



means they were not caught for these particular crimes in Eastry, though were caught for various other offences in the Deal area.

In terms of anti-social behaviour, Eastry has been relatively quiet when compared to other areas within Dover District though there does continue to be recurring problem with the use of nuisance motorbikes in the village and surrounding rural area. For the most part, Eastry has simply been en-route to somewhere else, but there have been a few occasions where Gun Park and farming land in the parish has been used for the vehicles, and even some instances of driving through alleyways and on public paths. The use of nuisance off-road vehicles continues to be a problem across all rural areas of Kent and is difficult to police, as the vehicles will often fail to stop when requested to do so. I would urge you to continue to ask people to report this to **101** or **999**, as the more evidence we gain the more likely it is that we catch people for it. Again, this is a problem which has been passed on to the new Proactive Team, and I hope to be able to do more about this issue when the problem arises again in the Easter and Summer Holidays.

I would like to thank Bob Priestly for his help this past year. He has not only passed a great deal of information to myself and Kent Police, but been able to deal with many of the issues concerning you as a parish himself. He continues to be an asset to the village, to myself and to Kent Police.

If there are any particular areas or issues that you would like me to focus on this coming year, please be sure to pass them to me as early as possible so that I can make any arrangements necessary for extra resources and arrange my priorities and shift patterns accordingly.

It has been a pleasure to work in Eastry and look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

## **5. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Cllr Kenton opened by welcoming everyone, as this is an election year there may be changes to the Council and I would like thank my fellow Councillors for there support and to say it had been an honour to serve the community. We have lost three Councillors this year which is always sad, but I am please to say we have been joined by Peter Bailey, Laraine Bevan-Powell and Bonnie Ledner and it is good to get a fresh prospective, new members bring new skills and add vibrancy.

The Parish Council in partnership with Eastry Bowling Club are progressing the project to provide a new purpose built building on the site of the existing Parish Room in Church Street.

I hope everyone received notification of the proposed traffic scheme in Felderland Lane, this was part of the Councils ongoing commitment to try and inform local residents of issues that will have an effect on the local area.

Lots of work has been undertaken at the pond, the railings have now been repaired in places and we are waiting for them to be painted. In addition to this the vegetation has been cleared.

Flooding was a big issue in the winter of 2014, and since then the Parish Council has been trying to get input from Kent Highway services, following a meeting Kent Highways Drainage engineer in January 2015, a possible scheme that would involve the provision of deep bore soak aways at the pond that should prevent flooding in the future was suggested, however we have just been informed that due to major budget cuts by KCC this is unlikely to happen in the near future, the Parish Council will continue to pursue this matter.

Following a positive response from local residents to the request for help published in the Village News the Council had agreed to support the production of and emergency plan for the Parish. The Council are going to met with local residents to discuss the way forward, anyone interested in becoming involved please contact the Clerk. The meeting will take place after the elections in May, once the make up of the Parish Council has been determined.

2014/15 accounts have not been completed yet as we have not reached out year end. Once they have been completed they will be available to view on the Parish Council web site.

The 2015/16 Precept had been set at £46,910, an increase in Council tax of 1.99% or £1.22 pa for a Band D property.

Last year grants were given to Eastry Village Hall, Eastry Cricket Club, Eastry Village News, and Eastry Neighbourhood watch. The 2015 grant invitation will be published in the Village News later in the year.

The Parish Council provided Christmas trees out side the Five Bells and The Village Hall again this year. Cllrs Barwick, Kemp and myself erect the trees and put up the lights, after some negative comment in Dec 2013 additional lights were purchased for the village hall tree. The Annual Carol singing round the tree was again sponsored by Mary at the Five Bells, thanks for her and her staff.

Finally thank you's go to the following:- Richard Swain for his continued hard work at the toilets and his work at the pond. Shelia and Malcolm Broster for keeping the Village looking clean and tidy. David Carr, former Chairman of the Parish Council, who still continues to run the Council's web site, Bob Priestly our community Warden and of course to our Clerk Sarah Wells, who keeps everything running smoothly.

## **6. PRESENTATION OF THE KALC 2015 COMMUNITY AWARD**

Kent Association of Local Councils Community Awards Scheme 2015 is supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Chairman of Kent County Council and Mayor of Medway Council. The KALC Community Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to a local people who have made a significant contribution to this Parish over a period of years.

The Council received three nominations for this award. After discussion the decision was made to give the 2015 award to a group of people that have worked tirelessly for the past 10 years without fuss or shouting about their efforts. The awards goes to the Village News team, all those involved with the production and delivery of the newsletter.

The High Sheriff of Kent was particularly interested in this nomination and had hoped to be able to make the presentation in person; unfortunately he is already presenting an award tonight so it was presented by The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Nick Kenton and was picked up on behalf of the Village News Team by Brian Manton, John Waring, Michael Kinns and Richard Swain.

## **7. 2015 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Information on the duties and roles of Parish Councils was included in the annual meeting reports pack as well as details on how to get nomination papers. The Chairman and Clerk encouraged people to stand for election.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **DDC – Cllr Nick Kenton**

Dover District Council has agreed to freeze its budget for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running; it has also frozen parking charges for a further year. Dover District Council have produced a balanced budget and kept the Council tax for a band D property to the lowest in the area. Councillor allowances have also been kept at the same level.

One of the issues raised by local resident has been enforcement. In planning, littering and dog fouling. To tackle this issue three enforcement offers have been employed by DDC to deal with littering and dog fouling, offenders are now being tackled and fixed penalty notices are now being issued. Additional planning enforcement officers are also in post.

Dover District Council has unveiled plans for a potential £75 million investment in social and affordable housing in the district by 2028. We're exploring options for the delivery of up to 500 new affordable homes, including building new council houses and working with registered social landlords to unblock any obstacles to affordable housing on new developments.

Discovery park continue to expand with over 100 businesses currently on site and more looking to move in, additional funding is also being progressed. The Discovery Park has been listed as the most successful enterprise zone in the Country.

Plans for the St James's retail and leisure development in Dover town centre took a major step forward today after the Compulsory Purchase Order made by Dover District Council was confirmed by the

Department for Communities and Local Government. This will now allow the Council acting with its development partner, Bond City, to complete the assembly of all outstanding third party land interests and enable the redevelopment of the St James's area to proceed.

Waste and recycling continue to be successful, with 50% recycling level being regularly met in the district. This saves KCC £30 million in land fill tax over the next ten years. A recent survey has shown that 40% of the residual waste is made up of food that could be recycled, door step callers are currently working in the district to try and educate homeowners to reduce this level.

Plans to open up the economic and tourism potential of the Napoleonic fortifications at the Western Heights, have been agreed including up to £5 million in section 106 contributions for heritage from the developer. Funding has also been obtained for restoration works at Kersney Abbey and Russell gardens.

A question re litter by the road side was asked, after some discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would discuss the possibility of undertaking a litter pick day. **Action Parish Council**

Concern about the number of potholes in the roads was raised, the clerk informed those present that KHS no longer have highways inspectors that regularly look for faults in the highways network, they rely on reports from members of the public to locate problems. It was agreed this should be included in the Parish News. **Action Parish Council**

#### **Eastry C of E Primary School - Tim Halling Head Teacher**

I'm please to report that over the past 11 years our school results have been consistently above the national average, this is down to the hard work of both the staff and pupils. This year we have also received an outstanding classification following a church inspection. This has lead to the school being over subscribed and one of the most popular schools in the area. We are now running adult education courses for parents.

This year we said goodbye to Linder Chittenden who retired after 23 years in the school office, she still pops back to help on school trips and is enjoying her free time.

