

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council  
in the Chidham Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Cliff Archer (Chairman)	Cllr Linda Wilkinson
Cllr Andy Collins	Cllr Ina Littlefield
Cllr Geoffrey Hyde	Cllr Jane Towers
Cllr Jacky Sheppard	Cllr Rachel Perri
Cllr Philip MacDougall	

**In attendance:** The Clerk: Caroline Davison, 13 members of the public mainly residents of Shepherds Close, Hambrook

Part I

**015-17 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Penny Plant (CDC), Jonathan Brown (CDC) and Cllr Stephanie Cecil.

**016-17 Declaration of Interests and Granting of Dispensations if any:**

- a) There were no declarations of interest
- b) There were no dispensation requests

**017-17 Public Open Forum**

This Extraordinary Meeting had been called as a response to advice received from residents of Shepherds Close in Hambrook that the small field in the corner of the Close, used as a play area by the residents, had recently been put up for sale by auction. With the agreement of the Council its discussion (Agenda Item 4) was taken alongside the Public Open Forum.

David Wellcome, a resident of Shepherds Close, thanked the Parish Council for their swift response to this matter. He explained that the area of land in question was defined as a play area and had been designated for use as a play area in perpetuity. When the development of houses had been built in Shepherds Close the developers had contacted Chichester District Council ready to hand the play area over however they had not received a positive response to their offer. The land had subsequently remained in the ownership of the developer until the end of 2016 when it had been sold for £5,000. This information however had not been known to residents of Shepherds Close until for sale by auction notices appeared outside the play area on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 when the new owner put the land up for sale by auction. The residents have been maintaining the play area themselves. It was reported that the concern of the residents of Shepherds Close was that the play area would now be purchased for development, thereby threatening its original use. Support was sought from the Parish Council to help protect the original use of the play area and most importantly to prevent it ending up as a piece of wasteland vulnerable to unlawful occupancy.

It was explained that the play area is used to play football and to throw the ball for dogs. The residents have also used the play area for BBQs and picnics.

The residents of Shepherds Close had made an offer to the auctioneers for the area of land hoping to prevent it going to auction however their offer had not been accepted.

It was proposed that the residents would try to purchase the land at the auction and if successful they would transfer ownership of the land to the Parish Council to retain as a play

area/open space. The Parish Council asked the residents whether they would not wish to set up a management company themselves to manage the play area and they confirmed that their preference was to gift the land to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed that it would not wish to use public funds to purchase this particular piece of land and discussed a number of reasons for this decision, however it agreed that it would be happy to be gifted the land as suggested.

#### **018-17 Land for Auction at Shepherds Close, Hambrook**

##### **Resolved that:**

- a) If the residents of Shepherds Close successfully purchased the area of land designated as a play area in Shepherds Close at the forthcoming auction the Parish Council supported being gifted the land and taking over its management.
- b) The Parish Council would take all possible steps to prevent residential development on the area of land in question as it was designated as a play area in perpetuity.
- c) The Parish Council would take action if necessary to facilitate continued access to the play area by the residents of Shepherds Close.

#### Part II

#### **019-17 Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was not necessary to enter into Part II of the Meeting as there were no matters requiring discussion and decision with the exclusion of the press and public.

#### **020-17 Meeting Dates**

It was noted that the next Full Council Meeting would be on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at 7.00pm in Chidham Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_