

Eastry Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 20th March 2007**

Eastry Village Hall

7.00pm

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AGENDA

- 1) Apologies**
- 2) Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 24-5-06**
- 3) Matters Arising**
- 4) Chairman's Report**
- 5) Allotment & Playing Field Report – Cllr Hooper**
- 6) Reports**
 - KCC – Kent County Councillor Leyland Ridings**
 - DDC – Cllr Steven Manion & Cllr Nick Kenton**
 - Mr Tim Halling – Head Teacher at Eastry School**
- 7) Police Issues**

Questions will be invited from the floor after each speaker

The meeting will close at 9.00pm and wine and cheese will be served

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EASTRY VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY
24th MAY 2006 AT 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors

I Mollart (Chairman)	S Shevde	S Smith	S Hooper
M Pemble	D Carr	A Wiles	D Carr

S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council
28 Members of the Public

The Cllr Mollart opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She informed the meeting that although Cllr Shevde was now Chairman of the Parish Council that she would be chairing this meeting and giving the Parish Councils report as outgoing Chairman.

1) APOLOGIES

Cllrs Nick Kenton and Frank Thompson. County Cllr Leyland Ridings. Mrs J Bignal.

2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the last Annual meeting were available in the Annual Meeting report pack; copies were available for all present.

3) MATTERS ARISING

Parking Restrictions

The Parish Council had written to DDC asking that a review of all parking restrictions in the Parish be undertaken as part of the next district review. Additional off street parking was also requested.

Extension of 30mph limit Heronden Road

New signs have been installed and the limit extended has been extended to the entrance to Heronden Farm. Signs have also been erected on Thornton Lane.

There were some questions about traffic calming. A resident from Thornton Lane said the signs were to close to the end of the road and were already being hit by Lorries. The Clerk to inform the Highways department. **Action Sarah Wells**

4) CHAIRMANS REPORT 2006

Cllr Mrs Iris Mollart Chairman Eastry Parish Council 2005

I would like to welcome you all to the meeting. This meeting will close no later than 9.00pm so that you can enjoy a glass of wine and have time to talk informally to members of the Council and the other speakers. At our meeting on 8th May, Cllr Sam Shevde took over as Chairman of the Parish Council; I wish him well in this office and am sure he will get the same level of support from the Clerk and other members of the Council that I have enjoyed over the past 5 years. It was agreed that as outgoing Chairman it would fall to me to report on the activities of the Council during the past 12 months.

On your chair is a meeting pack that contains last years minutes, my report, the Councils Financial figures and copies of reports from other Village organisations. Please take this home and read it at your leisure. It will also be published on the Parish Council web-site.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Cllr Andrew Barwick to the Council, Cllr Barwick joined us in December and was appointed as one of the Parish Council's trustees for the Greville Homes Alms House Charity at our

meeting in May, Cllr Barwick will be taking the place of Mr Donald Eldridge who after many years of dedicated and tireless service has decided to step down.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Eldridge for his service to the charity. Without his commitment the charity would not be in as strong a position as it is today. The many hours he has spent working behind the scenes has been much appreciated by his colleagues on the Charity, Parish Council and the residents of the Greville Homes.

The Parade project is progressing, ever so slowly but it is progressing. I'm pleased to announce that the legal work has finally been completed and the Parish Council now have leases on the area in front of the Bakers, Butchers and Chinese Takeaway. Our architect is in the process of getting tenders for the work to landscape this area as per the plans passed by DDC last year. The Council will then need to get funding for the project. Let's hope that now we are no longer at the mercy of solicitors that things will speed up on this project. It would be nice if it was completed during this Council's current term of office. As Parish Council elections are due in May 2007 that gives us 12 Months to get the work completed.

Did you all watch Time team in February. As you know the time team crew visited us in May last year and dug a number of holes in and around the village. It was interesting to see how what we saw at the digs became an hour long television program.

Unfortunately I still have nothing positive to report on the extension of the cemetery. The Council and the Rev Kent have written numerous letters about this matter but as yet no progress has been made.

Speeding Traffic continues to be high on the Parish Council's agenda, unfortunately as reported in the April addition of the Eastry Village News, following the site surveys undertaken by the Police the Council have decided not to proceed with the Speed Watch initiative, this is not all bad news, now we know that the roads with the worst problems in the village are not suitable for speed watch we can move forward and request help from the Police and Highways department. The gateway requested for Dover Road/Lower Street has been included in Kent Highways 5 year integrated transport package bid for funding, with a planned construction in 2007/08.

Eastry has been placed third on the list of local gateways needed. The final decision on budget allocation is made by the Dover Joint Transport Committee, the Parish Council will be lobbying on your behalf and I'm pleased to inform you that Cllr Sandra Hooper will be representing KAPC (Kent Association of Parish Councils) on this committee. However the more people that push for this gateway the better. The Parish Council have set aside £1750 in this year's budget to help fund traffic calming and hope to be able to increase this amount in 2007/08. It is hoped this will help to sway the committee members as it will make the project less expensive for them.

The Parish Council have also asked for traffic counts to be carried out in Felderland Lane, and for speed limit repeater signs throughout the village. The traffic counts are in hand however 30mph speed limit repeaters are not provided in areas with Street lighting. This is because the Highway Code states that:-

"The 30 mph limit applies to all traffic on all roads in England and Wales (only Class C and unclassified roads in Scotland) with street lighting unless signs show otherwise"

We will continue to push for help with speeding traffic, but can I point out that when speed traps are set up in rural parishes most of those found to be speeding are local residents. Please think about this and check your speed when driving around the Village.

