

DUNTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Pavilion on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 7.00pm

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those who had come along and confirmed that there would be three parts to the evening: firstly, the formal Annual Parish Meeting; secondly, an opportunity to partake of some refreshments and thirdly, a talk about the Great Storm of 1987 would be given by Bob Ogley.

2. Present

Mr. Ian Bayley (Chairman of Dunton Green Parish Council & of the APM), Sevenoaks District Councillor Mrs. Kim Bayley (Member for Dunton Green and Riverhead), PCSO Jane Wright, Kelly Webb (Community Safety Manager Sevenoaks District Council), Kathryn Bone (Community Development Worker (Dunton Green) Sevenoaks District Council), Ms. Tracy Godden (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 11 members of the Public (including three Parish Councillors).

Apologies for Absence

Laura Masson (Headteacher Dunton Green Primary School), Mrs. Lesley Edmeads (The Sir Thomas Smythe Charity), Sevenoaks District Councillor Mr. Cameron Brown (Member for Dunton Green and Riverhead), PCSO Amy Hardy (Kent Police), Sgt Mark Beresford (Kent Police), Alberta Atkinson (Community Development Worker (Dunton Green) Sevenoaks District Council), Kent County Cllr. Richard Parry (Member for Sevenoaks West).

3. Minutes of 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the March 2015 Annual Parish Meeting were approved. Proposed - Mrs. England, Seconded - Mrs. Forster-Pearce and Agreed.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chairman commented that it must be a sign of his advancing age that time seems to pass all too quickly, it seeming impossible that a year had already elapsed since the last APM. Cllr. Bayley admitted it was a pleasure to be Chairman of the Parish Council and that it was very pleasing that for the first time in quite a number of years there was a full complement of councillors, all of whom were volunteers. It was also encouraging that there was a wide age spectrum represented on the Council with some young, fresh councillors working alongside more mature members with a wealth of local knowledge. All councillors are united by a passion for the village. The Chairman also took the opportunity to thank the Clerk for all of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and which is much appreciated by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Bayley advised that part of the Community & Facilities Fund that had been

part of the Section 106 Agreement in relation to the Ryewood Meadows development had been allocated to the provision of two Community Development Workers (working as a job share) and included funding for activities & events. This is a fantastic opportunity for Dunton Green and the Chairman urged everyone to talk to the Parish Council and the Community Development workers to let them know what people want and to get involved in developing the community. 'Think not of what Dunton Green can do for you but what you can do for Dunton Green'!

The Parish Council's Annual Report for 2015/2016 was provided to attendees and a copy of the report is attached.

6. Community Development SDC

Kathryn Bone confirmed that she was one of two Community Development Workers (CDW) for Dunton Green and that she worked alongside Alberta Atkinson in this role. Kathryn verified that basically the CDWs are in Dunton Green as part of the Section 106 Agreement linked to the development at Ryewood Meadows and that they are here to deliver things for the community.

A consultation had been carried out in the summer of 2015 and the results of the consultation had shaped the initial ideas for the project. However, the project was still very much open to new ideas and suggestions. With this in mind forums (one for young people and one for older people) were being set up to get people more involved and to have more of a say about the kinds of things that they would like to see happening.

Kathryn gave information about some of the activities trialled and planned which are detailed in the Community Development report which was provided to attendees, a copy of which is attached.

Kelly Webb added that the aim is for anything that is set to be community related and sustainable so that at the end of the three-year project there is a network of activities & services which the community is involved in running. There is a need to recruit more volunteers from the community and SDC can provide training to help ensure that everyone is properly prepared.

7. County Councillor, Richard Parry

Unfortunately, a report had not been submitted by Cllr. Parry.

8. District Councillor, Kim Bayley

Cllrs. Brown and Bayley had provided a detailed joint report; a copy of the report is attached.

Cllr Mrs. Bayley made mention of a few highlights of the report:

- Provision of medical facilities at Ryewood Meadows: funding had now been set aside from the Section 106 Agreement but was still earmarked for Dunton Green and the immediate vicinity; the space on the site had been deemed too small for a new surgery.
- Following further funding pressures SDC has set about ensuring that it can

be self-sufficient (so not reliant on Government funding) and has invested in a number of commercial properties to achieve that goal.

- Both councillors have been involved in conducting reviews into spending by SDC. One area being reviewed is leisure facilities which are very expensive. A report is due and SC will be looking into whether this area can be more cost effective.
- Landscaping at the roundabout at Tesco is to be completed - with funding being provided by Waitrose.

