

Annual Parish Council Minutes

Meeting held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at St Edmunds Centre School Lane

Members of the Parish Council: Cllr P Bosley, Cllr G Christie, Cllr Mrs J Watchorn, Cllr S Gray, Cllr I Bosley, Cllr P Chalk, Cllr D King , Cllr Mrs M Richards.

Apologies for absence: No apologies received

Election of Chairman for 2023/24

CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr King that Cllr P Bosley should be Chair. Cllr P Bosley accepted this and as there were no further nominations, Cllr P Bosley was duly elected and signed and read the declaration of acceptance of office

VICE CHAIR

It was proposed by Cllr Watchorn and seconded by Cllr I Bosley that Cllr King should be Vice Chair, Cllr King accepted this and as there were no further nominations, Cllr King was duly elected and signed and read the declaration of acceptance of office.

Acceptance of office

Members duly signed their acceptance of office following elections on 4th May 2023. Cllr Peter Chalk was welcomed to the Parish Council. Three vacancies remained and these would be advertised in Sekam and noticeboards.

Members of the public:

Brands Hatch

There was to be substantial felling of trees as approved by SDC and the Forestry Commission due to Ash Die back. Brands Hatch were saddened to be carrying out this work, it was suggested they may wish to put a notice in Sekam to inform residents ahead of works starting..

Declaration of Interests relating to items on the Agenda: None declared

Members' Register of Interests

The Clerk confirmed receipt from Members of completed Members' Register of Interests as required to be declared under the Local Government Act 2000

Standing Orders

To re-affirm the Standing Orders adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2022 deferred to General Purpose Committee meeting.

Financial Orders :

To re-affirm the financial Orders adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.in May 2022 deferred to General Purpose Committee meeting

Risk Assessment:

Annual review of risk Assessment is required by Audit Commission, deferred to General Purpose Committee meeting

Privacy policy: This will be circulated at General purpose meeting on 13th June.

Data Protection GDPR:

Council is required by law to have this item on the agenda and report any breaches of Data Protection. 2021/22. There were no breaches recorded.

Council Procedures

It was moved from the Chair that the Council operate with a Committee system with the following Committees for the ensuing year: a) Finance b) Planning c) General Purposes

ALL IN FAVOUR

Membership of Committees for the Year

- (i) Finance - All Members
- (ii) Planning - Number of Members to consider application as detailed on Appendix (I) as attached to the Minutes.
- (iii) General Purposes - All Members.

It was moved from the Chair that the membership, as above, be adopted.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Election of Chairman/Vice Chairman of the Committees

- (i) Finance Committee – Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council
- (ii) General Purposes – It was proposed by Cllr Watchorn and seconded by Cllr Chalk that the Chairman be Cllr Mrs Richards. It was proposed by Cllr P Bosley and seconded by Cllr Chalk that Vice Chairman be Cllr King. There were no other nominations.
- (iii) Planning Committee – It was proposed by the Chair that Chairman of Planning be Cllr Mrs Watchorn. It was proposed by Cllr Watchorn seconded by Cllr Gray that Vice Chairman be Cllr I Bosley There Were no other nominations.

It was moved from the Chair that these appointments be made.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Appointment of Representatives to Other Organisations:

- a) West Kingsdown Community Help Scheme - Cllr P Bosley
 - b) Kent Association of Local Councils – as required
 - c) Parish Council Footpaths Officer – Mr R Barry
 - d) Parish Council Tree Wardens – Mrs J Watchorn and Cllr Mrs Richards
 - e) Village Hall Management Committee – 5 members : Cllrs Richards, I Bosley and D King plus 2 vacancies
 - f) Old School Management Committee – 5 representatives: Cllrs P Bosley, Cllr I Bosley, Cllr Watchorn, Cllr Richards and Cllr Christie
 - g) Church Woods Management Committee – 3 representatives: Cllr Mrs Watchorn, Cllr P Bosley and Cllr Mrs Richards
 - h) Brands Hatch Liaison Group – 1 representative: Cllr Gray
- Proposed through the Chair to formally adopt the appointments

ALL IN FAVOUR

Calendar and Publication of Meetings

Members confirmed the date of the monthly Parish Council Meeting to be held on the fourth Wednesday in the month, with the exception of August and December due to holidays, and to confirm the continuation of the public first half hour.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Members confirmed the General Purpose Committee will be held on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise agreed.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Location of Meetings

It was confirmed that the Parish Council meetings be held at the St Edmunds Centre.

It was proposed from the Chair that General Purpose meetings move to St Edmunds Centre until such time that the church required the building on a regular weekly basis.

Cllr Mrs Richards proposed an amendment to the venue that the meetings remain at the Pavilion. Seconded by Cllr Watchorn.

