

**CHESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2017**

**Present:** Parish Cllr Steve Bailey (Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Chris Brealy (Vice Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Andrew Rabey  
Parish Cllr Pat Gibson  
Parish Cllr Tricia Chapman  
Parish Cllr Chris Ellis  
Parish Cllr Paul Clayson  
Parish Cllr Anne Loder  
Parish Cllr Bob Todd (Co-opted at the meeting)  
Ms Amanda Sparkes, Clerk to the Council  
  
Three x residents

**175. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from KCC Cllr Michael Harrison who has been unwell. Cllr Bailey wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of the parish council.

**176. VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL-** The vacancy has followed due process and the parish council is able to co-opt a suitable candidate. Resident Robert Todd had put himself forward for consideration and written a resume about himself which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Bob read his resume to the meeting. All councillors indicated that they were happy that Bob be co-opted to the vacancy. Bob therefore duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and the Clerk gave him a Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form to complete for him and his wife and to return to the Monitoring Officer at CCC, for publication. The Clerk thanked Bob for looking at the parish council website ahead of the meeting and advising her of some links etc that needed looking at on the new platform and software, which have now been addressed. With regard to the parish councillors' areas of responsibility, Bob has asked that these be revisited in a couple of months while he finds his feet. The Clerk suggested that the annual meeting of the parish council usually does an update of these and everyone agreed this would be the best way forward.

**177. MEMBERS' INTERESTS –** Cllr Chapman declared an interest in Grasmere Pasture due to the proximity of the home, should the item arise during any discussion.  
Cllr Bailey declared an interest in the Village Survey and explained that he had asked all councillors to stay behind after the meeting as he had an item to disclose that would not be discussed within the open forum of the meeting. He further advised that he may have to opt out of certain discussions within the meeting as it progressed if he felt he had to.

**178. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017**

Cllr Ellis proposed and Cllr Loder seconded and the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and the Chairman duly signed them.

**179. FLYTIPPING UPDATE**

Cllr Bailey explained that the BBC One Show had shown a feature which aired on 8 March 2017 on BBC TV about the increase in flytipping nationwide and including the Share and Coulter site as an example locally. He explained that he and the Clerk were going to meet with a city councillor, Robert Jones, who is the liaison councillor for flytipping, dog mess and litter. Cllr Jones has acknowledged that the BBC filming was instrumental in CCC getting the site cleared. Cllr Bailey explained that the BBC has asked him to keep them informed. Cllr Brealy thanked Cllr Bailey for doing the filming and highlighting the issue.

Cllr Bailey advised that he had also taken part on a live slot on Radio Kent with KCC Cllr Matthew Balfour on 3 March 2017. Different county councils are dealing with flytipping in

different ways – some crush the vehicles involved in fly tipping. The CCC spokesperson advised on radio that the Share and Coulter clear up had cost £60k.

180. **POLICING**

Cllr Rabey advised that there have been a couple of break-ins to outbuildings – one at the cricket club and one at the golf club. He reminded residents about shed protection at this time of year. Cllr Bailey commented that the Clerk had run an article in the March magazine on this subject.

181. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Neal Fowler, Vice Chairman of the Canterbury and District Neighbourhood Watch had provided a report to the meeting which had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

- Theft took place at the commercial premises of John Wilson Business Park between 02.00 and 03.00 on 28 February. The Ava-Skip company reported that several batteries were taken from vehicles parked outside the premises overnight.
- The Pavilion, Chestfield Cricket Club, Grasmere Road, Chestfield was entered by burglars between 22.30 and 22.55 on 6 March. The door to the Clubhouse was damaged to gain entry to the Clubhouse. Once inside the burglar attempted to steal from the separate secured area but was unsuccessful.
- A couple have been knocking on doors in Thanet claiming to be deaf and selling drawings. Police received a number of reports of cold callers in the Birchington and Minster areas on 4 March. Although no crimes were reported it is believed to be a scam which has been reported around the country. Inspector Lara Connor of the Thanet Community Safety Unit said: 'The man and woman had a sign saying they were deaf and that they wanted to sell people a hand-drawn picture.' Similar incidents have been reported in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. 'In some cases victims are asked to pay in the region of £10 to £15 for a picture and only later do they realise it's a photocopy,' she said. 'The cold callers prey on people's compassion and mainly target older or vulnerable people.'

182. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

There were no comments or questions from the residents present and so there was no adjournment. The meeting continued.

