

Minutes of Chailey Annual Parish Meeting

Held on 11th May 2018 at Chailey Parish Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present (in no particular order):

Cllr. Ken Jordan: Chairman of Chailey PC and Chairman of the meeting.
Cllr. Peter Olbrich: Vice-Chairman of Chailey PC.
Cllrs. Pascal Atkins, Stephen Avery, Nick Belcher, Elizabeth Berry, Mark Evans and Mike Lethem, all of Chailey PC.
Julian and Penny Rea, David Droscher, Janet Caughley – Chailey Litter Pickers (“CLP”)
Diane Palmer, Claire Black and Patience Keet-Harris
- Chailey Bonfire Society (“CBS”)
Marian Darke and Brenda Barnes – CLP and CBS
Jack Cranfield: Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
Don Cranfield: Member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
Roger Garman – Bluebell Railway plc
James Burleigh and Martyn Price – North Common Freeholders Ltd
Jeremy Stone - Chailey Sports Club
Chris Fisher – Chailey Allotments Association and Friends of Chailey Windmill (“FOCW”)
John Smith – FOCW and CLP
Margaret Smith – FOCW and Chailey Evening Women’s Institute (“WI”)
Laurie Fisher and Carol Brown – WI
Jane Stent – Chailey Guides, Brownies and Rainbows
Bryan McAlley – Chailey Repair Café
Steve Brooker – Lewes FC, Neighbourhood First
Chris Peskett – Chailey Parish Church
Dave Caughley – Chailey Free Church
Peter Estcourt and Bernard Cornwell – Chailey & District Horticultural Society
Wendy Jordan, Jeremy Collins, Mike Berry, Steve and Leslie Boyes, Michael Rider, Vanessa Sudall, Eve Collins and 2 others – Residents of Chailey
Stephen Treharne - Clerk to Chailey PC.

1. Welcome.

Cllr Jordan welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Collette O’Neill, William Coleman, Katherine Matthews, Cllr, Jim Sheppard and Cllr. Sharon Davy.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2017.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish meeting were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Annual Report from the Chairman of Chailey Parish Council

Cllr. Jordan presented his report of the past year.

The Council's financial position

Cllr. Jordan referred to the Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 and highlighted major items of income and expenditure. On the expenditure side, these were £14.2k for the first tranche of expenditure on the Sports Pavilion Project, £4.6k for the project to install defibrillators around the village and £5.4k for the return of unspent Neighbourhood Plan Grant money which was spent more slowly than expected. On the receipts side, £21k was received from the Community Infrastructure Levy, £10k from the Sports Club towards the Pavilion refurbishment project and £38k from the Public Works Loan Board in the form of a fixed interest loan.

Cllr Jordan stressed that the Council adopts a prudent approach to finance. It seeks to maintain reserves at recommended levels and to set a Precept that will raise enough money to fund the routine, day to day costs of running the Parish. Other costs are met from reserves.

In the 2018/19 financial year, the Council plans to spend £83k, which includes the completion of the Sports Pavilion. The amount that each household in the village in Council Tax Band D will pay for Chailey this year is £44.43. The 5% increase in this year's Precept is an increase of £2.12 for an average household.

Sports Pavilion refurbishment

The Project is under way and is within budget. Most of the external work has been completed. The internal work and re-decorating should be finished before the end of May. The village – and the Sports Club - will then have a Pavilion to be proud of.

The Neighbourhood Plan

This is taking longer to complete than had been hoped. The process has not been helped by the time the Government is taking to make changes to the overall Planning Framework or by the slippage in Lewes DC's timetable for producing the next Local Plan for the District, which is unlikely to be finalised until early in 2019.

The main thrust of the Plan is to ensure that any future development in Chailey over the next 15 years is appropriate and does not destroy the essential, rural character of the village. In preparing the Plan and its supporting evidence base, the Council has worked closely with Lewes DC, which has been extremely beneficial both in terms of access to crucial information and goodwill and in terms of saving money on consultant's fees.

Defibrillators

The Council has provided three defibrillators for the village last year. They are located at the Parish Hall, at the South Chailey Surgery and at the Dental Surgery on the south side of the A272, close to the Kings Head. All are of course located on external walls so are accessible at any time. This important project was very much driven by Cllr. Nick Belcher, to whom the Council pays a warm public tribute.

