

Chislet Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 16th November 2023 at 6.00 pm at Hersden Community Centre

Present : Cllrs Fee (in the Chair), Warnock, Prosser, Stoward, Appleby, Cassidy & Halfacre

In attendance : Mr. G. Eaton, Clerk to the Council

Action by:

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Higglesden & Rose

2 Declarations of Councillor's Interests in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of Councillor's interests in items on the Agenda

3 Parishioner Engagement subcommittee report

Cllr Warnock introduced the Parishioner Engagement subcommittee report on behalf of Cllrs Appleby, Warnock, Prosser and Halfacre. Their report is appended to these Minutes

There followed a discussion of the 9 main points/recommendations of the report as follows –

1/ Minutes are uninformative – agreed Clerk would write Minutes then circulate to the group to add further details or items not included

2/ Draft Minutes – agreed draft Minutes were not necessary unless a Monthly PC Meeting does not take place for some reason. Otherwise, the Minutes are approved and published in accordance with the Transparency requirements

3/ Newsletter to be included in Parish magazine, website, and social media – agreed a good idea. Cllr Cassidy to draft a newsletter to be issued asap thereafter as and when required to update parishioners on news or developments

4/ Improve communication especially with young people – agreed more use should be made of Facebook to push out information (not to be used for two-way communication)

5/ Meetings to be held within the Parish – all agreed this would be preferable but to date no suitable venues have been identified. The Chislet Centre was too cold/dark in winter months. Continue to seek a suitable venue

6/ The Parish Council website to be more informative by including information on: the overall responsibilities of the Parish Council (planning, grass cutting, litter picking etc.), the role of Cllrs including any specific responsibilities and the Community engagement strategy (when approved) Agreed start to get messages out at the Chislet Christmas Fair by having a stall to engage with parishioners (with competition for the children)

7/ To endeavor to make the Parish Council Meetings more open and welcoming to parishioners in order to encourage positive dialogue and engagement

8/ To continue dialogue with Church, School, community Police etc. – agreed good idea and should continue to liaise and develop relationships/links

9/ Develop a Parish Engagement strategy – agreed a good idea – group to work up a draft strategy document

The arrangements for attendance at the Chislet Christmas Fair were briefly discussed including the children's competition and the proposed questions for the questionnaire were approved

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.00 pm