



Eastry Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting
Wed 9th March 2011**

**Eastry Village Hall
7.00pm**

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AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 26-5-2010
3. Matters Arising
4. Police Issues - PCSO Benson
5. Neighbourhood Watch – Paul Brosnan
6. Skate park update
7. Mandy Pile – DDC Waste Management Service
The new waste collection arrangements
8. Chairman's Report
9. Parish Council Elections
 - a) Election Timetable
 - b) Being a Parish Councillor – Cllr Shevde
10. Reports
 - DDC – Cllr Steven Manion & Cllr Nick Kenton
 - Pond Report – Simon Dundas – Pond Warden
 - Head Teacher at Eastry School - Mr Tim Halling
 - Greville Homes
 - Church Report
 - Mr Terry James – Village Sign Committee
 - 30th Anniversary Twinning Association

Questions will be invited from the floor after each speaker

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EASTRY VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 26th MAY 2010 AT 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors N Kenton (Chairman) S Hooper M Kemp
S Shevde M Pemble

S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council 19 Members of the Public Dist Cllr Manion

The Cllr Kenton opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1) APOLOGIES

Cllrs A Wiles, M West, A Barwick, G Bury, S Smith, M West and M Bradshaw. County Councillor Ridings

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

A question was asked about visiting the waste treatment plant. Dist Cllr Kenton had taken this on board.

4) SEAN FUREY - Deputy Director KENT - Campaign to Protect Rural England

Mr Furey gave a presentation explaining the work of the Protect Kent. Despite the smallness of our country, its high population density and widespread, intense pressure for development, we still have, in England, large areas of incomparably beautiful countryside. CPRE exists to protect our natural landscapes from destruction and degradation.

Established in 1926, CPRE is a registered charity with about 60,000 members and supporters. The charity operates as a network with over 200 district groups, a branch in every county, a group in every region and a national office. Over 2,000 parish councils and 800 amenity societies belong to CPRE. This makes CPRE a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning.

Mr Furey went on to talk about specific campaigns Protect Kent had been involved with, he also spoke about the implications of global warming on the Kent landscape. Mr Furey then answered questions from the floor.

5) CAROL REEVES - Dover District Council – Community Development Officer

Ms Reeves explained that her function was to help communities with improvement projects, she is currently working with the Community Warden and young people from the village to provide a new skate ramp facility. She also hopes to get the mobile gateway to visit the parish.

6) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Including Finance Report

Its been quite a busy year and I would like to start by updating you on subjects covered at last years meeting. As you know plans for a green waste site just outside Tilmanstone were discussed, subsequently this application was withdrawn.

Hospital development and Chapel

The Planning application has been approved subject to the section 106 agreement. Part of agreement is the provision of the Chapel as a community centre and Parish Council office to include computer suite to give free public access to the internet. Also rooms for use by the Community Warden, PCSO and out reach schemes such as Dover gateway. None of these organisations have a budget for hall hire so then would be unable to hold surgeries without the provision of free accommodation.

This brings me to the old Parish Room in Church Street, this building is no longer fit for purpose and the members are discussion its future. One idea is to build a new building on the same footprint, the back part

would be used by the bowling club and the front part may be used for new public toilets. I have had some talks with DDC on this matter and hope that they will fund the provision of the building from the sale of the old toilets which are very old and in need of a total refurbishment.

Beating of the bounds it has been some years since we last walked the village boundary so we have decided to undertake this on Sunday 17th October 2010. Before the advent of ordinance survey maps this was an important event that ensured that young boys were shown the boundary of the local parish by the older members of the community. Cllr Hooper is leading on this project and would love to hear from any keen walkers willing to help.

Pond – I hope you all agree that the pond is looking much better following the work to revitalise it. This work is set to continue this autumn and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Pond Warden Simon Dundas, Trevor Burton and other volunteers that helped with this work.