The Council is proposing to arrange another training session on the use of the defibrillators, this time in the early evening. Further information will appear on the Parish Council web site and on the notice boards around the Village.

Thank you

Cllr. Jordan expressed his sincere thanks to:

- Chailey Litter Pickers whose entirely voluntary efforts are having a great effect on the appearance of the verges around the village;
- the Parish Clerk, Stephen Treharne;
- all members of the Council for their dedication, hard work, wisdom and local knowledge that they bring to the Council's deliberations; and
- the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Cllr. Jordan ended by pointing out that all at the meeting were showing active interest in the affairs of the village and in its governance. He urged those present to consider joining the Parish Council if and when a casual vacancy arises.

5. Reports on recent and current activities from organisations in and who work on behalf of Chailey.

Attention was drawn to the written report from Cllr. Jim Sheppard circulated at the meeting.

Janet Caughley spoke about Chailey Litter Pickers which had just celebrated its second birthday. So far over 700 black bags of litter had been collected. The Group has 26 supporters. Most littering is caused by cars passing through the village and consideration is being given to signage.

John Smith reminded those present that the Parish Council owns and has financial responsibility for the Windmill. The Friends of the Windmill look after the Windmill on a day-to-day basis, there are always repairs to be carried out and Mr. Smith thanked the Council for its support in getting these carried out. The Windmill is open on a regular basis and 2016 has seen a good number of visitors. He urged those present to visit.

Bryan McAlley spoke about the proposed Chailey Repair Café which is due to open in August 2018. He explained the purpose of the café and that volunteers would be needed to help run monthly events and to undertake repairs.

Chris Fisher explained the work of Chailey Allotments Association. The allotments were a lot tidier with lots of enthusiasm being shown by allotment holders. Ideas were sought as to how surplus produce could be used for the benefit of those in the community.

Marian Darke explained the work of Chailey Outings Group, providing day trips for those who would otherwise have difficulty undertaking such trips. The Group was grateful to the Parish Council for the funding provided.

Steve Brooker introduced Lewes DC's Community First initiative, which aims to help out and be a first point of call in the community.

Jeremy Stone spoke about the excellent results being achieved by teams in the football club. Over 120 children participate each week. He expressed Chailey Sports Clubs thanks for the work that the Parish Council is doing to refurbish the pavilion.

Roger Garman spoke about the Bluebell Railway which would celebrate 60 years of existence in 2019. He explained the various attractions and recent achievements, and outlined some of the projects currently in hand.

Patience Keet-Harris explained the work of Chailey Bonfire Society. There was a need for more volunteers to help with the Society's activities, which include the annual bonfire parade and Christmas lunch for older residents. The Society was grateful for funding from the Parish Council.

Peter Estcourt spoke about speeding and the possibility of resurrecting Speedwatch.

6. The emerging draft Neighbourhood Plan (“NHP”)

Jack Cranfield spoke to update those present on the progress made in the past year. Policies have been drafted and chapters of the NHP are being drafted. A housing needs survey had been conducted: the response rate to this had been excellent. It was hoped that a draft NHP would be ready by the end of 2018.

7. Possible infrastructure and other projects

Cllr. Jordan explained that the Council had received £21k from the Community Infrastructure Levy and that it was appropriate to ask those present to put forward ideas about projects that could be considered.

The current position as regards the proposed footpath in Warrs Hill Road was mentioned, as was the possibility that some of the monies set aside for this project might be used elsewhere in the village.

Jeremy Stone suggested that a children’s playground might be provided to provide a focal point.

Cllr. Jordan asked anyone who had thoughts on this subject to contact either him or the Clerk.

8. Questions and comments.

The Parish Councillors present introduced themselves.

Jeremy Collins mentioned the proposed redevelopment of Chailey School and considered that what was proposed was not fit for South Chailey. Cllr. Evans spoke to explain the extent of the proposed rebuilding.

Cllr. Olbrich spoke on behalf of Councillors and the village to thank Cllr. Jordan for acting as Chairman of the Parish Council over the past year.

Cllr. Jordan thanked Cllr. Olbrich for his comments and those present for attending. He brought the meeting to a close.

Signed:

Date: