

**MINUTES OF EASTRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EASTRY VILLAGE
HALL ON TUESDAY 20th MAY 2008 AT 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors N Kenton (Chairman) S Smith S Hooper I Mollart
A Wiles (part) A Barwick S Shevde

S Wells Clerk to the Parish Council Dist Cllr Manion
County Councillor Ridings 55 Members of the Public

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

1) APOLOGIES

Cllrs M Pemble and M West. Mr R Lasslet and Mr K Deveson. Cllr Wiles would be late arriving at the meeting.

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

After many conversations between the Parish Council, District Council and Kent Highways Services the footway light situated in the ally between Gore Road and Peak Drive had been repaired. **Action Discharged**

4) KENT CARRIER DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE

Mr Steven Noad - KCC Transport Integration unit.

Mr Noad gave a presentation outlining the Kent Karrier Dial-a-Ride service. This is a fully accessible dial-a-ride service that takes its members directly from their door to places in their local area. The service is for people that need to get out and about but have difficulty using public transport. The criteria for joining are:-

- You have a medical condition that makes travelling on public transport difficult, or
- You live in a rural area more than 500 meters from a conventional bus route.

Membership costs £5 a year and then a fare is paid when the bus is used. You can book your journey by phone at least a day before you want to travel. A companion, for example your carer, can travel with you and does not have to be a member; all they pay is the journey fare. Experienced drivers will give you any help you need. Eastry is served on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week.

After his presentation Mr Noad answered questions from the floor. Leaflets about the service were available to take away from the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr Noad for attending the meeting.

5) CHAIRMANS REPORT 2008

Cllr Nicholas Kenton

I would like to start by welcoming everyone to this meeting, my first as Chairman; I took over as Chairman just 6 months ago following the resignation of David Carr. I would like to thank David for his work when he was Chairman and his continued work in running the Parish Council Web-site. This site contains extensive information and is the envy of other Parishes.

Since the last Annual Meeting Parish Council elections have taken place and in May 2007 three new Councils joined my colleagues and myself, they are Cllrs Mike West, Martin Kemp and Gavin Bury. Also following David's resignation Cllr Mathew Bradshaw joined the Council at the end of March this year.

We are very lucky in Eastry to have a Council that is made up of people with a good mix of skills, ages and experience. I look forward to working with them during the following year.

Now to the formalities, I would like to thank Mrs Sheila Broster and Malcolm for keep the village clean and tidy. Their tireless work is very much appreciated. Thanks also go Mr Richard Swain for mowing the grass area around the pond and for his work with the local Neighbourhood Watch. Richard also keeps the public toilets clean and stocked.

Next to the ladies that run the Coffee Break, for those that don't know this is a drop-in held in the village hall every Friday morning. All parishioners are welcome to come along and sample the home cooking provided by Cllr Margret Pemble. Cllr Sandra Hooper also helps and she operates the hearing aid clinic on the 2nd Friday of every month, and last but by no means least, Mrs Iris Mollart, who although no longer on the Council still helps every Friday. If you have not yet been to Coffee Break please do the company and the cakes are worth a few hours of your time.

We are very lucky in this village to have both a community warden and a PCSO; I would like to thank both Bob and Haydn for their help and support over the past year.

At the start of the year a programme of work was started at the pond, I would like to thank Trevor Burton and his working party for their contribution to this project. There are many more people that make a great contribution to the village, far too many to mention here, the group of volunteers that open and close the picnic site, the members of the numerous clubs and societies that contribute to village life, all your efforts are appreciated by myself and my fellow Councillors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support during my first 6 months as chairman; they have made the job a pleasure.

The one person I have not mentioned is our Clerk, Sarah Wells, she keeps us all on an even keel and her work is much appreciated.

Whilst researching my report for tonight I looked at the Chairman's reports from the past few years, and there seemed to be some reoccurring themes, the Parade, Eastry Hospital, Speeding in Lower Street, Cemetery Extension and plans for Eastry Court Farm buildings. The Chairman over the past few years have had nothing positive to report in these areas, it has been "in progress" or "being looked into", so I am really pleased to give the following updates:-

- Parade –The work is nearing completion; more detail will follow later in the meeting.
- Eastry Hospital – representatives of the developer are here tonight to outline the proposals for the site.

- Speeding – following a very successful meeting between members of the Council, KCC and DDC we are hopeful that an interactive speed sign will be installed in Lower Street. The Council have been offering to part fund this project for some years and for the first time this will make a difference to the priority given to the work by Kent Highway Services. Traffic surveys will be undertaken to help in the financial justification for the device.
- Eastry Court Farm and the Cemetery extension - both of these are tied up in the Local Development Framework process, so although the news is not as positive, this is being progressed.