The Parish Council Web-site is continuing to evolve, agenda's for meetings of the Parish Council and its committees are now available on line. Please take the time to look at the information on the Web-site it is one of the ways the Parish Council used to get information to its parishioners. I would like to thank Cllr David Carr for all the work he puts in building and maintaining the Web-Site.

In addition to the web-site it is now our practise to put a report in every addition of the Village News letter. This publication has gone from strength to strength and I would like to thank our partners in this venture, the PCC for there continuing support. I would also like to thank all those that give there time delivering the magazines to ever household in the Parish.

Coffee Break is still going strong and is being used as a base for other activities, the mobile Police Station visits every 6 weeks or so on Coffee Break mornings and HI- Kent hearing aid re-tubing clinic takes place on the 2nd Friday of the Month. It is also possible to borrow jigsaw puzzles on the 2nd Friday. Can I thank all of you that have donated puzzles to our collection. For our younger parishioners we held a football card swap during the Eastry School holidays and will be running another one during half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Priestley, our Community Warden for his work in the Parish over the past year. In addition to his normal duties Bob was also Chairman of the Village of the Year Committee. I would like to thank Bob and his committee for all the work that was involved in entering the Village in this Competition. I'm sure that without their dedication Eastry would not have been named Kent Village of the Year, or Southern England Winner in the Building Community Life Category. However without all of you that work tirelessly for your own organisations we would not have a Community that is worthy of such a title, so to all the organisations, businesses and individuals that make Eastry the place it is I would like to offer a big well done, I think you all deserve to be proud of yourselves.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Tim Halling and the staff and pupils of Eastry School for their outstanding results last year. Its nice to know that our children are receiving a first rate education and I'm sure this is down to the hard work of Mr Halling and his staff, well done.

Other people that deserve special thanks are Richard Swain for his continuing efforts in keeping the toilets clean and tidy. Mr John Kemp for always being available to do the odd jobs that come up with little or no notice, this is an invaluable asset to the Parish Council. Also thanks to the volunteers that open and close the picnic site, Richard Swain and Trevor Burton for their work at the pond.

And last but by no means least I would like to thank Mrs Shelia Broster, ably assisted by Malcolm for keeping the Village Tidy, not an easy task as we have a few members of the community that seem to make it there task in life to either make a mess or vandalise out facilities.

I said that my report would be about the activities of the Council over the past 12 months, but in finishing I would like to inform you of one major event during the next few months, The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett CMG, will be visiting Eastry on Tuesday 25th July 2006 to meet representatives of local organisations and thank volunteers for the dedicated work they do for the community. The Lord Lieutenant, who is the Queen's representative in Kent, will spend the afternoon visiting the School, Church, Alms Houses, Nursery, Youth Club, Shops and Businesses. He will then host an early evening reception at the Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work over the past year. She then opened the meeting for questions. There were no questions from the floor.

5). FINANCIAL REPORTS

Receipts and Payments Summary to 31-3-06

RECEIPTS	Budget	Actual
Current Account		
Precept	34363.00	34363.00
Rents		
Pavilion	300.00	144.00
Parish Room	450.00	374.25
Allotments	100.00	106.60
Allotments Key and Tap deposits	0.00	25.00
Burials	400.00	1105.00
Grants	0.00	0.00
Interest Current Account - TRO deposit	200.00	498.10
Interest Current Account - Bank		268.94
Interest National Savings Account	0.00	25.04
VAT	0.00	3200.79
Other	0.00	194.74
	35813.00	40305.46
Capital Account		
Interest	0.00	2220.59
Total income for year		42526.05
Brought Forward from 04/05 Current Account		
	9253.34	9253.34
Brought Forward from 04/05 Capital Account		
	50577.57	50577.57
Total Current Account Fund		40305.46
Brought Forward		9253.34
		49558.80
Total Capital Account Fund		
Brought Forward		50577.57
Interest		2220.59
		52798.16

PAYMENTS - CURRENT ACCOUNT*Admin*

Clerks Salary	7950.00	8334.97
PC national Insurance Contribution	360.00	309.43
PC Pension Contribution	1200.00	793.10
PC Overpayment to Inland Revenue		3.00
	9510.00	9440.50
Clerk Telephone Rental & Internet Access	380.00	286.90
Office Allowance	240.00	228.00
Stationery	500.00	187.86
Petty Cash	300.00	320.00
Audit Fees	270.00	250.00
Internal Auditor	400.00	225.00
Insurance	2600.00	2339.41
Training	200.00	108.73
Travelling/Cllrs Expenses	200.00	178.10
Annual Meeting	100.00	95.83
Wreath - remembrance Sunday	20.00	16.50
Web-site	0.00	88.09
	14720.00	13764.92
<i>Parish Room</i>		
Rates	33.00	32.09
Gas	110.00	76.61
Electric	110.00	73.98
Fire Extinguishers Check	125.00	34.16
Boiler Service	55.00	50.00
Water Rates	0.00	0.00
maintenance	250.00	255.32
	683.00	522.16
<i>Pavilion</i>		
Water	100.00	65.87
Electric	160.00	149.51
Fire Extinguishers Check	100.00	34.16
maintenance	200.00	0.00
Make Over to Football Club	0.00	700.00
	560.00	949.54
<i>Ground Work</i>		
Chch Yard & Cemetery	2713.00	3473.13
Recreation Ground	836.00	721.56
Gun Park	1381.00	1243.12
Allotments	928.00	1563.92
Land Behind Bus Shelter	100.00	76.00
Additional Work	1500.00	0.00
	7458.00	7077.73
Church Yard Maintenance/works	1000.00	272.58
Church yard Wall	2000.00	1100.25
Grave Excavation	0.00	420.00
	3000.00	1792.83

<i>Allotments & Leisure</i>	Maintenance	1000.00	5706.89	
	Vandalism Repairs	1700.00	675.38	
	Bins & Dog Loos	340.00	644.07	
	Pooper Scoopers	100.00	92.50	
	Tree Works	250.00	300.00	
	Water	120.00	31.95	
	Pond	500.00	60.67	
	Play Equipment Inspection	250.00	350.00	
		4260.00	7861.46	
<i>Toilets</i>	Cleaning	1600.00	1500.00	
	Supplies	70.00	51.36	
		1670.00	1551.36	
<i>Grants</i>	Section 137	0.00	0.00	
	Grants	1000.00	900.00	
	Play Scheme	250.00	100.00	
	Parish Magazine	500.00	716.00	
	Coffee Break	800.00	774.22	
		2550.00	2490.22	
<i>Highways</i>	Horse Trough	50.00	42.00	
	Cleaning Footways/Footpaths labour	3200.00	3050.00	
	Cleaners Tools	100.00	3.30	
	Petrol/Oil - service strimmer	75.00	39.50	
	CCTV	0.00	0.00	
	Traffic Calming	1500.00	0.00	
	Tree Works	250.00	0.00	
	Clean Bus Shelters	500.00	57.42	
		5675.00	3192.22	
<i>Membership</i>	KAPC	410.00	414.30	
	Publications	50.00	33.00	
	SLCC	55.00	99.50	2 x Years
	ACRK	40.00	70.00	2 x Years
	Kent Playing Field Ass	20.00	15.00	
	ASHTAV	25.00	0.00	
	Ass of Burial Authorities	80.00	78.00	
		680.00	709.80	
<i>Contingency</i>	Village of the year	0.00	106.92	
	Village Resource Delivery	0.00	55.00	
		3810.34	161.92	
VAT		0.00	3218.68	
		41256.00	43292.84	
	Current Account balance			
	Total Current Account Fund		49558.80	
	Total Current Account payments		-43292.84	
			6265.96	To Carry Forward

CAPITAL ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

Parish Room	0.00	0.00
Pavilion	0.00	0.00
Parade	0.00	1504.00
Allotment Fence	0.00	745.00
Disable Access Play equip	0.00	0.00
		2249.00

Capital Accounts Balance

Capital Account Fund	52798.16
Capital Payments	-2249.00
	50549.16 To Carry Forward

BUDGET FOR 2006/07

RECEIPTS	Budget
Current Account	
Precept	41000.00
Rents	
Parish Room	300.00
Allotments	100.00
Burials	400.00
Grants	0.00
Interest Current Account	300.00
VAT	0.00
Other	0.00
	42100.00
Brought Forward Current Account	6265.96
Total Current Account funds for year	48365.96

PAYMENTS - CURRENT ACCOUNT

<i>Admin</i>	
Clerks Salary	8775.00
PC NI Contribution	325.00
Pension Contribution	905.00
	10005.00
Clerk Telephone Rental& Internet	300.00
Office Allowance	240.00
Stationery	400.00
Petty Cash	350.00
Audit Fees	300.00
Internal Auditor	300.00
Insurance	2900.00
Training	200.00
Travelling/Cllrs Expenses	300.00
Annual Meeting	120.00
Web-Site	150.00
Wreath - remembrance Sunday	20.00
	15585.00

<i>Parish Room</i>	Rates	35.00
	Gas	110.00
	Electric	110.00
Fire Extinguishers Check		125.00
Boiler Service		60.00
maintenance		350.00
		790.00
<i>Pavilion</i>	Legal Fees	1600.00
<i>Ground Work</i> Chch Yard & Cemetery		2645.00
	Cut Hedges	2000.00
	Recreation Ground	580.00
	Gun Park	1365.00
	Allotments	842.00
Land Behind Bus Shelter		100.00
Additional Work		1500.00
		9032.00
Church Yard Maintenance/works		1000.00
Church yard Wall		1000.00
Grave Excavation		0.00
		2000.00
<i>Allotments & Leisure</i> Maintenance		1000.00
	Vandalism Repairs	2000.00
	Bins & Dog Loos	350.00
	Pooper Scoopers	120.00
	Tree Works	350.00
	Water	120.00
	Pond	500.00
Play Equipment Inspection		400.00
		4840.00
<i>Toilets</i>	Cleaning	1600.00
	Supplies	70.00
		1670.00
<i>Grants</i>	Grants	1200.00
	Parish Magazine	500.00
	Coffee Break	850.00
		2550.00
<i>Highways</i>	Horse Trough	50.00
Cleaning Footways/paths labour		3300.00
	Cleaners Tools	100.00
Petrol/Oil - service strimmer		75.00
	Speedwatch	0.00
	Traffic Calming	1750.00
	Tree Works	350.00
Clean Bus Shelters		500.00
		6125.00

Membership	KAPC	425.00
	Publications	30.00
	SLCC	55.00
	Kent RCC	40.00
	Kent Playing Field Ass	20.00
	Ass of Burial Authorities	85.00
		655.00
Contingency/Section 137		3628.00
		48475.00

The Clerk went through the figures explaining them to those present. She then answered questions from the floor.

6). ALLOTMENTS AND LEISURE FIELDS REPORT - Cllr Sandra Hooper

Allotments.

There has been good and bad news regarding the Allotments this year.

The good news is that for the first time for several years we now have people asking for Allotments.

Several new Allotment holders are now hard at work planting and sowing. Before we can allocate any more Allotments it was felt that a programmed of weed control should take place, as some Allotments which have been unattended for sometime are very overgrown, and to show these to prospective new tenants would be enough to put them off gardening for life.

The bad news was that one dark and stormy night; a section of fencing was removed near Centenary Gardens. Not a small section, but 79m. This was quickly replaced, but at a cost of £745.

Gun Park.

Again this area seems to be a subject of vandalism at times. After a safety inspection two benches had to be removed as they were badly damaged. A replacement bench was installed however we are aware that over the past few years' benches have had to be removed due to damage. We are however hoping to provide 4 new benches, as we have now found an almost indestructible version. 3 of these will be in Gun Park and 1 will be near the path to Centenary Gardens.

These will be the same material as the picnic table in the play area near Centenary Gardens.

Pavilion.

During the year several meetings have been held between The Football Club and the Parish Council with a view to giving the Football Club a 20 year lease on the Pavilion. This will give the Football Club a permanent home, and hopefully they will be able to obtain grants to finance their plans for the future. The lease is now being prepared by the Solicitors.

Skate Board Area.

Several months ago we received a request from a youngster in the village asking for extra elements of skate equipment. Tracy Mapp, from D.D.C, asked if we would meet him to discuss his ideas. A meeting was arranged but unfortunately the young

lad did not attend and we were unable to contact him. We have not heard from him since.

It is often said that we do not listen to what the young people want in the village, but we did try on this occasion.

Pond.

Some work has been carried out on the trees by the Pond on the advice of the Tree Warden. Hopefully, in the Autumn Paul Hadaway with his team of volunteers will be able to undertake some more work that will encourage more wildlife and improve this village amenity.

7. REPORTS

Unfortunately County Cllr Leyland Ridings had been unable to attend the meeting. At very short notice Cllr John Manion of the Kent County Council Youth Council had agreed to give a presentation.

District Councillors Report - Cllr Steve Manion

Cllr Manion Gave a report covering the following topics.

Dover District

Population of the district - 104,566

121 square miles

- Rich heritage
- Natural and built environment
- Gateway to Europe
- Flourishing port
- Recognised importance internationally, nationally, regionally and locally

Key Issues

- Low Skills and education
- Anti-social behaviour
- Fear of Crime
- Pockets of deprivation
- Inequalities in health
- Run down areas
- Poor quality housing stock (both public and private)
- Environmental issues
- Transport access problems

Other Key Factors and pressures

- Topography
- Restricted catchment area
- Older population
- Unemployment - past and present
- Housing growth
- CTRL

Achievements

- Regeneration of colliery sites - Tilmanstone and Betteshanger
- Expansion of Pfizer
- Success of the Port of Dover

And next?

- Partnership working e.g. East Kent Partnership, Local Strategic Partnership, Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, Dover Pride
- More community consultation and involvement

- Increase focus on priorities and improve customer services

Ensure Sustainable Communities - Major Projects

- Dover Pride
- Dover Town Investment Zone (DTIZ)
- Phase 2 of the White Cliffs Business Park
- Aylesham Regeneration Project
- North Deal
- Connaught Barracks
- LDF Consultation

Ensure Sustainable Communities - DDC services

- Leisure services
- Youth
- Transportation
- Housing
- Community Support
- Health & Independence

Ensure a Safer, Cleaner & Greener District

- Anti-Social Behaviour and Enforcement
- Waste
- Environmental enforcement
- Health Protection
- Public Spaces
- Licensing
- Benefit Fraud

Improve Customer Services

- 'Dover District Council @ Your Service'
- E-Government

Cllr S Manion then answered questions from the floor. The Chairman thanked Cllr Manion for his report.

Kent Young County Council - Cllr John Manion

Welcome to KYCC's
Annual rural Review 2005

What is Kent youth county council?

Kent youth county council is a county council project to comply with the UN right's of a child document. The document states that every young person must have a say in issues that affect them. There are three levels of youth government

- 1 district youth forums (Dover District youth forum)
- 2 Youth county councils
- 3 UK youth parliament.

What's John doing for you

- Coming out to you in the rural areas.
- Looking and achieving new and innovative ideas.
- Working for what the youth want not what I want.
- Bringing communities to unify to make there homes better for the youth better for every single resident.
- I'm actively engaging in what the youth want an the ways in which as the community of Dover district can involve and improve the facilities the lives of its residents and especially the youth.

What has resulted from KYCC

- Youth Conference
- Positive Futures
- Start up Grant
- Safety Campaign
- Connexions Youth Board - changing/improving service
- 'Things for Young People to Do' Grant
- PHSE - new policy in development
- Citizenship packs piloted County wide
- Reviewed KYCC Constitution, elected Chair & Vice Chair

What will KYCC do in 2006?