9. Kent Police

PCSO Jane Wright presented a summary of activities in the absence of PCSO Amy Hardy. PCSO Hardy had provided a written report for the meeting, a copy of which is attached.

PCSO Wright highlighted the fact that people should not leave car keys where they can be seen (high value car thefts have been on the increase in the district). Also, as 'boot fair season' approaches garden tools & equipment become more susceptible to theft and people should take steps to ensure that their sheds are secure and that their property is not vulnerable (chaining larger items together is a simple thing that residents can do to deter thieves).

10. Dunton Green Primary School

Unfortunately, Ms Laura Masson (Head Teacher) was unable to attend the meeting in person. However, she had provided a report detailing the school's activities over the last year. A copy of the report is attached.

11. The Sir Thomas Smythe Charity

Mrs. Lesley Edmeads was unable to attend the meeting. No report was available.

12. Consideration of any resolutions for which notice has been given

None

13. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm

Following the conclusion of the formal meeting the Chairman took the opportunity to present a Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award.

The Awards Scheme is supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council and the High Sheriff of Kent and is a means by which Parish Councils can acknowledge and give recognition to those that have made a significant contribution to their local community. For the first time Dunton Green Parish Council decided to take part in the scheme and nominate someone that it felt has made a real difference to the community over a great many years of service.

To that end Parish Councillor Brian Tingley was presented with the award in

recognition of his active and enthusiastic contribution to Dunton Green through his involvement with the Parish Council, serving as Vice Chairman and Chairman in his time and still as an active and very valued member of the Parish Council.

Finally, the Chairman thanked residents for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and invited them to stay on for refreshments & to listen to Bob Ogley's talk about the Great Storm of 1987 and the impact that it had on his life.

DRAFT

Dunton Green Parish Council Annual Report 2015/2016

COUNCIL

The Council & its committees met 13 times between April 2015 and March 2016 inclusive of which 11 meetings were full council meetings and 2 were committee meetings. There was an average attendance of 84% of Council members at these meetings.

Of the eleven meetings that Kent County and Sevenoaks District Councillors were expected to attend Cllr. Richard Parry (KCC) attended 1 meeting (9%), Cllrs Mrs Kim Bayley and Cameron Brown attending 5 between them (45%) - Cllr Mrs Bayley 3 (27%) and Cllr Brown 2 (18%).

The members of the Parish Council are currently: Mr Ian Bayley (Chairman), Mrs Freda England (Vice Chairman), Mr Brian Tingley Mr Graham Hersey, Mr Andy Lapham, Mrs Lori Monks, Mr Robin Piper, Mrs Angel Gomes-Chodynieski, Mr Paul Lockey, Mr Anthony Carrol and Miss Jessica Guy.

New members were welcomed (Mr Paul Lockey, Mr Anthony Carrol and Miss Jessica Guy) during the year after the May 2015 elections and the Parish Council is now delighted to report that it has a full complement of members.

Appointments made in 2015 included:

- Mr Graham Hersey as the councillor responsible for the allotments
- Mr Ian Bayley & Mr Robin Piper representing the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee
- Mrs Angel Gomes-Chodynieski representing the Parish Council on the Donnington Hall Management Committee
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mrs Freda England representing the Parish Council on the Fort Halstead Working Group
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mr Brian Tingley representing the Parish Council on the Kent Association of Local Councils
- Mrs Lesley Edmeads continues as the Council's appointed representative on the Sir Thomas Smythe charity

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council office is located in Dunton Green Pavilion. Enquiries can be made by post, telephone, email, Facebook or via the Parish Council's website at www.duntongreenpc.org.uk.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications in the village and has reviewed 18 applications over the last 12 months (April 2015 and March 2016 inclusive) versus 39 in the previous year.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In the past year we have continued to work with PCSO Amy Hardy. Despite their having to cover a number of areas the Parish Council has a good working relationship with Amy and our community policing teams and very much appreciate their input in the village. As well as being a useful first point of contact for any non-urgent police enquiries our PCSO holds regular police surgeries and crime prevention events for residents to attend. Details of these are listed on the Parish Council website and are also advertised on the Parish Council noticeboards for those not on-line.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & RECREATION GROUND

The past year has seen a tremendous amount of effort by all members of the Parish Council and especially Tracy, the Parish Clerk, in running the Dunton Green Pavilion. The new community building and the outside play/games areas are a great asset to the community and we are continually working to make the most of the facilities we have. It continues to be a time of great change and innovation which we hope our community will take part in shaping. We are delighted to have two Community Development Workers dedicated to Dunton Green with the purpose of helping us to work together in our community. There is scope for further work to be undertaken in a number of areas of the village including the land adjoining the Recreation Ground which the Parish Council owns and I hope that is something we can begin to make some plans for.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The Parish Council has funded a number of activities for young people in the village and is committed to ensuring there are activities for them as well as other members of the community. Not all activities have been fully utilised but we will continue with events to cater for all members of the community where we see a need. We very much appreciate the work of our Community Development Workers and the other agencies that have put a lot of effort into our community over the past year and have plans to increase that effort as we move forward. We have been very pleased again with the Kick Kent football training courses that have run throughout the year for 10 to 16 year olds and plan to continue these.

The Parish Council is keen to promote community activities and events in the village. There are a number of regular events such as the summer picnic, carols at Christmas and the Remembrance Day service but the Parish Council is planning further activities in the coming year. Our firework display last year was particularly successful and we plan to repeat this event in 2016. We are keen to hear from members of the community who have ideas for events or who would like to be involved. We do want to run activities for ALL members of the community in our new facilities and would like to hear what residents would be interested in.

VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS

The Parish Council continues to look for ways to improve the village and the environment for residents and visitors. To date our flower beds, hanging baskets, flagpole and bulb planting have been well received. We welcome further suggestions and will continue with a programme of enhancements. The village war memorials have been restored this past year and are an important reminder of some of those from our community who lost their lives. We continue to battle against the continued problem of litter and would be grateful to anyone contacting us to join one of our regular litter picks. Likewise, we continue our campaign against the small minority of dog owners who do not pick-up after their dogs whilst walking them in and around the village.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The Parish Council keeps a watch on local highways and footpaths. Highway maintenance requirements are passed to Kent County Council's Highways Services division or the Public Rights of Way Office. Unfortunately, we have seen a reduction in the maintenance by KCC over recent years as part of cost saving measures which has resulted in complaints by residents about the condition of footpaths and verges. The Parish Council does not cut footpaths with the exception of the path from the recreation ground to the station (which is cut for the benefit of commuters) and the footway between Lennard Road and Station Approach but clearly KCC maintenance is an area we will be watching most carefully over the coming year.

LIGHTING

The Parish Council continues to be responsible for most of the street lights in Dunton Green that are not on the main road with the principal exception of the Mill Road estate, Station Road and the Ryewood Meadows estate. We believe that residents wish to have street lighting throughout the hours of darkness and therefore made the decision not to have restricted operating hours of our lighting inventory. We have, however, changed our lighting to a more efficient lower energy solution. We are committed to ensuring a well-lit, safe environment where we have control of lighting and have had discussions with other agencies where we see problems. Of particular concern is the underpass by the school which is not well lit and we are still trying to resolve this issue with KCC.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council allotments on Dunton Green Social Club land remain fully let and currently there is nobody on the waiting list.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Summary 2014/2015 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

	£	£
Balances brought forward		8,572
ADD		
Annual Precept		74,500
Total Other receipts		915,239
SUBTRACT		
Staff Costs	29,026	
Total other costs	885,152	
Balances carried forward		84,133

Cllr Ian Bayley, Chairman Dunton Green Parish Council

23rd March 2016

Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting Report

- **Survey** - We completed our survey in September 2015, with over 230 residents taking part. From this we identified 8 priorities including: -
Young People
Older people
Safety
Communications
Local Businesses
Volunteering
Training
Community Infrastructure

There is a steering group that looks at the priorities and help develop new projects.

- **Steering Group** - we are looking for residents to join our Steering Group to work together in delivering local projects in the community. To let us have your thoughts or get involved please email us at communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk or call 01732 227176.
- **Lunch Club Needs You!** - We are recruiting volunteers to help with the new Dunton Green lunch club. The club will run once a month and will provide a nutritious hot meal for older people within the village. Do you have any spare time during the day that you could offer to support this project? If yes, please contact Sevenoaks District Council via email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk or call 01732 227176.
- **Archery** - We are hoping to offer a taster course for young people aged 12 to 16 during the May half term. If you are interested in taking part please let us know so we can reserve you a space. We are also asking residents of all ages that contact us to register an interest if they would like to see Archery as a more permanent activity in Dunton Green. If we have enough interest, then we will look to set something up (evenings and weekends included). Please contact Sevenoaks District Council via email communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk or call 01732 227176.
- **Helping Get You Work Ready** - Young people, this is your opportunity to learn the skills to help you move into employment. We will be offering a short course especially for you. To find out more please register your interest by emailing communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

- **Kent Shed Project** - We have funding to set up and run a regular shedding project and are recruiting volunteer coordinators and 'shedders' to take part. We have access to a workshop in Abacus Furniture warehouse in Greatness and will be putting up a potting shed in Dunton Green. If you are interested in helping us set up this project, want to come along or know someone who would benefit from it e-mail communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk
- **Young & Older Peoples Forums** - We want people to have their say in their community and have set up these 2 groups that we would people to join in. This is an on going development and we are looking for willing people to take part.
- **Kent County Council (KCC) Youth Work** - KCC have been visiting the Pavilion every Monday evening to listen to and work with young people. There was a successful 6-week youth programme delivered by Play Place that finished in March 2016 that helped compliment the work of KCC.
- **Health Week** - This was held in February 2016 and activities including cooking, ball room dancing, healthy walks and talks were delivered over the week as part of National Heart month
- **Developments** - We have had a number of developments in Dunton Green and are looking for more ideas on community groups and events that would like to be held across the whole community.

Kelly Webb	SDC Community Safety Manager
Alberta Atkinson	Community Development Worker Dunton Green
Kathryn Bone	Community Development Worker Dunton Green

March 2016

Report of the Dunton Green & Riverhead District Councillors

Kim Bayley & Cameron Brown

March 2016

Introduction

Both your Councillors have attended Full and other Council meetings during the year, as well as a number of informal meetings with Council departments and constituents on a variety of issues.

It has sometimes been challenging to attend as many Parish Council meetings as we would have liked due to a large number of timing clashes but we hope we have been available to you via email and phone as needed.

Medical Facilities

Both your Councillors have been involved in lobbying KCC to provide medical facilities within Dunton Green, potentially at the Ryewood Meadows site.

Having met with representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in a number of meetings it was stated by the CCG that no current surgery in Sevenoaks was prepared to open a branch surgery at the Ryewood Meadows site. The site is apparently not big enough to accommodate a new surgery from a new practice.

However, there is currently an extensive review underway in relation to medical provision across the district. The Chief Executive is keenly aware of the lack of medical provision outside Sevenoaks town and the need to travel into Sevenoaks to have medical treatment. That is one of the key issues the review is going to address.

The monies allocated to the Ryewood Meadows site have thus, for the time being, been put to one side, either for the provision of a new medical facility in Dunton Green/ Riverhead or the extension of existing facilities in Otford or Sevenoaks. In the meantime consideration is being given at the Ryewood Meadows site for the provision of a private healthcare provider (medical centre akin to Beadles House, dentist etc) or a community pharmacy. Further meetings will be held in relation to this.

Highways and Parking

The Dunton Green parking scheme continues to give rise to concerns for residents and have formed part of continuing discussions with Highways.

Planning

Planning applications across the district continue to run at quite high levels. Both your Councillors have reviewed a number of applications within the district.

Cllr. Kim Bayley

Kim sits on 2 Committees at SDC as well as being Deputy Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading Services (encompassing environmental and waste services as well as parking etc). She sits on the Finance Committee, with a particular focus on ensuring that the District Council can continue to deliver the current levels of services with a vastly reduced budget. As Deputy Chair on the Direct and Trading Services committee, she also has regular updates with the head of Environmental Services as well as participating in the Kent Resource Partnership.

Finance Committee

During the year Council budgets continued to be under pressure due to significant funding cuts by Government at a local level but the current performance indicators of SDC are positive and departments are performing well and targets are being met.

Importantly the Council embarked upon its aim to become self-sufficient and has created a trading company to undertake investments into commercial property to deliver income to the Council. In its first year of operation this delivered profit and it is hoped this will alleviate some strain on the finances going forwards. The Council also continues to look at innovative ways to cut costs and schemes to share functions with other Councils. SDC has once again had to increase its part of the Council tax by 1.99% this year in order to maintain services.

Direct and Trading Services Committee

In relation to parking we were able to maintain parking fees in all car parks, except Blighs, at previous levels which has been well received by residents.

There is a major project currently ongoing to build a new hotel to create more parking near the station and plans for the hotel and decked car park are currently being drawn up

During the year SDC trialled new small garden bins, which will now be put into full use. We also undertook improvements to the Bradbourne lakes area and are currently undertaking a waste analysis in order to inform decisions on waste disposal going forwards.

Other

Kim has also acted as a Governor of Dunton Green Primary School during the year and met with several residents on the Lakeside Place development to try and improve the surrounding area. This is culminating in the landscaping of the roundabout at the entry to Tesco next month

Kim also participated in the Kent Resource Partnership looking at ways to improve recycling across the district and improve litter / fly tipping etc.

Cameron Brown Committees

Cameron is Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and sits on the Development Control/ Planning Committee.

Scrutiny Committee

Cameron is leading a review into the provision of sports/ leisure facilities across the district. Currently the Council pays £240,000 per annum to its provider to run and maintain its facilities, including Sevenoaks Leisure Centre. This review has resulted in a large number of meetings, including with its current provider, a number of publicly funded providers and a number of privately funded providers. The report is due by May 2016.

Development/ Planning Committee

Cameron has attended a large number of planning meetings dealing with applications from across the district, including the Fort Halstead development. Cameron has tried to ensure that there is consistency in relation to planning decisions and that the Green belt is protected where possible.

Finally

We of course remain available to discuss any local issues and would like to thank both parishes for all their hard work during 2015.

Kim Bayley

Cameron Brown

March 2016

Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting

A brief overview of local issues

The camp area off Hillfield Place has been a nuisance for a few residents. Unknown people had created a camp area in the woodland at this this location. I have been working and liaising with the Parish Council & the District Council to try and get this location cleared of rubbish & belongings but this is an on-going problem due to the land being privately owned.

There have been a couple of burglaries recently in the area; most recently there was a car key burglary on London Road, 2 vehicles were stolen, one vehicle has been located and further enquiries are on-going.

Over many months there has been a persistent graffiti tagger on the station underpass. These tags have been recorded and removed and the matter has been referred to the station manager. Hopefully further preventative measures will be put in place.

Please be aware that it is the time of year to think about shed and outbuilding security. With spring and summer unfortunately garden equipment does become a target to criminals. Checking padlocks, having lighting and recording serial numbers should help keep criminals out of your garden.

For further advice on security please check www.kent.police.uk

For reporting non-urgent crime please call 101

For reporting emergencies please call 999

Kind regards

PCSO Amy Hardy



Dunton Green Primary School

Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting

Headteacher's report to the parish – March 2016

2015-16 has been another very positive year for Dunton Green Primary School.

The school has gone from strength to strength and its reputation continues to improve as shown by the last 3 years now seeing us at capacity for entry into reception class. The school now has 180 pupils with a capacity overall of 210. For the first time we have a waiting list for some classes. In reception class in September 2015 all the children except one (who had a sibling in the school) were from the immediate area. This is exactly the situation that we have been working towards to ensure that the school is able to provide an excellent education for the children of the village and retain our ethos and vision of holistic education which values manners, behavior and achievement not just in core subjects but across, sport, art, music and the humanities and remains firmly part of the community.

The tests that all our children sit during the month of May, both nationally reported and for our own records, have shown that year on year over the last 3 years progress of children has improved. This is despite a well publicized punishing regime of change in curriculum, assessment and SEN procedures for the entire teaching community. At Dunton Green we have felt the pain, alongside all of our colleagues nationally, of almost unattainable demands in terms of attainment for children which puts huge pressure on all of the staffing body. Through this we have developed a strong moral code and duty of care towards the well-being and work life balance of staff as well as for our children although this is an ongoing battle.

In September this year we had a new intake, not only of pupils but of teaching staff including a New Deputy Headteacher and a new Literacy Co-ordinator alongside two Newly Qualified Teachers. This has meant that all teaching is now rated either as good or outstanding and is having visible impact on both the physical environment of Dunton Green and the progress and attainment of our children.

Many trips and visits have enriched the curriculum for the children and this has included events such as the planetarium visit to school; author visits to school; drama groups; supporting the village remembrance and Christmas events to name a few. New opportunities for the children over the past year include KS1 dance club, coding club, sewing club and advanced writers club all of which have added to our already rich catalogue of opportunities for the children!

The school has continued its sporting successes with teams competing in rugby, mini-sports, swimming, football and netball as well as the many dance festivals that we take part in. To much delight of staff and students, we won the local partnership rugby tournament

We are now looking forward to continuing to provide a first class education for the children of Dunton Green.

Laura Masson
Headteacher, Dunton Green Primary School