

CHATTISHAM & HINTLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on
On 11Th February 2021 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

David Marsh (Chair)	Chris Leney
Les Cole	Peter Eaton
Diane Chase	Jamie Bostock
Stephanie Coupland	Ben Cox
John Whyman	Ian Bryce
Roy Carter	

APOLOGIES: Debbie Archer

IN ATTENDANCE:

District Councillor David Busby & County Cllr Christopher Hudson
Jo Brown (Clerk)
3 members of the public

The Chair Announced that the meeting is being recorded and welcomed everyone and reminded the members of the public they can only speak in the Public Section of the meeting

CHPC129/20- TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 7th JANUARY 2021 & 14TH JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the meetings held on 7th January 2021 & 14th January 2021 had been circulated to all councillors and were proposed as a true record by Stephanie Coupland and seconded by Les Cole. The minutes will be signed by David Marsh at the next face to face meeting.

CHPC130/20 – DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Chris Leney declared an interest in the Solar Farm Planning Applications

CHPC131/20 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES DATED 7th JANUARY 2021 & 14TH JANUARY 2021

CHPC125/20 – The clerk confirmed adverts for the Clerk Vacancy have been placed in The Link and SALC Website.

Peter Eaton read out the following statement – he normally would not want to challenge comments made in a persons' resignation letter, but unfortunately comments made by the chairman and in tandem comments made by John Whyman in what was a letter of appreciation on the clerks resignation – I and other members are fully aware of the serious nature of the issues under discussion and to accuse them of lacking knowledge or not being aware of their responsibilities simply for holding a different view, we find very disappointing and would like to bear this in mind when discussing any topic in future. John Whyman responded by stating that the note to The Clerk was based on an appreciation of the work carried out and also to the Chairman. The basis of the comments were based on the objectivity of the topics discussed. Unless a sensible resolution can be found with the best endeavours representing the Community and Council then feels he will not be able to remain on the Council.

CHPC132/20 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

District Cllr Busby had circulated a report via email which showed a list of tasks carried out by Babergh Employees. Short Term Car Parking will be introduced in Hadleigh and Sudbury probably

from 1st October 2021 – generally 1 hour free and then £1 for up to 3 hours. Bron has given Babergh a briefing on the proposed Solar Farm Applications and to feel free to contact her if needed. The ENSO application will be delayed until after the May elections. The EDF application has not yet been submitted. The ENSO application will be dealt with by both Babergh & Mid Suffolk and their planning committee's will sit together and both councils must reach the same decision. Bin Collections have been temporarily postponed and it is hoped that they will resume soon. The question was asked if the Bridge Street Car Park in Hadleigh could be used for workers in Hadleigh, Cllr Busby confirmed this is part of the development of the old Council Offices. The question was asked what is happening with the Joint Local Plan and what measures are in the JLP following Covid bearing in mind the JLP is for the next 15 years – representations have now finished and these together with the JLP have been submitted to the independent planning inspector for consideration and hopefully approval. The JLP was started before the Covid Pandemic and the town centres now need to be looked at again with the possible need find other attractions. Some of the towns will have more residential properties and we need to accept the decline in town centres. How will town centre residential building affect the JLP new build figures? In view of this Cllr Busby believes that we should now be starting Phase 2 of the JLP as it needs to be reviewed every 5 years. A question was asked what is happening with The Livery in Duke Street – the clerk confirmed they have 28 days from 12th January 2021 to respond. Cllr Busby confirmed that enforcement is really only encouragement and hands are tied with what can be done. Cllr Busby confirmed that Mr Bensley had contacted him recently regarding Charity Farm, Chattisham and Cllr Busby has spoken to the enforcement team.

County Cllr Hudson reported he has just attended the rates setting meeting which will have ramifications for everyone. Concerned about the Twinstead-Bramford overhead cables and the Solar Farm Applications and pushing for environmental impact stations and will furnish as much information as possible so that all are informed.

CHPC133/20 – COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A Police Speed check had been held on 1st February with only 6 offenders which is showing the VAS Sign on Silver Hill is proving effective. Samantha Main a director of CARE Suffolk was welcomed to the meeting. Samantha agreed to answer questions when the Council are debating the Solar Farm planning applications.

CHPC134/20 – PLANNING

DC/20/05873 – Upper Birches, Folly Road, Chattisham – Erection of extension and alterations to outbuilding to form annexe – a detailed discussion was held and the Council do not have any objections but concerns were raised that the annexe must remain as an annexe and not a separate property – it was agreed the Clerk will respond with this as a comment – clerk to action

Solar Farm Applications - DC/21/00060 = Land to the East of The Channel, Burstall Hill, Burstall – DC/20/05895 – Land to the South of Church Farm, Somerham & land to The East of The Channel Burstall – Installation of renewable energy generating station, comprising of ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements including Nature Areas – a detailed discussion was held and the main area of concern is that it could potentially if passed it would mean that a precedent has been set and that within a 5km radius from Bramford Sub Station – you would get to the middle of Chattisham and that as it is within connection distance this is within the area anyone can apply to site a Solar Farm. It is also in an area of Special Landscape and very recently the Housing Manager introduced a new policy about beauty which is now relevant. Could also lose up to 1,000 acres of good agricultural land. The Chairman asked Cllr Busby if there will definitely be two committees which have to have the same decision as. Samantha Main confirmed that Bron has confirmed it will go to one joint committee. There are 9

Clerk

villages that will be affected.

Samantha confirmed that National Grid have a Tech Register which shows all energy supply contracted into their network. It shows that ENSO have 49.5MW and an additional 7.1MW. Big concerns that it is becoming a very large area of power storage and turning in to a commercial area. The proposed Solar Farm will be visible from Suffolk Escapes in Hintlesham and could have a knock on affect to Suffolk Tourism. Cllr Busby applauded Bron on doing a very good job in a difficult situation and will forward information received.

Peter Eaton proposed the following Objection and Les Cole Seconded – a vote was held 10 to Object and 1 abstention

In summary, the application is deficient on the following matters: National Policy (NPPF) identifies the best and most versatile land (BMV) as normally unsuitable for solar generation. Over 80% of the site comprises BMV land, much of it further improved by environmental stewardship. The land is characterized by soft undulating hills. This type of land is generally regarded as inappropriate for large solar farms which are better sited in large, flat open landscapes. The solar farm would cause harm to the setting of a large number of important heritage assets including three Grade I Listed churches for which the setting is significant to their heritage value. The area has high landscape value and saved policy lists it as a Special Landscape Area – clerk to respond

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CHPC135/20 – RECORDINGS OF MEETINGS DRAFT PROTOCOL AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES UPDATE

Thanks was given to Chris Leney for circulating a draft policy. The concern is that if Parish Council email addresses are issued these are then be covered under GDPR and Data Protection and The Clerk is the Data Controller. There is a cost involved but is included in the Precept for 2021-2022. John Whyman reiterated his concern on this as he is having to deal with a Data request at present and would not like to have to go through this again. As per 10.1 of the Standing Orders 6 months has now lapsed from the decision in July 2020. To protect the Council and The Councillors the use of dedicated email addresses should be used. Individual Councillor contact details do not have to be visible on the website as all contact could be made through the clerk. There needs to be data retention and management policies along with an email policy. There is access to .gov.uk email addresses for Parish Councils and not sure if there is a fee - Chris Leney proposed to adopt central Parish Council email addresses (whether .gov.uk or HCPC) subject to agreeing on an appropriate email policy that Roy Carter could combine parts of the draft policy circulated by Chris with the original draft policy for the next meeting and can then review the other policies separately, Stephanie Coupland seconded – a vote was held with 11 in favour – Roy Carter to draft policy for the next meeting

Roy Carter

CHPC136/20 – CLERK VACANCY

The clerk updated the council by confirming there has been quite a bit of interest in the vacancy and the next step is to arrange interviews for the beginning of March. It was suggested that the interviews not take place via Zoom – this was being looked in to further under the current Covid guidelines. The question was asked if details of the Clerk Applications be sent to all Parish Councillors. The Interviewers would be Ian Bryce, Stephanie Coupland and the outgoing Clerk – the Clerk to follow up and arrange after the deadline of 28th February 2021

Clerk

CHPC137/20 – SIZWELL C UPDATE ON IMPACT TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Peter Eaton reported there is no further update on Sizewell C but we know that will be a second pylon line in 2028 and National Grid are announcing in the next 8 weeks where the third pylon line will be.

CHPC138/20 – TREE AND HEDGE PLANTING

John Whyman reported that he is in contact with the Babergh DC Environmental Team and will report at the next meeting.

CHPC139/20 – REPAIR OF CHATTISHAM VILLAGE SIGN

Stephanie Coupland reported that in the recent high winds the Chattisham Village Sign had blown over and the wooden post needed to be replaced. The sign has been damaged and Trevor Self has the sign to repair at the cost of a tin of paint. We have received a quote of £240.00 from John Squirrell to supply the oak for the post and the work to repair – this was proposed by Stephanie Coupland and Seconded by Ben Cox – all were in agreement for Stephanie Coupland to arrange.

Stephanie Coupland

CHPC140/20– FINANCE

The Clerk updated the council by informing them that a Grant of £338.00 from Babergh is being received which is part of the Finance Settlement from Central Government.

The chairman updated that Council by confirming that the HCCC had sent £10,000.00 to help cover the payment to Playquip and the rest of the monies for the work is covered by grants and the CIL monies received. Ian Bryce raised the question of when the Council agreed to use the CIL monies for the upgrade – the Chairman confirmed that not all CIL monies will be used for the Playground upgrade - the clerk will look back in the minutes and confirm

Clerk

The following payments were proposed by Ian Bryce and seconded by John Whyman

Mrs. Jo Brown	Clerks Salary & Exps	£194.60	Cheque No 101099
Playquip Leisure	Deposit for Play Area Upgrade	£21,426.00	Cheque No 101100

CHPC141/20 – REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ben Cox reported that Beeston Buses are using the Tier 4 timetable which is on the village website. Les Cole will move the VAS sign when the weather improves and will continue to download the data and circulate. Stephanie reported that all footpaths are very messy at the moment due to the bad weather and that she has reported fallen posts and the boardwalk. Gerald Main the Editor of The Link has recently suffered a stroke but the family will continue publishing The Link on his behalf. John Whyman raised concerns that people are not sticking to the rights of way and that the MUGA and Social Club remain closed. The question was raised as to whether a footpath from the MUGA to the Play Area could be added. There have recently been 2 accidents reported.

David Marsh was asked if he would continue as Chairman for the April meeting as the AGM is held in May – David Marsh said he will consider this.

Ian Bryce raised concerns as previously comments have been made that there is no point discussing planning applications when we are not listened to. Planning is one of the most important parts of the Parish Council and it must continue to have a say and be prepared to attend planning committee meetings if necessary.

CHPC142/20 – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

All correspondence has been circulated via email

CHPC143/20 –ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Email Address Policy
- Tree and Hedge Planting
- Clerk Vacancy
- Broadband

CHPC144/20 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th March 2021 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.21 pm