I will close now and take any questions. There were no questions from the floor.

Finance Report — Sarah Wells - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

A complete set of the Council account for the past year were available in the meeting pack, the RFO went through these figures.

6. REPORTS

KCC Councillor Leyland Ridings - KCC have been given a 4 star assessment by the CPE they were rated 15th out of 147 authorities. Corporation tax is at 3.9%, however the government owe Kent £10m pounds for asylum seekers and we hope this will be paid back. In the past few month an emphasis has been put on road repairs and 7300 pot holes have been fixed. The Neighbourhood forums trailed in the Dover area have been found to be successful and will be rolled out County wide during the following year. I have stood down as Chairman of the Sandwich Forum but will still be involved in the meetings.

I have control over three grant funds these are £10k in my personal grant fund and £9300 in the small capital grant fund and £13500 in an additional fund. Bids for this money need to be in by 29 August at the latest.

Schools across the district continue to achieve good results, with Sandwich High School being the 2nd best in the Country.

DDC Cllrs Steven Manion and Nick Kenton – Cllr Kenton covered waste management he informed the meeting that the Black Box scheme was now operation throughout the district and that green waste collection will also go district wide soon. Hopeful plastic and cardboard will be part of the door step collection by the end of the year.

Cllrs Manion then played a 12 minute video presentation outlining the plans for the regeneration of Dover. The video included plans for the development of the paper mill, Connaught Barracks, a Sea Sports Centre, replacement for Buckland hospital and a tower to contain a visitors centre, restaurant, telecommunications centre, port control and look out point.

Following the presentation Cllrs Manion & Kenton explained why it was so important that these plans for Dover should be carried forward.

Cllr Kenton then went on to explain that the Local Development Framework (LDF) public consultation stage was now complete, the LDF will be used as the basis for all development in the Dover District for the next 10 to 15 years.

Mr Tim Halling, Head Teacher Eastry C of E Primary School – last year Mrs Wade, who I'm sure many of you remembers retired after 29 years as school secretary, she is missed but as with all things life in school has carried on, I'm please to say Eastry School is in the top 20 of highest

achieving primary schools in Kent, and in the top 5% of schools in the country for maths. Y2 results are above the national average and unlike other schools our numbers are constant as we are one of the most popular schools in the area.

During the summer our programme of refurbishment work has continued with work being carried out in years 3 and 4, the Library and the Kitchen. We have held successful open days every term and are regularly featured in the Mercury and our Easter service appeared on Radio Kent. Also our schools consortium carol service at Canterbury Cathedral was featured on Meridian news. We have also trained our second graduate teacher.

The school have risen at total of £2188 for charities this year, and have had various Fun Day and event including a Caribbean Day, Pan Cake races, decorated eggs and a dance festival at the Summer Fete.

Our children have been on visits to Dover Lifeboat Station, Dover Museum Themed Days, Dover Castle, St Mary's Church, Residential Visit to Hardelot, France, Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury Cathedral, Walmer Castle, White Mill, and Pfizer Science Jamboree. In addition to this the following have been into the school to talk to the children Hall Place Tudor And Victorian Days, Various Authors, Theatre Groups, Fire Brigade, Fire Safety Talks, PCSO Haydn Powlter, Bob Priestley, Ambulance Service and RSPB.

We are very lucky to be able to offer a variety of clubs these are Golf, Tennis, Football, Dance, Conservation, Gardening, Chess, Recorder and a Music Ensemble. We have very close links with the Church operating children led services, which are always supported by our parents. We have a prayer group in school open to parents and Philip or Jennifer leads worship every Wednesday

I have a very dedicated and active PTA who has run the following fund raisers over the past year Bonfire Party, Easter Faye, Wine and Wisdom, Ladies Pamper Night, Summer Fete and a fashion show.

I would like to thank Pfizer volunteers for re-painting the playgrounds, play sheds and doing a makeover in the fledglings outside classroom, this was very much appreciated by the staff and children. Finally thanks to a wholly committed and talented staff, wonderful children, extremely supportive governors, PTA and parents.

I would like to run more lunch time clubs and am looking for volunteers that would have 35 minutes to spare to teach anything you feel would be fun and worthwhile, knitting, sewing, craft. You would need a CRB check but the school will do this, and I can promise it would be very rewarding.

The Chairman thanked Mr Halling for his report.

The Rev Pilcher – A written report had been submitted that was available for those present to read, in addition the Rev Pilcher informed the meeting that the parish was waiting a decision on whether or not the position of Priest at St Mary's Eastry would be filled, a working party had been formed to look into the financial implications of the appointment. The Rev Pilcher then asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Mr John Waring Chairman Greville Homes Charity – a written report had been submitted that was available for those present to read, Mr Waring said that at the moment there were no vacancies at the Greville homes, but should one come up it would be advertised in the village.

