

IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

**THE ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING**

**at 7.30pm for Drinks Reception and
8.00pm start on
THURSDAY 26 APRIL 2018**

at

IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL

**Guest Speaker Tamsin Richie from TMBC will be talking about
litter clearing initiatives**

IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD
ON THURSDAY 26th APRIL 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00pm

AGENDA

Chairman's Welcome – Cllr Willingham

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Parish Report – Cllr Willingham

County Report – Cllr Rayner

Borough Report – Cllr Betts

Reports from Parish Organisations:-

Ightham History Project - Jean Stirk
Ightham Mote –Bernadette Gillow
St Peter's Church - Rev Tim Hatwell/Carol Kennedy
Ightham Primary School - Mr David Sherhod
Ightham & District Gardeners' Club - Pippa Coulthard & Phil Barlass
Ightham Scouts - James Reid
Ightham WI - Mary Allwood
Ightham Cricket Club – Mike Canniford
Ightham Tennis Club – Niall Temple
National Flood Forum – Sanjay Johal
Ightham Club – Mark Brenta

Any Other Business

Please note that the order of the agenda may change at the discretion of the Chairman.

Please visit our website www.ightham.org for meeting minutes and up to date information about Ightham village matters or contact the Parish Clerk via email: ighthamclerk@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
27th APRIL 2017
AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr M Holden (Chair), Tom Tugendhat MP MBE, Borough Cllr Mr Robin Betts, and 40+ parishioners including seven Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

Apologies: Cllr Valerie Dagger, Ightham Club

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. The Minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting. They will be available on the website.

The Chairman gave his report:

May I start by thanking our MP Tom Tugendhat, our County Councillor, Valerie Dagger, who is retiring at the end of this month, and our Borough Councillors, Robin Betts and Martin Coffin for their support during the last year. And my thanks to you, our parishioners, for taking an interest in the work that we do.

Projects

Our biggest project this year has been the extension of the car park in the recreation ground and creation of a seating area and lighting on the footpath to the Ightham Primary School. Beech hedging has been planted along the back of the car park which will eventually provide a screen and barrier to the cars from the recreation ground. The lighting will be connected during the summer, so that it is fully functional before the autumn.

The Scouts continue to progress the project to provide a new pavilion on the Recreation Ground and the Parish Council has funded the professional and survey fees in obtaining the Planning Permission. James Reid will update you later on the progress of the project and fund-raising activities.

Ightham Parish Council has funded the Planning Application for the Cricket Club pavilion refurbishment and the provision of a much needed secure store for the mower and grounds maintenance equipment.

The Parish Council is responsible for keeping the various open spaces in the village tidy together with the public graveyard at Saint Peter's Church. Unfortunately we will no longer receive a separate grant from TMBC to maintain the churchyard, so we raised our precept to fund this service .

The interior of the Village Hall, for which the Ightham Parish Councillors are the Trustees, has now been redecorated. The exterior has also been repainted and the windows replaced with double glazed window. The lower hall has also been converted as a suitable environmentally controlled area to store Parish Records and the materials gathered during the Ightham history project. The proceeds from the Ightham History Project were used to fund a dehumidifier.

You will also be aware that, sadly, part of our village was flooded in June 2016, and some of the residents who were affected have not yet been able to return to their homes. The long-awaited report from KCC on the flooding event has now been produced, and we are delighted that the National Flood Forum has engaged with our affected parishioners to form a Flood Action Group. Sanjay Johal from the National Flood Forum will update you later on the progress made by the Flood Action Group.

Broadband has continued to take up the Parish council's time, as linespeed remains a key issue in some parts of our parish, and we are delighted that our MP, Tom Tugendhat, has taken up the challenge of holding BT and Openreach accountable.

Highways

A written Petition with over 100 residents' signatures was presented at the last annual parish meeting to Valerie Dagger to extend the 30mph speed limit on Fen Pond Road. The 30mph signage was moved at the beginning of 2017 although unfortunately we have had reports from various residents in Fen Pond Road that people are continuing to speed along this road. We also receive regular reports of cars speeding up Bates Hill and the Parish Council has recently agreed to fund a radar survey in both locations so that we can build up a case to put to KCC Highways for installing speed indication devices and other measures in the village.

We also presented a petition to KCC, signed by over 500 residents, to improve safety at the junction of A25 and Sevenoaks Road/Oldbury Lane. We have had a letter from Matthew Balfour to say that Kent Highways are looking into engineering solutions for the junction. Unfortunately there are still accidents occurring at this junction and the Parish Council have recently started to record them as it became apparent that KCC only log the more serious accidents and therefore don't have a full and accurate record of the number of incidents occurring at the junction.

Planning

We continue to receive around 5-10 applications a month from TMBC for our opinion, and the Parish Council is supportive of all but a very few applications.

You will be aware that TMBC is going through the process of updating the Local Plan, which will set out a blueprint for our area with a time horizon of 2031. None of the sites proposed by Ightham Parish Council were put forward in the first phase of the Local Plan.

We received some outline proposals for the development of The Dark Hill/Gracelands site and the Parish Council considered the proposals which included a new 2 form entry primary school and around 150 houses plus retirement accommodation; we felt unable to support the outline proposal, mainly because the expected impact on local traffic and proximity to the factory on the north side of the A25 made the site unsuitable for such large scale development.

We received notification from KCC that H+H Celcon are proposing to extend their operations, specifically on land to the east of Fen Pond Road adjoining Ightham Court. Before they submit a formal planning application that have to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment, and IPC were asked to provide input into what the report should cover. IPC are aware of the concerns of many residents in Fen Pond Road which they will take into account if and when we receive a formal planning application. Due to the scale of the application there will be time allowed for public consultation.

Parish Council administration

The accounts for our last financial year have been circulated. Ightham Parish Council increased the Parish Precept this year to cover the aforementioned cessation of grant funding to maintain the village and the public graveyard at Saint Peter's Church. Our aim continues to be to manage our finances so that we can cover our annual running costs and have sufficient for essential capital projects.

Following the resignation of Cllr Chartres in December, IPC are pleased to welcome Cllr Julian Brewer as our new Parish Councillor. The Parish Council will be holding its Annual General Meeting next month, when it will address the appointment of a new chairman.

The Agenda and Minutes are published on the dedicated website and posted on the Parish Noticeboards. A summary of each monthly meeting is printed in the Ightham Parish Magazine. If you have any issues or queries, please email the parish clerk, details are in the parish magazine and on the website.

Finally, can I thank my fellow parish councillors for their continued commitment. May I also thank on behalf of all the members of Ightham Parish Council our Parish Clerk, Sarah Huseyin, for her unfailing support and for ensuring that we meet all the statutory and regulatory requirements of a Parish Council.

A KALC award was presented to Di Coleman by Tom Tugendhat MP for her outstanding services to the community.

Cllr Holden introduced Tom Tugendhat our local MP.

Tom said that it was a privilege to represent Ightham over the last couple of years as it was a fantastic community. There are 2 issues driving things in Ightham: The first is broadband, it affects a lot of people and is an essential service, BT is failing to deliver. He recently hosted a meeting in Leybourne with representatives from BT but was disappointed that they failed to send along people that could answer the many questions. Openreach is splitting from BT and Tom hopes that this will improve things.

Another area of concern is flooding, parts of this community have been seriously affected and we are engaging with the Environment Agency to manage the flow of water throughout the community. Various works have already happened and will continue. Flood Re is now up and running and will help with the insurance aspect for homeowners.

In addition, the Maidstone East Line which stops at Borough Green will start up again in May 2018 when the London Bridge works complete. This will open up the city route in this area which will benefit commuters.

A question was raised about traffic calming in Fen Pond Road. From September 2017 there will be 14 school children coming to local schools from Fen Pond Road where there are no pavements and no lighting, what can be done to make this a safe route? Tom urged residents to write to him and contact the newly elected County Councillor from 5th May.

Cllr Mitchem raised the question of Government targets speeds for broadband, Tom thought is was around 12Mbps download and 1Mbps upload. He also said that 5G is the next stage for mobile phones which would help.

Cllr Cracknell raised a question about bus route changes. Tom reported that Arriva have been making timetable changes without taking into account customer uses of their services. NuVenture are putting on some extra routes. Bus routes need to be made more economically viable and he will be working with Arriva. The problem is that there is currently no obligation for bus companies to consult, he would like to see this changed so that there are at least 60 days notice given to consult for a change to a route or service.

Mike Canniford asked about telephone masts. A few years ago the Cricket Club had been approached about putting a mast on their land, from which they would have made some money but the council didn't agree to it, would they agree to it now? Tom said that he hoped that people would support it.

Tom gave thanks to Ightham and said that the parishioners transformed the community and set a good example.

BOROUGH REPORT

Cllr Betts said that he endorsed Toms advice in engaging with the County Councillor with regard to the speeding in Fen Pond Road. KCC has a lack of funding and the County Councillor will be a speedier way of achieving a positive outcome.

Cllr Betts had toured the village after the flooding on 26th June 2016 and reported that the damage caused was atrocious. He hopes that there will be some positive steps to prevent a similar event happening in the future.

The Council are facing cuts of £1.6 million which is 14% of the core budget but are still expected to deliver the same service. Grants to Parishes have been withdrawn, as they were discretionery, these have been replaced by fairer charging. A new lottery fund has been announced by TMBC, called the Hive Lotto, local organisations can benefit but they need to register.

