

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EASTRY VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 15th MAY 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors N Kenton (Chairman) P Bailey B Read M Kemp
 A Barwick C Boughton M Jones

S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council 35 Members of the Public

County Cllr Sue Chandler Dist Cllr Manion

Cllr Kenton opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Hannah Osborne the Community Warden had sent her apologies but had produced a written report that had been included in the report pack.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Andrew Wiles, Annie Wiles, M Pemble. Hannah Osborne Community Warden. Tim Halling, head teacher of Eastry Primary School.

Mr M Bins. Mr J Trainer.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual meeting were available in the Annual Meeting report pack; copies were available for all present and had been on the Parish Council web site for the pasted 11 months.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from last years meeting, however the listing on the Hospital Building in Mill Lane was brought up again by a member of the public. There followed a discussion on this subject, however the PC felt that it had taken all the action it could on this matter

4. SPEEDING, TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES

The Clerk presented some of the data collected by the Speed Indicator device and the next steps were discussed. There followed a long and lively discussion during which speeding problems from several locations in the Parish were mentioned as wells as the impact additional houses being built would have on the village.

Problems with construction traffic parking at the bottom of Peak Drive was brought up as this causes problems for drivers trying to get out of the road. The Clerk to contact building control.

Action Sarah Wells

It was agreed the Clerk would ask Kent police to take enforcement action based on the statistic collected and that Kent Highways (KHS) would be asked for possible traffic calming solution.

Action Sarah Wells

The County Cllr Sue Chandler would also speak to KHS about the problems.

Action Cllr Chandler

It was also agreed that the Council would try and get a speed watch scheme up and running. However this would only work if sufficient volunteers came forward to help.

Action Sarah Wells

5. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

a) Chairman Report

New Bowling Pavilion / Parish Room / Community Building

The Parish Council in still working to provide a new building in Church Street to replace the existing Parish Room. The room is currently used by the Girl Guides, Guiders, Village News Committee, WW1 Committee and the Allotments committee in addition to the Parish Council and Bowls club. Planning permission has now been granted.

Gun Park Footpath – The new footpath is now in place, it was funded with contributions from the Parish Council, DDC and KCC.

Precept – the 2017/18 Precept had been set at £52,097. The Revenue Support Grant has now been phased out so total resource will be £52,097. An increase in Council tax of 1.99% or £1.29 pa for a Band D property. Fees and Charges – Allotment fees and Cemetery Fees were not increased for 2018/19. The Clerk had produced a finance report that was included in the meeting pack which can be viewed on the Parish Council web site www.eastrypc.co.uk

Grants - Last year grants were given to Eastry British Legion for work to the War memorial, Eastry Croquet Club, Eastry Neighbourhood Watch, Eastry PCC - Grant Christmas Star and Eastry Village Hall for the new cooker and an external noticeboard. The 2018 grant invitation will be published in the Village News later in the year.

Parade Benches – A works order has been produced to replace the wood on the existing benches, it is hoped this work will be completed during the coming months. Historic Village Panel - A new information sheet has been provided for the historic panel situated by the car park in the High Street.

Adventure Trail – Centenary Garden Play area, this equipment was removed following a safety inspection that made it beyond economic repair. In April following responses from local residents the Council have budgeted for £12k for play area replacement/improvements. The Council has also been contacted by the newly formed Eastry Gun Park Community Group. The members are happy to work with the group to make improvement to local facilities.

Christmas Trees – The Parish Council provided Christmas trees outside the Five Bells and The Village Hall again this year. The Annual Carol singing round the tree was again sponsored by Mary at the Five Bells, thanks for her and her staff. Unfortunately this year's festivities were marred slightly when someone decided to fell the tree between Christmas and New Year. I would like to thank Cllr Mark Jones for turning out to clear away the debris following this act of vandalism.

Village Caretaker - You may have seen our new Village Caretaker, Richard, who started work on the 1st May. Richard's new role encompasses those of the previous Environmental Engineer and Toilet Cleaning contractor. As well as new tasks such as cutting back vegetation from signs and handy man duties such as cleaning drain covers.

The Chairman thanked the Environmental Engineer Sheila Broster, and her husband Malcolm for the 22 years' service they have given to the local community. Their hard work has been very much appreciated. Mr and Mrs Broster were presented with a gift and flowers as a token of appreciation for their long and outstanding commitment to the village.

The Chairman also thanked Richard Swain who has been cleaning the public toilets for over 30 years, not a pleasant task but an important one that had been undertaken conscientiously for many years. Mr Swain was also presented with a gift from the Council.

The KALC Community Awards Scheme 2018 was also mentioned, unfortunately the recipient was not present at the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Allotments Management Committee for undertaking the day to day management of the allotments, the helpers at Coffee Break for their tireless efforts to keep this invaluable facility going, and for the cakes. He also thanked the Girl Guides for delivering this year's Annual Parish meeting agenda to every house in the Village. He closed with one final thank you to Sarah Wells, Clerk to the Parish Council for her work over the past year.

Several questions were taken from the floor

b) Finance Report

Eastry Parish Council Unaudited Account 2017/18

	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Budget	2017/18 Actual	
RECEIPTS				
Precept	47,947.00	50,517.00	106,765.72	Note 1
DDC Grant to offset changes to housing benefit	1,584.37	922.00	922.25	
Allotments	826.72	825.00	996.70	
Burials	1,982.50	1,750.00	1,225.00	
Interest Current Account	33.36	40.00	17.80	
Capital Interest	69.01	70.00	86.31	
VAT	1,032.65	800.00	840.17	
Other	129.92	130.00	63.49	
	53,605.53	55,054.00	110,917.44	
Current Account Funds B/F	63,296.73	69,722.46	69,177.46	
	116,902.26	124,776.46	180,094.90	
PAYMENTS - CURRENT ACCOUNT	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Budget	2017/18 Actual	
Salaries	12,207.79	12,766.00	13,006.04	Note 2
Administration Costs	16,020.77	20,513.00	14,679.98	Note 3
Parish Room & Pavilion	1,591.72	3,590.00	988.39	Note 4
Ground Work	8,315.84	12,380.00	9,742.50	Note 5
Allotments	2,533.25	2,400.00	367.39	Note 6
Leisure Fields	469.00	5,880.00	2,054.96	Note 7
Toilets	3,000.00	3,100.00	3,188.23	
Grants & Coffee Break	3,352.77	4,100.00	3,061.19	
Highways cleaning and works	4,944.98	7,420.00	6,700.00	
Church Yard Maintenance and Cemetery	482.90	3,000.00	21.00	Note 8
Membership and Publications	734.34	1,045.00	751.65	Note 9
Events	150.00	2,400.00	180.00	Note 10
Contingency Other Projects	37.50	2,768.46	233.90	
SID	0.00	3,910.00	4,019.66	
Professional fees link to planning applications	350.00	1,200.00	0.00	
New Benches	0.00	960.00	533.80	
	387.50	8,838.46	4787.36	
PAD Supplies	0.00	100.00	0.00	
New Parish Room/Bowling club	4,312.50	23,000.00	816.25	Note 11
New toilets	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	
VAT	815.37	0.00	3,193.61	
Reserves	0.00	23,000.00	0.00	
Total	47,110.94	124,766.46	50,532.51	

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 - 2018/19 Precept paid early so shows in 2017/18 accounts (£52,097)

Note 2 - Clerks pay rates increased

Note 3 - PC insurance paid in April £2000. Pension deficit fund contingency £1000, training budget not spent

Note 4 - Legal fees for bowling club lease not spent. No major maintenance required

Note 5 - Contingency Tree work budget not required

Note 6 - No major maintenance or vandalism this year

Note 7 - Play area repairs undertaken in Feb but paid for in April

Note 8 - Contingency Monuments and Churchyard wall

Note 9 - New publications not required

Note 10 - Saving for new Christmas lights and WW1 commemorations

Note 11 - Saving towards new Parish Rm/Bowling club project

**Eastry Parish Council
Financial year ending 31st March 2018
Bank Reconciliation**

Balances per bank statements as at 31st March 2018

	£	£
NW Current Account	100.00	
NW Debit Card account	211.79	
NW Reserve account	50,142.07	
Petty Cash Float	0.28	
Unity Trust Bank	75,415.22	
Treasury Deposit Account (Capital Funds)	<u>68,339.30</u>	
		194,208.66
Outstanding Cheques		0.00
Net balances as at 31st March 2018		194,208.66

The net balances reconcile to the receipts and payments book as at 31st March 2018

Opening balance	137,975.45
Add: Receipts in the year	106,765.72
Less: Payments in the year	<u>-50,532.51</u>
Closing balance 31st March 2016	<u>194,208.66</u>

6. RREPORTS**DDC Cllr Steve Manion and Nick Kenton**

DDC budget is holding up well, we have the lowest taxing authority in Kent.