Ground work– Major work was undertaken this winter to tidy up the Church Yard and Cemetery. The box hedges have several dead trees been removed. The grave stones have also been cleared of ivy and other vegetation, I hope you all agree this has been a vast improvement. We have also paid to have overgrown allotments cleared, this has freed up 4 additional allotments for use, these have all been let and are currently looking very good. A new ground work contractor has been employed this year, we have received lots of compliments about his work, especially about the Church Yard and Cemetery. We have commissioned a full inspection of all trees the Council is responsible for is under way. This will probably identify the need for tree works in coming year.

War Memorial – There have been numerous conflicts since the War Memorial was last updated, therefore the Council have agreed to pay for the addition of names to the war memorial. The existing names will also be repainted. Cllr Shevde has been gathering additional names to be added and it is hoped the project will be completed by Remembrance Sunday 2010.

Traffic Calming – Traffic problem in Lower Street have been discussed at the meeting for many years. Therefore I am please to inform you that as part of the KCC Members Highways Fund a scheme to provide a village gateway has been approved and should be completed during the coming year. Cllr Leyland Ridings will be funding this project from his Highways allowance. As the Parish Council had budgeted for this work during the coming year, I would like to ask your views on the provision of a similar scheme at Sandwich Road, this scheme to be paid for by the Parish Council. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to indicate those in favour of this proposition, the vast majority of the audience agreed.

Grant Applications are now being accepted from Village Organisations– closing date 25th June 2010. The application form can be downloaded from the Parish Council web-site or hard copies can be obtained from Sarah Wells, Clerk to the parish Council. Last year grants were given to Eastry Village Hall, Eastry Neighbourhood Watch, the Joint Services Club and Eastry Village News.

Thanks - I would now like to thank the following people for the hard work and service to the community over the past year. Richard Swain for his continued hard work at the toilets, Shelia and Malcolm Broster for keeping the Village looking clean and tidy. Iris Mollart for continuing to help Cllr Hooper and Pemble at Coffee Break. David Carr, former Chairman of the Parish Council, who still continues to run the Council's web site. Finally I would like to thank Sarah Wells, the Clerk for her work that keeps us all in line.

Before I close I would like to announce that after 36 years as the village grave digger Mr John Kemp has decided to retire. John also worked for the Council as a general builder and handyman, he has been a invaluable asset to the Parish and will be greatly missed. John has also put up the Christmas trees for many years. The Council would like to recognise his service to the community by presenting him with this gift.

The Chairman presented Mr. Kemp with a small gift to show the Councils appreciation. The Clerk presented Mrs. Kemp with flowers to say thank you for the years she has spent taking telephone messages. I will close now and hand over to the Clerk for the Finance report.

The Clerk reported on the Receipts and Payments for 2009/10 and the Budget for 2010/11. A full copy of the accounts was in the meeting report pack.

7) REPORTS

KCC – Kent County Councillor Leyland Ridings had been unable to attend the meeting, below his written report.

Children's Social Services and Education - In my position as Deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, I am delighted that this has been another successful year for Kent's students. In the summer of 2009, 52% of GCSE students achieved 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths, a 2% increase from the year before. It has also been another record year for A-level results in Kent schools with the number of students achieving two A to E passes three percent higher than in 2008.

This year's Kent School Games were officially launched on 1st October 2009 by Dame Kelly Holmes, along with Hugh Robertson M.P. and KCC Leader Paul Carter at Hayesbrook School, Tonbridge, Bower Grove Special School, Maidstone and Allington Primary School, Maidstone. This event has turned into a great success and has resulted in many children participating in competitive sport on a regular basis: there were 900 children and young people at the opening.

The Children, Families and Education directorate is currently being restructured so we are better organised to meet the service demands of the community whilst making necessary efficiency savings. There will be a slim strategic centre, improved frontline service delivery and increased efficiency.

Audit Commission Inspection - In December 2009, the Audit Commission published the league table for the performance of all local authorities in England. There are two inspection reports. One report covers Kent County Council as an organisation. The second report covers Kent, the county, in partnership with the public sector, voluntary organisations and the business community. Kent excels in both reports. Kent County Council is joint top among all county councils in England - it is one of only three county councils that are "performing excellently". So, for the eighth year running, Kent County Council has scored the highest possible overall rating. The county is also singled out for exceptional achievement. In the partnership assessment, Kent gets two exceptional accreditations for improving young people's education and skills, for providing job opportunities to match Kent's growing economy and for the Gateways, which bring a wide range of public, community and voluntary services under one roof.

Transport and travel - This year, we have rolled out the Kent Freedom Pass across the entire county of Kent. We have also agreed to extend the scheme to those students who live in Kent but attend schools in other local authority areas, such as Medway. The Pass, which costs £50 currently, allows students to travel on any public bus at any time, including weekends and school holidays.

The heavy snowfall is likely to have damaged pavements and roads to some degree and I would ask you to report any damage and potholes to Kent County Council. This can be done by telephoning 08458 247 800. The road repair crews are working across the county and fixed over 10,000 potholes on Kent's roads in January 2010 alone. The repairs have been carried out ahead of more permanent work which Kent County Council is preparing to spend an extra £1million on from March onwards.

A new initiative this year was to give each County Councillor £25,000 to spend on Highways work in their division – If you have any suggestions for road improvements please let me know.

Roadworks should also be more streamlined in 2010 as we have introduced the Kent Permit Scheme, which means a company planning to dig up a road must apply for a permit from Kent Highway Services. This will allow Kent Highway Services to better co-ordinate the timing of roadworks, so that gas, water,

telecoms, electricity companies and our own crews work on the same part of the road at the same time, reducing the number and duration of roadworks – and minimising their impact on motorists and other road users.

Adult Social Services and Community Safety - Managed by Help the Aged/Age Concern, but funded by our Community Safety Unit, we have provided five ‘Handy Vans’ to work across the county to provide advice and guidance and fit a range of safety and security products for people over the age of 60. Some of the products currently installed include smoke alarms, window locks, door chains, door viewers, mortice locks and mortice bolts. The free service is available to anyone aged 60 years or over, who has disposable savings/assets not exceeding £20,000 (not including the value of their home) and lives in an area where Handy Vans operate. To make a referral please phone 0845 026 1055 or email communitysafetyunit@kent.gov.uk.

Health - For those with health concerns we have established, in partnership with the NHS, ‘Kent Health Watch’, a service to help local residents express their views about health and social care in the county and get through to the right people. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In February 2010, we ran a ‘Health Watch’ road-show to talk face to face with people to see what issues are important and where. This information will help Kent County Council and the NHS work together to improve the health services.

Communities - KCC is building of the largest new art gallery in the South East called Turner Contemporary. The construction work is currently on budget and on schedule to be completed by the end of 2010, opening the following spring. It is designed by David Chipperfield, an internationally renowned architect.

Council Tax for 2010 – 2011 - On 18th February 2010, Paul Carter announced the lowest ever Council Tax increase (since Council Tax began 17 years ago) of 2.1%. The rise of 2.1% means that a Band D property will increase from £1,026.27 to £1,047.78, an extra payment of 41 pence a week. It is expected that this will give Kent the 9th lowest Band D rate of any comparable authority.

Kent County Council will provide an additional £6.5million to support vulnerable adults, £5.3million to strengthen children’s social services, mostly to meet the 21.2% increase in referrals in the wake of the tragic Baby Peter case, plus £10m to meet the additional costs in 2010/11 of supporting a £1.5billion capital programme.

Member Community Grant - This year, I have given: £600 to the Eastry Twinning Association to enable them to make an official visit to Longpre-les-Corps-Saints; £549 to Sandwich Technology School to pay for the internal roof to their restaurant extension; £1,000 to Walmer Cricket Club for the refurbishment of the artificial pitch; £200 to Sandwich Town Council for the Sandwich Festival portable toilets; £500 to Preston and Elmstone Village Society to help them rebuild the village hall; £2,000 to Ash Village Hall Management Committee for the Ash Heritage Centre; £500 towards the 2010 visit of the Sandwich – Honfleur Twinning Association; £2,000 for the Sandwich Community Christmas Lights and Carnival; £1,129 to Sandwich Town Cricket Club for the installation of lighting and security system at the Butts Recreation Group; and finally £1,522 to Eastry Village Hall Management Committee for the refurbishment of the kitchen.

DDC – Cllr Steven Manion & Cllr Nick Kenton

Cllr Manion and Kenton gave a power point presentation.

Regeneration remains the Council’s main priority in both the longer term and Interim Corporate Plans. The Council can and does take the role of both delivery agent and an advocate and enabler of change and development in the District, facilitating both ourselves and partners to move forward with the means to address the current and projected challenges presented in this report.

Regeneration is the lynch pin that seeks to address the demographic projections, the housing needs and developments, health inequalities, the skills and learning agenda, economic projections and needs of our

communities. Physical regeneration is however, one of the hardest to promote as delivery of an end product does take time.

However, for the reasons outlined, it is the main ambition of the longer term Corporate Plan. The Interim Plan remains committed to these ambitions but also recognises the full impact of the economic downturn and uncertain financial climate. It makes clear the Council is still working hard to turn aspirations into real delivery, and, with all partners facing budget pressures, it recognises the importance of working together and enabling others, setting out clearly what the Council is committed to doing and what we will support and enable partners to undertake – all for the benefit of the District and residents.

The backward look in the Interim Plan demonstrates how the efforts of the Council and partners are addressing the challenges faced by the District, ensuring effort is co-ordinated and targeted to those areas most in need, whilst proving benefits to all.

Rev Pilcher – Church Report

Unfortunately the Rev Deer is quite ill and was unable to attend the meeting. The Rev Pilcher had kindly attended to give a report on behalf of the Church.

The Church is also trying to regenerate, in October 2009 a meeting was held to discuss the way forward for the Church, to discover what people want from the Church. This had been an open meeting but unfortunately only PCC members had attended. They had put together a list of 30 points that they hope will bring the Church out into the community.

Mr Tim Halling – Head Teacher at Eastry School

You are probably aware that the school's inspectors, OFSTED, graded the school as an outstanding school in October 2009. This is one of the highest achievements that a school can achieve so we are naturally really proud of this and it recognises the dedication of all the staff at the school. As a Church School we also have a Church inspection, we were also classed as an outstanding School in this report.

Our school provides a safe, happy and secure environment where we strive for the children to reach their potential; academically, physically, socially and morally. We foster the ethos of compassion and endeavour, encouraging the children to understand the feelings of others, respect the values of others and to consider their own attitudes, values and beliefs. We have close links with our village church, St Mary the Virgin, and we are proud of the links we have with other village organisations.

Mr Halling went on to list some of the activities and trips undertaken by Children at the school this year.

Mr John Waring – Greville Homes

In 1834, William Fulke Greville, a retired Naval Captain, living at Statenborough, offered to provide a Terrace of 6 Almshouses for the needy Eastry Residents, if the Parish would find a suitable site. The offer was accepted, the houses built, and the first residents moved in in April 1835. Since then in 1990 those houses were completely refurbished and 3 bungalows built on the site. The reason that I am relating this is that you will possibly have gathered that the homes are 175 years old this year and the Trustees intend to celebrate and commemorate this by holding a Garden Party on the site on 6th August next. They are hoping to have a tree planted by a Special Guest in the grounds and to invite other guests who have a special connection with the Charity. The 7 Trustees, consisting of 4 representatives of this Parish Council, will be applying to the Parish Council for the consideration of a grant towards the cost of this Celebratory Garden Party, I hope this will meet with your general approval.

Mr Terry James – Village Sign Committee

I am very pleased to have been asked to report on the progress made by the Eastry Village Sign Committee. Following representations to Eastry Parish Council in November 2009, the EVS Committee was set up in February 2010, under the auspices of our Parish Council. The committee has met three times since then, roughly once a month. The committee is very grateful to Eastry Parish Council for the use of the Parish Rooms for our meetings.

The EVS Committee is formed by representatives from the following organisations: Church, Scouts, Guides, School, Youth Club, WI, Twinning Association, NW and Horticultural society. If your organisation is not represented yet, please note our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thur 17 June, and that we would welcome wider participation. We have invited business participation but as yet no one has come forward.

Our Plan is to erect a sign or signs that announce our civic pride in our village's heritage. You may know that we ran a design competition to highlight our project and to give us some ideas. Hazel Kendrick won that competition and her winning design along with others is now with Paul Harrison, a designer from Northbourne who has experienced in this field.

Our current thinking is that we would like to have two signs – one each at the northern and southern entrances to the village. At present we are favouring a moulded sign that would be made for low-maintenance resin.

We hope in the future to have some costings done for the construction and erection of the sign, because it may be that in the first instance we may only be able to afford one. However, the advantage of the moulded design process is that, once we have the original mould, extra or replacement signs may be cast as relatively less expense.

At present we have some working capital through the generous donations or interest free loans from participating organisations. However, we have begun to identify some sources of grant funding for this project and will be taking further advice on this at our next meeting. We also hope to get some business sponsorship in due course.

I trust that brings you up to date with what we've been trying to do. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr Dick Lasslet – Eastry Young Peoples Club

Unlike Ash, Wingham and Woodnesborough Eastry is very lucky to have an excellent Youth Club facility in the Village. I have been the Chairman of the committee for 15 years and although I have enjoyed my time and do not intend to give it up in the near future, both myself and the rest of my committee are aging, it is time that new and younger people stepped up to help with the running of this facility. We currently open 3 nights a week, Tue, Wed and Thu it is the same three people that run the sessions and I would like to ask for help and support from the local community to ensure the future of the Club.

8) POLICE ISSUES

PCSO Annemarie Benson

Eastry still has a relatively low crime report level, the main issues are currently speeding in Mill Lane, Gore Lane and Sandwich Road, now that the better weather has arrived I will be deploying the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in these places. Earlier in the year the priorities were nuisance motor bikes and dog fouling.

I still hold surgeries in the Parish Room once a month, I have cut these down to one hour as few if any one attends. I still continue to attend community events and hope this is why you do not feel the need to attend the surgeries. I can be found at Coffee Break, the indoor market and a Youth Club.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Benson. He thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Parish Councils and Becoming a Councillor

Introduction

What are community, parish and town councils?

There are around 10,000 community, parish and town councils in England and Wales; they are corporate bodies and local authorities. They have a powerful voice to represent local people.

What do these councils do?

Community, parish and town councils are the part of local government closest to the people. They serve the smallest area and are responsible for the most local of matters. Very importantly, these councils can "precept" - raising a sum collected with the council tax each year to improve facilities and services for local people.

In England they are called parish councils or town councils, if they cover a largely urban area. In Wales they are known as community councils. In both England and Wales they are elected units of local government whose activities are controlled by Acts of Parliament. There are 10,000 community, parish and town councils in England and Wales.

Parish, town and community councils in England and Wales have a number of basic responsibilities in making the lives of local communities more comfortable, many of which are often taken for granted. Essentially these powers fall within three main categories: representing the whole electorate within the parish; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

Individual powers include the provision and maintenance of community transport schemes, traffic calming measures, local youth projects, tourism activities, leisure facilities, car parks, village greens, public lavatories, litter bins, street lighting, street cleaning, burial grounds, allotments, bus shelters, commons, open spaces, footpaths, bridleways, and crime reduction measures.

For a full list of powers and duties visit:

http://www.nalc.gov.uk/About_NALC/What_is_a_parish_or_town_council

Community, parish and town councils can also comment on planning applications - they are statutory consultees (they have to be consulted if they so wish) and can be represented at public inquiries.

Parish, town and community councils may soon be granted more powers, especially as part of Quality Status. When councils are awarded this status they are allowed to negotiate with the local principal authorities (the district or county council or unitary authority) that certain responsibilities get devolved to the parish. This is part of the government's initiative to revitalise local democracy.

What do elected representatives do for me?

Community, parish and town councillors represent the people living in their local area at the closest level to the community. When decisions are being made they are there to put your views across.

Where can you find parish councils?

Parish councils are not only found in rural areas. Many metropolitan areas of England have created councils where there were none. Areas of Leeds, Liverpool and Birmingham, among others, have created parish councils to deliver the type of local representation residents felt they otherwise lacked.

London is the only city in England not legally able to create parish councils - and the government has indicated they may change the legislation that prohibits parishes for London.

What is a councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or - mainly in smaller parishes - the entire parish or town council area. They are generally elected by the public every four years.

What do councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work.

1. *Decision making* - Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

2. *Monitoring* - Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

3. *Getting involved locally* - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:

- Going to meetings of local organisations such as tenants' associations.
- Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community.
- Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public.
- Running a surgery for residents to bring up issues.
- Meeting with individual residents in their own homes.

Visiting your council is the best way to find out what happens there. Give the council a call and find out when its next public meeting happens. By law, ordinary people are allowed to be present at most council business.

How much time does it take up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about three hours a week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a community, parish and town councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Am I Qualified

Yes - most people are. However there are a few rules.

You have to be:

- a British subject, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union;
and
- on the “relevant date” (i.e. the day on which you are nominated or if there is a poll the day of the election) 18 years of age or over;
and additionally:
- on the “relevant day” a local government elector for the council area for which you want to stand;
or
- have during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the council area;
or
- have during that same period had your principal or only place of work in the council area;
or
- during that 12 month period resided in the council area.

In the case of a sitting member of a parish or community council you can also satisfy the criteria to be elected if you have lived in the council area or within 3 miles of it for the whole of the 12 months preceding the “relevant day”.

You cannot stand for election if you

- are subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order.
- have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine.
- you work for the council you want to become a councillor for (but you can work for other local authorities, including the principal authorities that represent the same area).

Parish Election Time Table Calculator

Timetable of Proceedings for

Thursday 5 May 2011

Publication of Notice of Election	Friday 25 March 2011
Receipt of Nominations	noon Monday 4 April 2011
Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated	noon Wednesday 6 April 2011
Withdrawal of Candidate	noon Thursday 7 April 2011
Appointment of Election Agents	noon Thursday 7 April 2011
Publication of Notice of Election Agents	Thursday 7 April 2011
Last Date for Registration	Thursday 14 April 2011
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 14 April 2011
Publication of Notice of Poll	Thursday 21 April 2011
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 21 April 2011
Appointment of Poll and Count Agents	Tuesday 26 April 2011
First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers	Wednesday 27 April 2011
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 5 May 2011
Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers 2011	5:00 pm Thursday 5 May 2011
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 5 May 2011
Declaration of Candidates Expenses	Thursday 2 June 2011

EASTRY VILLAGE NEWS - EDITOR'S REPORT 2011

Brian Manton (Treasurer and Advertising Manager) prepares the advertising section of the magazine, which will be updated in the Easter edition of the Eastry Village News. He sends me the advertising section by e-mail and I then incorporate all the articles for the month before Brian and Jinny Fagg check the magazine for errors. Each edition of the magazine is sent to Colin Hoyle, Printers, by email so it is printed and ready for distribution a week before it is needed.

10 editions of the magazine were produced last year – the summer edition covered July and August, and the Christmas edition covered December and January. 5 editions had a colour cover – April, July-August, November, Christmas and March 2011. The Easter and Christmas editions had colour covers, which incorporated the winning pictures from competitions arranged by Eastry Primary School. The magazine committee meet before each edition is produced to determine the final content and discuss any changes, which need to be made. We are grateful to everyone who provides articles, poems, and details about village events. We also publish details of other events, which take place locally (e.g. fetes, concerts etc.)

1100 copies of each edition of Eastry Village News are produced as an A5 size 36-page (or 40-page) double-sided booklet. The b/w editions are produced with a pastel outside cover, whose colour is changed each month. In the case of the colour editions a high quality white paper is used.

Brian Manton has negotiated with Colin Hoyle to keep the printing costs at a reasonable level. The cost of printing the magazine will increase by 10% to £466 for a b/w edition and £644 for a colour edition, including a delivery charge of £26. Advertising rates will be increased this year from £70 to £80 for a quarter page, £150 for a half b/w, and £220 for a half colour.

No grant was requested from the Parish Council, but a total of £506 was raised from donations (£98), sale of CDs and DVDs (£58) and fundraising (£350). We believe the Magazine can continue to be adequately financed in the above way for the next few years.

The deadline for new submissions is officially the 10th of the month and the magazine is sent to the printers by 19th of the month to give Colin Hoyle a week to print it and deliver it to the Parish Council Room. This allows sufficient time for the magazine to be sorted into delivery packs by Iris Mollart and assistants, and delivered by a group of volunteers. We are very grateful to them all for doing this work.

I would like to thank the Village News Committee, which now consists of Iris Mollart (Chairman), Brian Manton (Treasurer and Advertising Manager), Liz Kinns (Secretary) and Sandra Hooper (Parish Council rep.) for their support in producing the magazine. The Revd. Diane Deer was a committee member until October last year, and we are grateful for her support.

Michael Kinns – 01304 611400

Eastry Horticultural Society
Annual Report 2011/2011 for Eastry Parish Council

Our Society is so fortunate to have such a lovely 91 year's young President, Floss Cork. Floss is the figure head of our Society, having given 65 years of loyal service.

We have been entertained at our Monthly Meetings, held on the second Tuesday in each month in the Village Hall. Subjects such as, "Unusual Perennials" to "Antiques in your garden shed"

As we have to compete more and more with the large Supermarkets and Garden Centres unfortunately our annual Plant Sale didn't realise the success we have come accustomed to over the past few years, but we are taking steps to remedy this at this Plant Sale in May.

We once again organised a very enjoyable holiday in Chester including a visit to the Royal Horticultural Societies Show at Tatton Park. We also enjoyed the autumn colours at Sheffield Park in Sussex in October.

We introduced two new events this year, a Boot Fair in the Village Hall which certainly helped boost Society funds and at our October meeting we organised a very enjoyable "Harvest Supper" evening, where we enjoyed seasonal soup and a ploughman's meal.

All three Flower Shows were a huge success, attracting visitors from as far away as Sutton Valence in West Kent. All the visitors were amazed at the talent which was on show having been produced by our members.

Regardless whether you have a 'window box' or a 'five acre garden', we make everyone welcome at our Monthly meetings, please come and join us.

Colin Coulson, Chairman

Allotment and Leisure Committee Report.

Allotments.

Apparently this has been the coldest winter for many years but there is now activity on the Allotments, although some are more advanced than others.

Over the past year there has been great interest in working an Allotment, something to do with the Grow your Own campaign or the idea of Organic vegetables, means that we now have an awaiting list of 9 people.

The Council have had the area near Mill Green cleared and are waiting for quotes for fencing so this can be used as Allotments as it used to be several years ago.

Eastry Horticultural Society have organized a competition for, The Best Utilized Allotment.

Each allotment Holder is automatically entered in this competition and judging will take place in late July early August. Judges will be looking for the best use of the total area of the Allotment. Certificates will be awarded to the 3 best allotments plus a Certificate for the Best Newcomer.

Gun Park.

The Contractors have made a very good job of grass cutting during the year. The Football Club have been very pleased with the work on the pitches.

There have been reports of Dog Fouling again so, please, clear up after your dog so that this area can be used safely by children and adults alike.

The Graffiti wall continues to be a bright and well painted area.

Picnic Site

This is a popular and well used area, but how many are local people or passing visitors we do not know.

There is now a box with Poo Scoop Bags in it as we had received complaints about dog fouling,

The grass is deliberately left long in places to create a meadow which is so nice to see and to encourage wild flowers, so please do not let your dogs use it.

Its a great fun area for children to play in.

Thank you to the willing team of volunteers who open and close the picnic site each day. Only one day during the very snowy weather did it remain closed.

Sandra Hooper – Chairman Allotments and Leisure Committee

Eastry Pond Warden Report for 2010

Buttsole pond is a valuable asset to Eastry although at first glance you may not think so. Despite it drying out in the summer almost completely it provides homes and food and water for many animals and a site for many species of plants. In addition it provides amenity and educational value. Following a talk I gave to Eastry primary school on ponds we had an exciting pond dipping session at Buttsole and hopefully this will be repeated. As pond warden, together with the parish council, we are seeking to enhance the value to the benefit of wildlife and the community.

How are we doing this you might ask:

1. increase the diversity of plants and trees using native species.
2. control the growth of invasive pond plants – particularly common reedmace (often mistakenly called bulrush) and the non-native Australian swamp stonecrop and parrot's feather.
3. Planting trees to reduce the strong winds coming from the field so people can sit and enjoy the pond more comfortably.

Much of this is being done with reference to a management plan created for us by the White Cliffs Countryside project.

Increase the diversity of plants and trees using native species

The dredging work used to control the reedmace has itself encouraged a wider variety of plants as the seeds in the mud have been disturbed and germinate. I was pleased to see several clumps of the beautiful flowering rush which has an umbrella of pink flowers.

In the spring I planted some marsh marigold and water iris which have taken hold and plan to plant more marsh marigolds as they provide such a dazzling yellow display in spring.

With the help of Trevor Burton we planted 13 small native trees and bushes around the pond area. These will provide interest for people as well as nesting sites for birds and food for a variety of animals.

Control the growth of invasive pond plants

The 2 lots of dredging work done by Ovendens has helped reduce the reedmace but this will be a constant battle and later in the year I hope to find some student volunteers to help (a small amount of cash is available). The non-native Australian swamp stonecrop and parrot's feather are possibly more of a threat as trying to dig these out leaves lots of pieces that can spread round the pond and root. Careful chemical treatment may alas be the only solution but if so will be carried out by licensed experienced personnel so as not to impact other wildlife.

Planting trees to reduce the strong winds coming from the field

2 rowan trees have been planted behind the seating area

Other

2 pairs of moorhens had chicks last year and there was a pair of mallards. I spotted a large number of elephant hawk moth caterpillars on the willow herb and what I believe to be vapourer moth caterpillars (red white and black with bristly tufts). There were a large number of damsel and dragonflies. I have been keeping a photographic record of the wildlife and changes to the pond and am considering setting up a blog where folk can register sightings. I am also considering having an official survey performed.

There is a fair size rat population at the pond and although quite amusing to watch I feel need to be controlled due to the risk of Weil's disease and as they may eat any duck eggs. I need to get advice on this.

It is not recommended that members of the public add plants and animals to the pond without first asking for advice (they call me on 01304 611320) as it is easy to accidentally also introduce non-native species that upset the balance in the pond. Frogs and frogspawn should not be transferred to stop the spread of the disease 'red leg'.

Simon Dundas – Pond Warden

