

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EASTRY VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 20th MAY 2014 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors N Kenton (Chairman) M Kemp M Pemble J Gardiner
B Read A Barwick J Sales

S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council 27 Members of the Public Dist Cllr Manion
PCSO Ryan Doel Bob Priestly Community Warden

The Cllr Kenton opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs S Hooper, S Mitchell, N Wickham & A Wiles. County Cllr Leyland Ridings

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.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from last years meeting.

4. POLICE ISSUES

PCSO Ryan Doel gave a report including details of actions that had been taken to deter nuisance cars.

A member of the audience asked about speed watch, this had been looked into in the past by the Parish Council and had not been feasible, however it was felt some of the operational criteria had changed and it may be worth revisiting.

Action Parish Council

Unfortunately Hadlow College had cancelled the presentations on the Betteshanger Development. The time given over to the presentation was used to discuss the Planning Application at the Old Hospital Site.

5. EASTRY HOSPITAL PLANNING APPLICATION

The plans were show on the big screen and discussion took place, questions were raised about alternative access to the site and the traffic issues. There were also concerns about the impact of an additional 100 dwellings on the village infrastructure, specifically the school and the Doctors Surgery.

The Head teacher from Eastry Primary school was in attendance, he reported that KCC projections were for a fall in school population over the next few years so he did not feel school places would be a problem.

The Parish Council had asked DDC for an independent traffic survey as the one provided by the developer is built on flawed assumptions. As yet DDC had not responded to this request. The Parish Council were asked if they would commission an independent report should DDC not be willing to do so. It was agreed the Parish Council would discuss this at there next meeting.

Action Sarah Wells

The disruption that would be caused by construction traffic was also discussed, it was felt that routes into the village and hours of operation should be specified to minimise the disturbance.

Although the feeling of the meeting was that some form of development was needed to tidy up the site, it was felt that the Parish Council should object to the application on traffic and highways grounds.

6. EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY CENCUS

Cllr Mitchell had been the lead on the community survey, however due to work commitments he had been unable to attend the meeting.

Cllr Sales had agreed to show the results.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

New Councillor – Since last year we have been joined by Juliette Sales who joined the Council following the resignation of Camilla Kennedy-Harper. As you may remember Camilla and her family relocated to China when her husband started a new job.

New Bowling Pavilion / Parish Room / Community Building

The Parish Council has agreed to join forces with Eastry Bowling Club to provide a new purpose built building on the site of the existing Parish Room in Church Street. There is grant funding available for projects of this type and as the Bowls club is expanding it is felt now is the time to look into gaining this funding.

Planning

Following the comments received about the way the Bull Inn planning application was handled the Parish Council agreed that in future a consultation should be held on any contentious planning application. Since then two applications have been received that the Council felt fell within this criteria,

- 1) Application for the use of land as a caravan site for the stationing of up to four static caravans with associated landscaping and car parking at Hay Hill.
- 2) Eastry Hospital application for 100 residential dwellings and commercial building which we have already discussed.

Flooding

Following the floods in February the Parish Council has been trying to get answers from KCC on the overflow system at the pond, mainly who is responsible for its upkeep and repairs. It was the break down of this system that caused the problems in Brook Street and Lower Street. This is proving difficult as KCC are not responding to our correspondence. We will keep on trying.

CCTV – The Parish Council looked into the provision of CCTV at the skate ramp, quotes were obtained and discussed however some members were concerned that either the offenders will move to another part of the Village or they will disable the camera, as due to the location of the skate ramp it will need to be mounted on a lamp column. The cost of a new CCTV system is quite considerable and the members were not convinced it would solve the problems, the local police officer was of the same opinion.

Grants - Last year grants were given to Eastry Village Hall, Eastry Cricket Club, The PCC organ Fund, WW1 commemoration committee, Humpty Dumpty mother and toddler, Eastry Girl Guides and Eastry Brownies.

The 2014 grant invitation is now on the Parish Council web site and will be published in the next Village News.

Dog Control Orders

Members of DDC environmental crime team have been visiting local parishes to discuss new dog control orders. DDC intends to introduce four dog control orders in the district. The Parish Council have put forward a number of suggestions to be included in the consultation.

Trees - Unfortunately we have lost quite a few trees during the year due to adverse weather conditions the Council are considering planting new trees for future generations and are asking if you can identify any sites you feel may be suitable.

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.

Finally thank you's

Allotments Management Committee – Continue to undertake the day to day management of the allotments. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their tireless work in making the allotments run smoothly. I am told there are vacant allotments at the moment so please contact the committee if you would like to rent an allotment.

Thanks go to Richard Swain for his continued hard work at the toilets, 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, my fellow councilors, Bob Priestly our community Warden and of course our Clerk Mrs. Sarah Wells.

Coffee Break

The Council also continues to sponsor Coffee Break and feels this is a very worthy event, it's great to come down here on a Friday morning to meet people and share some of Margret's fantastic cakes.

This year the Kent Association of Local Councils has introduced an award to acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community. The Scheme is supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Chairman of Kent County Council and Mayor of Medway Council.

It is my pleasure to present the 2014 KALC Community Award for Eastry to the Coffee Break Volunteers. They give up their Friday Mornings 50 weeks of the year to make Coffee break a successful and popular community gathering.

FINANCE REPORT – Sarah Wells Responsible Finance Officer

The accounts had been distributed as part of the meeting pack; the Clerk went through these and answered a number of questions.

8. REPORTS**DDC Cllr Steve Manion**

Contractors have started the demolition of Fanum House on the corner of Russell Street and Townwall Street as part of the St James's retail and leisure development in Dover town centre. The St James's retail and leisure development will provide 120,000 sq. ft. of new space in the heart of Dover town centre with a 6-screen multiplex cinema, restaurants, hotel, and retail units, including anchor tenants, Cineworld and M&S.

The Inspector carried out the site visits to the Dover Land Allocations Local Plan during March 2014. The Inspector has now written to the Council detailing the Proposed Main Modifications that are deemed necessary to make the Local Plan sound and legally compliant. The Proposed Main Modifications and sustainability appraisal will then be subject to a six week public consultation period.

The High Speed rail link franchise is up for review and it is hoped that the service can be expanded as part of this process.

Hadlow College with the support of its partners and the Government have unveiled the Betteshanger Sustainable Parks development. The development will include the Hadlow College Campus and lecture halls, and include the country park and cycle track.

DDC Cllr Nick Kenton

Growth in the district continues there are some very exciting initiatives at both the Discovery Park and Betteshanger Park sites.

Three Environmental crime officers have now been employed by DDC in response to the rising number of Littering and Dog Fouling offences these officers are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Our recycling rates are holding at around 50% which is a great improvement on a few years ago.

Cllr Kenton was asked about litter picking in the district by a resident of Felderland Lane, they felt the lane was in need of litter picking. It was agreed this would be discussed by the Council at its next meeting.

Action Parish Council

Kent County Council Leyland Ridings

Cllr Ridings had sent the following written report that had been included in the meeting pack.

Kent is a two tier authority with 12 second tier district borough or city councils below and a large number of town and parish councils.

KCC provides its 1.3m constituents with some 300 services, including the recycling, incineration, burial of rubbish, children are educated, the elderly and disabled cared for, children protected from harm, a library service, roads maintained and kept open in bad weather, births marriages and deaths and over 3,500 new citizens from abroad registered annually, coroners courts run, children fostered and many many more.

This year Council tax will rise by 1.99%, equal to £18.56 or 36p per week for a Band D property – the first increase for 3 years and the 3 years before that reflected the lowest increases in Kent County Council's history. All this in spite of the need to make £269m of savings in the 3 years up to 31/3/2014. £81m of further savings will be required for 2014/15 and we expect to make further cuts of £150m over the following 2-3 years – total cuts of a £1/2 billion.

Most of the savings have come from changing the way we deliver services, particularly Adult Social Services; we are undertaking a similar service transformation for Children's Services. We are also testing our services against those available through outside suppliers. Work that can be done at the same level at lower prices will be contracted out. Work we do particularly well, such as our award winning legal services, will continue to be done in-house and sold to other public bodies. We continue to make efficiency savings and make use of technology to save costs, eg more services online and therefore available 24/7 for less.

KCC surveyed some 5000 residents and staff to see if they felt we were on the right track. Some 2000 job positions have gone to date, including the role of Chief Executive and 2 top tier officers.

Education

The pass rate for GCSE 5A*-C grades including English and Maths has increased to 63% which is 4% better than the National Average Result, which actually fell in 2013. Kent came 2nd of four statistical neighbours – average 61%. Kent has 2 schools in Dover which are in category – St Edmunds R C School and Charlton Primary School. Mr Pickles has indicated he would like to the number of elected Members to reduce by about 10%. This would reduce the number in Kent from 84 to 75.

Flood Prevention

The £20m of works in Sandwich is progressing although due to the incessant rain and high winds is roughly 6-8 weeks behind schedule. It is expected to be completed towards the end of May.

Discovery Park

Is progressing well and there are now some 1300 people working on site.

Cllr Ridings responsibilities

Chair - Education Cabinet Committee at KCC - Standards Committee - Youth Advisory Group for Dover. Sits on - Policy and Resources Committee - Flood Prevention Committee - Scrutiny Committee.

Armed Forces Champion for Kent - KCC Representative on SERFCA - Chair the Kent Civilian Military Partnership with the Brigadier commanding 2 Brigade based at Dover - County President of the Royal British Legion.

School Governor at - Sandwich Technology School, Marsh Academy & Preston County Primary School, Duke of York Royal Military School (chair of the Education and Audit committees), East Kent College which is taking over K College in September, (Chair the Audit Committee).

University representative trustee on the Canterbury Christ Church University's Student Union.

WW1 Commemoration Event – Sat 2nd August 2014 – Gun Park

Cllr Sales reported that the event was well in hand, she had a full list of confirmed activities for the day but to give people a taste this is just a few of the organisations that would be attending, Re-enactors (resourced through the imperial War Museum), Sandwich Army Cadets, East Kent light Railways and Deat ATC squadron Army cadet band.

Eastry Primary School – Head Teacher Tim Halling

I'm please to report that over the past 10 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 has lead to the school being over subscribed and one of the most popular schools in the area. We are training our seventh graduate teacher and have employed an family liaison officer. We are now running adult education courses for parents. The children have run scooter training sessions and we have adopted a child in Mali.

We have been on numerous trips this year including visits to Lille in France, Botany Bay, Dover transport 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.

We have had visits from common wealth UK gymnast Danny Lawrence, Kent Fire and rescue service, Dentist, all sorts of music, WW2 air raid warden, a dentist, stage coach and 60 French children. We have a number of clubs that run after school and at lunch times.

As always the PTA have run a number of fundraising events including, discos, the Summer Fete, Christmas Fete, Bonfire night as well as present wrapping for fathers day, mothers day and Christmas.

We have taken part in various charity events for British Legion Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Children's Society, partially sighted children, 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.

Church Report – Rev David Ridley

This time last year I had just arrived in the Parish and was still finding my feet. I have now been through the entire Church calendar and feel at home in the Parish. I have enjoyed attending village events and am happy to accept invitations when possible, however it may not always be possible as I cover five parishes.

Dealing with practical matters at the Church during the year the organ has been overhauled at the cost of £20k and we are now looking at upgrading the lighting system and it is very old and expensive to run.

We have just had a very successful Mad Hatters Tea Party and are on the run up to the Annual Fete and the Flower Festival. Please look at our web site for details of our events. As already mentioned we have close ties with the school and our live nativity was very successful.

Greville Almshouses – John Waring

For those who may not be aware the Almshouses are situated on Mill Lane – adjacent to Swayne’s Way.

In 1834, at the age of 83, William Fulke Greville, a retired naval captain and former MP, came to live at Statenborough, he offered to provide a terrace of six one bed roomed cottages for needy Eastry residents, if a suitable site was found.

The offer was accepted, land purchased and the first residents moved in, in April 1835. Over the years the trustees have continued to improve the properties and maintain them in excellent condition.

Bathroom extensions, with indoor toilets were added in 1954 and in 1984 the cottages were completely modernised and three 2 bedroom bungalows were built. In recent times the cottages have had new PVC windows and doors fitted. Eight of the nine properties have had new central heating boilers fitted with the last programmed for replacement soon.

Vacancies do not come up very often, but when they do applications are invited by local advertising. Applicants must be not less than 50 years of age and inhabitants of Eastry.

The Charity has 7 trustees and our Clerk, Mrs Sarah Wells.

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