

CHILHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes (for approval) of the Meeting held at Chilham Village Hall on 21st April, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Present: Parish Cllr P Lulham (Chairman), Parish Cllrs D Marriott, A Rooke-James, G Schofield

Apologies: Boro Cllr S Dehnel, County Cllr A Wickham

In Attendance: Mr G Dear (Clerk), 21 parishioners.

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone and on behalf of the parish council. He pointed out that the meeting is arranged by Chilham Parish Council (CPC) 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 2015

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

3. Parish Council Report.

Chairman Paul Lulham referred to his annual report in the May version of PC Tips, that had been included in the meeting papers provided for attendees, and the main issues concerning the parish council over the previous year. This covered the following items:-

- i) Progress made following Independent Review recommendations
- ii) Public Inquiry regarding Restricted Byway AE18 & AE429
- iii) Sawmills Development section 106 contributions
- iv) Parish Question Time community engagement
- v) Precept for 2016/17
- vi) Road Safety concerns

4. County Councillors Report

Cllr Wickham was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a written report which was summarised by Cllr Lulham and covered the following items:-

- i) KCC budget pressures
- ii) Front line services protected without increase in council tax
- iii) Opportunities for funding local projects through KCC Member Community Grant – suitable projects from the parish would be looked at favourably.

5. Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Dehnel was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a written report which was summarised by Cllr Lulham and covered the following items:-

- i) Local Plan to 2030 – consultation to start mid June and last for 8 weeks – 3 sites in Chilham under consideration
- ii) Major developments underway and / or planned include Ashford College, Godinton Way Industrial Estate, Elwick Road development and M20 junction 10A
- iii) Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund.

6. Village Reports

Stained Glass Classes:

Matt Wilson summarised the classes available and invited parishioners to try them out.

St Marys Church:

John Willis explained how the church was part of the community, had a close connection with the primary school, produced Parish News, attracted many foreign visitors and provided them with general

information about the village. It was also custodians of a Grade1 listed building and ran events such as the 5 Church Walk an Open Day and a Gift Day.

Chilham Chase:

Ali Ralph reported on preparations for the Chilham Chase weekend celebrating the 400yr anniversary of the building of Chilham Castle with a production by Globe Theatre of the Two Gentlemen of Verona in the Castle grounds.

Chilham Tourism and Retailers Group:

Peter Higgs reported on work done to promote Chilham including the production of a new leaflet. He was congratulated for the Rural Retailer award recently won by Chilham Shop.

CPRGT:

Peter Wead reminded the meeting that CPRGT was a charitable trust and was not funded by the parish or borough council. It had had its best financial year ever. He reiterated concerns about road safety along Branch Road where there was no pedestrian footway. Boot Fairs started on 22nd May.

CFDB:

David Hayes reported that:

The board consisted of volunteers and that anyone could apply for membership. There had been little progress in the last year due to illness and hospitalisation. The board was expecting estimates from approved KCC/ABC contractors in the next year to move the project forward.

Old Wives Lees Village Hall:

Roy Lincoln reported that the hall was used by many local organisations and groups and hosted a number of community events including the Big Breakfast on Saturday mornings. The kitchen had been refurbished and a projection system had been installed.

Questions / Comments from the floor:

Jim Smith expressed support for the s106 contributions resulting from the Old Sawmills development and the Parish Question Time consultation and the view that further stretches of byway should be given restricted status. He reiterated concerns regarding road safety at Bagham junction.

Judith Rosato expressed frustration that no progress seemed to be being made following 7 accidents on the A252 at Dane Street. Cllr Lulham gave assurances that the parish council took this matter seriously and had taken the matter up with Kent Highways.

Derrick Kennett raised concerns regarding footpath safety. It was noted that the KCC Member Community Grant could be used to address this matter.

Alan Rogers raised concern about an informal meeting between the parish council planning team and a developer proposing a development in Old Wives Lees. Cllr Lulham explained that the meeting was purely an exchange of information with no commitments given.

Jane Marriott suggested **the possibility of using s106 developer contributions for improvements to the A28 pedestrian crossings and highway safety.**

In the absence of further reports or questions the chairman closed the meeting at 8:56pm.