

LUDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

PRESENT:

Cllr Chris Mileson, Chairman, Cllrs Mrs Anne Moorhouse, Mrs Sally Stanier, Noel Clark (minutes); Cllr Bryan Sweetland, Kent County Council and 5 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Kate Rogers, away on business and from Mrs Roxana Brammer, Clerk (due to illness).

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2016

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016 having been circulated, were proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Moorhouse as a true account of that meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. ACCOUNTS

The financial statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 were amended in the penultimate paragraph to correct the date to 2016. The amended accounts were received.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Mileson stated that his Chairman's Report was contained in the Parish Council Newsletter to the parish. The only additional point to mention was that the awaited decision regarding the location of the Lower Thames Crossing had not yet been released by the Government. The Chairman invited Cllr Sweetland from KCC to provide any news he had on the matter in his report to the meeting.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bryan Sweetland gave his report to the meeting.

Over the last 4 year period he has sought to maintain a good dialogue with the parishes both by direct attendance and via the Rural Forum. He was particularly pleased that at a time when libraries were being closed, a completely new building for Meopham Library would shortly be opening at a cost of £750,000.

While he recognised that public interest focuses on potholes and roads, he sought to highlight some of the other activities the county council was responsible for:-

- KCC received £26,000,000 this year for social care from central funding. It is also obtaining further funding for social care through increasing council tax by 2%, which funding must be ring-fenced for social care.
- KCC has an integrated care pilot scheme running.
- KCC increased council tax for the next financial year by 2.9% (excluding the specific increase for social care) with which it delivers among other things:-
 - Apprenticeships
 - Subsidies for Young People's Freedom Pass (which saves parents up to 50% of the cost of fares)

- Maintain the Grammar Schools in Kent. It is worth noting that Ofsted rated 81% of schools in Kent as good or outstanding last year
- Provide 16,000,000 free bus journeys for senior citizens
- Fix 24,000 pot holes
- Provide 16 recycling centres which recycle 81% of material received
- Deliver 80,000 hot meals to those that need them
- Care for or help 5,000 young people
- Maintain twice as many libraries as equivalent councils in this part of the country
- Provide Lorry Parks (See KCC's Freight Action Plan for detail on initiatives)

Cllr Sweetland than offered to answer questions.

In answer to the Cllr Mileson, Cllr Sweetland explained that the Rural Forum grants for 2016 had been spent on initiatives in the parishes which included grants to community halls, the provision of 4 defibrillators, play equipment, a grant to the windmill and grants to scout groups.

6. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Luddesdown Society – David Freeman

The society has had a busy year, running a number of fund raising events.

The May Fair on 2 May 2016 saw 600 people attend in the good weather. The event raised over £2,000. In July the society ran the first summer walk and barbeque, which was a great success. In October it had a very successful quiz night. The Christmas Party was held on the 9 December 2016, followed by the New Year's Day Luddesdown Walk. The society also held a Valentines meal on 11 February 2017.

Funds raised enabled the society to deliver traditional Christmas hampers to elderly local residents and to make donations to: Kent Air Ambulance, Ellenor, Luddesdown Village Hall, Sole Street and Luddesdown Churches, Cobham Pre-school and Cobham Brownies as well as helping two local teenagers to travel to Romania with Wilmington Christian Fellowship.

The May Fair will be held on 1 May and the Summer Walk and Barbeque on 15 July 2017.

Luddesdown Village Hall

This year the new toilets (including a toilet for the disabled) and the provision of the decking area outside were completed. The attached cottage is in the process of being renovated. It is planned that over the next year the kitchen will be upgraded. Proposals to upgrade the car parking surface are still under review.

Cobham Brownies Gill Barnes (leader)

The brownies deputy leader is Wendy Minster. The catchment for brownies is Cobham and Luddesdown. The attendance is currently 24, rising to 26 after Easter. The Brownies meet in Cobham Meadow Rooms and planned activities include visits to Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and the Children's Zoo as well as walks and activities in Luddesdown. Funding allows the activities to be subsidised. The Brownies fundraising has allowed them to make donations to Cobham College.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Trees in Henley Street

Mr Barnes of Henley Street raised the issue of ownership of land adjacent to the paddocks on the south side of Henley Street opposite the telephone box. Concern has risen in recent years due to the age and inclination of the mature ash trees growing on this patch of land which appear to be a risk to residents on the north of the street. Attempts to identify the owner of the property have so far been fruitless, and Mr Barnes would like to know if the Parish Council could assist.

Answering for the Parish Council Cllr Mileson confirmed to Mr Barnes that HM Land Registry is the appropriate body to assist with finding out who owns the land in question. For KCC Cllr Sweetland confirmed that it was not within the responsibility of KCC to deal with cutting down or pruning the trees since the trees were situated on private land.

b. Luddesdown Annual Village Clean up

Cllr Mileson announced that the Parish Council would be holding a spring clean event over the period 31st March to the 3rd April as published in the Parish Council Newsletter. He invited all residents to join the Council in this event.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed Chairman

On theday of..... 2018