7. PARADE UPDATE

Unfortunately Cllr West had been unable to attend the meeting but he had sent a written report that was read out by the Chairman.

The project to revitalise the parade is nearing completion due at the end of May. The project will have taken 8 weeks in total to complete. At present we are waiting for EDF energy to connect us into the main supply and a delivery for rubbish bins which has been delayed. The project will be on budget as agreed with the contractor when first tendered a few years ago.

The working committee would like to thank all those who have generously contributed to the scheme but would urge anyone who has not yet donated and would like to be a part of the time capsule document to fill in a form before leaving tonight. Please speak to one of your parish councillors for a form.

The school have hopefully been busy preparing a project to gather items ready for the time capsule. Thanks to Helen Farrall of Humpty Dumpties for arranging a sponsored event for the children as a way of fund raising.

Once the project has been handed over we will have a small ceremony to bury the time capsule and lay a stone to record the event. Hopefully we can get the local press to turn up and a few dignitaries if we are lucky.

The committee would also like to thank the local shop owners for their patience and commitment to the project whilst the construction has been on going.

We hope once completed the area will be used more by the village and will encourage more people to use the shops and village in general.

There were no questions from the floor.

8. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Paul Ludwig – Inspector Ludwig informed the meeting that he had been a police officer for 25 years now, when he joined the force every rural village had a police officer and a police house or station. Over the years this has changed as Police became centred on towns and cities and rural areas were left without community cover. He said that over the past two years Kent Police had been trying to rectify this by introducing a designated Warden, PCSO or Police Officer into all the rural villages. As part of this process Partners and Communities Together (PACT) was being rolled out. This entailed a Police Officer attending all Parish Council meetings so that any problems could be reported and resolutions discussed. As the PACT item would become an agenda item any issues would be minuted which would make the Police accountable. Eastry Parish Council had signed up to Pact in January.

There was one question from the floor concerning police contact telephone numbers.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ludwig.

9. EASTRY HOSPITAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Mr G Hollaway and Mr M Whitby of CTM Architects were in attendance representing there client and owner of the Eastry Hospital site Runnymede Investments Ltd.

Mr Hollaway showed a layout of the site and explained how they would like to see it developed, no plans had been submitted to DDC yet however extensive talks had taken place between CTM and DDC planning department. At the moment the master layout plan detailed a mixture of flats, terraced; semi detached and detached properties, a total of 69 units in all. In line with government legislation 30% of these properties would be affordable. The site layout allowed for a lot of open space and an amenity area. The listed building fronting the site would be converted into commercial office units. With a separate parking area in front of the building that would be for the use of these commercial units only.

Members of the Parish Council had also spoken to CTM and Runnymede about the possible use of the Old Chappell as a Parish Council room and community centre to replace the current Parish Room on the recreation ground that was no longer fit for purpose. Runnymede investments were open to this idea, but the architects were proposing to swap the requirement for 70% rented and 30% shared equity to 70% shared equity and 30% rented, on the affordable housing stock. This still gives the same amount of affordable housing but gives a greater opportunity for local people to buy into the housing market.

Mr Hollaway explained that the current layout allowed for two parking places per unit, this was above the governments level of 1.5. The density of houses was a lot lower than current government guidelines on land usage.

Question from the floor were then taken, the main concern of the meeting was on Highways issues, an additional 69 units in the Village could potentially mean an additional 138 cars, as well as the vehicles going to the commercial units. The road infrastructure of the village is already stretched and speeding and parking are major concerns.

Cllr Kenton pointed out that as this site had been listed for development in the current adopted plan, then it was going to be developed. What is important is to get the best and most sympathetic development possible. At the moment the limiting factor on the number of units on the site was the poor road infrastructure.

A question about the actual design of the properties was raised; Mr Hollaway informed the meeting that as yet plans had not been drawn up. The possible existence of a Cemetery on the site was brought up, CTM were unaware of this and asked that anyone with knowledge of the location of a Cemetery please let them know. Other more specific questions were asked and answered.

Mr Hollaway ended his presentation by saying that before a planning application was submitted to DDC that he would like to come back and hold a drop-in in the village. This would run from about 3 in the afternoon until 8 in the evening to allow as many people as possible to attend. The plans for the site would be on display and he would try and get a traffic consultant along to deal with the highways issues. People could then come and see the plans and ask questions on a one to one base. Feedback from this session would be used to finalise the Planning Application.

Once the plans were submitted to DDC the Parish Council would hold a drop in to give local people a change to see the plans, so they could make any comments or objections to DDC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hollaway and Mr Whitby for attending, he also thanked the members of the public for coming to the meeting, and he invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm