

CHART SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH JULY 2023 AT CHART SUTTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: - Cllr P Forknall (Chair), Cllrs S Waring, V Underdown, C Webb, R Sagrott,
M FitzGerald MBE, Mrs Lesley Windless (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: - 1 member of the public

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – nothing was discussed

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Cllr Paul Ward.

2. FILMING OF MEETINGS

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

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensation.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2023

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 / KCC WARDEN MATTERS

The clerk reported one crime from the e-watch.co website :

On 31st May between 20.30 and 20.45 in Brishing Road. A group of people have thrown eggs at a car while it was being driven.

Cllr Fitzgerald expressed concern at a lack of direct information regarding the new policing model. Cllr Webb stated that Maidstone KALC were going to write to the Police with the same concerns. Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that the clerk write to the Police asking for an update and a likely timeline for implementation of the new model. The clerk noted that she and Councillors from both Chart Sutton and Boughton Monchelsea had met with new beat Sergeant, Paul Cook who had explained the new model and advised that beat officer, Becca Burns was now in post.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY

Cllr Sagrott stated that a questionnaire had been sent out to parish representatives of the Parish Council Environment Network.

8. THREE YEAR STRATEGY

The clerk advised that she had contacted KALC for advice on potential grants for EV chargers but had not received a response. She added that she would investigate further herself. **CLERK**

Parish footpaths were discussed in terms of maintenance, stiles and potential disability upgrades. Cllrs Sagrott and Webb agreed to investigate this further. **CLLR SAGROTT / CLLR WEBB**

Members discussed the possibility of constructing a car park for the recreation ground, to the west of the field. It was noted that the land appears to belong to the Salmon Trust. The clerk stated that she would carry out a land registry search in the first instance, for further discussion at the next meeting. **CLERK**

9. ONLINE BANKING

The clerk had produced a written paper which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Councillors had previously agreed to move to online banking with HSBC but on further investigation, HSBC were unable to offer dual payment authorisation. The clerk had carried out research and Unity Trust bank, Nat West bank and Lloyds bank were presented to members as options, all offering the ability for the clerk to set up online payments and two members of the Council to authorise.

Following discussion, Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved **“that the Council change from HSBC to Unity Trust bank and set up online banking accordingly”**. This was **Agreed**.
CLERK

10. MBC COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Following discussion, Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved **“that the Council respond to the review in favour of the proposed boundary changes”**. This was **Agreed**.
CLERK

11. HEADCORN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following discussion, Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved **“that the Council respond in support of the Headcorn Neighbourhood Plan”**. This was **Agreed**.

12. FOOTBALL CONTRACTS

12.1 To review day / time preferences from football teams and agree which teams should be permitted to use the pitch for the 23/24 season

Following discussion, it was **Agreed** that the following teams should be permitted to use the football pitch for the forthcoming season :

Coxheath / Maidstone Inter mens teams – Sunday mornings

Bearsted U15/U16 teams – Sunday afternoons

It was noted that Bearsted had also wanted to use the pitch on Sunday mornings but this would not be possible. A Staplehurst U21 team had requested to use the pitch on Saturdays but it was **Agreed** not to permit this due to potential pitch damage from over-use.

Clerk to inform teams of the Parish Council’s decision.

CLERK

12.2 To review contract between Parish Council and football teams and agree any changes for the 23/24 season

A copy of the current contract had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Following discussion Cllrs proposed, seconded and resolved **“that the Council increase the annual pitch hire cost (for max. 12 matches) from £550 to £600 with a charge of £50 per match for additional matches”**. This was **Agreed**.

Clerk to inform teams accordingly and arrange signing of new contracts.

CLERK

13. DOGS

13.1 To review MBC dog control public spaces protection order and agree response to consultation

Following discussion, it was **Agreed** that the clerk should respond to the public spaces protection order consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

CLERK

13.2 To discuss issues relating to dog walkers using recreation ground and decide on any action to be taken

Cllr Underdown advised that a number of residents had expressed concern at professional dog walkers using the recreation ground with large numbers of dogs. She added that, from her research, there was a preferred maximum of 4 dogs per professional walker. Discussion followed regarding potential signage for the recreation ground, stating maximum number of dogs per person to be limited to 4. Cllr Waring agreed to investigate this further.

CLLR WARING

14. HIGHWAYS

14.1 Highway Improvement Plan – to approve revised plan

The clerk advised that she had added village gateways to the Highway Improvement Plan and the updated draft plan had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The draft plan was **Agreed** by members. Clerk to forward copy to KCC.

CLERK

Cllr Fitzgerald suggested that, depending on cost, village gateways could be funded or part funded from the Parish Council’s embellishment fund.

14.2 KCC Local Transport Plan – to review and agree response to consultation

It was **Agreed** that Cllr Fitzgerald would respond to this consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.

CLLR FITZGERALD

14.3 Parking issues on Chart Hill Road – to discuss and agree any actions

Cllr Waring suggested that the double yellow lines on Chart Hill Road be extended to prevent parking close to the junction with Amber Lane, which is causing problems for drivers. The clerk stated that she would request this at the forthcoming site meeting with KCC. Cllr Waring asked the clerk to also report worn road markings in the centre of the village.

CLERK

15 MATTERS OF REPORT

15.1 County and Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor, Steve Munford was not present at the meeting.

15.2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that a dog had attacked a sheep recently and the dog owner had been fined. It was suggested that this be reported in the Village News to highlight the consequences of not keeping dogs on leads around livestock.

15.3 Individual Councillor's Reports

Cllr Sagrott stated that the 'Green Lane' sign was missing and asked for this to be reported.

CLERK

Cllr Waring stated that he had attended the recent presentation by South East Water regarding the water main works through Leeds village, with Upper Street closed for 6 months from 24th July. Cllrs Underdown and Webb had also attended.

Cllr Webb stated that he had attended the recent Maidstone area KALC meeting where ward cluster meetings, the MBC Local Plan review and Parish Charter were discussed.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that he had attended the recent meeting with MP, Helen Whately where the following issues were discussed – road closure in Leeds, train services, new policing model, operation Brock and the South East Water hosepipe ban.

Cllr Fitzgerald asked whether the salt bin in the village centre could be moved slightly. Cllr Waring agreed to look into this.

CLLR WARING

Cllr Fitzgerald asked the clerk to add the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings to the September meeting agenda.

CLERK

15.4 Clerk's Report

A written clerk's report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The clerk updated members as follows :

- . New CCTV cameras in the village green / shop area now installed and working
- . Landscape Services will be marking out the football pitch on the rec during the first week in August
- . Annual electrical inspection of the pavilion is being arranged
- . KCC Highways site meeting arranged for 14th July. Clerk to attend, along with Cllrs Fitzgerald, Underdown and Sagrott

16. FINANCE

16.1 Budget Monitoring to 30th June 2023

The Budget Monitoring Report to 30th June 2023 was **Noted**

16.2 To note Income received since last meeting

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

MBC Parish Services Scheme – first instalment	£1,018.63
HSBC Interest June 23	£91.07

16.3 To approve payments already made

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

Bank charges 30Apr – 30 May 23 £12.20

16.4 To resolve to make payments as presented for signature

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

101932 – Maidstone Borough Council – street sweeping	£84.02
101933 – S. Whitehead – litter picking	£48.00
101934 – T. Jenkins – holiday pay	£307.13
101935 – T. Jenkins – expenses	£15.76
101936 – L. Windless – salary and office allowance – June	£805.65
101937 – HMRC – PAYE and Employer's NI – June	£216.58

101938 – Maidstone Borough Council – street sweeping – June	£84.02
101939 – Brook Security – CCTV cameras	£1,897.49
101940 – Village hall – Hall hire	£98.00
101941 – Npower – street lighting	£31.88
101942 – JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog waste bags	£144.66

It was **Agreed** that the clerk's salary should be paid by standing order in future. Clerk to arrange with HSBC.

CLERK

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members **Noted** the next Meeting will be held on Monday 11th September 2023 at Chart Sutton Village Hall.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the meeting closed at 9.18pm.