

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EASTRY VILLAGE
HALL ON WEDNESDAY 27th MAY 2009 AT 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors N Kenton (Chairman) S Smith S Hooper A Barwick
S Shevde M Pemble M West M Bradshaw

S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council 45 Members of the Public

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

1) APOLOGIES

Cllrs A Wiles, M West and G Bury. Mr R Lasslet and Mrs I Mollart. County Councillor Ridings
Dist Cllr Manion

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 traffic calming in Lower Street, this was answered by the Chairman in
his speech.

4) Cllr ANDREW FINNIS – Hougham-without Parish Council – Climate Change Project

Cllr Finnis explained that his Parish Council had asked what action the average householder take to
save energy and in turn the planet. To help local residents with this the council had evaluated as
many household items as possible and recorded how much energy they used when in operation,
when on standby and when plugged in but not in use. These figures had been collated into chart
form and labelled “The Hougham Plugged in Chart”.

Cllr Finnis distributed copies of the chart and explained some of the individual figures. He went on
to talk about various devices that can be brought to help monitor power consumption. He then took
questions from the audience.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Finnis for his very interesting and informative presentation.

5) CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

I would like to thank you all for attending tonight’s meeting, especially as the meeting clashes with
the football final, we did not realise this when the date was set. The themes for last years meeting
were the Parade project, which apart from some minor electrical work is now complete. We know
there is a problem with the bins and this is to be discussed by the Council, it may be necessary to
remove the present litter bins and replace them with something bigger and more practical. But I
hope you agree that the area has benefited from the work and that the new enhanced Parade is now
a pleasant place to sit.

As most of you are aware a planning application for the former Hospital site has been received, and
Matt Whitby is here to answer questions on the application on behalf of his client Runnymede
Investments Ltd. I know that the majority of you feel that the 81 properties proposed at the site is to
large a number and that the traffic implications on the village are unacceptable. The Parish Council
are concerned about this and the impact on the look and feel of the village. Please note that any

letters or e-mails commenting on the application must be with DDC by Friday 29-05-09. The Parish Council will be meeting tomorrow night to finalise its representation.

Some of you may also be aware of the Green Waste composting facility for Venson Road, this application will be discussed by PC planning committee on Monday 8th June, please send copies of any letters sent to KCC to the clerk so your views can be considered at the meeting.

Speeding was also a theme of last years meeting, as was mentioned earlier, the results of the traffic counts are now available, Kent Highway Services have identified a speeding problem in Lower Street, unfortunately they do not have any funding available to rectify this problem. However there is some possible good news, following discussions with the Highways unit, a scheme to provide parish gateways on Sandwich Rd and Lower Street are being drawn up. The provision of interactive speed indication devices has been discounted as it has been shown that they only work for a limited time in locations such as ours, once local residents get used to the sign and realise that no fines are sent out, the signs become ineffective.

Funding for this work is being looked into, the KCC member for the area will have an allowance for traffic work and Eastry will be making representations to get its share of this money, the Parish Council has also budgeted funds for traffic calming.

The allotments now extremely popular and are all let, the Council may now have to consider if additional allotment land can be made available.

Since last year we have a new PCSO Annemarie Benson who will be talking to you later, and a new priest the Rev Diane Deer. As she has not been in the Parish long we will not expect a report, but she is here if any one wishes to speak to her. On behalf of the parish I would like to welcome you both.

2009 Applications now being accepted, full details can be found on the Web site and in June's Village News.

I will now come on to the thank you section of my speech, Pond work continues and you may have noticed you can see water in the pond when you drive past for the first time in a long time. I would like to thank our Pond Warden Simon Dundas, and Trevor Burton and other volunteers that helped with this work.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support over the past year. My special thanks to Sandra and Margaret for running Coffee Break, this is still very well attended please drop in if you have not already – every Friday Morning in the Village Hall. You may be lucky and get a piece of Margaret's Apple Pie. Still at Coffee Break I would like to thank Iris Mollart, who also helps every Friday even though she is no longer on the Council, she also represents the PC on the Village News committee.

A big thank you goes to David Carr, former Chairman of the Parish Council, who still continues to run the Council's web site, I hope you agree with me that this is a superb site, if you have not done so please take a look, it contains a lot of useful information.

Thanks must also go to the Broster's for keeping the place clean and tidy, we have recently obtained a new strimmer and this will be put to good use very soon.