183. **PLANNING**

Councillors considered planning applications in Appendix 2 previously circulated. Decisions reached and latest information now attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes. A site visit will be undertaken in respect of the application for a log cabin as a holiday home in the garden of 20 Old Fold (application reference CA/17/00513/FUL).

184. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

NOTED that the next Year-End Internal Audit is booked for Monday 24 April 2017.

NOTED that the Clerk completed the KCC Local Government Pension Scheme year end Excel spreadsheet Return to 31 March 2017, and returned this to the pension section at KCC.

**Clerk Salary increase** - NOTED that back in May 2016 the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) reached agreement on salary increases for Clerk for 2016-2017 and also for 2017-2018. NOTED therefore that the increase for 2017-2018 takes effect in the Clerk salary for April 2017 and onwards.

**Application for a Community grant from Grasmere Park Cricket Club**

CONSIDERED the request for a grant of £160 from the Grasmere Park Cricket Club. Cllr Bailey confirmed that Grasmere Park cricket club are separate from Chestfield Cricket Club who have been supported with a grant separately in the past.

Cllr Bailey read the main details for the application form. The application states "Grasmere Park Cricket Club has expanded over the past year with a brand new junior section and under 18s team. The purpose was originally to offer friendly Sunday games for adults. However, the AGM voted to move to Saturday league games now the Club has a stable, effective squad. Grasmere Cricket Club has built a reputation for being professional yet very friendly, being totally inclusive.

The League: Kent Regional Cricket League (Div IC – East). Entering this league, comes with new responsibilities. Our funding request is for the cricket balls. There are specific ones that have to be used and a new ball is demanded for each game. We have fixtures for 16 leagues games. (Plus 8 friendlies).” The Club plays fixtures at Radfall Recreation ground and other areas. Cllr Ellis commented that it is a favourable bid and he would be keen to support it but is it a Chestfield organisation? Cllr Bailey stated that it originated in Chestfield and Cllr Rabey commented that they have to go where pitches are available. Residents of Chestfield are involved in the Club. Cllr Bailey opted out of the subsequent vote. Cllr Rabey proposed and Cllr Ellis seconded and the council agreed to approve the £160 grant, and the Clerk wrote a cheque out at the meeting.

185. **AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk presented finance sheets for cheque payments requiring authorisation totalling £3,307.75, together with items listed on an additional sheet totalling £1,508.53, plus the additional cheque written at the meeting for the £160 grant above. The financial matters and accounts were authorised for payment.

186. **CAROLS EVENT 2017**

At the January 2017 parish council meeting, Cllrs previously considered residents’ suggestion for a change of start time to 7pm (from 8pm) to encourage families and children to attend in future, and felt it was a good idea. The two vicars, Father David Vannerley and Father Kevin St Aubyn have approved the suggestion.

The March magazine ran a small article about the suggestion and the Clerk was contacted by a resident who suggested that a banner could be run ahead of the event across the St Joseph’s Church frontage. The Clerk will ask Father Kevin about this idea.

Cllr Bailey commented that the parish council could consider inviting the local primary school to have a children’s attendance or children’s choir, under a gazebo, and will speak to the school.

187. **FUN DAY 2017 to run Sunday 23 July 2017 from 12pm to 4pm**

Notes from the fourth sub meeting have been circulated. Work and progress is continuing. The Clerk will add actions arising to the Action List. The Clerk will again set a date for another meeting for the sub-committee to meet again. Cllr Clayson agreed to send a link round to the councillors of a possible band to book.

The Cricket Club have kindly agreed that there may be a dog show – Cllr Bailey advised he has someone who will run this. Cllr Ellis felt that there is a need to make more of the publicity for the day – and the dog show is a press opportunity.

There has been some discussion around the supported charity. Cllr Bailey commented that the working group felt that the air ambulance is a draw with some people attending last year purely to support this cause. The charity Porchlight can have a donation at the annual parish council meeting and Cllr Bailey felt that they could also be supported with a quiz later in the year.

The parish council has learned that the Whitstable Regatta is not going to run this year, Cllr Bailey commented that whilst sad to hear this there is a potential opportunity for the parish fun day to help some of the charities usually involved in the Regatta and he will make contact with the Whitstable Lion’s Chairman.

188. **Annual Parish Meeting 27 March 2017**

Porchlight are Guest speakers at Annual Electors’ meeting to be held on 27 March 2017. The event is advertised in the parish magazine. Reports have been invited from local organisations and city and county councillors. The Chairman will prepare his annual report and each councillor will provide a paragraph about their previous year on the council too. The Clerk will purchase refreshments and Cllrs Chapman and Gibson offered to help in the kitchen on the night.

