

Little Chart Parish Council (LCPC)

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting declared open at 7.34pm at St Mary's Church, Swan Lane, Little Chart, Ashford, Kent TN27 0PT on Tuesday 7th January 2020

Unique Minute No 76/	Business	Record	Action (by whom, and within what timescale)
1	Note of Persons Present at start	Cllrs Brasier (Chairman), Diebel, Beck, 2 members of the public, Councillor Charlie Simkins (Kent County Council), Mr Sharpe (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer RFO)	
2	Apologies	Ashford Borough Cllr Clair Bell	
3	Declarations of Interest	There were no Declarations of Pecuniary, Significant or Other Interest.	
4	Report of Cllr Simkins	The Chairman brought this item forward in the agenda at KCC Cllr Simkin's request,	
Cllr Ladds joined the meeting at 7.40 pm as Cllr Simkins gave his report.			
4(ctd)		Cllr Simkins expressed a desire to follow up on the Website changes discussed by the Parish Council in July at Minute 73/7. He enquired about the current arrangements for hosting and maintaining the LCPC website. He is aware of KCC's arms-length provider offering migration, upgrading to Accessibility standards, and yearly maintenance. He also shares some of his County Council colleagues' concerns about the financial burden placed on small Parish Councils by the forthcoming changes. He is due to attend a meeting at KCC on the subject the following week. At the Chairman's request, the Clerk briefly outlined the current arrangements and the prospective changes, which he intends to encompass by working on a short-term project with the Webmaster. The Chairman expressed concern that the spend being required by central Government was likely to be more than 10% of the Parish Council's budget. Cllr Simkins also asked about the Parish Council's Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). Cllrs Diebel and Brasier gave an account of their meeting at Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, on 19 th November. A new Traffic Speed Survey has been agreed with Kent Highways staff, at no additional cost. This appears not to have taken place within the promised timescale. Cllr Simkins took note of the matter and offered to use his influence to drive this part of the HIP forward. The discussion, involving the members of the public present, then ranged wider on Highways matters, including dangerous potholes and their reporting.	
5	Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (no 75) on 7 th November 2019	These were read and agreed as a true record and Cllr Brasier signed them. The matter arising from Minute 75/12 (purchase of computer security package) is being attended to, as the choice falls between two providers both of which require yearly subscriptions for online packages.	Clerk to place paper copy in Minutes Book immediately, and ensure website is updated by 4 th February. Clerk to purchase and install when convenient.

6	Public Interval	Two local residents attended, to bring 3 items to the Parish Council's attention: a large pothole in Ram Lane; a need for a road safety mirror at the junction of Ram Lane/Swan Lane; and faster broadband for the residents of the parish. The Council discussed these issues and Councillors found themselves in agreement with the points made, especially since the broadband speed is as low as 6 Mbps through some providers.	Clerk to report the pothole online at Kent Highways website asap; to note 'a mirror' on the HIP document and assess costings; and to investigate other bodies' solutions to slow broadband in rural areas as convenient.
7	Financial report and setting of precept for 2020/21	The RFO reported on the Parish Council's finances and budget for 2020/21. The Council then RESOLVED to pay the cheques for Clive Stanley Associates (webmaster) £49 and the Clerk's wages October to January £309.66. It also approved in retrospect the urgent signature of a cheque for £1000 to Innovation Property (uk) Limited for insurance excess on Village Hall repairs. The Clerk/RFO then distributed the draft budget for 2020/21 and after discussion the Council agreed the figures and RESOLVED to set the precept at £6222, proposed R Brasier, seconded A Diebel.	Clerk to notify the precept to ABC by deadline of 10 th January.
Both members of the public left after this discussion around 8.40pm			
8	Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)	The progress of the HIP as mentioned in Minute 76/4 above was discussed. The Council is awaiting response on costings from KCC Highways staff.	All Councillors to review the wish-list in the HIP and consult locally, by March meeting.
9	Tree Work – comparison of quotes obtained	The Council considered quotes for the inspection of trees on /adjacent to land in its ownership. From four quotes, it selected Contractor B, with a timescale for the written report within 4 weeks.	Clerk to arrange accompanied inspection & circulate report to Councillors & insurers.
10	Playground / MUGA report	The Council considered the written report on the Community Garden and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). It intends to make efforts to reduce the current risk rating from Low (10) to Low (8).	Clerk to contact UK Power Networks to discuss control measures on MUGA.
11	Correspondence	The Council reviewed the correspondence from the Village Hall Management Committee on representation/communication and RESOLVED to reply. Proposed A Diebel, seconded C Beck.	Clerk to reply in positive terms by email by 17 th January.
12	Easements and licences at The Forstal	The Council noted receipt of a valuation appraisal report on 20 th December, followed by further advice from the Council's appointed solicitor. After full discussion the Council RESOLVED to continue negotiations. Proposed J Ladds, seconded A Diebel. The Council also reviewed the licences and other easements applicable to the Forstal and requested the Clerk to present the whole picture in an approachable format, for decision on licence renewals in the 20/21 financial year.	Clerk to reply to solicitor asap to move the matter towards a conclusion. Clerk to draw up maps and spreadsheets for discussion at March meeting.
13	Exchange of Information	Councillors discussed the progress of building works at the Village Hall, which had necessitated the change of venue for this meeting, and alternative venues in case of need in future.	
14	Dates of 2020 meetings.	Next meeting on Tuesday 10 th March 2020, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall unless otherwise notified. Then 2 nd Tuesday alternate months.	Clerk to publicise agenda by Wednesday 4 th March 2020.

The meeting concluded at 9.24 pm.