My thanks go to Richard Swain for all his work on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch, it was with sadness that the Council heard of his resignation earlier this year. We must also thank Richard for his work in keeping the toilets clean.

We are lucky in this village to have a Community Warden and PCSO: I would like to thank Bob and Annemarie for their hard work on behalf of the people of Eastry.

One person I have not mentioned is Sarah Wells our Clerk, she keeps us on track and her work is very much appreciated.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Finance Report – Sarah Wells Clerk and responsible Finance Officer

A complete set of the Councils accounts for the past year had been included in the report pack for the meeting; the RFO went through the figures.

6) REPORTS

KCC Cllr Ridings – was unable to attend but had sent a written report that was read by the Chairman.

Education

- When Kent pupils received their GCSE results in August 2008, we continued the year on year increase in attainment, maintained since 1995. Across Kent, 67.1% of students achieved five or more A*-C grades - an increase of approximately 2.2% on 2007.
- For the two secondary schools near Eastry, which are Sandwich Technology School and Sir Roger Manwood's School, there was also good news. 99% of Sir Roger Manwood's pupils and 67% of Sandwich Technology School's pupils achieved 5A*-C GCSEs. The pupils' strong performance at Sir Roger Manwood's School means that this school is now the (joint) ninth best secondary school in the entire county based on GCSE attainment. The Government also deem that Sandwich Technology School is performing well, having given the school a Contextual Value Added Score of 1013.3, which is above the national average of 1000.
- In the sixth form, the 'Average Point Score Per Student' at Sir Roger Manwood was 992.7 points; to make this more understandable, this is equivalent to a each student achieving 2 As, 1B and 1C at A-level. Sandwich Technology School had an average point score per student of 610.6, which is equivalent to each student achieving 3 Cs at A-level.
- In 2008, Key Stage Two (i.e. Primary School) results across the county improved from 2007: An extra 2% of pupils achieved Level 4 or above in English; an extra 2% of pupils achieved Level 4 or above in Maths; and finally an extra 1% of pupils achieved Level 4 or above in Science.
- At Eastry Church of England Primary School, 87% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in English, 87% achieved Level 4 or above in Maths and finally, 90% achieved level 4 or above in Science. Their results are significantly above the national average.
- As Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, I was delighted when a recent external inspection of children's services (called the Joint Area Review) described KCC's management of children's services as outstanding.

Roads

- We have allocated £15.9 million pounds increase over 2009/10 to repair Kent's roads and highway. This includes £25,000 allocated to each county councillor to spend on improvements as agreed with the local parishes.

Adult Social Care

- We have allocated an additional £9 million into the budget to improve Adult Social Care.

Council Tax

- We have set Kent's council tax increase at 2.44%, which is the lowest ever.

Local Investment

- I have made a number of investments into Eastry this year, which include a £250 investment given to the Eastry Twinning Association and £1,500 given to Eastry Parish Council for the Parade Revitalisation.

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Nick Kenton

Last year I spoke about the introduction of green waste, plastic and card collections. These are now in place and I hope most of the teething problems have been ironed out. We have now covered the majority of areas, although I know there are some areas not covered by the scheme, we are currently renegotiating the contact and hope to add other areas soon.

Most of our recycled paper goes to make news print and our cardboard makes new cardboard. I know some of you are concerned that the tins, glass and plastic all go into the collection vehicles together. This mixture is very easy to sort once it gets to the plant and the three streams then go their separate ways to be recycled.

Canterbury City Council – the leader in recycling in the area – are now looking to adopt the recycling scheme used in Dover, as are other Councils, this could lead to shared contracts that could reduce costs.

The DTIZ – Dover Town Investment Zone are still going ahead, although the current economic climate had slowed down the process, but we will get there in the end. ASDA are still interested in moving into Dover,

Cllr Kenton asked if anyone had any questions, one parishioner said he wished to congratulate DDC on the recycling scheme, and asked if it was possible to visit the recycling plant and see the plastic, glass and cans being separated. Cllr Kenton said he would look into this possibility.

Action Cllr Kenton.

Eastry Church of England Primary School - – Mr Tim Halling had sent his apologies and a written report, a copy of which had been included in the meeting pack.

The school has enjoyed another very successful and busy year. We were all saddened by the untimely and tragic death of Christine Gibb who fought a courageous battle with cancer. We have really missed Christine's cheery face around the school.

Debbie Smith was granted early retirement on ill health grounds. Many of you will have had children taught by Debbie and will remember how she taught children to achieve their potential.

The children have had a huge range of activities to benefit from with many visits and visitors to enhance their education. Children have visited Dover Museum on numerous occasions. Dover Fire Station, White Mill, Walmer Castle, Dover College, Pfizers, Wingham Wildlife Park, The East Kent Ploughing Match, The Marlowe Theatre, The Odeon Cinema, Dover College, The Roman Painted House, Richborough Fort, the Ecole Saint Genevieve in Lille. The South Foreland Lighthouse, St Margaret's Bay, St Mary's Church and the Houses of Parliament. Year 6 spent 3 days at Bewl Water with John O'Gorman, Cath Marchbanks, Marcelle Kemp and Ryan Hayes and

had a fantastic time. We were also featured as Radio Kent's School of the Week on the Pat Marsh show

We have also had many visitors come into school to supplement our curriculum. These have included authors, musicians, artists, actors, Pfizer scientists, Howletts, an international gymnast, sports coaches and 60 children and staff and parents from the Ecole Saint Genevieve in Lille. Bob Priestley, Reverend Jennifer Pilcher and Father Philip Clements visit the school regularly and we are grateful for all that they do for the school.

The children have raised large amounts of money for charity including over £600 for Keep Fit Kids, £282 for The Viking Day Care Centre at QEQM (in memory of Christine Gibb), £142 for the Children's Society, £102 for Red Nose Day, £72 for Walmer Lifeboat £81.41 for the Marie Curie Foundation and £100 for CLIC Sargeant.

The PTA have been very active raising money by organising our summer BBQ and dance festival, fun afternoons, our Christmas Bazaar, discos, present wrapping and the ever popular Easter Egg Hunts.

We have extended the choice of clubs, both at lunchtime and afterschool thanks to parents and friends volunteering to give up their time. Clubs include football, netball, fencing, tennis, hip hop dance, golf, cookery, crafts (thanks to Woodnesborough WI), conservation, gardening (both flowers and vegetables), chess and recorder. We have recently formed a school orchestra thanks to All Sorts of Music, and we have just started a school choir. How can you help us?Volunteer to run a club or come and help at the school and hear readers, help children with their work, all of which is very enjoyable. Please do give us a ring (611360). We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks Tim Halling Headteacher

Greville Homes Report – Mr John Waring Chairman of the Trustees had sent his apologies and written report, a copy of which had been included in the meeting pack

Greville Fulke Greville, a retired Naval Captain and former Member of Parliament, came to live at Statenborough in the 1820's. In September 1834, aged 83 years, he generously offered to provide a terrace of Almshouses for needy Eastry Residents if the Parish would find a suitable site. The offer was accepted, the land purchased, the houses built and the first residents moved in during April 1935.

Bathroom extensions with an indoor toilet were added in 1954, and in 1984 a scheme was drawn up for their modernisation and for the building of three new two bed roomed bungalows at a total cost of £320,790.

Although the criteria for qualifying for a residence has changed somewhat over the years, the 9 homes are very much enjoyed by the present occupants. It is now almost 20 years since the refurbishment and new buildings were completed, the Trustees hope they will provide the comfort to the Eastry older residents for many years to come.

In order to ensure this comfort and that the properties are maintained to a high and safe standard, the Trustees meet several times a year to discuss the residents welfare, the necessary maintenance and control the financial budget. So much so, during the past 12 months there has been An Energy Performance Check for each property, a Fixed Wiring Check with the resulting work of some minor upgrading of the electrical systems.

John G Waring

7) POLICE ISSUES

PCSO Annemarie Benson went through the crime figures for the past year, she informed the meeting that the current Policing priorities for Eastry are Speeding and Dog fouling. She asked if these were the correct priorities. Did any other items need adding?

Annemarie then went on to answer questions from the floor.

8) FORMER EASTRY HOSPITAL SITE - PLANNING APPLICATION

The Chairman introduce Mr Matt Whitby on behalf of Runnymede Investments Ltd. There followed a lengthy debate on the proposals for the Hospital site and the implications this would have on the village, both visually and concerning highways matters. There were also concerns about the ability of the School and the Dr Surgery to cope with 81 additional households in the village.

As the debate drew to a close the Chairman reminded everyone that they have until Fri 29th May to get their comments to DDC.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending as invited them to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.