There was a debate and the vote to the amendment first to remain at the pavilion

**4 in FAVOUR.
3 AGAINST
1 ABSTENTION**

The amendment was carried at meetings will be held at The Pavilion, London Road, at 7pm

Parish Council Website

Members noted that the names and addresses of Councillors are included on the Parish Council Website, together with copies of Agendas, Minutes and the Annual Report.

RECEIVED

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The MINUTES of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 were submitted.

It was moved from the Chair that they be signed with one amendment as a true record and any recommendation thereby implemented .

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 20230 were submitted.

It was moved from the Chair that they be signed as a true record and any recommendation thereby implemented

ALL IN FAVOUR

Any Urgent Business

The Chairman ruled that any business received since the despatch of the Agenda, by reason of special circumstances, be considered, in order to avoid any undue delay and have up to date information

Diary Items.

There are no diary items

Footpaths**Stacklands Wood**

New kissing gates installed provide by Ramblers association.

Flagstones. London Road:

Mr Barry asked if the matter could be placed on the General Purpose Agenda. This was agreed.

Correspondence**Letter received re solar farm proposal - the site lies between the motorway and Gabriel Springs road Three gates area**

*RE: Chimmens Solar Farm proposal between Horton Kirby and Fawkham, Sevenoaks
I am writing to let you know that RES is exploring the potential for a solar farm on land between Horton Kirby and Fawkham, with a view to submitting a planning application this year.*

RES, a British company, is the world's largest independent renewable energy business active in onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission and distribution. At the forefront of the industry for 40 years, RES has delivered more than 23GW of renewable energy projects across the globe.

Analysis from the Climate Change Committee and other independent bodies shows that the UK will need to deploy at least 40GW of solar by 2030 if it is to achieve net zero targets. Large-scale solar, alongside onshore and offshore wind are now the cheapest forms of electricity generation, making developments like the proposed

Chimmens Solar Farm not just good for the environment but also consumers.

Solar farms have significant potential to enhance biodiversity, hosting a range of habitats including wildflower meadows, hedgerows, nectar-rich areas for pollinators, and woodland. A typical solar farm uses around just 5% of the total site area with the rest of the land remaining undisturbed, creating significant opportunities to provide a range of ecological benefits. Furthermore, the land can easily be returned to agricultural use on decommissioning of the solar project.

We have undertaken a number of initial technical and environmental assessments, which have helped to inform a preliminary design of the scheme. Further surveys and assessments will be carried out as the project progresses, the findings of which will be written up in a number of detailed documents which will accompany any planning application. At this early stage, we are liaising with Sevenoaks District Council on the proposal, and we have recently submitted an EIA Screening request.

RES believes in meaningful and effective consultation, and we aim to engage early with the local community and key stakeholders in order to facilitate constructive dialogue. In the coming weeks we will be undertaking a range of consultation activities, including a public exhibition. Further information will be provided soon.

Feedback from the community and stakeholders will be taken into account, along with the results of site survey and assessments, as we refine the design of the proposed solar farm.

We will also be shortly launching a dedicated website which will be updated regularly.

The proposed site is located on the other side of the M20 so does not fall within the boundary of your parish and our assessments suggest the solar farm would not be visible from your parish; however, at this stage, the access and construction route to the proposed solar farm would pass through your parish, so we would be keen to engage at this early stage.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the proposed Chimmens Solar Farm in more detail with the parish council members and would be happy to arrange a meeting at a convenient time over the coming weeks.

Members would want to be part of any meeting held to see the proposed plans - Clerk to keep members updated.

AGREED

Skatepark

An inspection of the Skatepark has been carried out and the following quote has been received from Fearless Ramps to complete the most urgent works highlighted.

5ft Quarter pipe	Supply & replace 9mm Birch-Ply sheet. (10ft x 5ft)	Remove existing Birch-ply sheet & dispose at an authorised recycling centre. Supply & install replacement 9mm Birch-Ply sheet.	£250.00	2	£500.00
Cladding on the side of the Halfpipe, Roadside	Supply & replace 9mm Birch-Ply sheet. (10ft x 5ft)	Remove existing Birch-ply sheet & dispose at an authorised recycling centre. Supply & install replacement 9mm Birch-Ply sheet.	£250.00	6	£1,500.00
Missing or snapped fixings	All missing or snapped fixings around the whole park including the metal planter/grind block	Remove and replace all the broken fixings around the whole skate park including all the metal planter/grind block and kicker plates.	£495.00	1	£495.00
Kicker plates	Kicker plates lifting.	cut and reweld the kicker plates to suit the dip in the eroding tarmac. This will eliminate the lifting kickers.	£325.00	1	£325.00