- Things for Young People to Do
- Positive Images of Young People
- Making A Difference
- Personal Safety
- Equal Opportunities For All Young People
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Supporting Young People
- Transport
- Anti Bullying Strategy Group

The Chairman thanked Cllr John Manion for his report.

Charities Report - Mr Donald Eldridge

Mr Eldridge explained how and when the Charity was first formed. He then reported on their activities over the last year.

Church Report - Rev Frank Kent

Once again, we have had a busy year at St. Mary's, with many different events and continuing connections with the village community.

We have had various social events, encouraging both congregation and the wider community to join for fun and fellowship, among these has been a Fun Quiz, Barn Dance in the Village Hall, our annual Church Fete, a Picnic in the grounds of Mr. Jack Bones' farm and an Art & Craft Festival which took place in the church over two days and which attracted folk from far and wide.

Our monthly Friday Fellowship Lunch continues to be extremely popular, particularly with the elderly of the village, who value the chance to get together, especially as transport is provided for them and they are provided with a very modestly priced lunch, freshly cooked in our newly refurbished church hall kitchen.

Various groups from the Village have come to the church during the year, including Bubbles Nursery and the uniformed organisations. The Primary School regularly hold services in the church and a new initiative has been started at the school each Wednesday lunchtime. This is a chance for teachers, support staff and parents to come together just for a short time, for reflection and prayer during the press of a busy day.

The church has started up a monthly informal service at the Day Centre of Eastry House, to which all are welcome and myself and Revd. Jennifer Pilcher regularly visits the clients. We welcome some of the clients each Sunday and others attend the Wednesday morning communion service in the church hall.

We have an active Pastoral Committee at Eastry Church which undertakes visiting and transportation for members of the community. If you know of anyone in

particular who would benefit from a visit from one of our team, please let me know.

One important initiative which has been undertaken between the Parish Council and the Church is the monthly publication of the Eastry Village News. The magazine committee have worked hard to produce this, to everyone's satisfaction and thanks must go particularly to Michael Kinns, the Editor who works continuously to ensure that the magazine contains the information and articles which people will find useful.

Looking ahead to the coming year finds the church firmly involved with the life of the community. We have launched our Bell Restoration Project, which will increase the ring of bells to eight, making a more melodic sound and giving the opportunity to more people to be involved with ringing. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we will be celebrating the completion of the project.

Our bi-annual Flower Festival takes place from Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th July, as well as our Fete on the Saturday of that weekend. This is always extremely popular with the village and wider community and thanks go to Carole Finch, our Events Co-ordinator, who has worked so hard to provide an afternoon to be remembered. Other events to which village members are encouraged to attend include a "Jazz in the Garden" afternoon in August, at the Aumbry and a Murder Mystery Evening, taking place in October. Please see the village magazine to ensure that you have the dates in your diaries.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Iris and her council members for their co-operation and friendship during the past year and, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, we look forward to this continuing in the next year.

School Report - Mr Tim Halling

Mr Halling gave a report that included all the activities that the school have been involved with over the past year. They included Gardening Club, Tennis, Golf, Rugby, Football, Netball, Swimming, world book day, pancake races, fund raising and many more. He also informed the meeting of the many trips and days out the pupils had been to back up curriculum teaching.

8) POLICE ISSUES - Sergeant Guy Thompson Kent Police

Sergeant Thompson started by informing the meeting that Kent would be keeping its own Police Force. Some reorganisations had taken place and new senior offices have been appointed. It is hoped this will make Kent police fit for purpose for the next 10 years. He also informed the meeting that Eastry was very lucky to have both a community warden and a PC with responsibilities for the village.

Sergeant Thompson then answered questions from the floor. There was a lot of concern about speeding traffic, it was agreed that the Clerk would e-mail a list of the roads where speeding was thought to be a problem. Police Speed checks would then be arranged.

Action Sarah Wells

A white van permanently parked in Woodnesborough Lane was also discussed. After much discussion Sergeant Thompson said he would check with the traffic police to see if anything could be done about the van.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST YEARS MEETING

The Clerk had informed the Highways department that the speed limit signs were to close to the end of the road.

Action Discharged

A list of road where speeding was thought to be a problem had been given to Sergeant Thompson and some speed checks had taken place.

Action Discharged

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CLLR. SAM SHEVDE

Since last years meeting the largest house building program in the village since Centenary Gardens has been completed, and is fully occupied, this is Heronden View with 24 new homes.

As yet we have no information on the development of the Eastry Hospital site, but we are told that things are moving, (perhaps backwards!). Plans have been submitted to enlarge the specialist units on part of the site- Namely Rivendale and Appledore). This will provide another special needs unit.

The Parish Council has had to deal with a large number of planning applications, mainly because people are extending the size of existing properties rather than moving to somewhere more costly. We have also attended a meeting with DDC and other groups to discuss the Local Development Framework where a possible 10,000 houses could be built in the Dover District area,- Perhaps Nick Kenton or Steve Mannion will comment later.

Sadly no real progress has been made on the upgrading of the Parade, the main hold up now is to find the funds to get the job done. Equally no progress has been made in the purchase of land from the Church Commissioners to extend the cemetery area. Perhaps Councillor Mollart may comment on this further.

Last year Eastry won the Kent Village of the Year, and part of the celebrations entailed a visit by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Mr Willets. He toured the village and later hosted a meeting of villagers in the Village Hall to thank people for their efforts.

Many people make great contributions to the well being of the village. I would like to say thank you to our Community Warden Bob Priestly for all his hard work and commitment to the people of Eastry. To Sheila Broster and Malcolm who keep the village clean and tidy. To Richard Swain for keeping the Public Conveniences up to scratch and for his work at Buttsole pond. I would also like to thank Trevor Burton for his work at the pond. Another thank you to Richard and his team for there continued work with the Neighbourhood Watch group.

Thanks also to John Kemp who is always on hand when the Parish Council needs a job doing in a hurry! I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support during the past year. Thank you all.

The Annual Meeting is being held early this year because district and Parish elections are to be held in May. Anyone who wishes to stand for election to either will find details in the March issue of the Village News. You may also contact the Parish Clerk, Sarah Wells. Or DDC offices. Because the meeting is early this year there will not be a financial report, however the Parish Council's year end accounts and budget for 2007/08 will be published on the Parish Council Web-site and in a future copy of the Village News Letter.

One person who is not standing for re-election this year is Councillor Iris Mollart. Iris has been on Eastry Parish council for many years and has a wealth of local knowledge; she has also been a long standing school governor. Iris has, with her band of helpers, organised the very successful "Coffee Break" held in the Village Hall every Friday morning where people can come in for a chat and a "cuppa". She has also played an important role in the publication of Eastry Village News, which I and many others feel has been a great success. May I, on your behalf thank Iris for her long and outstanding contribution to Eastry Village life. I wonder what she is planning to do next?

Thank you.

ALLOTMENTS AND LEISURE FILEDS REPORT

Gun Park.

Last year I reported that we now had a Teen Shelter for the young people in the village. We had difficulty in obtaining this, and were delighted when after many months it finally arrived. This appeared to be a popular venue near the Youth Club.

Sadly, one night it was set on fire, and is now in a very sad state. It is unlikely that we will be offered a replacement.

The skateboard has again suffered vandalism at various times during the past year, which is a pity as it is a popular area and used regularly. The fence behind it has also been damaged, I am not referring to the main Graffiti, this the Council agreed should be allowed. Unfortunately fences are not covered by our insurance, so this vandalism is a costly business.

Some good news about Gun Park. Those of you who walk it regularly will, we hope, have noticed new benches, 3 in Gun Park and 1 by the footpath near the Centenary Gardens play area.

A Contractor has been asked to carry out some work on damaged trees in Gun Park, but due to the very wet weather the ground is water logged, and it has proved impossible for him to get the equipment onto the grass, without causing damage.

Motor bikes have been ridden across the grass, and have left ruts due to the sodden grass. If you see anyone riding motor bikes, here, please report it to Bob Priestly. It has been reported that some one was seen driving golf balls here, this is not allowed, and again should be reported to Bob.

Pavilion.

Discussions have taken place between the Council and the Football Club with the view to the Club being granted a lease on the Pavilion.

An agreement has been reached and a lease for 21 years is being drawn up by Solicitors.

The Football Club will be responsible for service charges, and maintenance.

In our discussions it was felt by both parties, that granting a lease would help to secure the Clubs future, and allow them to apply for grants.

Allotments.

In spite of the hottest summer for years, a hose pipe ban, and the most rapid growth of brambles seen for a long time the Allotments, this year have been a hive of industry.

For the first time for many years people are very interested in our Allotments.

As some have been neglected for some time and are very overgrown we have a contractor who will clear the rampant brambles, and other rubbish, making it easier for the first time gardener to make a start.

Pond.

Buttshole Pond is owned by the Church Commissioners, and during a recent inspection, carried out for them, 2 trees were marked which need attention. One is the Willow which was damaged in recent gales, and the other is a dead, tree on the edge of the Pond. Discussions have also taken place with Paul Hadaway from The White Cliffs Countryside Project, Wayne Wright, our local Policeman, who is the Wild Life and Conservation officer for the area, and Bob Priestly, with the view to clearing the brambles, at the far edge of the Pond these have spread rapidly, over the past few years.

There is a lovely painting of the pond at the far end of the hall which you might look at after the meeting. If there was a larger open area of water, hopefully, more wildlife could be encouraged.,

Bollards are also planned at the edge of the tarmac, to stop cars from parking on the grass near the picnic table.

Picnic Site.

This a popular and well used site managed by K.K.C for us, from Brockhill Country Park. We meet their representative twice a year to discuss grass cutting, maintenance, any problems that have arisen, and suggestions for improvements.

Annually a tree inspection is carried out by K.K.C, and it has been noted that some trees now have large red numbers on them. Contrary to comments made to me, it does not mean that they are to be felled, it means that remedial work is needed on them, some branches are dead, and some too low to the ground to mow effectively.

There is an increasing amount of rubbish being left at the entrance to the picnic site late at night when the gate is closed. We are trying to address this problem, and have also asked if a police patrol car could check this area.

VILLAGE ORGANISATION REPORTS



The Eastry branch of the Royal British Legion continues to meet on the third Monday of each month (excepting August) at Five Bells 8 pm. Despite losing some members to the march of time, others have taken their place and total membership has remained constant for 2006/7.

The Joint Services Social Club, an alternative to the RBL continue to raise funds for those in need by means of the weekly meat raffle, Sunday lunchtimes in the Five Bells. Twenty pound vouchers, for redemption in the local Food Stores, were distributed in January of this year. The meat prizes are also purchased from our village butcher Ted, helping to keep the local economy alive.

**EASTRY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP
REPORT TO VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2007**

THANKS. I want to start this report by saying thank you. The Group only survives because of those who make the effort to turn up to what forms the backbone of the group, the Group Meetings. So thanks to the vice-chairman Sam, the secretary Sheila, the treasurer until September 2006, Laura, and to Margaret B, Dorothy, Michael K, Margaret P, Michael P, Stan, Sue, and John all co-ordinators, and to Peter, to Bob for his support, Peter Rothschild OBE TD, and Sally Coleman and thanks to the Eastry PC for financial support and use of their rooms, and to all other co-ordinators and scheme members. Best wishes for better health to PC Ian Foster.

OUR YEAR. What have we been doing?

March. Looked at the ENCAMS campaign on "Dog Fouling", we looked at rubbish and the District Council, and considered the "Stop, chain, check" campaign and distributed 800 copies of "Be Safe, Be secure".

May. Had a talk by Mick Cronin Police Community Liaison Officer who reminded us of the need for inclusiveness in our organisation and in Society.

July. Had a presentation by a member of Fire and Rescue better known to many people as the Fire Brigade where we received advice on domestic fire safety.

September. Held our AGM and had talks from The District Association Secretary on the work of the County and District Associations and Police Neighbourhood Watch and Parishes Liaison Officer on the reorganisation of the local Police and of local crime.

November. Two Trading Standards Officers talked to the group about their work and how they deal with Rogue Traders.

January. The group opened 2007 by looking at the NATO ALPHABET, recording and reporting crime, the Office of Fair Trading booklet "Your doorstep, your decision", an introduction to emergency first aid and previewing a DVD on driving safely. Co-ordinators distributed over 2,500 copies of the District newsletter and 500 copies of "Your doorstep, your decision" during the year. Our themes have sought to keep co-ordinators up to date, well informed and armed with skills and knowledge to make us more effective co-ordinators.

AN INVITATION. Our meetings are held every other month on the third Thursday at 7.00 in the Council Rooms Church Street. Come and join us.

Take care and keep watching.

Group Chairman. 1 February 2007

Eastry Horticultural Society

I am pleased to report that our Society has once again had a full and enjoyable year. At our Monthly Meetings, we had the pleasure of welcoming several new members and guests not only from within our own Village but also surrounding Villages.

Our Society is very fortunate to have a very valuable member at the top of our podium. Our President Mrs Floss Cork has given 61 years of loyal service to the Society and I am sure she must be one of the longest serving members of any Gardening Society throughout the whole of Kent.

We started our year with our Christmas Social evening where we all enjoyed the merriment of the festive season.

Our Plant Sale in May was a huge success and I would like to thank everyone in the Village who supported this event.

Our Annual Outing in June took us to Penshurst Place, (in the north of Kent), where we all enjoyed a lovely day. In July we once again held our Annual Barbecue, this is a totally relaxing afternoon, where we have a few light hearted quizzes and lots of mouth watering food cooked to perfection by our dedicated Barbecue Chefs.

Although at times the weather was against us, we all rallied round and supported all three Flower Shows. It was nice to welcome visitors from not only within our Village but also surrounding Towns and Villages. Members once again took advantage of purchasing their seeds and sundries at discounted prices.

At our Monthly Meetings, we were entertained throughout the year with various speakers such as Roger Austin who told us all about his life as a 'Game Keepers Son'. We went along the 'Miners Way' with Paul Hadaway; we had slide shows about Switzerland and the South of France, illustrated talks on 'Water Gardening', 'Courtyard Gardening' and 'Growing Bonsai's'. With our friends from Woodnesborough Gardeners we shared an evening being entertained by Len Stebbings who travelled down from Surrey to show us how easy it is to 'Grow Vegetables in Containers'

A very good gardening year.....Colin Coulson (Chairman)

Eastry CoE Primary School P.T.A. Report - March 2007

The P.T.A. of Eastry Church of England Primary School has remained a thriving committee and has had another busy and successful fundraising year. As part of the local community the school events enjoy the support and encouragement of the community and its businesses. All the money raised is ploughed back into the school for the benefit of our children.

We have had a range of activities and events this year. The P.T.A. has been involved in events within the school aimed, not necessarily at making money, but in adding to educational experience such as the fundraising for Martha Trust and School Open days. From the children's perspective events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Mothers Day and Fathers Day Present Wrapping are hugely enjoyable. The annual Quiz Night was also a great evening of wisdom and wine.

In May we tried our hand at a Boot Fair, the first for many a year on the school site. Dreadful weather worked in our favour, as many of the local sites were waterlogged. We opted to open and, with the sun shining on us, we managed to raise £400.

At the Summer Fete, the children were the main focus of the event providing us with wonderful dance routines. Teachers, parents and friends all helped man stalls and participated in a truly fantastic day. The Foxborough Shield was competed for and we hope that the football tournament will become an annual event. It was a wonderful day and we raised in excess of £2000!

In October we organised and hosted a Ladies Pamper evening, a first for our school. This event was highly successful with indulgent therapies being provided by Eastry Clinic & Marguerites Beauty Room amongst others, chocolate and wine!

The annual Fireworks event proved as successful as ever and was well attended by the local community. The year culminated in the Christmas Bazaar which raised over £1000 for the school. Again, this event was hugely popular with the children and involved a lot of varied members of the community, including Father Christmas!