We have built a new training room and installed solar panels. We are now a number count school as well as a reading recover school, this allows one to one teaching to bring up childrens levels of reading and maths.

We have been on numerous trips this year including visits to Botany Bay, Powell Cotton Museum, South Foreland Lighthouse, Dover Castle, Marlow Theatre, Ramsgate Synagogue, The County Showground, Beany Museum and Broadstairs Beach. Our year 6 students spent time on a residential visit to Bewl Water.

As always the PTA have run a number of fundraising events including, discos, the Summer Fete, Christmas Fete, WW1 Commemoration Event, Bonfire night as well as present wrapping for fathers day, mothers day and Christmas. This year they have made an impressive £5851.00.

We have taken part in various charity events for British Legion Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Children's Society, Roald Dahl Day, red nose day and Macmillan Cancer research.

We continue our close ties with the Church and this year held a live nativity. Thanks to Father Philip and Rev Ridley for their continued support.

As always anyone that would like to volunteer to help in school would be welcome, at the moment we are looking for volunteer to listen to the children reading.

All in all another very busy year, I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank all my staff, parents and children for there hard work and support.

**Greville Almshouse Charity – Chairman Mr John Waring**

The Almshouses are situated off Mill Lane and adjacent to Swaynes Way. They consist of 6 one bed roomed cottages and three 2 bed roomed bungalows.

At the present time they are occupied by a total of 11 residents of the village who have the necessary criteria for qualification to become tenants. There was one change this year when our longest residing residents, passed away. There were several applications for the vacant dwelling and it was eventually offered to a couple who have been resident in the village for many years who are delighted with their new home.

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of 7 Trustees who are elected and/or co-opted under the terms of the Constitution. The present trustees are myself as Chairman, and Mrs Sue Cook, as Vice Chairman both of whom are independently elected; Mrs Iris Mollart, Mr Andrew Barwick, Mrs Lesley Smith and Mr Peter Bailey, all being nominees of the Parish Council, and the Rev David Ridley of the Parochial Church Council. The Secretary/Clerk is Mrs Sarah Wells.

The Trustees met 6 times during 2014 and continue their practice if one of their number visiting the residents, fortnightly, on a rota basis to maintain regular contact.

Along with Mrs Wells, the Trustees are responsible for the proper management of the properties and the accounts, with an unofficial caring toll for the residents. They are always looking to improve the properties for the comfort of the residents and have in recent times, had double glazed upvc windows and back doors installed in the cottages. They are now seeking estimates to do similar improvements to the bungalows. All but one of the properties, have had the heating boilers replaced and the last one is imminent.

**Eastry Church – Rev David Ridley**

Eastry Benefice is made up of five parishes with Eastry being the largest. The Church building is very old and in need of some work, the roof repairs made following the theft of the lead are holding up, the organ refurbishments have been completed. We are now working on new lighting within the church, we have a problem with the original lights as they are so old it is no longer possible to get bulbs that fit.

We have just allowed the installation of V- Fast mast on the church tower which will bring high speed broadband to the village and give the church and regular income.

We hold regular services in Eastry on Sundays and Wednesdays and well as providing outside services at Eastry House and the Old Vicarage in Tilmanstone. Events include the Flower Festival and Summer Fete, Jazz and Blues Night and a Teddy Bears Picnic.

**Eastry Young Peoples Club – Dick Lassletts MBE**

Even though KCC continue to decimate youth services we are going strong in Eastry, we are independent of the local authority and have a sustainable income from the nursery that rents half our building. I would like to thank my committee and helpers. We have more help now than we have had for a long time and I would like to express my appreciation to all those involved. We are a drop in facility open three nights a week. We have an average of 20 attend each session but this can be up to 40 in the summer months with about 80 members on the books at any time.

**Allotment Committee – Peter Bailey**

Peter informed those present that there are currently allotment plots available, he had flyers containing information for anyone that may be interested.

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

The meeting closed at 8.47pm