no longer carry out monthly play inspections on parish owned play areas from April 2023, Members considered whether or not to employ a private inspector to carry out further inspections in addition to the annual one. It was **Agreed** that this could be carried out in house on a monthly basis, as long as there was no legal requirement to prevent this. A training course could be undertaken in need. Borough Cllr Munford is looking at trying to get the Parish Services Scheme funding provided by MBC increased to support this (currently £424 per year per parish with a strategic play area).

13. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANT

Members considered the Community Transport Grant, however, Members **Agreed** that the Parish Council would not be able to fund a service. It may be possible for several parishes to come together to enter into a private project and it was **Noted** that Boughton Malherbe PC are potentially looking at a minibus for their parish. It was also **Noted** that the Kent Karrier service is a very restrictive and limited service. One of the restrictions is that they won't serve anyone living within 500m of a bus stop, so, this would potentially preclude anyone living in the village from using the service.

14. MBC DESIGN & SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members **Agreed** no response was required.

15. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT – TAKE THE PLEDGE

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that Chart Sutton Parish Council would take the pledge in regard to the Civility and Respect project**”. This was **Agreed**.

16. MATTERS OF REPORT

16.1 County and Borough Councillors Report

County Cllr Parfitt-Reid was unable to be present. Borough Cllr Munford advised that the Local Plan review was adjourned (on the day the Queen passed away) and re-convened on 7th November. MBC has lost its 5 year housing land supply, so the current Local Plan policies are considered out of date and don't apply, however, once the Local Plan review goes through or the inspector moves it on, the policies will come back into effect.

16.2 Chairman's Report

Cllr Forknall reported that he had laid a wreath at the remembrance service on 13th November at the church, there was not a great turnout, which is believed to be because the service was moved from 3pm to 4pm, as attendees would have to make their way home in the dark. Cllr Forknall reported sheep worrying near Lambs Cross, 4 or 5 sheep have died and a further 6 sheep have been attacked (1 dog has been taken away). Cllr Forknall also reported that 2 or 3 permanent buildings have been erected at Peacock Farm and the Clerk was asked to report this to the MBC Enforcement team.

16.3 Individual Councillors Reports

Cllr Sagrott reported that he will be attending a forthcoming meeting with Helen Whately MP on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Waring reported that Maidstone Inter had played a match 3 weeks ago, that should have been called off due to the wet pitch, but the new manager's contact details had not been provided, so Cllr Waring could not contact them to postpone the match. The contact details have since been supplied. Cllr Waring reported that approx. 200 poo bags had been taken from the dispenser on the village green and approx. 350 from the dispenser at the playing field within a one-month time period. It was felt that these were probably taken by dog walkers from outside of the village, however, Cllr Underdown was asked to put a notice in the next village newsletter. Cllr Underdown had reported flytipping on Warmlake Road, and this was cleared quickly by MBC. Cllr Webb reported that at the PCEN meeting it was reported that there were still free trees available. Cllr Waring stated that there is capacity at the playing field to plant 1 or 2. Cllr FitzGerald reported that there will be a Christmas Fayre on 26th November in the village hall. Cllr Webb advised that there will be Christmas carols in the village hall on 10th December at 4pm and carol singing on the village green at 6pm on 19th December in aid of Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

16.4 Clerk's Report

16.4.1 Meeting Dates 2023

Members confirmed the meeting dates for 2023.

Monday 23rd January

Monday 13th March

Monday 17th April

Monday 15th May (Annual Meeting of the Council)

Monday 12th June

Monday 10th July

Monday 11th September

Monday 9th October

Monday 13th November

Monday 11th December

There will be no full Council meeting in February or August. The Annual Parish Meeting is to take place at the Village Hall on Monday 24th April 2023.

16.4.2 Litterpicker

Members **Noted** that Samuel Whitehead is due to have a knee operation in December, so will be unable to carry out litterpicking duties whilst recovering.

17. FINANCE

17.1 Budget Monitoring

The Budget Monitoring Report to 31st October 2022 was **Noted**.

17.2 To note Income received since last meeting

Members **Noted** payments received during the period as follows:

HSBC Interest September 22	£14.84
HSBC Interest October 22	£20.47
VAT Refund 01/05/22 – 31/08/22	£527.45
Coxheath FC 1 st half football fees	£275.00
PSS Grant – 2 nd instalment	£988.50
Tfr fm BMM to C/A 07/11/22	£3000.00

17.3 To approve payments already made

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that the following payments should be ratified**”. This was **Agreed**.

D/D – NEST – employer/employee pension payment for October	£177.31
SO – T Jenkins – Net Salary & Office Allowance – October	£743.76
Bank Charges to 30/09/22	£10.20

17.4 To resolve to make payments as presented for signature

Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that the Council approve the following payments**”. This was **Agreed**.

101851 – Miss T Jenkins – expenses Oct	£63.19
101852 – HMRC (National Insurance – period ending 05/12/22)	£15.12
101853 – Samuel Whitehead – Litterpick Oct	£36.00
101854 – Citizens Advice	£100.00
101855 – Kenward Trust	£100.00
101856 – Breast Cancer Kent	£100.00
101857 – Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal) (to include cost of wreath)	£150.00
101858 – Age UK Maidstone	£100.00
101860 – Three Suttons Help Line	£100.00
101861 – The Heart of Kent Hospice	£100.00
101862 – Demelza	£100.00
101863 – Maidstone Borough Council – street sweeping	£84.02
101864 – Commercial Services Trading – Grounds maintenance July, August, September	£1524.79

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **Noted** the next Meeting will be held on Monday 12th December 2022 at Chart Sutton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.