



Chevening Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 7.30pm
at the Pavilion, Chipstead Recreation Ground Chevening Road Chipstead TN13 2SA.

Present:	Mr N Williams	Chairman
	Mr J Eastwood	Councillor
	Mr J Jarrett	Councillor
	Mr J London	Councillor
	Ms J Nielsen	Councillor
	Mrs L Weavers	Councillor
	Mrs V Woodruff	Councillor
	Mrs J Hayton	Clerk
	Cllr M Alger	SDC
	Cllr S Robinson	SDC
	PC Harry Watson	Kent Police
	Members of the Public	2
Apologies	Mr J Firmager	Vice Chairman
	Mr A de Turberville	Councillor

47 Apologies and Absences

Cllrs de Turberville and Firmager sent their apologies which were duly accepted by the Chairman

48 Declarations of interest or lobbying

There were no declarations of interest or lobbying on items on the agenda

49 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd March 2025 previously agreed by email were formally resolved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record

50 Updates from Kent Police

PC Harry Watson attended the Parish Council meeting on behalf of Kent Police. He explained that there have been a number of high profile car thefts from properties mainly near the station and reports of burglaries in Sevenoaks Town. He reported that steering wheel locks are the most effective deterrent to vehicle theft but they need to be the type which covers the whole steering wheel. He mentioned the Kent and Essex Police initiative to create a register of CCTV where householder could be approached to request footage if an incident has occurred.

51 Updates from SDC

Cllr Alger updated on the public consultation on waste collection and recycling. There have been over 3,500 responses with positive responses concerning recycling from over 80% of respondents. Recycling rates have increased since the introduction of the green bags in the District. Vehicles have been ordered for recycling food waste – these are not available as electric vehicles and they would not be practical anyway because of the distances they have to cover and the weight of the vehicles themselves would not allow sufficient range

A question was raised as to whether the operatives were consulted prior to the introduction of the green bags – Cllr Robinson confirmed they were not consulted

Cllr Robinson updated on the 3 committees on which she sits – Scrutiny; Audit and Standards. The Standards Committee have recently voted to adopt LGA rules for the District Council. Scrutiny Committee has a role to ensure the Cabinet has considered all options when making decisions. At the recent Audit meeting the External Auditors raised a number of points and put disclaimers on the accounts. Cllr Robinson confirmed this was not an issue with the officers but with the priorities set by the Council. Cllr Williams read a statement from SDC confirming the robustness of the Council's finances

52 Questions from the Public

One member of the public attended for item 62 and his comments are covered there.

The Bricklayers Arms are having an issue with people taking drinks onto the green and leaving glasses over there, with the risk of them getting broken and causing injury. A request was made to put a sign on the lamppost outside the pub requesting people do not take glasses onto the Green. The Council confirmed an A3 sign attached to the lamppost. The Council resolved to add this to the agenda in September to review the effectiveness of the notice

53 Open Spaces

a Open Space Inspection

The planters have now been planted

b Playground Inspection

No issues have been reported with the playground

54 Update on Footpaths from Footpath Warden

The footpath warden gave a briefing around the footpaths and any issues. There used to be a footpath through the Fort Halstead site which was diverted when the site was owned by the MoD. It is uncertain whether the footpath will be reinstated

The diverted footpath around Turvins Farm is working well, but there are only very flimsy diverted footpath signs which tend to be destroyed in bad weather. The footpath goes through a field of sheep which has a 5 bar gate to access. This has been left open by walkers and a "kissing gate" would be much better for keeping the animals safe. The Clerk will contact the Estate to suggest improvements to the signage and access to the field.

On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked the Footpath Warden for his hard work on behalf of all Parishioners

55 VE Day Update

There is an additional food stall offering hot food and snacks. Chevening Amblers are running a beer tent and the Pizza Van and Ice Cream van will also be in attendance

56 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place on 28th April in the Church Hall. Each speaker will have a short slot (3 minutes) and then opportunities to take questions from the audience. Refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting. Our Beat Pc's, KCC and SDC Councillors and Leader of Sevenoaks Council will all be in attendance. Cllr Weavers requested a slot for the Treasurer of the Lucy Countess of Stanhope Trust to talk about the awards

57 To resolve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The Council unanimously resolved the Annual Governance Statement

58 To resolve the Accounting Statements 2024/25

The Council unanimously resolved the Accounting Statements

59 Parking – Sailing Club Road and Chipstead Common

Cllr London requested update from the Clerk on extending the parking bays in Sailing Club Road at May or June meeting. The Clerk had previously advised that the boundary fence down Sailing Club Road is incorrectly placed and requested the Council support in establishing the correct boundary. The proposal for Chipstead Common is to move the posts adjacent to Barnfield Road to allow cars to park forwards rather than parallel parked which hopefully would mean less posts were knocked down (a regular occurrence). The Clerk will obtain costs for moving the posts and laying mesh to prevent cars sinking in the mud

60 Defibrillators for Telephone Boxes

The Chipstead WI and Coffee morning have raised over £900 towards the defibrillator in Chipstead. Overall cost for defib and box is around £1500. Both telephone boxes need repainting which is on the list for the handyman

61 Chipstead Common Football Hut

It was resolved to proceed with external cladding of the hut which is beginning to look very tatty. The internal walls can be removed to make a large open space. The Clerk will consult potential users to see how best to change the space once all electrical safety checks have taken place

62 Chipstead Recreation Ground

The Council have received a request from Otford to treat the ground for worms. Chipstead and Otford have agreed the terms of a potential ground sharing agreement but it was reported that Otford will not proceed if they are not permitted to treat the worm casts. The Council reconfirmed it's previous resolution that it would not allow treatment on the ground

The issue of Saturday morning traffic was also discussed. It was suggested that the Football Club employ people to be parking marshalls rather than relying on goodwill. The Chairman confirmed that parishioners are getting increasingly upset with the issues of parking and traffic on a Saturday morning and if there are continuing complaints the club may be asked to scale back their use of the Recreation Ground on a Saturday. The Council reaffirmed it's commitment to children playing sports but having 2 lots of 6 matches on a Saturday morning places too much strain on the supporting infrastructure

The tractor owned by the Football Club has been broken for 2 weeks so no ground maintenance has taken place

63 Correspondence Received and General Issues

a Request for donation from West Kent Mediation

The Council already donate to 5 charities and feel unable to take on any others with the current economic uncertainty

b Update on Flagpole

Cllr Firmager was going to look into options for flagpoles but as hhe sent his apologies th Council resolved not to proceed with this at the present time

c Request not to cut the grass on Bessels Green and Chipstead Common for the bees

The Council debated this issue as single requests like this tend to provoke a less than favorable response from residents living adjacent to the open spaces. It was resolved to continue with the normal ground maintenance schedule

64 General Information and proposals for Future Agenda Items

There was nothing reported. The Clerk reminded the Council that the next meeting (12th May) is the Annual Meeting where the Chair and Vice Chair are appointed, the open spaces are agreed and all regulations and procedures are signed off

65 Finance - Income Received and Cheques Payable

The payments April were resolved the Payments and Receipts for March reviewed

66 Planning Applications

The applications granted or refused were reviewed

67 Resignation of Cllr Jarrett

Cllr Jarrett has written to the Chairman and Clerk resigning from the Council. His resignation was accepted with regret by the Council and the Chairman thanked him for all his hard work on behalf of the Parish. The Council resolved to take Cllr Jarrett off the Bank Mandates.

The statutory notification of a Casual Vacancy will be requested from SDC and posted as required

The meeting closed at 22.10

Payments and Receipts for March

12 March 2025	Welham Jones - Jones Neb4	£110.00
27 March 2025	Chevening Amblers	£866.67
31 March 2025	Credit Interest	£270.94
03 March 2025	Kent Cables	£30.00
05 March 2025	JGC Sportsturf	£1,040.00
05 March 2025	Geers	£228.00
05 March 2025	DRM Trees	£900.00
05 March 2025	Judith Hayton	£490.74
05 March 2025	MDH Horticultural	£398.46
05 March 2025	Judith Hayton	£1,498.68
05 March 2025	HMRC	£1,316.80
05 March 2025	MDH Horticultural	£1,888.63
11 March 2025	Octopus Energy	£148.02
13 March 2025	Santander Charges	£7.50
19 March 2025	Castle Water Ltd R	£8.03
24 March 2025	Window Cleaner	£30.00
24 March 2025	My Furniture	£237.60
24 March 2025	Eureka	£300.00
24 March 2025	Judith Hayton	£310.78
24 March 2025	Public Works Loans	£2,549.93
24 March 2025	Omni Waste Mgmt	£21.60
24 March 2025	Valda Energy	£10.43
31 March 2025	Service Charge	£7.95
31 March 2025	SSE Energy	£721.38

Payments to be made in April

Unity Payments

1359	MDH Horticultural Services	Open Spaces	£1,573.86	£314.77	£1,888.63
1360	HMRC	Tax & NI	£954.16		£954.16
1361	J Hayton	Salary	£1,085.73		£1,085.73
1362	MDH Horticultural Services	Gang mowing	£332.05	£66.41	£398.46
1363	J Hayton	Expenses	£131.52	£24.31	£155.83
1364	JGC Sportsturf	Cricket Square	£892.67	£178.53	£1,071.20
1365	Sevenoaks District Council	Burial Hut Rates	£319.36		£319.36
1366	Sevenoaks District Council	Football Hut Rates	£364.27		£364.27
1367	CJS Plants	Redo planters	£1,300.00	£260.00	£1,560.00
1368	CJS Plants	Maintenance for quarter	£208.33	£41.67	£250.00
1369	Ellie Cunningham	Cleaning at Pavilion	£200.00		£200.00
1370	Sevenoaks District Council	Empty dog bins	£695.50	£139.10	£834.60
1371	Ian Fox	Music for Picnic	£250.00		£250.00
1372	Killick Cleaning Services	Cleaning solar panels	£60.00		£60.00
1373	Rialtas	Accounting Software	£203.00	£40.60	£243.60

Planning Decisions					
25/00147/HOUSE	Ireton Packhorse Road Bessels Green Kent TN13 2QR	Single-storey side extension, two-storey rear extension including juliet balcony and fenestration changes, alterations to rear terrace and garden steps, rooflight and two new sun tubes to front elevation	No objection	Allan	Granted
25/00009/HOUSE	9 Chipstead Park Sevenoaks Kent TN13 2SL	First-floor side and front extension. Raise height of roof and insert dormers to enable loft conversion. Single storey side extension, new front porch. New flue and alterations to fenestration	No objection. Reason for refusal The development through its poor design, mass and scale will be incongruous and overly dominant within the street scene and will appear out of character for the local area. The proposal would also result in a poor level of residential amenity for the neighbouring properties as the development would result in visual intrusion, overbearing impact on the boundary and result in a harmful impact upon the outlook of neighbouring properties. As such, the proposal is contrary to policies SP1 of the Sevenoaks Core Strategy and EN1 and EN2 of the Sevenoaks Allocations and Development Management Plan.	Jason	Refused
24/03329/HOUSE	Lime Tree Cottage Packhorse Road Bessels Green Kent TN13 2QP	Two storey side and rear extensions with terrace and new chimney, with single storey front, rear extensions and conversion of part garage to habitable space. Alterations to existing roof and introduction of front and rear dormers. Internal alterations with removal of chimneys, alteration to fenestration, rooflights, new chimney, moving front door with new porch.		Jamie	Granted

24/03231/FUL	26 Witches Lane Riverhead Kent TN13 2AX	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and one additional dwelling with garage outbuildings and associated landscaping.	Chevening Parish Council offers No Objection to the above planning application, providing there are no issues with loss of light and possible site lines from the proposed dwellings overlooking neighbouring properties.	Nigel	Granted
24/03369/FUL	Watermill House Chevening Road Chipstead Kent TN13 2RY	Extension to porch, access ramp and three new external HVAC units with enclosure.	No objection providing the proposed development includes appropriate mitigation measures identified in the Flood Risk Assessment, and Kent Archaeology and Listed Building constraints are all complied with	Nigel	Granted
24/03226/FUL	Turvins Farm Sundridge Road Dunton Green Kent TN14 6HB	Proposed change of use of agricultural barn to an E(d) (indoor sport and recreation) for gymnastics training and associated external alterations and landscaping.	No objection	James	Granted