189. **CHESTFIELD VILLAGE SURVEY 2016 AND ACTION PLAN**

There have been 450 responses from residents giving a response rate at 32%. Informal meetings with the clerk and Cllrs Rabey, Gibson and Chapman has been to disseminate the numerical and narrative comments and formulate an Action Plan. The Clerk recorded ongoing thanks to them. More informal meetings will be held – and new Cllr Bob Todd may also be able

to get involved. An Action Plan will be formulated and brought to full council in due course. This will act as a steer for the parish council for the next 5 years or so.

**Invitation to consider asking for a visit from the Rural Kent Coffee & Information Project**

In April 2017, Action with Communities in Rural Kent will launch a new service bringing a library of information with a mobile café to rural communities in Kent and Medway. The café will provide a source of information and a friendly, informal meeting place for residents.

The Clerk will find out more information as this may be a means to address one of the actions in the action plan.

190. **LORD MAYOR EVENT**

NOTED that a thank you event is being organised by the Lord Mayor for parish council Clerks and Chairmen on 16 March 2017. The Clerk and Cllr Brealy are to attend.

191. **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Chestfield Cricket Club**

Chestfield Parish Council gave a donation to the cricket club for new nets etc recently. Parish Councillors have been invited to the cricket club's Opening ceremony and Social evening on Thursday 20 April at 6.30pm.

**KALC to sit on the Kent Estates Partnership**

The Kent Estates Partnership, formed in September 2016, comprises public sector partners, national and regional agencies, principal authorities, emergency services, health and higher/further education and other organisations across Kent.

The aim is to identify opportunities where there can be collaboration on estates projects (see <http://www.kentestatespartnership.com/about/>). The Kent Estates Partnership, is an advisory group, and shares ideas and good practice to support the objectives of the Kent One Public Estate Programme.

The Kent Estates Partnership has 4 ambitions:

- Supporting the release of all land assets across the County to develop 10,000 houses over the next five to ten years.
- Identifying and developing partnership led town centre/coastal community projects that support regeneration, economic growth and the well-being of Kent's communities.
- Developing a framework for collaboration between public sector bodies that delivers seamless public asset management and estate services.
- Identifying opportunities through innovation for synergy, service integration and co-location of public sector services that deliver efficiency savings and or enhanced service/policy outcomes.

KALC were invited to join the Kent Estates Partnership Board. Being on the Kent Estates Partnership Board provides KALC an opportunity to network and work in partnership with key organisations across the county and to represent the interests of member Councils. KALC will keep Councils informed of the progress of work on the Kent Estates Partnership Board.

192. **SPEEDWATCH**

**Speedwatch – Online registration and reporting for future**

The Clerk facilitated a meeting with all speedwatch volunteers and the Kent Police co-ordinator on 16 February 2017. The meeting went well with online demonstrations of the Community Speedwatch website and explanations for the reasons for change:

The Community Speedwatch Manager explained that the online system has been developed in order to have the correct updated list of current volunteers, and in order to comply with Kent Police policy, health and safety and public liability insurance cover. Everyone involved in speedwatch needs to complete the online registration to comply with the policies and for safety. There are currently 1,700 sites across Kent, and 1,600 volunteers trained so far. There are 103 active schemes with 7,000 letters generated to drivers in 2016. The Clerk subsequently sent the volunteers the link for them to register as members of the Chestfield watch.

Five of the six have registered.

A plea for more volunteers has run in the March magazine. This explains the need for an online registration and online training.

There is a change to the feedback to the parish council meetings from now on regarding the check numbers and vehicle results since the previous parish council meeting – as the results are now input directly to the online database rather than via the Clerk (this sends the information to the DVLA immediately for processing). But the statistics could be obtained from the database, by the Clerk, if needed. Also, for recording and processing of offending vehicles – all five of the main criteria are required for input to the online database in future –that is, speed, time, registration number, make and colour. If any of the five is missing the vehicle cannot be processed. This may lead to a reduction in numbers being recorded from now on.

193. **HIGHWAYS**

**Lane discipline markings and chevrons at the railings on the train station roundabout**

The Clerk explained that she has chased again for possible land markings and chevrons being installed to try and stop these repeated railings incidents. Also, she has chased for the parish council request to pay for a Traffic Regulation Order to consider a reduction in the speed limit here from 60mph to 40mph.

Cllr Bailey explained that the Whitstable Gazette had asked him for a Press Release statement about these items. This was worked up in conjunction with the Clerk and with Kent Highways. (Both the parish council and Kent Highways are hopeful that these small achievable measures may go some way to reducing the problems. However in many cases the incidents are due to driver error so crash volumes may not be significantly reduced. Drivers are simply driving too fast at this point.

It is worth saying that Kent Highways do recharge the repair and replacement costs to the drivers causing the damage. Kent Highways have had their traffic engineer do a design scheme for the provision of lane markings and adding reflective chevrons – and the results and costs are awaited.)

194. **ENVIRONMENT**

Cllr Brealy has kindly reported two dumped fridges on 12 March 2017 using the Country Eye app.

**Public Rights of Way Map noticeboard at Maydowns Road.**

The Clerk explained that repairs and maintenance are needed for the Public Rights of Way Map noticeboard at Maydowns Road. The Chairman and Clerk will speak to a local contractor to organise this with the Clerk.

**Line of very tall fir trees at the back of the play park**

The very large fir type trees at the back of the play park alongside Fern Close are in KCC ownership and are dying and need attention. One tree has recently been removed. Chestfield parish council, as another joint initiative with KCC, have offered to part fund the removal and provision of new trees in the same way as the others on the frontage. All residents directly affected in Fern Close are highly supportive of their removal and replacement.

Costs were given at the February 2017 parish council meeting and the Clerk went back with councillors' comments. KHS has since agreed to fully fund the felling and removal of the trees. CCC has also agreed that the usual conservation area commitments to put 16 back (for the 16 being removed) may be waived as there are issues of spacing to ensure room at maturity. 7 or 8 new trees may now be considered with hedging planted instead interspersed between to maintain the line.

The species are being renegotiated. The parish council favours firs like those already planted at the play park – but the CCC officer has suggested some Eucalyptus too as the area by Fern Close is very wet. The parish councillors were very anti the idea of Eucalyptus though, feeling that :

- they are not a species that is indigenous to the UK – they would prefer something native to this country;
- that roots will spread and go under the Fern Close properties;
- Eucalyptus are shallow rooted and may come down in heavy winds – so not good to be planted near houses?

The Clerk will go back to the KHS officers with these comments. She will also ask about the felling and stump grinding timescale, bearing in mind the bird nesting season is about to start.

**Possible new noticeboard at the play park**

At the site meeting with the tree officers in the Autumn of 2016 a possibility of the parish council installing a new noticeboard at the play park entrance was discussed – this would not only be a form of communication but would also act as a barrier to vehicles getting on to the grass area by the car park. The Clerk has contacted Kent Highways who must give permission for the parish council to install one. This has been acknowledged.

**Circular walk**

After the February 2017 parish council meeting the Clerk contacted the golf club with the parish council's ideas for improvements and asked them as the landowners for permission to go ahead with getting quotes for the work to be carried out and paid for by the parish council. (Cllr Clayson kindly offered to then obtain quotes, if the Club are agreeable, for shingle secured with a mesh – or wooden duck board with chicken rail to keep it from being too slippery – and even a hand rail?) The letter has been acknowledged and will go to the golf club's next committee meeting.

**Possibility of a donated bench in the parish**

At the February 2017 parish council meeting the Clerk advised she had spoken to the family of a deceased Chestfield resident who are prepared to consider costs of the purchase and installation of a memorial bench, for the pathway linking Share and Coulter Road to Polo Way (and which forms part of the parish council's promoted circular walk). This is the family's preferred location. It is on land that belongs to Allied London after the Churchwood Park development was built. A few years ago Allied London stopped maintaining the land in the area and offered it to the parish council who declined it. C/fwd: The Clerk will try and contact them as the landowners for permission to site a bench along the pathway, and assume that they are happy for this to proceed if the parish council do not hear back from them. She has so far struggled to find the correct contact details for Allied London.

The Clerk has not yet heard back from the residents. Councillors felt the item should be closed as an agenda item but that the family should be free to contact the parish council again in the future to programme their kind offer if appropriate.

195. **WRFC BALL COURT**

Rugby club representatives agreed a limited open access to the ball park via a key to be held by the steward at the sandwich/burger stand. An agreement around ball park access has been signed by the parish council Chairman and sent to WRFC for their Chairman or representative to also sign one copy and return. This was acknowledged by the Secretary and the signed copy is awaited.