Total to carry out these works identified on the recent inspection report by Fearless Ramps £2,820.00 plus VAT. It was proposed by Cllr I Bosley and seconded by Cllr King to accept these works and instruct the contractor to start as soon as possible

ALL IN FAVOUR

Events – For Members information

- a) St Edmunds Summer fair to be held on 17th June at Gamecock meadow
- b) Sevenoaks District Fun Day at Gamecock Meadow Monday 28th July 10-2pm free event run by SDCC

Village Hall Management Committee :

The hall remains very popular and well used. The Management Committee has recently met with contractors to quote for a solution and improvement to the car park. The sand is treading into the hall and is also uneven. The options are to replace the grass grids and recover with shingle or grass or an alternative option is to block pave, which is the Committee's preferred option. The car park is on land not leased from the Parish Council and the hall committee may come to the Parish for a financial contribution, currently exploring funding options. The works would ideally be carried out before e another winter.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator for East hill has arrived and is awaiting installation.

The defib at the Hever Road location requires a new battery at a cost of £295 including delivery and vat It was proposed through the Chair to accept the cost of replacement battery and order this for the price quoted.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Finance

a)The Finance papers were circulated to Members prior to the meeting, and it was noted that an income of £75,411.84 had been received. It was proposed by Cllr Gray and seconded by Cllr I Bosley that payments totalling £12,460.30 be paid, these to be online payments for authorised payment

8 IN FAVOUR

b) Members are asked to appoint a councillor to carry out an internal finance check, quarterly in the Parish office. Cllr Gray agreed to be reappointed.

c) Audit:

Following internal Audit by Karim Diamond the forms were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Financial Officer to be sent for final audit to Mazars LLP, Newcastle upon Tyne

Recreation ground

The Fence at the recreation ground surrounding the car park is rotten members had previously asked for quoted to replace the fence. A quote has been received from Clive Yarnold in the sum of £2,950 to supply a complete new fence in the same style as existing fence that surrounds the car park area. Supply and erect new post rails gates gate post and uprights fencing s half rails. It was proposed through the Chair to accept this quote and have the fence replaced as soon as possible.

It was proposed by Cllr I Bosley, seconded by Cllr King that the quote be accepted

ALL IN FAVOUR

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Newsletter Items

Election results and vacancies

June Meetings

Planning and General purpose meeting: Monday 12th June 2023 : Pavilion London road 7pm

Planning and Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 28th June 2023 : Main Hall, Old School, School Lane 7.30pm

Plans

SE/23/01092/FUL Tilleydene London Road

Single storey dwelling with garden and shared vehicle circulation area. Objection

SE/23/01251/OUT: Land south of Foxlands London Road

Outline application for a single dwelling with some matters reserved. Objection

SE/23/00974/MMA Land Northeast of Oakwood House School Lane:

Amendment to 22/00279 comment

SE/23/01170/HOUSE: 66 Neal Road

Single storey side extension internal alterations and new render finish to entire house and alterations to roof

SE/23/01056/HOUSE: La Corbiere 16 Sherbourne Close

Loft conversion with new rear dormer with rooflights and alterations to fenestration. No objection

SE/23/01231/CONVAR: Former Axstane house nursery Hever Road

Amendment to condition 3 (noise levels) of 21/03310/CONVAR related to 21/00580/FUL (Demolition of existing nursery building and erection of Class E Convenience Store) to allow 5 deliveries to the store per day to read: 'To allow an amendment to the proposed plant equipment to allow the occupation on the convenience store by Co-op.

The rating noise level from plant, machinery/ equipment assessed at the nearest noise sensitive receptors should be no greater than the typical lowest existing background noise level, as assessed according to BS4142:2014. The approved details set out in the NSL Noise Impact Assessment 89693 shall be implemented prior to occupation of the development and thereafter be permanently retained' No comment.

SE/23/01241/HOUSE: 38 Southfields Road

New detached double garage. Comment

SE/23/01174/WTPO 164 Hever Avenue

Removal of tree infected by fungal disease. Noted

Appeals

SE/23/00010/RFPLN Site: Hogwood 25 Ashen Grove Road Knatts Valley

Nature: Erection of garage. Replacement of gravel with brick paving to front driveway.

SE/21/00911/CONVAR

Knatts Valley Caravan Homes Knatts Valley road

Variation of condition 6 soft landscaping (within 3 months) and 7 (Surface water external lighting, internal layout, storage of refuse and recycling. Amenity building erected within 6 months o the date of this decision shall be implemented) of 20/02635/FUL proposed creation of an additional 3 gypsy/ traveller pitches.

To be heard as a hearing on June 27th at 10am at the District Council Offices

Meeting closed at 8.45pm