

Little Chart Parish Council

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 12th November 2019

Unique Minute Number 75/	Business	Record	Action (by whom, and within what timescale)
1	Note of Persons Present	Cllrs Brasier (Chairman), Ladds, Beck, 2 members of the public, Councillor Charlie Simkins (Kent County Council), Mr Sharpe (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer RFO)	
2	Apologies for Absence	Little Chart Parish Councillor Scott Rivolta, Ashford Borough Cllr Clair Bell	
3	Declarations of Interest	There were no Declarations of Pecuniary, Significant or Other Interest.	
4	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (no 74) on 3 rd September 2019	These were read and agreed as a true record and Cllr Brasier signed them. There were no matters arising.	Clerk to place paper copy in Minutes Book immediately, and ensure website is updated by 29 th November
5	Report of KCC Cllr Simkins	KCC Cllr Simkins reported to the Council on recent change to the Leader (from Paul Carter to Roger Gough) and the consequent changes in some Cabinet roles – full details on the KCC website. He praised Cllr Carter’s efforts in his role, especially in putting Local Government’s case to Central Government. Cllr Simkins notified the Council that the KCC budget consultation is live, and encouraged members to respond. There is an element of protection for rural bus services such as the 123 which runs through Little Chart on weekdays. Preparations for Brexit are still being made. The motorway arrangements are largely in the hands of Highways England rather than the County Council – the new Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at KCC is Michael Payne. South of Ashford, the Chilmington Green development has been partly built, and KCC has approved plans for new school there, projected opening at the beginning of 2021. Cllr Simkins also acknowledged local concern over a possible garden town around the Lenham Heath area because of infrastructure and planning issues. Cllr Simkins responded to questions from Parish Councillors and members of the public concerning the hold-up on widening the A28 Chart Road in Ashford, planning for doctors’ surgeries at Chilmington, and the process for the Lenham Heath proposals.	
6	Planning Application (batch 1):	The Council viewed printed-out papers for the tree work application, 19/00248/TC Old School House, The Street, Little Chart, which was made by Cllr Diebel (not present). It RESOLVED to support this application, proposed R Brasier, seconded J Ladds.	Clerk to communicate ‘support’ to ABC using online Planning Portal, by 22 nd November 2019

Cllr Diebel joined the meeting at 7.48 pm, as did one more member of the public			
7	Public Interval	Two local residents shared a list of recent traffic accidents affecting their property on Swan Lane. Councillors were able to say that a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) meeting at KCC Highways had been set for Tuesday 19 th November, at which the major concerns on public safety would be discussed. Suggestions were invited as to preferred methods of traffic calming at the known danger points, all of which would have financial impacts on the Parish Council	Cllrs Brasier, Diebel and Rivolta to attend and represent the views of residents on measures within the HIP to improve the situation.
1 member of the public left after this discussion around 8.10pm			
8	Financial report and budget process	The RFO reported on the Parish Council's finances including the receipt of the remainder of the precept payment from Ashford Borough Council £3232.50 and a wayleave payment of £1.53. The Council then RESOLVED to pay the cheques for the Play Area Inspection Company Ltd £78, Clive Stanley Associates (webmaster) £84 and the Clerk's wages July to October £309.66. The Clerk/RFO then distributed the draft budget for 2020/21 and after discussion the Council was minded to increase the precept, but would consider the matter at the next meeting.	RFO to refine the budget in conjunction with the Internal Auditor, and present a report to the January meeting. All Councillors to consider forthcoming projects for expenditure, including the HIP and Village Hall repairs.
At 8.25pm Cllr Beck left the meeting, feeling unwell.			
9	Planning Applications (batch 2):	The Council, being still quorate, studied the papers from Ashford Borough Council (ABC) Planning Department, and noted that the closing date for comments for 19/01454/AS Nettlepole Cottage, Nettlepole Lane, Little Chart, TN27 0QJ <i>Erection of 1 bed holiday let with associated parking</i> had already passed. It resolved to support 19/01521 (and 01520)/AS Swan Inn, Swan Lane, Little Chart, TN27 0QB <i>Removal of stud partition to allow for new walk in fridge and freezer and installation of condensers. Removal of section of existing tiled floor to allow for new Altro non slip flooring with a proviso that noise levels from the condensers should not be higher than at present.</i> The Council noted that 19/01532 The Granary, Ram Lane, Little Chart, TN27 0PU <i>Installation of two conservation rooflights to west and east elevations & Replacement of ground floor window on south elevation with french doors</i> had arrived too late for the agenda.	Clerk to signify 'support with further comment' on the ABC Planning Portal, by 22 nd November.
10	Plantation Protection measures	Chairman R Brasier stated he was awaiting a phone call to arrange transport of the boulders to the site.	Clerk to attend when notified and help with installation.
11	Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) AGM Saturday 30th November	The Council reviewed the correspondence from KALC, including the speakers and the motions to be presented, and RESOLVED not to send a representative to this meeting.	

12	Purchase of computer security package	The Clerk advised the Council that upgrading the current set-up is advisable, and after discussion the Council RESOLVED to purchase a commercially-available protection package.	Clerk to arrange purchase and installation as convenient
13	Correspondence	Since the Council owns the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) which can be operated as a Tennis Court, it noted the approach from the Lawn Tennis Association SERVES initiative, but decided not to pursue it at this time. It also noted invitations from the International Seminar on Resilience to Flooding in Health & Social Care, Tunbridge Wells 13th November and the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Reference Group Meeting, Ashford 19th November, but decided against sending a representative. It took interest in the letter from the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) about the planned further improvements, and commended the VHMC for its efforts and achievements.	Clerk to find notes of proceedings if available and update the Council as necessary.
14	Exchange of Information	A Councillor asked about the bus shelter outside the Swan, which is a Parish Council asset. After discussion, Councillors were reassured that the structure remains sound, but that wear and tear and possible tree root damage from neighbouring land are continuing concerns about its viability.	
15	Request for a legal easement at The Forstal	The Council considered the matter under Standing Order 1c and RESOLVED to exclude the public from this business because of the need to disclose personal data relating to the applicant. Proposed R Brasier, seconded A Diebel agreed <i>nem con</i> . The members of the public then left the meeting. The Council received an update from the Clerk on correspondence received from the applicant's solicitor. After full discussion the Council RESOLVED to continue negotiations rather than accept the offer made. Proposed J Ladds, seconded A Diebel	Clerk to ask solicitor and valuer to press the matter forward to a successful conclusion, as soon as feasible.
16	Date, place and time of next meeting	The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 th January 2020, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless otherwise notified.	Clerk to publicise agenda by Thursday 2nd January 2020.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.