

Little Chart Parish Council (LCPC)

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting declared open at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, The Street, Little Chart, Ashford, Kent TN27 0QB on Tuesday 10th March 2020

Unique Minute No 77/	Business	Record	Action (by whom, & within what timescale)
1	Note of Persons Present	Cllrs Brasier (Chairman), Diebel, Beck, 2 members of the public, Mr Sharpe (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer RFO). The meeting was noted as quorate.	
2	Apologies	Parish Councillors Ladds & Rivolta, Ashford Borough Cllr Clair Bell, Councillor Charlie Simkins (Kent County Council - KCC),	
3	Declarations of Interest	There were no Declarations of Pecuniary, Significant or Other Interest.	
4	Minutes of last meeting	The draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (no 76) on 7 th January 2020 were read & agreed as a true record; proposed R Brasier, seconded C Beck. Chairman Cllr Brasier signed them.	Clerk to place paper copy in Minutes Book immediately, & ensure website is updated by 24.3.20
5	Matters Arising	The matter arising from <u>Minute 75/12</u> (computer security package) was settled by purchase of a commercial anti-virus & anti-malware suite. Under <u>Minute 76/10</u> contact has yet to be made with UK Power Networks, but R Brasier was of the opinion that the mitigation measures to deter pigeons had led to a better playing surface on the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).	
6	County / Borough Councillors	Neither Clare Bell (Ashford) nor Charlie Simkins (Kent) was able to attend. They had forwarded no written reports.	
7	Public Interval	Two local residents attended, & were able to express their thinking on the easements & licences applicable to properties on The Forstal in advance of the Council's discussion <i>in camera</i> below. The Public Interval concluded at 7.54 pm, at which point the Council resumed under Standing Orders.	Clerk to note particularly the circumstances of those present, & to press ahead with rationalisation of the easements & licences system 2020-25, by May meeting.
8	Financial report	The RFO reported on the Parish Council's finances & budget for 2020/21. The account balances were noted as £20,003.89 in the bank statements dated 28 th Feb 2020. The Council debated the amount allocated to Tree Work in 20/21, & expressed a wish to improve the appearance of the fallen Lebanese pine/cedar at Calehill Park Gate. It then RESOLVED to pay the	Clerk to post cheques as soon as possible & investigate the ownership of the stump at Calehill Park via the Land Registry, & report by email, by May meeting.

		cheques for Clive Stanley Associates (webmaster) £49; Ashford Borough Council (Tree Survey) £240 & (Grounds Maintenance) £2072.93; Hobbs Parker Property Consultants LLP (Appraisal Letter for easement applied for on The Forstal) £796.14; proposed R Brasier, seconded A Diebel.	
9	Planning	No applications requiring a decision by the Parish Council had been made. Two items were reviewed for information purposes.	
10	Highways Improvement Plan	The Council noted the imposition of a new 40 mph limit in a neighbouring parish at Charing Heath Road. It discussed the latest Speed Survey within village confines being undertaken by KCC, & the placement of the sensor strips at what seemed to be inappropriate locations	Clerk to email K Garrett at KCC Highways to ask where the decision on placement was made, by 27 th March 2020, copying to Cllr Simkins.
11	Tree Work	The Council noted the results of the Tree Survey carried out on 30 th Jan including an urgent item. Further discussion was made of the vegetation maintenance plan for the Village Hall, & prioritisation of trees to be felled on the Plantation, subject to permission for such work in the Conservation Area.	Clerk to seek one extra quote for urgent work, and ask for 3 contractors to quote for other items, by May meeting.
12	Playground / MUGA report	The Council considered the report on the condition of the Community Garden & MUGA. It RESOLVED to pause the maintenance for 12 months. Proposed R Brasier, seconded A Diebel.	Clerk to liaise with Village Hall Management Committee & inform preferred contractor, by 27 th March.
13	Correspondence	The Council reviewed the correspondence about Ashford Mediation Centre's AGM on Friday 20 th March; an invitation to become a member of Action for Communities in Rural Kent (ACRE); & Ashford Borough Council's Parish Forum meeting on 15 th April. RESOLVED that R Brasier should attend Parish Forum as Little Chart PC representative. Proposed A Diebel, seconded C Beck.	Clerk to notify ABC of R Brasier's attendance, by end March.
14	Website Accessibility Project	The Clerk outlined two options for replacement of the current Little Chart Parish Council website. After due consideration the Council RESOLVED to accept neither, but to continue requesting full funding for a compliant solution over a 3-year provision period. Proposed C Beck, seconded R Brasier. The council then discussed slow Internet speeds at properties within the parish, and the possibility of Councillors adopting Parish Council email addresses for official business purposes in future.	Clerk to contact Cllr Simkins to apply for appropriate funding, and liaise with Webmaster over platforms and content as KCC EIS provision is withdrawn. Clerk to note significant developments on a continuing basis.

15	Great British Spring Clean	The Council RESOLVED to support this by holding a village session on Saturday 21 st March from 10 am till noon, based at the Village Hall.	Clerk to register on 'Great British Spring Clean' website and contact Ashford Borough Council for supplies of equipment and consumables, by 20 th March. R Brasier to encourage publicity of event, as soon as feasible.
16	Dates of 2020 meetings.	Next meeting on Tuesday 12 th May 2020, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless otherwise notified. Then 2 nd Tuesday alternate months.	All Councillors to note and attend.
17	Easements and licences at The Forstal	The Council RESOLVED to exclude members of the public from the meeting for this item, under Standing Order 1 (c) on the grounds that personal financial information was likely to be discussed. Proposed R Brasier, seconded A Diebel. The two members of the public present left the meeting. The Clerk guided the Council through the information he had assembled about easements and licences from Council records. After due discussion, the Council RESOLVED to allow the Clerk to continue to negotiate both terms and payments for the 2 easements requested by neighbours on The Forstal; and to integrate the issue of licences from April 2020 with the representations made by individuals at Minute 6 above and the wishes expressed by the Cricket Club and individual freeholders as they come forward during the renewals, at the previous rates of £25/£5 per annum for 5 years. Discussion of apparent anomalies in the historic records was deferred to a later meeting. Proposed R Brasier, seconded A Diebel.	Clerk to communicate formally with interested parties, and attempt to reach mutually satisfactory arrangements, with standard documentation, by May meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.