The new state of the district report has been published and can be found on the District Council web site.

Dover District Council continues to drive home the message to people not to drop litter from their vehicles, and is working to clear our roadsides, including recent clearances on the A2 and A20, which collected over 15 tonnes of litter and debris.

Our contractors Veolia have been busy working with partners AOne+ clearing the busy A2 and A20. Clearance work on the A2 and surrounding roads in May collected around 5 tonnes of waste, and work on the A20 in April picked up around 12 tonnes.

As part of a programme of litter clearance since April, we have also been clearing on Lydden Hill, Green Lane and Whitfield Hill, and working with partners Kent Highways on the A256 and A258. Other works will be programmed in as the opportunity arises.

This follows news that the Council is backing a national campaign by Keep Britain Tidy, which sends out a blunt message to those motorists who thoughtlessly throw rubbish from their vehicles - 'Don't be a Tosser'.

Street cleaning, which includes clearing litter from roadsides, costs DDC in the region of £900,000 every year. We continue to drive home the message to motorists not to drop litter or throw rubbish from vehicles, including through our campaign 'Don't Dump in Dover District'.

The £500,000 refurbishment of Deal Pier is started in April following the award of a contract to resurface the entire length of the pier which celebrated its Diamond anniversary in November 2017. The resurfacing of the 300 metre long pier is expected to take five to six weeks to complete, depending on the weather conditions. The pier will remain open throughout the refurbishment although fishing will be restricted to the lower deck during the resurfacing. Dover District Council has also appointed [Fleurets](#), a leisure property specialist, to market potential opportunities for the new long-term lease of the café at the end of the pier.

Work is now well underway to deliver the district's new £26m leisure centre at Whitfield. This exciting new facility includes the first county-standard, eight-lane competition swimming pool in Kent.

We have reorganised and strengthened the enforcement section, all enforcement is now dealt with by one department.

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is carrying out an Electoral Review of the Dover District. On 30 January 2018, the LGBCE started the first period of consultation for a pattern of wards for Dover District Council. The Commission has announced that it is minded to recommend that Dover district should have 32 councillors from May 2019, thirteen fewer than the current arrangements.

KCC – Cllr Sue Chandler

The Council finished 2016/17 with a small surplus, the 17th year this has been achieved and it looks likely that 2017/18 will be the 18th. Since 2010 this has been done despite reduction in real terms funding, the Leader is continuing to make the case to national government for increased funding.

The budget for 2018/19 includes raising the Council tax by just under 5% including the additional raise for social care which in view of the challenges is essential. Councillors very much regretted that this proved necessary but consultation indicated that residents were accepting of a rise that would be "ring fenced" for protecting front line services. This has proved necessary although some additional money from Government for social care has helped. The raise in Council tax equates to £1.01 per week for a Band D property.

The additional Government funding is being spent on improvements in social care such as increasing payment to home care providers, there is also a great deal of work being done on integrating social care and health care to improve the outcome for residents. Emphasis on preventative care and returning the elderly home with the right level of care is also a priority.

Integration in social and health care is also making great progress for children with the new contract for mental health care being the first combined contract between KCC and health providers. This and the

Headstart programme being rolled out across Kent will address the long held concerns about the mental health of our young people.

Most of the schools in our Division continue to do well, with a couple of exceptions. KCC have agreed to phase in the Proposed new formula funding for schools over the next 2 years because this protects a little the funding to small primary schools, of which we have several who will benefit.

The cuts in Community bus services have been removed from this year's budgets and 6 months of consultation will now take place as a sensible forward is explored. Funding is unlikely to remain at the current level and innovative ways need to be found to provide the transport that is essential to rural villages. I have been working with Craig Mackinlay to see what can be achieved for our area, particularly, of course, in Staple where the Stagecoach service was regrettably removed.

