

It may be possible in the future to arrange for vehicles to be stopped and some words of advice given but this would be dependent on the workload of your local PCSO and availability of other staff.

Speed Watch

The Clerk had placed two articles in the Parish News asking for volunteers. Only 3 had come forward, and at least 6 and ideally 12 are needed.

4. FIRST RESPONDER UNIT – What do they Do

Andrew Barwick, from Eastry Fire and Rescue service gave a 20 min talk on the functions and duties of the First Responders.

5. ROLE OF THE VILLAGE CARETAKER

Richard Ginn the Village Caretaker introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his function and what he would like to do in the future.

6. PLAY FACILITIES IN THE PARISH

Replacement of the Centenary Gardens Play area, this has been agreed and will be completed during the coming months. Currently waiting quotes and grant application results.

Gun Park play area replacement is a major project that will take more time and require additional funding. We will also need to consult with local residents to see exactly what is required, anyone interested in joining a working group to obtain quotes and drive this forward please contact us.

7. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The next Parish Council elections will be held on 2 May 2019 and now is the time to discover whether you've got what it takes to be a parish councillor. You don't need to be a member of any political party – but you do need a genuine interest in what happens in Eastry. Councillors come from all walks of life, age groups and backgrounds, so don't rule yourself out just because you think you don't fit the councillor 'mould'.

Eastry Parish Council meet 11 times a year, usually on the first Monday of the month. We don't meet in Aug. In addition, the Planning Committee meets 8-9 times a year depending on the number of applications received, also on Monday evenings and The Finance Committee meet 2-3 times a year. The ordinary meetings start at 7.30pm and usually end by 9pm. Committee meeting usually last just 30min to an hour. In addition to the meetings members may also be asked to attend occasional meetings with other authorities and organisations, Dover District Council, Kent County Council or Kent Association of Town and Parish Councils.

Eastry Parish Council has 11 seats and an Annual precept of approx. £55,000.00. We employ a part time Clerk who is the Proper Officer of the Council and the Responsible Finance Officer. We also employ a village caretaker who works for 15 hours a week.

If you become a Parish Councillor training is available in the role and will be paid for by the Parish Council. If you are interest please speak to the Clerk for more information about the Council.

Nomination papers are available now from the Dover District Council elections office, please contact 01304 872344. Election enquiries: elections@dover.gov.uk

Nominations must be in by Wed 3rd April 2019.

8. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Nick Kenton

New benches have been fitted in the Bus shelter in Mill Lane and in the Cemetery, we have also replaced the woodwork on the Parade Benches. Although this is not very exciting it is part of the ongoing work of the Parish Council, the day to day services we provide that we hope make life a little better for local residents.

One of the other regular jobs is moving the Speed Indicator sign SID, this is done once a fortnight, the sign is moved between the various posts in the parish to help educate drivers. The post locations were identified by Kent Highway Services as they must meet a set of strict criteria. I would like to thank Cllr Bailey and the Clerk for moving the sign.

I would like to thank Richard for all his hard work, the toilets look a lot more user friendly since he has painted the building.

Coffee break continues to be a well-attended with between 40/50 people coming along on a Friday morning. Hi Kent and the fire service still attend to give out information and equipment. The cakes and cheese scones are still worth a visit. A big thank you to Margret Pemble for baking for us every week.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support over the past year. He closed with one final thank you to Sarah Wells, Clerk to the Parish Council for her work over the past year.

A question was taken from the floor about the new Parish room/bowling pavilion.

Planning permission has been obtained and we are waiting for building regulations. This will allow for tenders to be sort so we can get a final cost to allow fund raising to start. We have to work around the Bowling club so can only build during the off season, it will not be possible to get founding in place for this year, however it is planned to start work in Sept 2020.

It is hoped a new building that has the required disabled access and toilets will be an asset to the whole village. It may be possible to install a public access computer terminal that can be used to help those that need to access local authority websites such as DDC and KCC to complete online forms that can no longer be accessed any other way. There will be an office for the Parish Clerk that means the building will be manned some days of the week to allow this and onsite help will be available.

This room is currently used by a number of groups and organisations, usually those that have limited funds or short-term project groups that are put in place for one off events, in the past it was used by the Village sign committee and the WW1 committee. Regular users include The Greville Almshouse Charity, Girl Guides, Guides Leaders, Neighbourhood Watch, Allotments Committee as well as the Bowling club and the Parish Council. The hut is also used by the community warden and local PCSO as a base.

9. REPORTS

Community Warden – Karl Aylett

This my first year as a community warden for Dover and Thanet. I have been able to spend a good deal of time in Eastry, while also attending to Sandwich, Ash and my wider commitments within the role of community warden.

As well as many hours in and around Eastry giving a visible presence and hopefully some reassurance to the villagers. I regularly have contact with the neighborhood watch coordinator, Sarah Wells from the parish council and the Dover district council environment officer

I've attended local groups, including pastures new, WI craft club, the friendship lunch club, and of course the regular Friday coffee mornings all of which are very useful to find out what's happening in the village and give advice when needed.

I attend the Friday coffee morning not as some might expect for the cakes, although delightful, but to have a regular meeting place where villagers are able to approach me with any concerns this once a month becomes a joint surgery with your PCSO Kerry Skirrow with who I maintain a good and close working relationship.

This year I have been asked to help in several neighbour disputes, reported graffiti, damage to the bus shelter, reported pot holes, overgrown pathways, the ongoing school parking problems. Helped safeguard against a possible rogue trader, found a lost dog and recently helped a crashed vicar.

And in my wider role worked with adult social services, trading standards, Dover district council, Thanet district council, Nationwide building society and have reported several scams to Kent police

I hope to continue to work with the residents of Eastry in the coming months and look forward to supporting your newly appointed volunteer warden

KCC Cllr Sue Chandler

There has been much publicity during the past year of the difficult financial situation in which many councils, county and District find themselves, I am very pleased to report that whilst we certainly have challenges Kent County Council is financially stable, although at the Council meeting to set the budget for 19/20 the Council Leader acknowledged the need for the local government funding from government to increase substantially.

Again, the Council has regrettably had to include an additional 2% increase in Council Tax for adult social care bringing the total increase to 4.7%. Social care is still the biggest challenge facing the Council, the total budget for this in the coming year is around £433 million, we are continuing to make improvements to the quality of care people receive, partnership with our NHS colleagues, the training and pay of those employed by care providers and enabling residents to remain independent. Just over 12 months ago the headlines were about delays in the elderly being discharged from hospital because care wasn't available, really excellent work has resulted in the targets for this being met by KCC for over 12 months now, the enabling service which people coming out of hospital receive for 6 weeks is also showing good success rates with around 80% of people receiving the service being totally independent at the end of that time.

For children, young people and their families work continues to secure the best outcomes, our schools continue to do well and in the last year KCC launched The Education People (a Local Authority Trading Company) to deliver education support services to all schools in Kent. There is an increasing demand in Kent for support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability, whilst this is a national issue it seems particularly high in East Kent where the incidence of Autistic Spectrum Disorder is rising. A more integrated approach to the early help provision and children's social work should mean better outcomes. A mix of direct services and commissioned services provide out of school support and activities for young people, in Dover and some villages Pie Factory Music offer some great opportunities although I know that in Eastry you have always been very fortunate to have your own youth club, there is also the 'Lights Up' Youth Club in the Church Hall, not forgetting the scouts and I am sure there are others. I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank all the adult volunteers who make these groups work.

I continue to Chair the Dover District Local Children's Partnership Group, bit of a long-winded name but it actual describes what it does. By bringing together many of those who deliver services for children and young people in our District, including schools, we can look at some of the very local issues, help

provide better services with better linking and fund some very targeted project work which this year is focussing on family resilience and healthy eating

I am pleased to report that for Highways maintenance the budget for the current year and the next year will see the biggest investment in Highways ever made. This has risen from £70m in 17/18 to £89m in the current year and will rise next year to £95.7m. There is also an additional £28m from the DFT for highways improvements material affected by Brexit preparedness. The Pothole blitz continues, as always if you report potholes and they do not seem to be getting fixed let me know. Highways have also at long last recruited 5 additional drainage engineers, like many County Councillors with rural divisions I have lobbied hard that improved maintenance of drains and ditches would not only reduce flooding but would also reduce the deterioration of the roads, particularly small rural ones. Steve Manion and I have also worked hard to get a new pilot in our area for a local bus feeder service for Staple, Northbourne and Great Mongeham, one of only three across Kent.

The Kent Resilience Forum and each KCC Department have also been working on their plans in the event of significant road congestion following Brexit, clearly everyone hopes they will remain just plans, they are on the whole the plans that are in place anyway for severe weather or other extraordinary events and focus on protecting the vulnerable and maintaining services. As I have reported I have consistently voiced my concerns for our villages in the event that the former Manston Airfield is used for lorry parking (Phase 3 of Operation Brock).

As well as more than maintaining frontline services KCC is able to deliver some £40m worth of non-statutory services including community wardens, country parks, Young Persons Travel Pass, housing related support for the most vulnerable and Member Grants. I have been able to support a huge range of local activities, initiatives and events through my Members Grants and look forward to doing more in the future.

During the year I have been happy to support your Parish Council when and where possible and also to take up issues and problems for individual residents.

DDC – Cllr Steve Manion

Like all councils, we have to manage with increasingly limited resources, while at the same time continuing to be ambitious for our area, our residents and businesses. This means focusing our resources where there is most need and working with other public organisations, businesses, local groups and residents to achieve our aims and those of the community.

The district has much to offer but, as with areas across the country, we also face a number of key issues and challenges including:

- A fast growing but ageing population
- A poor performing economy
- Low skills and high youth unemployment
- Health inequalities and high levels of self-reported poor health
- Pockets of deprivation and child poverty
- Increasing crime levels
- An ageing housing stock
- Rural accessibility issues

Creating a thriving, competitive and sustainable economy is central to delivering improvements to people's lives. Therefore, regeneration and economic growth remain high priorities for us and we will continue championing the interests of the Dover district at all levels. We will work hard to ensure that local people and businesses are ready to take advantage of planned and future developments to secure the long-term prosperity of our district.

To this end we have identified four 4 key priority areas: -

Priority One - Thriving Economy

We will focus on:

- Enabling and supporting growth of the economy and opportunity for investment and jobs
- Attracting new businesses and jobs, and supporting existing businesses in the district
- Improving infrastructure and housing growth across the district
- Raising aspirations and improving learning opportunities
- Promoting the district as an area to invest in as well as a tourism destination

Priority Two -Clean, Green and Safe Environment

We will focus on:

- Delivering an effective and value for money recycling and refuse collection service
- Delivering good quality regulatory services (environmental and public protection)
- Making the most of our natural and historic assets
- Reducing crime and anti- social behaviour
- Minimising the council's impact on the environment

Priority Three -Healthier People and Communities

We will focus on:

- Providing leadership to support our communities
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and behaviours
- Improving access to affordable, decent housing
- Supporting vulnerable members of our community and reducing health inequalities
- Supporting stronger, more con dent and diverse communities

Priority Four -Smarter Council

We will focus on:

- Delivering good, value for money, services
- Undertaking continuous service reviews
- Encouraging higher take-up of digital services
- Engaging residents
- Maximising income generation

I will now hand over to Cllr Kenton who will talk about our achievements this year.

The Council is committed to investing in tourism and have launched a Town Centre Business Grant Scheme offers grants of up to £10,000 to businesses in Dover, Deal and Sandwich town centres. The grants can be used to bring commercial properties back into use or upgrade or improve the appearance commercial premises. In addition, the St James development is now open and bringing footfall into other parts of the town.

Deal pier refurbishment continue with works to the main entrance and bottom decking taking place now, we will also the introduction of smart bins, when the litter within a bin reaches a certain level, a sensor triggers the compaction of the contents inside, resulting in an increased bin capacity, reduced frequency of collections and improved street cleanliness. When a bin is completely full, a notification will be sent out through an online system to notify the contractor to arrange a collection.

The bins are quite expensive however we have managed to get 50% funding from Southern Water as the beach around Deal Castle was selected by Southern Water as one of the 'Magnificent Seven' beaches where the water company is working alongside local authorities and others to improve and maintain the

bathing water quality as part of a major Bathing Water Enhancement Programme (BWEP). Deal is seeing an investment of around £3.9m to help protect and enhance the area's bathing water quality.

The £26m Dover District Leisure Centre opened in February. The centre includes the first publicly accessible 8-lane county standard short course championships swimming pool in Kent, certified by Swim England. The centre also features a 15m x 8.5m learner pool with a moveable floor

Alongside swimming, the Leisure Centre features an extensive range of other facilities, including:- Four court sports hall, Clip 'n Climb interactive climbing arena with 16 different challenges, 120-station gym and fitness suite, Aerobic fitness studios, Spin studio, Multi-purpose studio, Glass-backed squash courts with spectator seating, Outdoor, floodlit five-a-side 3G pitches, Sauna and steam room, Café and Free parking for 250 vehicles, including electric charging points.

Our Inspire Fund has been set up to provide funding support to help young people that are facing challenges. The fund helps young people to create new friendships, introduce them to healthy lifestyles through sport, and open new doors into work with opportunities to learn new skills.

DDC continue to maintain the delivery of vital Council services, and increasing the budget to key areas like tourism, while keeping the increase in the district council part of the bill to 2.7%, and keeping Dover District Council's Council Tax the lowest in East Kent.

We're tackling homelessness on many fronts, working to keep people in their homes, or providing more cost-effective interim accommodation where that's not possible.

Dover District Council is also developing plans for more affordable housing. Projects currently in the pipeline include the potential to build new council houses, modular and sheltered housing, and investing in affordable homes on new private housing developments.

Dover District Council have purchased and brought back into use three empty properties on Folkestone Road in Dover. The properties were extensively refurbished into nine flats providing interim accommodation for people who find themselves homeless whilst a permanent home can be found for them.

