

## HORTON KIRBY AND SOUTH DARENTH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 19 May 2014 in the Village Hall, South Darenth at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr D Mitchell (Chairman)

Cllrs I Blackamore, R House, A Lewis, T Moyle, C Page, M Stead, C Willson and E Wilson

P McGarvey, District Councillor

R Gough, County Councillor

PCSO Crawford

B Dawes – Village Church

M Dunn – DriPS

J Edwards and E Carey KCC Engagement Team

R Oxley – NWK Countryside Partnership

G Tripp – Anthony Roper Charity

11 members of the Public

In attendance: H Rohard, Parish Clerk

#### **1 WELCOME FROM CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **2 REPORTS RECEIVED**

**PCSO Dylan Crawford** reported on his first 6 months working in this Parish; without doubt the biggest number of calls had been as a result of horses being loose in Horton Kirby. A prosecution had been brought and was awaiting trial regarding the ill treatment of the horses.

Burglaries and Break-in figures had been in line with Kent figures.

There had been significant Criminal damage after a spate of vandalism to windows and street lights; the alleged culprit had been spoken to and no further damage has been recorded.

Total crimes for the year totalled 246 which whilst sounds high is at an 'expected' level; there were no robberies but 1 sexual crime. Flytipping has been a big issue and is being tackled by SDC, Clean Kent and the Police.

Oak View Stud Farm continues to be monitored.

**Rob Oxley** reported on the 100 Year Wood project which has resulted in paths and glades being opened up and benches and interpretation boards planned to be installed later in the summer. There are Open Days planned for people to come and enjoy the area. He is busy

establishing a 'Friends Group' who will take an active role in managing the site in future with Community Tool Kits. NWKCP involvement officially ends in September 2014. He noted that the bird life in the 100 Year Wood are was exceptional.

Rob had brought along information for visitors to look at after the meeting.

**Ben Dawes** reported on the Village Church recent building project which had first started as an idea in 1996 with the desire to see the building brought up to modern standards; not only for the comfort of the congregation but with the intention of making it more user friendly for the community. Initial costs were estimated to be around £85,000 which were eventually reduced (and recently paid) to £56,000. This was miraculous for the congregation of 6 – 8 people.

The official opening will be in the coming months.

**Gill Tripp** explained the history and activities of the Anthony Roper Charity; her full report is attached to these minutes for reference.

**Malcolm Dunn** DRiPS committee members are spread along the length of the River Darent and having lived in South Darent for many years Malcolm continues to be our representative for this area. He has attended useful meetings with the Environment Agency and Thames Water following the recent floodings.

DRiPS had been able to successfully secure a reduction in the extraction of water by the Thames Water pump at Horton Kirby by 50% which was good news for the health of the river in the future.

Malcolm had brought along photos and information about the Darent for visitors to look at after the meeting.

**Cllr McGarvey** reported on matters of interest from Sevenoaks District Council and his report is attached to these minutes for reference. He had been newly elected as Vice Chair to SDC and was looking forward to a busy year in office.

**Cllr Gough** gave his report after Questions from the Public; this report is attached to these minutes for reference.

### **3 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Cllr Mitchell reported fully on the Parish Council's last year; this report is attached to these minutes for reference

### **4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr Page raised the issue of Fireman's Run being very overgrown; the Clerk was able to explain that KCC cut this Public Right of Way twice a year, whilst other PROWs are just cut once a year. However if there are any obstructions to PROWs these can be reported to KCC to be dealt with; the Clerk offered to report the overgrown vegetation to see if KCC could bring forward any scheduled work.

## **5 COMMUNITY AWARDS**

Cllr Moyle presided over the presentations of awards and explained why the awards were made and to whom. The presentation notes are attached for reference to these minutes.

The recipients who attended were; Mr Keith Saundersen, Mr David Crowhurst and Cllr Page. Mrs April Glaze could not attend as she was on holiday, however plans were in place to ensure that her certificate and wine were presented at her forthcoming 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party by Cllr Page who would be a guest.

All the recipients were warmly applauded as they accepted their certificates.

## **6 FIRE STATION INTERACTIVE VOTE AND FEEDBACK SESSION**

Cllr Willson opened the session by explaining the background to seeking public opinion on whether the Parish Council should buy the Fire Station; a questionnaire had been devised and circulated to as many people in the Parish as possible via the Parish Office, St George's Day Event and an online Survey via facebook.

Jennie and Emma explained how the interactive handsets worked with the Power Point presentation. Everyone was given a handset and 'fun run' practice questions were used to get everyone used to how they operated.

A series of questions were asked regarding the Fire Station (in line with the published Questionnaire already in circulation) and regarding the concerns about living in the Parish and Parish Council performance. The results are attached to these minutes for information.

Cllr Willson closed the session by explaining the results would be collated with the questionnaires already received and those due from the July Newsletter. All results would be available from 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr Page expressed her thanks to the Clerk for her work particularly in arranging the detail of the Annual Parish Meeting which brought a round of applause.

**Cllr Mitchell** brought the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for coming. Everyone was invited to stay for tea and cake, chat to councillors and with those who had brought information stands.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman:

Date: