



Chevening Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7.30pm
at the Pavilion, Chipstead Recreation Ground Chevening Road Chipstead TN13 2SA.**

Present:	Mr N Williams	Chairman
	Mr J London	Vice Chairman
	Mr A de Turberville	Councillor
	Mr J Eastwood	Councillor
	Mrs C Moses	Councillor (from item 92)
	Ms J Nielsen	Councillor
	Mrs L Weavers	Councillor
	Mrs V Woodruff	Councillor

Mrs J Hayton	Clerk
Cllr N Williams	KCC
Cllr M Alger	SDC

Members of the Public 5

89 Apologies and Absences

All Councillors were present

90 Declarations of interest or lobbying

There were no declarations of interest or lobbying regarding items on this agenda (Cllr Moses also confirmed after her co-option)

91 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual meeting on 12th May 2025 previously agreed by email were formally resolved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record

92 Co-option of a new Councillor

Cllr Moses was co-opted onto the Council signed the Notice of Acceptance of Office and took her place on the Council

93 Updates from KCC.

Cllr Williams briefed the Council on 3 points

- 1 With the new Council and the number of new members there is currently a degree of paralysis within KCC including the reports of a “DOGE” style initiative from the majority party . There are a number of statutory meetings which have to go ahead but there is not a lot of action within KCC at present.
- 2 Cllr Williams intends to visit all 9 of his Parish Council meetings regularly and is creating a rota of their meetings. He intends to produce a monthly newsletter doing a generic update on KCC and specifics relating to each parish
- 3 Traffic Island at Witches Lane/A25. Many parishioners are concerned there are now no barriers at the crossing, the lights are at shoulder height and beside you when crossing

Signed as a true record

7th July 2025

rather than high level and opposite (with no noise to indicate it is safe to cross) and the time to cross is too short. Cllr Williams has met with the two school heads and KCC Highways.

KCC will put bollards on the corners of the island but will not reinstate the barriers. KCC claim that children cross the wrong side of the barriers. The Council challenged that as no-one has ever seen children cross the wrong side of the barriers. The indicator lights at shoulder level are (according to KCC) a training issue. A member of the public suggested that it must be cheaper to install high level lights rather than “train” 500 children, their parents and anyone else who uses the crossing.

A member of the public asked for an update on the Bessels Green crossing. There has been no action since the last meeting but the crossing is still under consideration. The Council suggested contacting both the Kings Head and the Baptist Church for support.

94 Updates from SDC

Cllr Alger updated on the changes to waste collections which will be introduced next year. Food waste will be collected weekly, glass, dry recycling and general (black bag) waste will be fortnightly. Wheelie bins will be provided for black bag waste and ultimately the dry mixed recycling will move to wheelie bins too. SDC are looking to form a Unitary Authority with Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone. Those authorities have been recycling in this way for many years and outsource their waste collection. A member of the public pointed out that after Brexit when HGV drivers were in short supply, Tunbridge Wells had no waste collections for many weeks as their outsourcing partner couldn't provide the service. This is something to consider as outsourcing on the face of it can be a cost saving but in reality it can cause issues.

Cllr Woodruff asked about the leisure centre. Cllr Alger confirmed she was committed to keeping the leisure centre open whilst the redevelopment takes place – otherwise the town will be without leisure facilities for up to two years which is not acceptable. There are debates about the sustainability of the swimming pool (which is the most expensive element to maintain). Cllr London commented that the problem is that the District has 3 swimming pools which is very unusual.

A member of the public asked about the Local Plan. Cllr Williams confirmed it was in process with the Reg 19 consultation likely to be in October. He mentioned that the developers of Fort Halstead are looking to replace the business units planned for the site with more housing which he is strongly opposed to. The number of empty office buildings in the District and the suitability of converting them to housing was suggested. Cllr Williams stated that as part of the plan office space and working units must also be provided. The Council challenged that as there is no point in providing additional office space if they remain empty.

95 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public in attendance

96 Open Spaces

Open Space Inspection

Parking Bays on Sailing Club Road. The Clerk obtained a second quote to provide additional parking bays. The first contractor will provide 8 spaces, the second quote will only provide 5 as they are concerned with not disturbing the tree roots. Cllr Woodruff advised she and former Cllr Firmager had met with a builder who did not want to quote. Unfortunately, this has now delayed the decision for at least a month as the Council's Financial Regulations require 3 quotes for a contract of this value

Playground Inspection

There are no reported issues with the playground but the surface and equipment may benefit from refurbishment

97 A parishioner has offered the Council a 10-12ft Christmas tree (pot grown)

Cllr Nielsen didn't want a tree on Bessels Green. Apparently there had been one there in the past and it was vandalised. It was suggested to put the tree in an open space in Chesterfield Drive. Cllr Eastwood will contact the parishioner

98 To resolve to pay for the St John's Ambulance attendance at the Dragon Boat Festival

The Council resolved to pay for the St John's Ambulance presence at the Dragon Boat Festival

99 To resolve the terms and conditions for Football Clubs renting the Pavilion and Recreation Ground

The terms and conditions were formally resolved by the Council and the Clerk was instructed to share with the Football Club and offer a meeting to discuss

100 Resignation of Clerk

The Council asked how the Clerk found out about the vacancy when she applied. This was via the Chronicle. The Clerk suggested talking to Riverhead as they have recently appointed a new clerk to get their job advert. The Chairman will contact Cllr Hunter from Riverhead. Cllr London asked if the clerk would give 6 months notice. As she already has obtained another job she declined that timescale. The clerk also suggested contacting Kelly Webb who has a mailing list of all clerks and could distribute a message to them to see if they knew anyone who may want to apply. Cllr London suggested the Chairman is allocated a budget of £1000 to advertise the Clerks role which was resolved by the Council

101 Correspondence Received and General Issues

Change in the Management Structure of Chevening Estates. The Chairman will write Jayne West who leads the transitional support team to suggest local representation should be on the new management team

102 General Information and proposals for Future Agenda Items

The Clerk will include the roles and responsibilities list (agreed at the Annual Meeting) as Cllr Firmager took on a number of responsibilities which now need to be filled

103 Finance - Income Received and Cheques Payable

The payments for June were resolved and the Payments and Receipts for May reviewed

104 Planning Applications

Applications for consideration by the Council

65 Westerham Road Bessels Green Kent TN13 2QB – this will be resolved by email

105 Resignation of Cllr Firmager

Cllr Firmager resigned with immediate effect on 27th May. The Chairman thanked him for his work on the Council. The Council resolve to remove him from the Bank mandates

The meeting closed at 21.45