

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TO BE HELD ON-LINE VIA ZOOM WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2021 AT 7pm.

Present: Cllr Saxby (Chair), Cllr Roberts, Cllr Gillies, Cllr Pollard (arrived 7.08), Cllr Wallington

A Lawson (Clerk), 3 members of the public

21/1. Introductions

Cllr Saxby and the councillors introduced themselves to those present.

21/2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and accepted from District Cllr Hills & County Cllr Goddard who are both attending a F&HDC meeting.

21/3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2019 Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted and will be signed by Cllr Saxby at the next physical meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Saxby Seconded: Cllr Wallington

21/4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

21/5. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

21/6. Parish Council Financial Statement

The clerk outlined the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2021.

21/7. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hills report is included as appendix A.

21/8. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Goddard's report is included as appendix B.

21/9. Questions and Comments from the Floor

The Councillors were thanked for their support for an on-going planning application.

The meeting closed at 19.18

Appendix A



Pandemic

This year has been unlike any other. So much suffering, so much pain and so much isolation. At Kent we have 'soldiered' on. My staff at County has been fantastic working 'virtually' on screen from home. So many virtual meetings, five days a week stretching into a seven day a week job, I have loved serving my community...and that is the one good thing to come out of this terrible pandemic is a strengthened sense of community on the Romney Marsh.

Covid 19

I'm proud how KCC has 'stepped up to the plate'... We've been there with residents and communities through Covid: supporting the vulnerable through 'Kent Together', securing millions of items of PPE, rolling out testing and supporting families, businesses and voluntary organisations. It has been my pleasure to help the Romney Marsh Day Centre as it morphed into The Romney Marsh Emergency Hub, unlocking the volunteer strength of our community.

My Kent responsibilities

Positions I have served in over the last year. ***Deputy Cabinet member for Environment & Waste. Chair of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee. Member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee. Member for Kent of the Southern Region Flood & Coastal Committee. Member for Kent of the Kent & Essex Inshore Fishing Conservation Committee Member of the Kent Environment Transport & Waste Cabinet Committee Member of the Kent Environment Strategy (cross party group)***

It has been a challenging year at Kent County Council, working 'virtually' from home. Many issues have come to the fore; it has been a test of stamina.

Highways

Kent County Council have just committed another £10 million to this year's pothole blitz, after a year in which Kent Highways filled in almost 50,000 potholes and patched the equivalent of 50 full size football pitches. This is alongside our £11 million road resurfacing programme and five year maintenance plan.

We are bringing forward our Vision Zero strategy for road safety, which not only has an ambitious aim for reducing or eliminating road accident deaths by 2050 but represents a new way for us to engage with communities and address safety concerns. The Romney Marsh has highways like the rest of the County in poor condition. Reporting problems on line really helps, the more reports the better. We have more progress on 'Hammonds Corner' (A259); we now have a design for the roundabout. All we have to do is find the funding for the construction!

Climate Change

In my role of chair of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee, as I said last year I'm 'privy' to many briefings, concerning the changing climate, more intense rainfall, warmer wetter winters, rising sea levels. I have attended many meetings to improve our sea defences over the southern side of Romney Marsh (Denge Marsh), which is so very much at risk. At last the plans to defend the Lydd Ranges have been approved and work should start this spring. This is all part of the FoCES plan (Folkestone to Cliff End Scheme) to defend the whole of the Romney Marsh. I get many enquiries concerning 'flood maps' showing the Romney Marsh at risk. You have to remember these flood maps show the risk without sea defences; we can and will continue to defend the Marsh.

Bus Transport...the opportunity

The Romney Marsh Partnership was set up to encourage new jobs as we face closure of Station 'A' at Dungeness. As a member of the RMP we have set up a bus working group. I have for some time been promoting the concept of an electric bus shuttle service from New Romney to Appledore station to access Ashford and Rye...The Green Line Service would link the two lines The Hythe & Dymchurch and the Southern Region main line. As I write this the Government has announced three Billion pounds to support electric bus travel in the country, with the support of Kent County Council I believe this service is a real possibility.

Medical Matters

This last year I was appointed to Kent County Council Health Overview Scrutiny Committee. I have been vocal in supporting the A&E service at William Harvey Hospital, we need to retain this. Having supported the inoculation service at Lydd Airport, I believe this has been a great community success. Currently we are 'battling' to keep a GP led service at Orchard House in Lydd. I should hear in a couple of days from the Kent Clinical Commissioning Group.

Kent County Councillors have two main functions. To represent residents of Romney Marsh at 'County' and do their level best to help with local concerns. To play their part in 'running' the 'County' for the benefit of all the residents of Kent.

Tony Hills Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh

Appendix B

Councillor Clive Goddard District Councillor's Report

It has been another challenging year in-fact a terrible year for us all with the Covid pandemic but the District Council with careful financial planning and management of the budget means that we are still able to deliver all services to the community, and more including support for the community hub in New Romney and financial assistance to businesses due to the pandemic.

I remain Chairman of the Development Control and Licensing Committee for a record 6th year and I am monitoring local development with interest and the Otterpool Park development closely.

More locally, I am appointed as a representative on the Lydd Airport Consultative Committee (it's great to see a Covid vaccination centre there serving members of the Romney Marsh to) and I am delighted that the Bristow Search and Rescue Helicopters still operates from Lydd Airport and have contributed so positively to the airport revenue. We are fortunate to have them close at hand operating on behalf of Her Majesty's Coastguard because they are a service that people rely on in a time of need. Hopefully, the airport will be up and running soon to bring more jobs to the Romney Marsh.

I will continue to lobby for Dungeness C as this is also key for the future of our local economy across the Marsh.

I am also appointed as a District Council representative on the Romney Marsh Internal Drainage Board an organisation that is essential to The Parish here in Brookland and the whole of the Romney Marsh.

I remain chairman of the Romney Marsh Forum. Since my involvement, the Romney Marsh Forum has adopted a new constitution, and our meetings are well attended by representatives from 11 Town and Parish Councils across the Marsh. At the meetings members can communicate and engage with other agencies. The Forum members are sharing information and are working together for the benefit of their communities.

The Forum is working on several key issues which include Speed Watch, policing, border control and Health Provision on the Marsh and Recently the forum received funds from county Cllr Tony Hills to purchase speed watch equipment as soon as it's safe members will be trained in using the said equipment.

Each year district Cllr's receive funds to distribute for local causes I was pleased to give £500 to the Romney Marsh litter pick watch to help buying new equipment and a £1000 for the organisation Jam on the Marsh.

I work closely with the Police and would like to thank them for their support and work they have carried out in the Parish also thanks for all the work done by my F&HDC colleague Cllr Tony Hills and also as our County Councillor. I will continue to work for the good of all local people young and old and help to provide a safer, greener, cleaner, and thriving place for all to live in.

Many thanks. Take care stay safe

Councillor Clive Goddard

Folkestone and Hythe DC