

BROOKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall, Brookland, on Monday 21 May 2018 at 6.30 pm

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PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Mrs S Saxby (Chair), Mrs K Coleman,
Mrs V Wallington, and Mr C Hill
County Councillor, Mr A Hills

PARISH CLERK: Mrs J Batt

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were 2 Members of the Public in attendance.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Councillors introduced themselves to the members of the public present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for Absence was received from District Councillor, Mr C Goddard.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted and signed by Mrs Saxby.

Proposed Mrs Wallington Seconded Mr Hill

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

5. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs Saxby did not have anything to report

6. PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This was presented, and an opportunity given for questions and comment.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Since my election last May I have had a rapid learning curve on the strategic responsibilities of being an elected member of Kent County Council, and I'm still learning.

My pleasure is and has been meeting residents of the Romney Marsh to see how I can help and represent their concerns at Maidstone.

This has been another tough budgetary year for KCC; only through very careful 'house keeping' can we meet our obligations. KCC has had to find another 55 million in savings from the revenue budget, it has been a very tough job but by using a blend

of savings, reserves and smarter working we have done it! ...next year, it won't get any easier. I have been very fortunate to be appointed chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management committee. Some of you might know my background, having spent twenty years trying to protect the Romney Marsh from Flooding. Also I was placed on the KCC Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, A committee of great importance in recommending how KCC manages these key areas.

I have also been appointed to the Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, as well as the Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority to represent KCC.

With more extreme weather challenging the counties infrastructure, the 'beast from the east' caused a lot of damage to our roads. KCC has increased the budget to repair our roads to over eleven million pounds and is working hard to repair the damage. I include the latest performance figures for the Kent 'Pothole Blitz'.

DistrictDate: Week ending 18/05/2018

Potholes Number Patching area m2 Potholes to date Number Patching to date area m2

Ashford	137	1079	1659	6140
Canterbury	225	122	2396	1333
Dartford	8	36	256	1160
Dover	116	40	1699	1515
Gravesham	51	109	1162	950
Maidstone	305	106	2940	3898
Sevenoaks	304	1961	2292	6097
Folkestone and Hythe	174	118	1320	2401
Swale	131	56	2131	1094
Thanet	68	107	1161	1754
Tonbridge & Malling	126	137	1003	2695
Tunbridge Wells	248	611	1938	2214

Total 1893 4482 19956 31251 £1,713,935.

The Marsh is also under threat from salt water.

The Marsh is under threat from not just from the sea but also the land. I'm fighting hard to reject the proposed quarries at Lydd. This I believe would cause environmental damage to the Marsh with the risk to our water quality through saline intrusion, as well as enhancing the flood risk.

With so much 'work in progress' all I can do is reassure you of my best endeavours in the year ahead.

Tony Hills

Romney Marsh member for Kent County Council 21.05.201

Following discussion Mr Hills offered to find out whether the council would be permitted to carry out Speedwatch on the A259 and to look into the possibility of KCC installing entrance gates into the village to try and help with the problem of vehicles speeding.

The changes to the bus service offered by Stagecoach were also discussed. The service is not financially viable and Mr Hills is investigating the possibility of a community bus service and promised to keep us updated.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

It has been another challenging year for the District Council but careful financial planning and management of the budget means that we are still able to deliver all services to the community. You will have heard that our name has changed, and we are now called Folkestone and Hythe District Council. I am pleased to report that I am dedicated to making sure that Walland and Denge Marsh is recognised and well served, although not mentioned by name in the new District Council logo.

I still remain Chairman of the Development Control and Licensing Committee and sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which enables me to scrutinise issues before they are put to full Council and I am monitoring the Otterpool Park development closely.

More locally, I am appointed as a representative on the Lydd Airport Consultative Committee and I am delighted that the Bristow Search and Rescue Helicopters operate 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.

I was honoured to be re-elected as 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 the Town and Parish Councils across the Marsh. It has reviewed its purpose and structure and I am pleased to report that the Forum is now recognised as a positive vehicle through which the Parish and Town Councils on the Marsh can communicate and engage with other agencies. The Forum members have integrity, 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 and Health Provision on the Marsh and it is an excellent platform to work with Cllr. Hill on issues involving Brookland.

I work closely with the Police and would like to thank them for their support. I would also like to say thank you for all the hard work to Cllr Tony Hills in his first year as our County Councillor.

I will continue to work for the good of local people and help to provide a safer, cleaner and thriving place for all to live in. I would also like to thank the Chairman, Councillors and the Parish Clerk, Mrs Batt for their assistance and support over the last year.

9. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no questions and comments from the floor.

There being no other questions from the public the meeting closed at 6.54 pm.

Signed Dated
Chairman