Highway maintenance and repair continues to be a huge part of the budget, as with all Counties we face a backlog of repairs that will be difficult to deal with. The pot hole blitz is continuing. The so called Beast from the East in March proved challenging but fortunately in our local corner of East Kent we had less snow than elsewhere in the County and the Highways and local contractors were able to keep roads clear. The freezing rain was a rare and very difficult situation as the ice formed so quickly and despite the gritters being out in force it proved impossible to entirely conquer it. The Government has now given extra funding to help repairs following the cold spell which adds an additional £1m to bring the total budget to £11m, although we now have sunshine the recent rain has meant some programmed repairs have been delayed. Do use the online reporting tool for potholes, flooding and other highway issues.

Finally I would like to remind Community organisations and local Groups that I do have a Members grant fund, details of the criteria can be found on the KCC website, but do contact me directly if you wish on 07989134576 or at Sue.chandler@kent.gov.uk

Eastry Church – Rev David Ridley

Work is being undertaken on the Church building, a new boiler has been fitted and the roof needs replacing following the lead theft a few years ago. We had an event for SDt Georges Day with a dragon hunt at the church followed by Dragon burgers in the Five Bells. We have more events planned for the summer with the teddy bears picnic and the Flower festival and Fete.

Greville Almshouse Charity – Mr John Waring Chairman of the Trustees

The Trustees continue to improve the Almshouses for the welfare and comfort of the twelve residents. During the past year, the following improvements have been completed:-

- UPVC gutters have replaced the iron ones
- Hard wired smoke and CO detectors have been fitted throughout each property at the cost of £300 each
- UPVC facias and soffits have replaced the wooden ones on the Bungalows and the rear of the cottages.
- All the properties now have had the bathrooms changed to wet rooms with showers at the cost of approx. £44,000
- The statutory Quinquennial inspection report has been prepared on the condition of each property, and the surroundings, any minor defects are being attended too.

It is a pleasure to report that all the residents appear to appreciate their homes, and the Trustees enjoy working with them.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

Written Report from Hannah Osbourne – Community Warden

Litter campaign

In March, the Environmental Enforcement Officer from Dover District Council and I did a presentation with the children of Eastry Primary School. We spoke to the children about keeping Eastry tidy and made them aware of the dangers of dog mess.

I asked the children to make a poster about keeping Eastry tidy. We had 10 entrants, and the attendees of Eastry's coffee morning and Friday Friendship Lunch voted on the best one.

We now have a winner! I am currently speaking with the Environmental Enforcement Team at Dover District Council about making a metal sign of the winning poster and placing it somewhere in the village. So I hope that this will be completed soon. I am also planning on laminating the entrants and putting them around near the school.

Dementia Awareness Roadshow

I have been working closely with Sandwich's Dementia Action Alliance Group. We have decided that the best way to spread awareness this year would be to take our information to some of the local villages. We will be offering tea and coffee at our awareness event at Eastry Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd May from 14:00 to 16:00. Please do come and join us and learn! I promise it will be the opposite of depressing!

Introducing new Community Warden

Unfortunately, I will be leaving Eastry to work in St Margaret's, Langdon and Guston full time. I have really enjoyed my time in the village and would like to thank everyone for making me feel like a part of the village.

The new Warden is called Karl Aylett and is new to the Warden service, as I was when I began. I hope that you will make him feel as welcome as I was made to feel when I first began. I still have some ongoing projects that I will continue to be involved in and I plan on visiting every now and again.

Karl has now taken over my old telephone number, 07811 271 299.

Scam Work

There have been several instances of local residents being caught out by telephone scammers. The two big ones seem to be "Unpaid Tax Issues" and "Boiler Service/Warranty". People are particularly fearful, as these callers often know their address. I regularly highlight this at local coffee mornings and other community events that I attend. I am glad that many people seem comfortable calling me and making me aware of this issue. Additionally, I am happy to say that the majority of cases that I have been involved with, have known to end the phone call and speak to a friend or family member if they feel unsafe. If anyone would like any more information on this subject, please call me or my colleague Karl.

Kids on bikes

Many residents have spoken to me about teenagers riding their bicycles (push bikes) dangerously around the village. I have spoken to some of these teenagers and tried to make them aware of the dangers. However, unfortunately, they continue to do wheelies in the street, which is worrying people, particularly drivers.

I have recently discussed this with PCSO Kerry Skirrow, and she was already aware of the issue and has also spoken to some of the teenagers that she caught in Sandwich.

Unfortunately, when the weather is nicer, we do see these incidents rise and we can only attempt to educate and engage with them. As they are often seen in the evenings, when Wardens are not working, I have left this to the local PCSOs to keep an eye on.