

CHILHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes (for approval) of the Meeting held at Chilham Village Hall on 15th April, 2010 at 19.30.

Present: Parish Cllr R.Taylor(Chairman), Parish Cllrs A Ralph, M Sansom, E Taylor, Y White, County Cllr A Wickham

Apologies: Parish Cllr J Adams, D Kennett, R Marsh, I Walker, Borough Councillor J.Marriott, PACT Chairman D Hayes

In Attendance: Mr G Dear (Clerk), 13 parishioners.

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone and on behalf of the parish council. He pointed out that the meeting is arranged by the parish council on behalf of all the groups and organisations within the parish so that they could tell us a little about themselves and their future aims and provide the opportunity to answer questions.

2. Minutes of Annual Meeting on the 16th April 2009

The minutes of the previous annual parish meeting were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Report.

Chairman Richard Taylor thanked his fellow councillors for working so hard for the parish over the last year, explained that the council had taken on responsibility (with consent from connected families) for maintaining parish benches and they were now covered by the councils insurance.

Cllr Adams would be resigning on 30th April and Cllr R Taylor outlined the procedure for finding a replacement. He reminded the meeting that there would be full parish council elections in May 2011 and encouraged people to put themselves forward but recommended they made themselves aware of the time and effort required.

Cllr R Taylor introduced Karen Peck our community warden who explained her duties within the parish.

He reported on a number of highways issues progressed by the parish council including flytipping, potholes, blocked drainage, street lighting as well as the reinstated footpath from Taylors Hill to Dane Street (Cllr R Taylor also thanked Anthony Perrett for the support he gave over this issue) and the resurfacing at the junction of Shalmsford Road and the A28.

He advised that the Local Needs Housing at Shrimpton Close would be ready in June and anyone with a local connection interested in applying should contact ABC Housing.

He stressed that any parishioner with any concern about any local issue could contact either the clerk or himself to get an answer to their query.

4. County Councillors Report

Cllr Wickham reported that he expected to approve expenditure to implement proposals to address HGV's entering the Square after presenting them to the parish council for comment. The proposals would involve improving signage following English Heritage guidelines, installing gateways at the bottom of Taylors Hill and The Street (near the Woolpack) and

defaulting access to Taylors Hill from the A252 into the car park. He stressed that this was separate but complimentary to the Chilhams Future Delivery Board project.

He reported that Kent Highways had instigated a 'find and fix' blitz on potholes and were using local firms to do this paying them on the basis of the number of potholes filled. Kent Highways would be carrying out quality checks on the work and the contractor for the parish of Chilham was Walker Construction.

He was concerned that the school admissions policy disadvantaged those children who lived furthest away from an appropriate school parish and was lobbying for the process to be reviewed.

Finally he reported that Independent Audit Commission had rated KCC performance as excellent for the 8th year in succession. It was one of the lowest taxing councils in the country,

5. Borough Councillors Report

In the absence of Cllr Jane Marriott, Cllr Wickham read from a written report. The main topics covered were:

- the CEO for Ashford Borough Council was John Burnett
- development plans for the borough
- new rail timetable with services retained
- plans for the sawmills site
- a meeting with representatives from Ashford Borough Council, Kent Highways, English Heritage, Kent Police and Chilham Parish Council.

6. Chilham Future Development Board

Rob Berry reported that an Open Meeting held with parishioners to explain their plans for a community engagement exercise - the next step in their project to return the Square to an attractive space for the community that also creates an enjoyable destination for visitors.

As a result of feedback received:

- the first workshop will be open to all the parish and held at 7pm on 27th May
- CFDB will use part of the noticeboard outside Chilham Post Office to keep the parish informed of progress
- there will be a flier in pubs, shops, church, surgery, school and village noticeboards inviting people to get involved in the community engagement exercise

CFDB will continue to put regular updates in Parish News, local press and their website and provide regular reports to the parish council.

Anyone wanting to attend the open workshop will need to contact CFDB by 14th May so it can plan for the number attending.

7. Parish Plans

Cllr R Taylor reported that the parish council would be looking onto the implication and consider forming a sub-committee including members of the public to decide how to move this forward.

8. Village Reports

Cllr R Taylor thanked Peter Wead and Mike Marsh for the work they did for the local Neighbourhood Watch groups.

PACT

On behalf of PACT chairman David Hayes, Cllr White outlined the purpose of this group and some of its achievements since forming:- dog waste bins in Taylors Hill and dog fouling notices and the implementation of Speedwatch with support from Kent Police involving teams of people trained in use of handheld speed monitors (up to 40 mph) reporting offenders to be pursued by the police. There would be training in May and volunteers were welcome.

Flower Festival

Lyn Gremo reported on the plans for Chilham – A Walk Through Time on 29th – 31st August in St Marys Church to raise funds for the church. There would be 17 arrangements all of which would be sponsored. A barbeque and cream tea stall were planned. A key aim was to demonstrate that the community could work together to show off its local church and attract visitors to our parish.

Enjoy Chilham

Peter Higgs reported that the group now had made improvements to its own website and had redesigned and reprinted the Chilham tourist leaflet which was now being circulated far and wide to attract people to Chilham and the parish. A successful social event had been held at Cork Farm.

Chilham Parish Recreation Ground Trust

Peter Wead reported that despite an operating loss in the last year the trusts finances were sound and self financing with the 100 plus club providing a regular income. A new security system had been installed and there were plans to improve the heating system. The football, tennis and short mat bowls clubs continued to be successful and the facility was used regularly by the school.

The AGM would be on 22nd April.

OWL Village Hall

Cllr R Taylor reported that following an inspection the hall had been awarded Hallmark level 1 and congratulated the committee on this achievement.

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Chilham Nursing Association

Rev Chris Duncan explained that this was a small charity serving the parishes of Chilham, Godmersham, Challock and Molash. Its object was to provide nursing help for those in need. Charitable [payments of around £120 had been made in the last year.

Chilham Shop

Peter Wead congratulated Peter Higgs for coming runner up in the Kent Community Retailer of the Year 2009.

In the absence of further reports the chairman closed the meeting.