

PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
26th APRIL 2012 AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr J C Edwards (Chair), County Cllr Mrs Valerie Dagger, Borough Cllr Mr F R D Chartres, five Parish Councillors and 36 parishioners.

Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Brierley.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Tamsin Ritchie, Environmental Co-ordinator from TMBC addressed the meeting by talking about the Love Where You Live Campaign. Love Where You Live has been developed in partnership with businesses, national and local government, land managers and civil society organisations. TMBC were the first council to sign up to the Government Litter Convention 2010, which aims to tackle the ever growing litter problem. It aims to involve 3 million people and 3,000 organisations to take action over the next 3 years to change littering behaviour and significantly reduce the amount of litter in England by 2020.

She said that councils could become involved in the campaign in lots of ways including litter picking, planting, working with local shops to keep their outside areas free of litter and road safety. Tamsin reported that they will be working with the 'food on the go' premises in Borough Green to encourage them to sign up to the voluntary code of practice. This is a further tool to reduce litter and encourage individuals and businesses to take responsibility.

There was some discussion on litter blackspots and a member of the parish said that the bins were not emptied properly in Trycewell Lane. Tamsin Ritchie said that she would speak with the Waste Services Inspector who will ask Veolia to ensure careful emptying of the bins. She was also asked to pass on the compliments to Veolia regarding the service they provide for the High Cross Road residents.

We were encouraged as a Parish Council to sign up to Love Where You Live website and add any projects that would fit the remit.

The Chairman thanked Tamsin Ritchie

MINUTES of the meeting held on 7th April 2011 were agreed and signed as a true record of that meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN gave his report to the meeting. This included:

Planning

During the year 101 planning applications were considered and objections were made to 6.

Highways

We continue to press Kent Highways to repair pot-holes promptly, and have given them regularly a list of pot-holes in the Parish. They have agreed to make the Oldbury Lane/Sevenoaks Road/A25 junction safer. The petition for a 40mph limit on the A25 at this point supported by the Parish Council is still being considered.

Recreation Ground

The Council's application for the extended parking area in the Recreation Ground was, after much delay, approved by TMBC at the end of March and work will start as soon as possible, funded by the Parish Council. Plans and funding for the new Scout Hut/Pavillion are proceeding and following approval of the car park a planning application will shortly be submitted.

Finances

Once again we were compelled to increase our precept for 2012/13 this time by around £10,000 half last year's increase (which represents approximately an extra £9 within the council tax for a Band D house, totalling £1,506) to replace funding which in the past, would have been available from the TMBC Special Projects Scheme. This will enable us to continue providing Parish Council contributions to the new Scout Hut/Pavilion, and to meet the costs of the new car park inside the Recreation Ground without reducing our reserves imprudently, while covering our normal expenditure and allowing for a possible contribution to a new roof for the Village Hall.

The accounts for 2010/2011 were inspected by our internal auditor, signed and forwarded to the District Auditor, who approved them with no comments or recommendations.

Parish Council Changes

Miss Ruth Morris our Parish Clerk resigned after ten year's service at the end of the year. She has been replaced by Mrs Sarah Huseyin who lives in the Parish. Cllr Edwards thanked Ruth for all her hard work over the years and gave thanks to Bob Lee Amies and Antony Edwards for keeping the village looking good.

FINANCIAL REPORT An Income and Expenditure Account for 2011/2012 had been circulated to the meeting and the Chairman explained the income and expenditure account. He said that the cash balance carried forward will go towards extending the car park and the new scout hut.

COUNTY REPORT

Cllr Dagger gave her report on the last year.

She highlighted the significant financial challenges notably a 35% reduction from the Government and a frozen council tax, however due to excellent financial management KCC achieved a £12 million underspend.

Cllr Dagger has been particularly concerned with serious traffic issues at the Oldbury Lane Junction. After parents and governors of Ightham Primary School raised the issue with KCC, there is a proposal to reduce the speed limit between Seal and Chapel Row to 50mph with an interactive junction sign for Maidstone traffic. Cllr Dagger offered to fund a sign in the Sevenoaks direction. If there is no significant objection, work could be completed within the next two months.

Cllr Dagger also mentioned the £5million Big Society Fund, KCC will focus on encouraging social enterprises and the voluntary sector to play a role in public sector delivery as well as £2million going towards an employment scheme for young people.

Cllr Dagger talked of the decision to extent grammar school provision to Sevenoaks to redress the problem of access to our grammar schools from outside the County.

BOROUGH REPORT

Borough Councillor Rodney Chartres gave his report on the past year.

Cllr Chartres thanked Cllr Dagger for her speech and thanked everyone who voted for him in the local elections.

Cllr Chartres added that the proposals for the A25 speed restrictions were just a start, they had campaigned for a speed reduction to 40mph and will keep pressure on for further changes and said that more money could be

contributed. He said that the speed restrictions had made a difference in Shipbourne as had the flashing signs and that we should take up the offer from Cllr Dagger for the additional flashing sign.

Cllr Chartres reported that Planning applications in Ightham had been well thought out.

Cllr Chartres reported the recent death of Cllr Mark Worrall Leader of the Council.

Cllr Chartres mentioned the Travellers at Old Lane who are seeking to stay without permission. A permanent site is being developed in Coldharbour Lane, Aylesford and there is currently an application to get them moved to this new site. There are currently huge changes in legislation regarding travellers, available on the KCC website.

Cllr Chartres said that the School is going from strength to strength and we are very fortunate to have June Cooke. Activities in the Church remain an integral part of village life.

Cllr Chartres talked about the new Boundary recommendations and the Chairman responded by saying that we will not be supporting them as we are happy with the way they are. The end of the consultation period is end of June 2012.

Cllr Chartres holds a surgery on the 2nd Saturday of the month in the George & Dragon after the Mens' Breakfast.

Cllr Chartres said that the Coxcombe Fair had been given a £2k grant by TMBC to go towards the costs such as the road closure.

Cllr Chartres finished by thanking everyone for attending.

A member of the public asked about the broadband speed, Cllr Chartres responded by saying that there is an initiative at the moment to Make Kent Quicker and that you can register support online (www.makekentquicker.com).

A member of the public complained that there was pollution from the Chequers site from burning rubbish, Cllr Chartres said that it needed to be reported to the Environmental Health Dept at TMBC.

Cllr Willingham reported that the Parish was in the process of redoing the website which would be available for local businesses to advertise.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which closed at 10.00pm