Some signage about key access, CCTV coverage, 'rules' for use such as respect and take litter home, etc. has been sent to the Rugby Club secretary and when agreed the parish council will get signage made up.

Cllr Bailey advised that the Steward does have the key and WRFC will ask for a phone or similar as a deposit for the key return. Some interim signage has been put up by the Rugby Club but it does not say where to collect the key from.

The Steward has also advised Cllr Bailey that the WRFC has improved disabled access by repairing the Stannah stairlift on the outside.

The meeting closed at 8.50p.m.

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
Chairman

***Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting***

**Appeal Land adjacent to 4 Shrub Hill Road**

**Erection of two detached dwellings (CA/16/00722) - Appeal Reference W/16/3154561**

An Appeal has been lodged with the Secretary of State, to be determined by written representations and a site visit by the Inspector. Decision is still awaited. (The Clerk has circulated the city council's statement of case).

**22 Maydowns Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LL**

**Proposed two three-storey semi-detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling (CA/16/01878) - Appeal ref: W/16/3165084**

A letter was received on 23 January 2017 to advise that an Appeal has been lodged with the Secretary of State. Details of the appellant's grounds of appeal are currently available on the CCC website as is the Council's Statement of case. (The Clerk has circulated the city council's statement of case).

**New Applications**

55	CA/17/00285/FUL Woodside, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD – application for treeworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o TPO No 7, 1969 - T1 - Oak - Reduce over hang by 4 meters</li> <li>o T2 - Judas Tree - Crown reduce by 30%</li> <li>o TPO No 16, 1975 - T3 - Oak - Reduce overhang back to boundary</li> <li>o G4 - Mixed Hedge – remove overhang from neighbouring property to boundary</li> <li>o TPO No 16, 1975 - - T5 - Dead Oak Trunk - Fell to ground level</li> <li>o TPO No 16, 1975 - T6 &amp; 7- Oak - Crown reduce by 25%</li> </ul>
56	CA/17/00314/FUL – 106 Chestfield Road Proposed single- storey side and rear extension following the demolition existing out buildings.
57	CA/17/00460/ - 22 Grasmere Road Tree works: T.P.O No 7 1969 ,T1 - Oak - To remove deadwood and reduce several smaller branches to give 3 meters clearance from building T2 - Leylandii fell to ground level.
58	CA/17/00427 - Crow Park Farm, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PB Variation of condition 02 (drawings) of planning permission CA//15/01541/FUL for the erection of two new dwellings, amendments to boundary and plot positions from planning approval CA/11/00757/FUL; to allow internal and external alterations.
59	CA/17/00513/FUL - 20 Old Fold, Chestfield, CT5 3NL Change of use of log cabin in garden of main property to holiday let.

**Notifications**

CA//16/02874/FUL - 22 Maydowns Road - Detached bungalow and garage.	Granted by CCC
CA/16/02870/FUL – 6 Longtye Drive Single-storey rear extension and two-storey front extension	Granted by CCC
CA/16/02784/ADV – McDonalds Restaurant Ltd, Thanet Way A2990 Erection and display of 3 yellow internally illuminated golden arch fascia signs, 3 white internally illuminated McDonald's lettering fascia signs and 1 externally illuminated good times fascia sign.	Granted by CCC
CA/17/00013/FUL – Tanga, Radfall Road Proposed single-storey rear extensions and first floor rear extension together with loft conversion with 3 no. dormer windows to front elevation and 2 no. dormer windows and 1 no. roof light to rear elevation.	Granted by CCC
CA/17/00016/FUL – 45 Grasmere Road - Proposed single-storey rear extension, first-floor extension and detached garage.	Granted by CCC

**Enforcement**

**ENF/17/00061 dated 21 February 2017**

**Screw Fix, Units 101-104 Harvey Drive, John Wilson Industrial Estate CT5 3QZ**

An enforcement case was created for the possible breach of planning with the installation of an illuminated sign

**C/fwd: ENF/16/00078 - 43 The Ridings - Erection of a shed in the front garden of the property**

A new shed was put up in front of this property and the city council's enforcement department advised (by letter dated 12 July 2016) that a breach of planning control has taken place. The shed is still there – so the Clerk contacted Enforcement again on 22 January 2017. At the February 2017 parish council meeting, the parish council resolved to reply to CCC that they still considered the shed harmful, and a breach of the planning rules, that sets an unwelcome precedent and urged CCC to continue to enforce for its removal.