Through the year the P.T.A. raise £5000 for the school which will be spent revamping the library area, creating an infant library, supporting extra curricular activity within the school and providing some fun-filled themed events to support educational activities.

This short report has detailed our fundraising calendar for the preceding year. A lot of hard work goes into organising the events and it would not be possible without the hard work of the committee and the support of parents, teachers and the wider community. We have good links with other community groups and we are proud to be part of The Village of the Year.

CHURCH REPORT – Rev Frank Kent

Once again, we have had a busy year at St. Mary's, with many different events and continuing connections with the village community.

We have had various social events, encouraging both congregation and the wider community to join for fun and fellowship, among these has been a Fun Quiz, Barn Dance in the Village Hall, our annual Church Fete, a Picnic in the grounds of Mr. Adrian Lead at Northbourne and an Art & Craft Festival which took place in the church over two days and which attracted folk from far and wide. We also had a very successful 'Jazz in the Garden' event, by kind permission of Mr. Mathison of the Aumbry and a highly entertaining Murder Mystery event, performed by both Eastry Theatrical Company and the Events Committee of Eastry Church. Carole Finch is the co-ordinator for this Committee and we owe her a great debt of thanks for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

We enjoyed a convivial session of singing around the Christmas Tree, at the Five Bells Public House, just before Christmas. Our thanks to mine host for the lovely refreshments and drinks provided afterwards!

Our monthly Friday Fellowship Lunch continues to be extremely popular, particularly with the elderly of the village, who value the chance to get together, especially as transport is provided for them and they are provided with a very modestly priced lunch, freshly cooked in our newly refurbished church hall kitchen.

Various groups from the Village have come to the church during the year, including Bubbles Nursery and the uniformed organisations. The Primary School regularly hold services in the church and the initiative which was started last year at the school, each Wednesday lunchtime, has proved a success. This is a chance for teachers, support staff and parents to come together just for a short time, for reflection and prayer during the press of a busy day.

The church continues to hold a monthly informal service at the Day Centre of Eastry House, to which all are welcome and myself and Revd. Jennifer Pilcher regularly visit the clients. We welcome some of the clients each Sunday and others attend the Wednesday morning communion service in the church hall.

We have an active Pastoral Committee at Eastry Church which undertakes visiting and transportation for members of the community. If you know of anyone in particular who would benefit from a visit from one of our team, please let me know.

The Eastry Parish News has proved popular in the village and thanks are due to the Editor, Dr. Michael Kinns and the magazine committee. They have worked hard to produce this, to everyone's satisfaction. An AGM has been held, enabling people to give their views on how the publication can be taken forward.

Looking ahead to the coming year finds the church firmly involved with the life of the community. We are still very much involved with our Bell Restoration Project, which will increase the ring of bells to eight, making a more melodic sound and giving the opportunity to more people to be involved with ringing. In this respect, we already have a team of nine ringers ready and eagerly awaiting the completion of the project, so that they can get stuck in! We are now awaiting the necessary paperwork to enable us to proceed and commence the work.

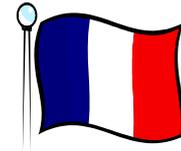
We are looking to provide a toilet and kitchen facility within the church, which has had PCC approval and this is now with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for their advice. As soon as the Bell project is completed, we will make a start with this next project. Never a dull moment!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Sam and his council members for their co-operation and friendship during the past year and, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, we look forward to this continuing in the next year.

Frank Kent , Rector



Eastry Twinning Association



Website: www.eastrytwinning.co.uk

EASTRY PARISH COUNCIL

**Annual Parish Meeting
20 March, 2007**

Last year was a memorable one for ETA. The high point had to be the twinning weekend in May when we celebrated the silver jubilee of the first ever twinning visit by our friends from Longpré-les-Corps-Saints. We would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant that helped to defray the inevitable costs for this. A memorable weekend was had by all.

On a sadder note, two ETA stalwarts, David Skinner and Mike Lewin, died last year. Having made him a *Citoyen d'Honneur*, David was especially respected by *les Longiprats*. It was fitting then that a delegation from Longpré attended his funeral service.

In David's memory we have instituted two commemorative events: the David Skinner Memorial Trophy for the "best dressed" High Street business premises during a twinning weekend (well done to The Foodstore and Eastry Fish Bar on jointly winning the inaugural competition); and the David Skinner Petanque Trophy, which is organised jointly with Eastry (Five Bells) Petanque Club.

A delegation represented ETA at the Armistice Day parades in Longpré. We are grateful to Tex Rickard of the British Legion for the loan of a banner for the occasion. The honour was returned the following day when a delegation from Longpré joined us for Remembrance Sunday.

Last year also saw the launch of our website. The credit for this must go entirely to Nick Smith who upgraded it even before it was a year old. If you haven't visited it yet, I would recommend that you do. You'll see some old faces, some new faces and some familiar faces – none too scary! We ended the year with a Boxing Day Quiz at The Five Bells. This was very well attended and much enjoyed. We hope to make this an annual event.

With an ever-increasing membership, we endeavour to be an active Association throughout the year. With a range of activities planned for 2007, ETA is going from strength to strength.

And finally, if you haven't heard by now – and *pourquoi pas?* – 11 to 13 May will be our twinning visit to Longpré this year. If you'd like to join us for a superb weekend and would like further details, please contact one of our friendly committee directly or reach us through our website.

A bientôt, mes amis,
Terry James, Chairman