

CHART SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER 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, P Ward and Miss T Jenkins, Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: -

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr S Munford.

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

Cllr FitzGerald declared an interest for items 12 & 15.4.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 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

No crime figures were provided.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY

Members discussed the wording of the Chart Sutton Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. Cllr Sagrott agreed to make the necessary changes for further consideration/adoption at the next meeting.

8. THREE YEAR STRATEGY

Cllr Forknall agreed to arrange a meeting in the New Year regarding the potential of a car park at the Memorial Playing Field. Cllr FitzGerald suggested setting up a communication/email group to disseminate the various information received by the parish council. Cllr Underdown agreed to put something in the village newsletter to gauge interest & try to find someone to run it.

9. GOLDING HOMES

Members **Noted** that the Golding Homes meeting has been postponed until 11th January 2023. Members discussed options for wildflowers and it was considered unviable at the front of the Memorial Playing Field. Members felt it would work better with a larger area, and agreed to re-visit the idea at a future date.

10. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members **Noted** that Cllr Sagrott has communicated with the residents who would be affected if the parish boundary is changed so that it runs along the centre of Chart Hill Road. There is a willingness to become part of Chart Sutton rather than stay in Boughton Monchelsea. Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that the proposed boundary change be put forward for adoption**”. This was **Agreed**. The Clerk was asked to write to Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council for their support and Cllr Sagrott agreed to obtain written support from the residents affected.

11. FOOTBALL PITCH

Members **Noted** that some matches have had to be cancelled recently due to the football pitch being waterlogged. Members considered having ‘verti-draining’ carried out to assist with the deeper drainage of the pitch and Cllr Waring agreed to look into costs.

- 12. DONATION REQUEST - SUTTON VALENCE & DISTRICT BRANCH RBL 100TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT**
Members considered a request for a donation towards the celebration event on the 16th May 2023 comprising of an outing by coach to Leeds Castle, followed by a meal at a nearby hotel. Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved “**that a donation of £250.00 be provided for the Sutton Valence & District Branch RBL 100th Anniversary Event**”. This was **Agreed** from the S137 budget. Cllr FitzGerald did not take part in the consideration/proposal of the donation.
- 13. WATER DISTRIBUTION SITES**
Members considered various sites, none of which entirely met the criteria. However, the Clerk was asked to put forward the Village Hall, Village Green and Memorial Playing Field as potential sites.
- 14. MATTERS OF REPORT**
- 14.1 County and Borough Councillors Report**
No reports were provided.
- 14.2 Chairman’s Report**
The Chairman **Noted** that the Care Home at Forsham House, Sutton Valence has been withdrawn due to issues surrounding access and doctors.
- 14.3 Individual Councillors Reports**
Cllr Sagrott had recently attended the roundtable meeting with Helen Whately MP. Approximately 15 parishes were represented and the discussions mostly concerned the A20 & Operation Brock. However, the bus system was also discussed. Cllr Waring had re-marked the pitch twice recently due to the lack of matches played (Cllr Waring had agreed to charge a lower rate than Landscape Services). Cllr Underdown thought the email/communication group (as mentioned in item 8) would reduce the amount of contact/complaints she receives, recent issues were the gas mains road closures, roads not being gritted/ploughed during the snow and removal of trees in local orchards. The shop takings have been down since the road closures, however, the shop has become busier in the snowy weather. Cllr Webb (via the Clerk) had reported to Enforcement that Park Farm had not removed the polytunnel coverings (a condition of their planning approval). Enforcement were quick to make contact and the coverings started being removed almost immediately. Cllr FitzGerald had attended a CAB meeting in November, during which they thanked the Parish Council for their donation. Cllr FitzGerald suggested something be put in the February Village News to gauge interest for an event for the King’s coronation. Cllr FitzGerald reported the sad news that the Action for Communities in Rural Kent charity is closing. Local parishes have been well served by them for many years. Cllr Waring will supply the trees for the platinum jubilee for planting in the Memorial Playing Field, it was agreed that oaks would be best. It was suggested that two oaks are planted, with plaques possibly to be put up during the King’s coronation event (one for the jubilee & one for the coronation).
- 14.4 Clerk’s Reports**
- 14.4.1 Local Government Association**
Members **Noted** that the Local Government Association (LGA) came to an agreement on the 2022/23 pay offer with the unions representing local government employees in November. The terms of that agreement include the following:
With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all National Joint Council pay points 1 and above.
With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees’ annual leave entitlement.
- 14.4.2 Clerk’s Annual Leave**
Members **Noted** the Clerk’s annual leave dates.
- 15. FINANCE**
- 15.1 Budget Monitoring**
The Budget Monitoring Report to 30th November 2022 was **Noted**.

15.2 To note Income received since last meeting

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

HSBC Interest November 22	£27.15
Textile Bank Income	£75.60
Tfr fm BMM to C/A	£3000.00

15.3 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 November	£177.31
SO – T Jenkins – Net Salary & Office Allowance – November	£743.76
Bank Charges to 30/10/22	£9.00

15.4 To resolve to make payments as presented for signature

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

101865 – Miss T Jenkins – expenses Nov	£13.94
101866 – HMRC (National Insurance – period ending 05/01/23) plus underpayment from Dec	£41.59
101867 – Samuel Whitehead – Litterpick Nov	£36.00
101868 – JRB Enterprise Ltd	£144.66
101870 – Maidstone Borough Council – street sweeping	£84.02
101871 – Mr M FitzGerald – Dec VN production	£410.00
101872 – NetWise UK – website hosting, support, maintenance & domain renewal	£420.00

15.5 2022/23 National Salary Award

Members **Noted** that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services have issued new pay scales for employees for 2022-23 to be backdated to 1st April 2022. Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved **“that the Clerk’s salary should increase to £15.30 per hour backdated to 1st April 2022, with the payment staggered from Dec 22 to Mar 23, and an increase in the employer’s pension contribution to £15.50 per month.”** This was **Agreed**.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **Noted** the next Meeting will be held on Monday 23rd January 2023 at Chart Sutton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting closed at 8.58pm.