

*******DRAFT*******

HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on 14th May 2018 in the Village Hall, South Darent at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr I Blackamore
Cllrs R House, D Mitchell, T Moyle, C Page, P Rushbrook, M Stead, J Stewart,
C Willson

Cllr P McGarvey, District Councillor
Cllr R Gough
PCSO S Vincent

Members of the public: B Carroll, D & A Hollands, A Davey, M & J Ellis, S & N Dove
and 30 members of public

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk
D McFall, Assistant Parish Clerk

1 WELCOME FROM CHAIRMAN

Cllr Blackamore welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 REPORTS

PCSO Steve Vincent : Reported that he is the new PCSO covering Bew Ash Green, Hartley, Hodsoll St, South Darent, Horton Kirby, Farningham, Crockenhill & Well Hill area along with PCSO Ann Etter. Crime figures for the year:
35 Burglaries, 53 Criminal Damage, 13 Shop lifting, 26 Theft from motor vehicle, 20 theft of Motor vehicle and 1 Bike theft. The villages continue however to be considered as low crime areas.

Darent River Preservation Society

Malcolm Dunn was unable to attend but copies of his report was available for members and public to take away.

District Councillor Philip McGarvey: presented his report which is attached

County Councillor Roger Gough: presented his report which is attached

A member of the public highlighted pot holes outside Dartford Girls Grammar. Cllr Gough said he would report this to the Highways team.

A member of the public asked about the drainage and surface issue with Franks Lane which Cllr Gough will raise with Highways although extensive patching had been undertaken in recent years.

A member of the public asked about introducing a 'blanket 20mph' speed limit across the villages. Cllr Gough responded that this had been introduced in Crockenhill however in some areas of that village the speeds had increased after the speed limit reduction rather than fall.

Cllr Gough left the meeting at 8.20pm as he was due to attend another AGM.

3 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Blackamore gave the following report:

During the last 12 months, the Parish Council have provided the community with a new playground that has been positively received and enjoyed by all those who use it.

Although this appears to be the only large tangible improvement this year, there are several other projects being discussed to further enhance Heathside and Westminster Fields, such as the provision of much-needed toilets at Heathside and the possibility of upgrading the pavilion at Westminster Fields. These are big projects and we will be exploring funding opportunities this year.

On a smaller, but no less important scale, the Village Hall here has been internally decorated and the toilets are due to be refurbished later this year.

A new cleaning contract for both halls was successfully tendered and awarded for the next three years.

Although the typical British Summer regrettably led to the short notice cancellation of our Picnic and inflatables day last July, the firework display was a huge success and the recent St. Georges Day event was well received by those who attended.

This year's picnic and inflatable day will hopefully go ahead on 15th July (weather permitting), with the annual firework display firmly in the diary for 4th November.

Our trusty bands of volunteers have completed litter picks, river and woodland maintenance days and also our newsletter delivery throughout the villages. Additional Bulb planting to expand the Spring display was carried out last Autumn.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who volunteer their time to support the various local groups. In particular, Saxon Place Residents Association led by Dave Holland who enabled a new picnic bench to be built by the young people of Saxon Place and installed for the benefit of all those who use the playground there.

The Parish Council has also made its annual grants to the following;

The Befrienders Group - for provision of a Christmas Dinner

The Local History Society - for production of a new book about the impact of the First World War on the villages

The South Darenth Football club - for Goals and training nets

Saxon Place Residents Association - for safety equipment in their workshop

I am certain that all of us at the Parish Council would like to express our appreciation to Heather and Dawn in the office, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to facilitate

everything the Parish Council achieves, and keep everyone supplied with black bin and recycling bags!

The Parish Council have been consulted on nearly 60 planning applications, resulting in 32 decisions within the last year, this figure is double the previous year's total and particular thanks to Roger and Peter for a lot of the legwork, advise and recommendations.

The Parish Council has a new website which has a Planning Link feature so everyone can track what applications are being considered by Sevenoaks District Council within the Parish.

We would also like to thank Keith whose daily commitment for his duties at Westminster Fields and elsewhere in the villages.

Thanks should also be given to Philip McGarvey from SDC and Roger Gough from KCC for their dedication, support and guidance for our community.

I would like to acknowledge the work that Colin has done as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council over the past couple of years, and would like to welcome Peter to the role.

Last and by no means least, thank you to all the Parish Councillors for their commitment and hard work over the last year.

Thank you.

4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Member of the public stated that regarding the dropped kerb cost discussed earlier in the evening, those with a disabled parking permit should apply to KCC for funding for help with cost of installing a dropped kerb. Dave Hollands responded that residents had already applied to SDC who administer the Disability Access Grant; it can be used to fund creating hard standing but not vehicle cross over.

A member of the public asked whether the board walk on the footpath through 100 Year Wood could be extended as both ends were very boggy in wet weather. The Chairman directed that this would be looked into by the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee.

A member of the public asked if the paving slabs stacked by the gate at the picnic area would be used; Cllr Blackmore responded that they were due to be laid once the weather had improved.

Cllr Stewart reported that a TV production company had asked for permission to fly a drone in Heathside for aerial videoing which would be used in a well know property show featuring South Darenth. Members had no objection and asked if footage could be given to the Parish Council for the website.

Cllr House was pleased to report that an application to The Big Lottery Fund for outdoor adult gym equipment had been successful for £9966. The Chairman thanked Cllr House for his work on securing this.

5 PRESENTATIONS TO VOLUNTEERS

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman presented framed certificates and chocolates to the following volunteers to publically thank them for their hard work in making the villages a better place to live. George King, Bridie King, Alfie Jenner, Tillie Jenner, Taylor Orsmond, Harvey Price, Ronnie Sparrowe, Alfie Nicholls, John Friend. They were warmly applauded as they collected their certificates

Cllr Stewart said ‘As Chairman for the Recreation and Open Spaces Committee, I would like to thank all of the young people who contributed to the bench that you see in these pictures.

It is truly inspiring that you all gave up your time to fabricate and construct, with the guidance of Dave Holland, a very well made bench. We hope that it will also influence other younger members of our villages to take pride in where they live and contribute to the community in a positive way.

You should all feel immensely proud of what you have achieved, as are we.’

6 PRESENTATION OF KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AWARD

This framed certificate from KALC, signed by the High Sheriff of Kent was presented by the Chairman and the Vice Chairman to Peter Flewin. He was nominated for many years of practical support to local clubs and events in the community, being an example of good neighbourliness to many, offering transport and help. A wonderful resource of local history and a founding member of the Local History Society that has been active for 24 years.

Cllr Page spoke to the meeting about Peter’s many years of service in the Royal British Legion, St Mary’s Church fundraising and organising the welsh choir visits, organising and helping at fetes with sound equipment and barn dances. He has always been helpful to those who have needed it with shopping or lifts continuing in recent years and now at 88yrs old. It was a great honour for the Parish Council to recognise Peter in this way.

Peter responded that he was proud and surprised to receive the award; he had always tried to ‘do his bit’ for the villages and thanked the Parish Council and everyone for the award.

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited everyone to stay for tea and cake and to chat to members of the Parish Council and local organisations represented.

The meeting ended at 8.44pm

Chairman:

Date: