

The service attends between 8 and 10 call outs a day and is now able to fly at night due to new helicopters and specialist night vision headsets. The Air Ambulance service is a charitable trust that receives no funding from the NHS or central government.

The Chairman thanked the speaker for a very interesting and informative talk.

6. UPDATE ON SPEEDING MATTERS

The Clerk explained that the Speed Indicator Device had now been in place on 5 of the 7 sites and that speeding data had been collected. She gave a brief presentation of the statistics so far.

7. PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

A survey had been circulated to ask local residents opinion of the existing web site and what they would like to see in a new one, unfortunately the number of returns had been very low and had not given any meaningful data. The PC would now pursue a new website using their own knowledge on the matter.

8. BATTLES OVER – A NATIONAL TRIBUTE 11th NOV 2018

In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the war and the many millions who were killed or came home dreadfully wounded, a chain of 1,000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on 11th November 2018. Eastry Parish Council have signed up to be one of the many town and parish councils and will be lighting a beacon as part of its plans for this important anniversary. Possible sites for a beacon and the type of Beacons available were discussed as well as if the beacon should be temporary or a permanent fixture. Anyone wishing to become involved with the organisation of the event was asked to contact the Clerk to the Parish council.

9. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

a) A new Councillors Perspective – Colin Boughton

Cllr Boughton started by telling everyone of his work history and why he had decided to become a Councillor, he went on to tell them of his impressions so far and how he envisaged his role on the Council and what he thought the long term goals of the Council should be.

b) Chairmans Report

Cllr Nicholas Kenton gave his annual reports, including the following: - the Parish Council is still working to provide a new building in Church Street to replace the existing Parish Room. It is hoped that a planning application will be submitted soon.

The footpath running parallel to Willmot Place in Gun Park, is in desperate need of replacement and the Parish Council had spent years trying to get this problem resolved, finally following a meeting between members of the Parish Council and representatives of DDC and KCC it has been agreed that the old path will be removed and a new path laid further over into Gun Park away from the trees. The funding for this will come from DDC, KCC and a contribution from the Parish Council on the understanding that it will become the responsibility of KCC PROW in the future.

We have new contractors that started on March 2017, I hope you agree that they are making a good job of all the areas covered in the Village.

The 2016/17 Precept had been set at £50,517. This added to the Revenue Support Grant will give a total resource of £51,439. An increase in Council tax of 1.99% or £1.26 pa for a Band D property.

Last year grants were given to Eastry Willmott Place Club, Eastry Cricket Club and Eastry Village Hall. The 2017 grant invitation will be published in the Village News later in the year.

The Parish Council provided Christmas trees outside the Five Bells and The Village Hall again this year. The Annual Carol singing round the tree was again sponsored by Mary at the Five Bells, thanks for her and her staff. The Council are considering providing additional festive decorations in High Street for the coming Christmas.

The Chairman thanked the environmental engineer for keeping the Village looking clean and tidy. The volunteer who carried out work at the pond, the Allotments Management Committee for undertaking the day to day management of the allotments, the helpers at Coffee Break for their tireless efforts to keep this invaluable facility going. He also thanked the Girl Guides for delivering this year's Annual Parish meeting agenda to every house in the Village. He closed with one final thank you to Sarah Wells, Clerk to the Parish Council for her work over the past year.

c) Finance Report

Unfortunately as the accounts had not yet been signed off by the Council it was not possible to provide a report at this time, however the accounts would be published once there were ready.

d) Allotments

Cllr Bailey reported that the recent article in the Village News has been very useful and a number of allotments had been let, however there are still some free should anyone be interested.

10. REPORTS

Dist Cllr Nick Kenton gave a report including information on the new sports centre being planned for the district to be situated at Whitfield, the continuation of the Dover Town Investment Zone, funding for Russell gardens, DDC budget constrains for the coming year, the employment of a new company to undertake enforcement on litter and dog fouling.

The outgoing County Cllr Mr L Ridings had provided a written report that had been included in the meeting pack. The new County Councillor Sue Chandler was in attendance and introduced herself to those present and answered some questions about grant funding.

Tim Halling head teacher of Eastry Primary School gave a report of the schools activities over the past year including a list of their school trips and visitors.

The Rev David Ridley reported on the activities and projects associated with the Church.

Mr John Waring reported on the activities of the Greville Almshouse trustees over the past year including a list of the works undertaken at the homes.

Mr Terry James, Chairman of the WW1 committee explained that due to lack of members the committee is no longer quorate, and would like some input from the Parish Council on how to proceed with their goals for the 2018 tribute. The Chairman agreed this could be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.59pm