The Local Plan states that TMBC is responsible for allocating 14,000 new homes by 2031 and Cllr Betts has concerns about the infrastructure that is needed to go with the housing, especially due to the number of imports and exports travelling through our area. The local plan consultation ran from 30 September to 25th November 2016 and there were 1300 responses, all have been considered and grouped into themes. The evidence base is being prepared and a full report will be given at the next PTAB which has been delayed due to the election. All info is on the TMBC website.

The Housing white paper was published in February 2017 and comes into force this Autumn. This will be posted onto the website.

REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS Reports were received from various village organisations on their activities over the past year. Highlights Below:

Ightham History Project – Jean Stirk and David Williams launched the Ightham History Project in 2015 and each of the 650 copies has been sold. Jean Stirk and David Williams gave thanks to Mary Allwood for her photography. An archive is being set up in the lower village hall and will be opened for 2 hours once a month. Norma Crowe a local studies librarian and Chair of CILIP presented Jean and David with the Alan Ball Award for the book and said that it was an exceptional piece of work. The book is now available on CD Rom.

Ightham Mote - Bernadette Gillow reported that Ightham Mote had 151,000 visitors in 2016. The Antiques Roadshow come to Ightham Mote on 16th June and there were 5000 visitors, it will be broadcast on 7th May. Flooding affected Ightham Mote and caused £50k damage. This year, as part of a special exhibition, they've borrowed John Singer Sargent's 'A Game of Bowls, Ightham Mote, Kent, 1889 from Sothebys, New York and hope to be able to purchase it. There will be a service at Ightham Mote to commemorate 100 years of the death of Thomas Riversdale Colyer-Fergusson VC, who was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross, they will be liaising with the church.

St Peters Church – Rev Tim Hatwell reported that the church is open from 10-4 every day. There is a group of people currently mapping and cleaning the stones in the churchyard. Tim said that they are finalising the details of the service for Thomas Riversdale Colyer-Fergusson VC. Carole Kennedy gave thanks to Tim for organising the breakfasts and messy church which has encouraged more family members.

Ightham Primary School – David Sherhod, Head, reported that the school had had a very busy year with successes both academically and sporting. 50% year 6 pupils passed the 11 plus and years 5 and 6 were in the top 8% in the country for their phonics. The school is close to its maximum headcount with 209 pupils. Numbers have risen from 150 6/7 years ago. Academically, results are above average with national standards. The capital budget was reduced to £6k in 2010 and there are concerns about funding; a new national funding model is being proposed. The school have received lottery funding for play equipment and have thanks to the Parish Council for the car park and new lighting.

Ightham District Gardens Club - Pippa Coulthard gave thanks to the Village Hall Committee for their support and to the Ightham History Project for their grant. Membership has increased. They will be at the Village Fete on 15th July.

Scouts – James Reid reported that the scouts have had a very active year with a 2 week summer camp in Jersey in 2016. 40% members are now girls and there is a waiting list; they also need more volunteers. They raise funds through the textile bank at the village hall and the major fund raising event, Party in the Car Park, will be held on 10th June. Jason Murray, the Chairman, gave an update on the new Scout Hut plans. The Scouts are working with advisors on a new Scout HQ as the existing hut is not fit for purpose. The original designs were re-engineered as cost estimates were excessive, planning was granted in October 2016. They now have an estimate which is much more in line with what is achievable, £350-£500k. The Scouts already have around £100k towards funding the new scout hut and offers of materials and volunteers. They are investigating further sources of funding and are looking at fundraising ideas, any new ideas would be welcome, they envisage that it will be a community wide project. There has been a proposal for matched funding from a local trust fund. The Scouts gave thanks to the Parish Council for their support.

Ightham Cricket Club – Mike Canniford reported that The Parish Council provided a grant to replace the mower shed which is almost complete and the next phase will be to renovate the pavilion, toilet block and provide drainage and disabled access. Membership has grown and now stands at 50 members. They welcome all members from the village and encourage junior members on a Saturday morning.

The WI – Mary Allwood said that The WI supported the Antiques Road Show at Ightham Mote serving around 5000 teas. They will also be supporting the Village Fete.

Ightham Tennis Club – Niall Temple reported that the Tennis Club now has 200 members and are looking to increase membership. One of their members, Tabby Howe is no 3 in Kent. Tabby and Phoebe Ecuyer Dale will be representing Kent in a forthcoming event. He gave thanks to the Parish Council for cutting down the trees. The court is in need of resurfacing and Niall asked whether anyone had any contacts that could help.

Ightham Club – The Parish Clerk read out a short report on behalf of the Ightham Club.

National Flood Forum – Sanjay Johal reported that he is supporting the local community with a Flood Action Group made up of volunteers who were affected by the recent flooding. They have met 3 times already and will be meeting with the stakeholders to come up with an action plan. He is available to give members of the community advice on flooding. Details on the website.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which closed at 9.50 pm