

PARISH OF POSTLING

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016

DRAFT Minutes of Postling Annual Parish Meeting held at Parish Village Hall on Wednesday 25 May 2016 starting at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr Frank Hobbs (Chair), Cllr Christine Hobbs, Cllr John Elphick, Cllr Helen Calderbank, Jo Maher (Clerk), County District Councillor Susan Carey, KALC Chairman Ray Evison, Clive Adsett, Christine Webb, Tony Van Eldik, Marieke Van Eldik, Pat Elphick, Jan Wood, Derek Wood, Jenny Mannion

1) APOLOGIES: District Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee, Cllr John Pattrick, Cllr Charlie Wilkins, Cllr Jane Reynolds, Chris Reynolds, Gill Dixon

2) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair. This was proposed by Cllr Elphick, seconded by Cllr Christine Hobbs and unanimously agreed.

3) CHAIRMAN's REPORT:

Your Parish Council had another busy year.

We are currently threatened by major developments in the area. The on-going consultation about the lorry park at Junction 11 was expected to report some time ago on the preferred site, but there is no news yet, and now probably won't be released until after the referendum. This could have a knock-on effect on the sand extraction site if they chose Option 2. And now there is the proposal from Shepway DC for a "garden town" running on the southern side of the motorway from Junction 11 to the western edge of Sellindge, no doubt Cllr Carey will enlighten us more in her report. We have been invited to a meeting at SDC early next month, along with the other affected parishes, to be briefed fully on the proposed project.

On the domestic front Kingstons have received permission to take down the leylandi trees opposite this hall and to cut back the hedge to match the rest, this should make a big difference to the street scene, provided of course that they do the work. We are still awaiting the decision on the application on the old coal yard.

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.

Jo has had a busy time getting us to be compliant with the Transparency Act. We now have a dedicated website which has been set up by Wayne O'Gilvie and also a dedicated computer and e-mail address. Wayne did this work free of charge so we have rewarded him with a large hamper. All the items we legally have to publish are now on the web-site.

Money for the equipment and the extra hours put in by Jo have been paid for by the government, so there has been no extra call on our own Council Tax payers.

We organised a beacon to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday which about 40 people attended on the downs above Pent Farm. Many thanks to the Reynolds family for making it possible.

Finally our sincere thanks to Jo for all her hard work in this difficult year.

Frank Hobbs, Chairman Parish Council

4) PRESENTATION KALC COMMUNITY AWARD

This awards scheme is intended to recognise members of the public who make significant contributions to their communities.

The scheme is supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the High Sheriff of Kent and by the Kent Association of Local Councils

Nominations were invited from parish and town councils for people living or working within their boundary. The councils make their own decisions about how they want to identify those who have made a significant contribution to the local community and there is no pre-determined criteria for what the contribution to the community might be..

The High Sheriff of Kent said: "the KALC awards are now fully established to recognise both the selfless dedication and the invaluable contribution made by volunteers to our local communities."

KCC Chairman said: "Individuals across Kent are making vital contributions to their communities which often go unrecognised, so I am delighted to support these awards which will recognise the efforts of these people. Their hard work and selfless dedication helps to make Kent a great place to live."

I would add: "Our association represents those who are integrated with their local communities and parish councillors and are therefore ideally placed to recognise those individuals who give themselves tirelessly and selflessly to the greater good of their towns and villages across the county.

I am delighted to be invited as a deputy to the High Sheriff to present awards around the county. Your nomination goes to someone who has served you tirelessly and vigorously represented your collective interests for many years. This person has raised countless funds for your community and always made themselves available. She is apparently a lady who just cannot say no to a request for help. She is, as you all know.

PATRICIA ELPHICK.

I am very pleased and honoured to be invited on your behalf to present her with this award.

Cllr Ray Evison, Chairman of KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils)

5) 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. Lettings income is very similar to last year with the nursery school being the main daytime user and table tennis in the evenings.

The front white boarding has been cleaned which has freshened up the appearance and the trees on the east side have been trimmed well back to allow more light into that side of the hall.

We are now well equipped for tables and probably ought to consider the purchase of a further 20 folding chairs to cover us for well attended meetings etc.

Our Christmas party was reasonably well supported last year. Again our grateful thanks to Gill Dixon and her helpers.

Chris Reynolds, Chairman, Postling New Village Hall Association

6) 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 Derek Wood and carried unanimously.

7) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT:

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee were elected to the newly created two councillor ward of North Downs West on 07 May 2015 on a 75% turnout (the highest in the district) and 71% of the vote (the highest share of vote in the district). They are grateful for the support they received.

This is their report of the highlights of the year for their ward and the Shepway District Council.

Highways England's proposal for a vast lorry holding area at one of two sites either side of Stanford was announced in December 2015. This proposal bypasses all the planning processes at District and County Council level but we agree with the District Council's view that the Stanford West site is the 'least bad' option. We expect a decision on the shortlisted site to be announced shortly.

In November 2015 your District Council introduced parking restrictions to tackle the problems caused by overnight lorry parking. Over £9,000 in fines has been collected (which covers the cost of enforcement) and further restrictions will be added where necessary.

Local government faces a continuing reduction in its grant funding from central government and Shepway has responded by cutting costs particularly by making more use of new technology and finding new sources of income such as our regeneration company Oportunitas and our land acquisition at Otterpool Manor in December 2015.

In March 2016 the government called for proposals for sites for new garden settlements and on 06 May 2016 Shepway District Council announced that it was considering a bid for a garden town based on the Otterpool Manor land. If accepted there could be up to 12,000 homes built over a thirty year period with at least 30% of the land becoming publically accessible parks and green spaces. Otterpool Park Garden Town would be a well-designed community with infrastructure such as roads, schools, medical facilities and a new sewage plant in place right from the start and homes to rent or buy within reach of local people.

We want to bring more and better paid jobs to our area as well as homes for a growing population. Shepway has a number of business support schemes such as a subsidy for apprenticeships and we have made a £500,000 investment in South Kent College to help improve skills training. The major housing developments at Folkestone Seafont, Martello Lakes in West Hythe and the Shorncliffe garrison all now have planning permission and have started to be built. Within our ward there is outline planning permission for 250 houses in Sellindge and detailed permission for 50 of these. We expect these 50 to be built next year. The planning agreement for this development funds the expansion of Sellindge school from 15 pupils in each year group to 30 (105 to 210 places in all).

Shepway owns land at Princes Parade in Hythe (the old municipal tip) which the Council intends to use for housing (both for sale and social housing), businesses such as a fish restaurant and ice cream parlour similar to the successful Harbour Arm in Folkestone and a leisure centre incorporating a new swimming pool for Hythe.

Jenny is both Deputy Leader at Shepway and the Cabinet Member responsible for Communities. She is Chairman of the Grants Advisory Panel and a member of the Shepway District and Parish Councils Joint Committee. She also represents Shepway on the South Kent Coast Health and Wellbeing Board, the South Kent Coast Local Children's Board and a wide number of other partnerships. Susan is Cabinet Member for Finance. When not at Shepway meetings they have been active in attending parish council meetings and village events as well as helping individuals with planning issues and other problems.

Together with representatives from the parish councils they have put together a successful bid for £18,750 of funding to improve the appearance of the district which will be spent on a variety of projects across the ward in the year ahead.

Each District Councillor has £1,500 to allocate to community projects and in 2015/16 they supported the following projects:

Jointly

£500 Playground benches Sellindge School Parents Association
£400 Groundwork at Lyminge Bowls Club
£200 Agincourt Remembered commemoration at Stelling Minnis

Susan

£167 Decoration at Rhodes Minnis village hall
£279 Projection system for Kent (Marine) Cadet Force
£300 Works at Lyminge Scout Hut
£203 Talking litter bin outside Sellindge School

Jenny

£417 Disabled toilet facilities at Evington Hall (Elmsted)
£250 Age UK Lyminge
£283 Fencing for Sellindge Playing Fields
If you have a good local project to support, please contact:
Susan Carey susan.carey@shepway.gov.uk 01303 670561
Jenny Hollingsbee jenny.hollingsbee@shepway.gov.uk 07887918458

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

8) KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Key issues for the County Council

- Rising demand for social care (adults and children) – this now accounts for over half our spending
- Continuing large reductions in our grant from central government – £58m less for 2016/17
- Increase in landfill waste from households to over 700,000 tonnes a year (Landfill waste tax has risen to £84.40 a tonne)

Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council says, 'Our focus is on improving lives by ensuring that every pound spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses.' Every county councillor has a role to play in this and this report shows some of the work your local member has done over the past year.

Susan Carey is Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement at Kent County Council as well as serving on many of the cross party committees. She is appointed by

KCC to serve on the Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority and to be chairman of the Pension Board. She also serves *ex officio* on the Sir John Williams charity (Elham) and the Robert Thompson Charities (Saltwood).

In her role as the member for Elham Valley, Susan is very active in supporting community events, communicating through village newsletters and the town and parish councils.

Susan says: The major issue to affect my Elham Valley division over the last year has been the proposal by Highways England to build a lorry holding area near Stanford. This is being done using powers under the Highways Act 1980 and does not require permission from either the County Council or the District Council. I am opposed to both options but believe the Stanford West site is the 'least bad' site.

There is also a proposal to extract sand on the site north of Junction 11 and I have supported Postling and Stanford Parish councils in their objections to this.

Most of my help to individual constituents has been to do with school transport and school appeals and highway problems.

I have used my Combined Member Grant to support the following projects:

- £10,000 to Hawkinge Town Council towards the acquisition of land and planning costs for the Community Centre
- £3,610 to Kent Highways for a replacement of the gateway to Lyminge village (Folkestone end)
- £1,500 to Shepway District Council for a store for the equipment used in community clean ups and green gym activities
- £1,000 to St Peter & St Paul's church in Saltwood towards the repair of the bell tower
- £1,000 to Elham Village Hall towards the cost of a new cooker
- £1,000 to Evington village hall, Elmsted towards the cost of disabled toilets
- £500 to Lyminge Bowls Club towards the cost of works to their west bank
- £500 to Funding for All to help local groups find grants
- £500 to the National Coastwatch Institute in Folkestone for external renovations to their watchhouse
- £500 to Hawkinge Brownies for equipment
- £3,296 towards the changes to School Road in Saltwood

I am always looking for good projects to support so I can allocate the funds across my Elham Valley division. Projects I have supported in the past include improved facilities for the village halls, play areas, speedwatch equipment, and renewing the parking restrictions outside the primary schools across the district.

Last year it was my privilege to nominate Sir Bob Worcester for the Kent Invicta Award for services to Kent.

Your council tax payment to Kent County Council funds over 300 services many of which we hope you will never need to use such as the Coroner's Court and emergency response. Here are some of the services provided by your County Council:

- Home to school transport for 7,500 children to mainstream schools and 3,800 children with Special Educational Needs
- Care for nearly 1,500 Looked after Children in fostering and residential care
- A network of children's centres, preventative work with more than 11,000 children a month avoiding the need for more expensive care

- Care for nearly 4,000 older people in their own homes
- Care for over 1,000 adults with Learning Disabilities through supported living arrangements
- Care for 5,500 elderly and vulnerable adults in residential homes
- Direct payments for nearly 4,000 elderly and vulnerable adults to make their own care arrangements
- 16.9m free journeys on public transport for elderly people on their bus passes
- Maintaining and managing network over 5,000 miles of road 4,000 miles of pavement
- Disposing of and recycling 711,000 tonnes of domestic waste
- 99 libraries attracting 6.5m visits online and in person a year
- 1.4m public enquiries through the contact centre

We are also investing in extending access to superfast broadband to the rural areas of Kent and in extra school places where our population is growing.

Ask your County Councillor if you'd like to know more.

To find out more about Community Engagement in Shepway log onto:

www.kent.gov.uk/communityengagement and click onto Shepway

Elham Valley County Member

Susan Carey

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Allison Allan Community Engagement Officer looks after the Shepway County Councillors and the Members grants for the area

Contact her on: **01622 694345** or **07920526550**

Email: Allison.allan@kent.gov.uk

Susan Carey, Member, Elham Valley, Kent County Council

9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Nothing to report

The meeting closed at 8.40pm