

PARISH OF POSTLING

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

DRAFT Minutes of Postling Annual Parish Meeting held at Parish Village Hall on Wednesday 24 May 2017 starting at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr Frank Hobbs (Chair), Cllr Christine Hobbs, Cllr John Elphick, Cllr John Pattrick, Jo Maher (Clerk), County District Councillor Susan Carey, Chris Reynolds

1) APOLOGIES: District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee, Cllr Helen Calderbank, Cllr Charlie Wilkins, Cllr Jane Reynolds, Gill Dixon, Clive Adsett, Christine Webb

2) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25 May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair. This was proposed by Cllr Christine Hobbs, seconded by Cllr Elphick and unanimously agreed.

3) CHAIRMAN's REPORT:

Your Parish Council had an interesting year.

Locally we have had several planning applications with varying results. The Outlook coal-yard got its go-ahead for the highly unusual scheme, Douglas Cottage was turned down as being too big, and has resubmitted which we discussed earlier tonight and supported, and the site opposite this hall was withdrawn at the last minute just before it was due to go to the Planning Committee at Shepway.

The Lorry Park site was confirmed to be Option 1 and that has now gone to Judicial Review over procedure matters, was due to be held in June, but has now been delayed. Nothing more has been heard recently about the possible Sand Extraction Site.

Otterpool Park continues to be a controversial issue. During last Summer I went on a tour of developments in the Cambridge area, and John Elphick and I went on another tour in the autumn, this time to developments in North Kent. I think I can safely say we saw the good, the bad and the ugly. I hope the Officers and Members of SDC who went will take on board what they saw when they draw up the Masterplan. Various consultation events have been held and others will follow, I would urge everyone to go and see what is planned and to use the opportunity to comment.

We had numerous complaints about aircraft activity at Pent Farm, and I hope we have reached a reasonable compromise with the owner about the number of flights, particularly at weekends. We are monitoring the situation.

As I reported last year, the state of local roads continues to be a problem, in particular Cuckoo Lane, The Street and Staple Lane, they all really need proper treatment but no doubt KCC has no money for what they see as minor country lanes. Some of their organisation skills leave a lot to be desired when sorting out potholes etc.

Last but not least I would like to thank Jo for all her hard work keeping us on the straight and narrow, there have been a few problems with the web-site and this was discussed at our meeting earlier this evening. We have decided use the services of Wayne O'Gilvie at a minimal cost.

Frank Hobbs, Chairman Parish Council

4) POSTLING NEW VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION REPORT:

The committee has only met once for our AGM. We try to maintain the Hall in a sound and reasonable state of repair.

It is quite difficult to maintain the balance between a steady income stream from our regular nursery user and yet keep the Hall looking reasonably inviting for members of the Village to use when required.

With that in mind, 20 extra chairs have been purchased. We are now looking into replacing the kitchen units during the summer holidays and upgrading other kitchen equipment, all of which will be able to be funded by our cash in hand. Candidly, we would be very hard pushed to maintain the Hall at all without the regular Nursery School income. Random bookings and table tennis alone would not cover our running costs.

Chris Reynolds, Chairman, Postling New Village Hall Association

5) APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES to the Village Hall Association

Cllr John Elphick proposed Chris Reynolds, Chris Clark and Gill Dixon as representatives to the PNHVA, this was seconded by Cllr Christine Hobbs and carried unanimously.

6) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT:

Susan Carey – Cabinet Member for Finance

My special responsibility at Shepway is to see that we have enough money to deliver the services you expect such as the waste collection and recycling at a time when our government grants are reducing. By 2020 we will be expected to be self-funding from council tax, growth in business rates and income from services such as car parking and investments. We are also making savings by investing in putting more services online so they are available 24/7 but cost less to run.

Jenny Hollingsbee – Cabinet Member for Communities and Deputy Leader

My Portfolio responsibility keeps me in touch with many of the voluntary organisations in the District and hence, the Ward. I represent Shepway District Council on the Armed Forces Covenant Board, the South Kent Coast Health & Wellbeing Board, the Local Children's Partnership Board as well as the local Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK Hythe & Lyminge. My duties include visiting and supporting local organisations as well as Chairing the Community Chest Advisory Board and I get to see at 'first-hand' the amazing work that is carried out by volunteers.

In the Ward, over the last year, we have dealt with many planning applications, overgrown trees, broken street signs, nuisance overnight lorry parking, flyposting, litter generally and waste collection (bins not replaced where found), etc, etc. We have met with a number of residents to discuss local issues including the lorry park (which is a Highways England Project) and the proposed Otterpool Park (a SDC Project supported by the Government).

Last year as a special project, to 'Improve the appearance of the District' we successfully applied for a 'one off' grant which provided Village Gateways for Lyminge and Sellindge and kerbing to protect the Triangle at Stelling Minnis. We both work closely with the Parish Councils in our Ward and attend as many Parish Council

Meetings as possible. We write regularly for the Sellindge News Sheet, the Lyminge Newsletter and the Stelling Minnis Parish News.

Shepway District Council has been very active in tackling nuisance overnight lorry parking. It has erected signs in a number of laybys and residential areas and in November 2016, introduced a Fixed Penalty Notice (£70) for lorries ignoring these signs. Whilst not eradicating the problem, it has reduced the numbers. We will continue to pursue this.

We know we need new homes and jobs for our area and welcome the Government support ((£1 million to date) for a new Garden Settlement 'Otterpool Park'. Over the next 30 years 'Otterpool Park' will provide the infrastructure, medical facilities, schools, public transport etc and at least 30% new publically accessible green space needed to support the new homes. Details relating to this project can be found at www.shepway.gov.uk/otterpool

The announcement of a General Election on 08 June has meant that the next round of public engagement meetings on Otterpool Park Garden Town (a project we strongly support) will have to be postponed until after the election. It really is important that people get involved in the masterplan process as this is the time to influence where facilities, housing, green space, etc are located as well as ensuring the most up-to-date and innovative technologies are included in the design stage. Housing for people at all stages of their life can be planned – from starter homes, low cost housing (for rent and shared equity), family homes, self-build to retirement options. We have recently attended briefing sessions on Modular Homes and the latest energy technologies and other briefing sessions and visits are planned.

Highways England plans for a Lorry Holding Area at Stanford West are on hold until after the Judicial Review which is due to take place at the end of June.

Another important piece of work is the Core Strategy Local Plan which governs where we will have future houses and employment land by accepting various reports that provide the evidence used to support the plan when it is examined by the Planning Inspectorate. These include the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. These documents are also on our website.

Shepway District Council Ward Grants 2016/17

There are always more projects than we have funding to meet but if you have a good project please get in touch if you think we can help. Grants made this year include -

All Saints Church Stanford - PCC - for sound system	£661.00
Sellindge School Association - First Aid Training	£360.00
National Coast Watch	£200.00
1st Sellindge Guides Youth Group	£150.00
Postling Village Hall	£400.00
Age UK Hythe & Lyminge - Lyminge Centre Shed	£271.00
Sellindge Church PCC - Projector	£558.00
Stelling Minnis Parish Council - defibrillator Case	£400.00

Council Tax Value for money

For every £1 of council tax collected by the council the money is distributed as follows:

Amount	Authority
£0.69	Kent County Council
£0.15	Shepway District Council
£0.09	Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
£0.04	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority
£0.03	Town and Parish Councils

We are always happy to meet with our residents and to give our support to events so please contact us.

Did you know?

- If you live in Shepway you can get a Residents' car park permit for £60 per year which gives you up to 3 hours in long-term stay Council car parks across Shepway and up to 2 hours in short stay car parks
- Shepway is committed to the Armed Forces Covenant – our promise to those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces and their families to be treated fairly
- About the Shepway Lifeline alarm service – A handy little red button that can get you help when you need it the most (24/7)

About Shepway's beautiful parks and open spaces

- The Lower Leas Coastal Park, Folkestone created in 2006. The park offers beautiful gardens, as well as a free area play area for children. There are plenty of places for picnics, there is a Café, Public Toilets, and it is a Green Flag Award Winner. It also has the 'Trip advisor' Certificate of Excellence
- Kingsnorth Gardens, close to Folkestone Central Station. This 3.2 acre site is surrounded by trees and has a very fine rose garden as well as lawns, ponds and fountains.
- Royal Military Canal Hythe – Originally a defence against invasion by Napoleon, now a tranquil stretch of water and gardens with level paths through Hythe. There is boat hire and trips by the electric boat throughout the summer. Shepway has made major improvements to the Canal in recent years and further improvements are planned with the new Leisure Centre (including a Swimming Pool) at Seabrook. The Royal Military Canal has won Shepway many Green Flag Awards.

- Radnor Park – a major landmark on arriving in Folkestone which is undergoing refurbishment. A Tea Room has been established and the project includes the full restoration of the St Eanswythe Water Fountain as well as providing a wide range of play areas for children, plenty of space for picnics and play.

Shepway's ground maintenance team are available for one-off or regular private garden work. Tel 01303 853491 grounds.maintenance@shepway.gov.uk

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee, District Councillors, North Downs West, Shepway District Council

7) KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

One of the big changes I have seen since I became your County Councillor has been the growth in demand for social services as more of us live to frail old age. Social care (adults and children) now accounts for over half the amount you pay to KCC in council tax (see overleaf for a breakdown). The recent announcement by the Government of an extra £2bn for social care nationwide means an extra £26m for Kent from this April. Good news indeed.

As well as social care KCC provides over 300 services and I've highlighted a few on the back page of this report. I'm particularly pleased with the following projects.

- Streetlights across Kent are being converted to LED (light-emitting diode). You may have noticed as these LED lights illuminate the ground not the skies, reducing light pollution. The new lights last longer, cost less to run and can be dimmed or brightened to suit their location. Another advantage of the new lights is that they report themselves when they have a fault. The £40m investment for the switchover of KCC's 118,000 streetlights will pay for itself within six years.
- KCC has helped over 200 companies across Kent expand their businesses creating over 2,000 new jobs and safeguarding 1,663 existing jobs through interest free loans. As these loans have been repaid they are being lent out to more Kent companies creating a virtuous circle of investment.
- KCC is also leading the way on apprenticeships with its *Made in Kent* campaign. There's free advice for businesses on how to use the apprenticeship levy (phone 03000 414 005 or email kep@kent.gov.uk) and for those who want to be an apprentice (search for 'Be an Apprentice') on www.kent.gov.uk
- A £15.6m investment to bring access to superfast broadband to more of Kent has directly benefitted over 120,000 households and businesses. A better connected Kent helps us all and we are planning a new scheme to help reach the 5% of households and businesses that don't yet have access to fast broadband.

Here's a breakdown of how the KCC element of your council tax is spent using a Band C property (the most common in Kent).

Band C Council Tax Service Split	£	%
Adults & Older People's Services	£424.71	41%
Children's Services	£174.11	17%
Community Services	£18.14	2%
Highways	£32.64	3%

Schools' Services	£3.87	0.5%
Transport Services	£74.07	7.7%
Waste Management	£79.18	8%
Other Direct Services to the Public	£23.31	2%
Financing Items *	£134.40	13%
Management Support & Overheads	£83.41	8%
Total	£1,047.84	

The cash figures are exact but the roundings mean the % total is not 100%.

* This is principally the cost of interest and debt repayment for capital projects such as school buildings, libraries and roads.

KCC is also responsible for £69m of Public Health spending funded through a Government grant and the £769m schools' funding is met by a Government grant and passed on to the schools.

Your council tax bill will also have extra charges for Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Shepway District Council and your Parish Council.

Since 2010 Susan has been Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement at KCC and she played a major role in helping deliver the savings KCC has made. In July 2016 she was appointed Cabinet Member for Commercial and Traded Services and now has responsibility for Communications as well as KCC's trading companies and Kent Scientific Services (KCC's own CSI supporting the Coroner's Court and Trading Standards).

Susan's local work has involved helping individuals with school transport appeals and other problems. She is a great supporter of community litterpicks both funding litterpicking equipment with her KCC Member Grant as well as taking part in the numerous litterpicks, stream cleans (Lyminge and Elham), Newington churchyard gang and the SHAL clear up of the Shepway Cross in Lympne.

Susan works closely with her district council colleagues and the parish councils in her division. She writes for many village newsletters across her Elham Valley division and the Hawkinge Gazette (www.localrags.co.uk)

KCC Member Grant 2016/17

Susan says, 'I'm particularly pleased this year to be able to help with the installation of more defibrillators at key locations.'

£6,695 for a new bus shelter in Etchinghill
£4,000 for new chairs for the Hawkinge Community Centre
£3,000 to Shepway District Council for equipment and paint for community clean ups across the district
£2,500 installation of bollards on A20 near Newingreen to stop HGV parking
£1,864 to clean signs across the Elham Valley
£1,410 for works to the Lyminge Scout hut

£1,436 towards a new bus shelter in Hawkinge
 £1,000 towards roof repairs at the Tayne Centre, Lyminge
 £1,000 towards the cost of a defibrillator at Etchinghill Village Hall ❤️
 £1,000 for youth work in Hawkinge provided by the Folkestone Youth Project
 £885 for a defibrillator for the Hawkinge Community Centre ❤️
 £560 to St Luke's Lighthouse Church, Hawkinge towards camping equipment for the Fusion Youth Club.
 £500 to St Stephen's church Lympe towards roof repairs
 £500 to Swingfield Parish Council towards the cost of a defibrillator ❤️
 £500 to Lympe for new exterior lighting
 £378 to Lyminge Parish Council towards new Speedwatch equipment
 £300 to Etchinghill residents association towards the new village sign
 £247 to Hawkinge Allotments for water storage containers (water fairies)
 £225 to Sellindge Parish Council for traffic cones

Susan says, 'There are always more projects than I have funding to meet but if you have a good project please get in touch if you think I can help.'

Your council tax payment to Kent County Council funds over 300 services. Listed below are some of the services we provide:

- Supporting 5,506 people with nursing and residential care that best meets their needs;
- 7,828 people receiving a homecare support service to enable them to stay in their homes;
- Providing a social care service for 35,440 adults last year;
- 85 children's centres, working with 65,000 youngsters;
- About 2,300 children in care, including more than 800 young unaccompanied asylum seekers
- 24,300 young person's travel passes
- Supporting 5,000 adults with substance misuse issues
- 70 community wardens;
- 99 libraries , all with free wi-fi and attracting 6.5m visits online and in person a year.
- more than 5,200 miles of public roads and 4,000 miles of pavement
- 9 country parks, attracting 1.6million visits
- 16.9million free bus journeys for the elderly and disabled

Susan Carey, Member, Elham Valley, Kent County Council

8) ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Nothing to report

The meeting closed at 8.30pm