Dover continues to offer employment to apprentices and is recruiting two apprentices to join its National Lottery Heritage Fund project at the Kearsney Parks.

A £1m investment in new street lighting, including the extensive replacement of lights with LED lamps has been agreed. DDC is currently responsible for more than 2,500 street lights across the district. The first element of the works will include an extensive replacement programme of more than 100 lighting columns, and the upgrading of all of the district's concrete columns in order for the new LED lamps to be fitted.

The second element to these works will be to replace all of the existing high wattage sodium lamps with LEDs. It is estimated that the £500k cost of the LED conversion will be paid back from energy savings within 5 years. This will provide further sustainability and improved footway lighting across the district.

Road side litter is a problem that we are aware of and hope to invest in additional litter picks on mains roads in the District. We are happy to accept dash cam footage of anyone throwing litter from a car, as long as the number plate is visible, we can send fixed penalties to the registered keeper of the vehicle.

Thank you for your time.

Eastry C or E School Report

Eastry Primary School -highlights of the year 2018-19

It is with great sadness that the main piece of news from school is the retirement of our Headteacher Tim Halling. Tim has been forced to retire early due to ill health and he will be greatly missed.

We would like to thank him for his 14 years of service to our village school. Under his Headship the school has flourished, our results have been consistently above average and we have consistently had a waiting list of pupils who would like to join us. This year, as with other years we have received a letter from KCC CEO, Matt Dunkley, praising us on our high standards

For the past 4 weeks Mrs Plant has been Acting Head, soon to be Head of School when our temporary Executive Head arrives in post. Our governing body are hoping to appoint a new Headteacher for September.

We have continued to build our relationships with other local schools- Sir Roger Manwood's, St Joseph's, Sandwich Technology School and Sandwich infants to the benefit of all. We have also had success developing the practice of 13 trainee teachers from Canterbury Christchurch University.

As usual our school has supported many charities through fundraising and awareness raising events. These include British Legion poppy appeal, some may have seen the poppy display in our entrance hall. As well as Sports Relief, Save The Children, Red Nose Day, Children in Need, The Children's Society and Macmillan Cancer.

Our PTA are very active, providing many and varied events to raise money for the school, as well as encouraging and facilitating a social network for parents. Events such as Fireworks night, summer fete, Mother's and Father's Day gift wrapping, discos and film nights have been well attended and raised money to provide workshops for each class, a wormery for Eco Team as well as many other extras for the school.

Throughout the year there are many educational trips organised. These include visits to Dover Castle, Aylesham Heritage Centre, Quex Park and Wingham Wild Life Park, the Marlowe Theatre and the Year 6 residential trip to Swattenden. There have been many events too, such a World Book Day, where stories were shared, the singing festival at Manwood's and the bird box live stream, organised by science club. Last week Year 4 took part in a dance off at the Goodwin Academy and came 2nd.

As usual we have had many visitors to our school. These include our much-appreciated volunteer readers, bikeability and road safety instructors, the fire brigade, a bug man, a Roman and a Hindu workshop and a polar explorer workshop. We will also be welcoming children and staff from Lille school in the next few months.

As well as the academic side to school, we also have many well attended clubs, such as science and eco clubs, crotch and chess clubs, music and library club. We have an early morning club too.

Eastry School has strong links with the St Mary's church. We celebrate with child led services such as harvest, Easter, St Nicholas Day and Founders Day as well as our Christingle services. Our children hold their welcome and leavers services in the church. Rev David Ridley and Rev Sandra Marsh lead a weekly worship in school and at Christmas together we participate in the walking nativity.

Obviously, this is a very small snapshot of the busy life at Eastry Church of England School. But none of it would be possible without our wholly committed and talented staff, our wonderful children, our extremely supportive governors, PTA and parents. A huge thanks to them all.

Finally, if anyone has some spare time, we are always looking for volunteers to hear readers or to run/help with a lunchtime club such as sewing or craft.

Greville Almshouse – John Waring

For anyone who is perhaps new to the village and not aware of the Almshouses, I will give you a bit of back ground.

The Almshouses, known as Greville Homes, are situated on Mill Lane, at the entrance to Swains Way. There are six one bedroomed cottages and three two bedroomed bungalows. The cottages were built in 1835 when William Fulkes Greville (Retired Naval Officer living at Statenborough) offered to pay for a terrace of six houses, on the understanding that the parish brought the necessary land. The forerunner to the Parish Council immediately accepted this offer and within weeks the land was brought and the houses built. The first residents moved in on April 7th April 1835.

Over the years the trustees have worked hard to improve the cottages, they were completely refurbished in 1990, at the same time the three bungalows were completed and occupied. We continue to improve the properties as required.

Thank you for your time.

The Chairman thanked Mr Waring and the other speakers. He also thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm