

**MINUTES OF GREAT MONGEHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2015 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors	B Knight	C Burwash	S Manion
	T Madgwick	T Ridyard	J Hedges
	S Wells (Clerk to the Council)		15 Members of the public
	Dist Cllr Kenton		PCSO Tony Edwards

Cllr Madgwick opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs P Hambrook,

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

These had been displayed on the Parish Notice board, the Web-site and were available on entrance to the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The barrier that had been erected by the Substation at the bottom of Ellens Road has been painted green to blend into the background. Thanks to Southern Gas Networks for their prompt response to the request from the Parish Council.

4. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – May 2015

Being a Parish Councillor – Cllr Manion spoke about serving as a parish councillor including information on what powers Parish Council have and areas that they can get involved in. He urged anyone interested in the good of the parish to consider standing as a Parish Councillor in the next election. The Clerk had provided information on a upcoming candidates briefing and the nomination process in the meeting information pack.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman opened by thanking everyone for attending and thanking his fellow Councillors for their help and support over the past year. He also thanked the Clerk, Mrs Sarah Wells for keeping the Council running smoothly.

Thanks to Cllr Ridyard who is now the lead Councillor and organiser of the fete that is now run under the control of the PC, this year a surplus of £345 was made, it is not the intension of the fete to make a profit but it does happen. It has been agreed that £300 of this money will be given to the Parish Hall Committee to go towards a new roof for the Parish Hall and £45 used for equipment for future fetes.

We are very grateful to Mr David Solley for providing and erecting the tree last Christmas and for putting up the lights provided by PC. Another good turn out to sing carols round the tree and enjoy some festive refreshments.

You may remember that last year I told you that Castle Community School had agreed to make us a new notice board, unfortunately the school were unable to find the time to undertake this work so a off the peg board has now been purchased and put up outside the Parish Hall.

The Council continues to pay for the green in front of the Parish Hall to be mowed between March and October. We have also agreed to have the railing around the green painted, this will be done once the weather improves. We are also paying for the surface of Church Path to be cleared.

There were only 6 planning applications submitted to the Council for comment during the past year, this may be due to the current economic climate, with fewer people able to undertake building projects.

We do not have a finance report yet as we have not reached our year end, all the accounts will be published on the Parish Council web site once they have been prepared.

We Continue to pay for the planting of the window boxes, and our thanks go to Brian Knight for undertaking this work.

Grants have been given to the Great Mongeham Society for a new projector and £250 to the Parish Hall towards the new roof fund.

The 2015/16 budget and precept were discussed and agreed in February the members agreed to set the precept at £8749, this is an increase of 65p a year for a band D property.

All minutes and agendas as well as accounts can be viewed. Please let us know if you would like to see any other information included.

6. REPORTS

County Councillor – Steve Manion

Kent County Council provides the 300+ services. Of course not everyone uses all the services – there's no compulsion to visit a library, download an e-book or visit a country park. But there are other services that everyone uses such as our roads and disposal of your waste (and paying the government landfill tax of £80 a tonne on that waste). Some services might be considered more as 'insurance' such as emergency planning, gritting the roads and provision of saltbins.

Much of Kent County Council's budget (and your council tax) is spent on school buildings and transporting children to and from school. If children are at their nearest appropriate school then KCC is obliged to pay for this but we also provide a £9m annual subsidy to make a deeply discounted bus pass available to all 11 – 16 year olds.

Then there are the services you would not want yourself but would surely want to see provided such as the coroner's court, trading standards, help to those fleeing domestic abuse and youngsters needing help to get off drink and drugs. Our biggest area of expenditure (over £400m) is on social care for adults – the elderly, the mentally ill, the disabled and those with learning disabilities and for children – keeping them safe from abuse, arranging adoption or care. You personally may get very little of these services but we would surely be appalled if they weren't provided.

This year KCC agreed a rise its portion of the Council tax by 1.99% (just under the referendum level) and none of the other political parties put forward amendments to vary this up or down.

District Councillors – Steve Manion & Nick Kenton

Dover District Council has agreed to freeze its budget for the 2nd year running; it has also frozen parking charges for a further year. Dover District Council have produced a balanced budget and kept the Council tax for a band D property to the lowest in the area. Councillor allowances have also been kept at the same level.

One of the issues raised by local resident has been enforcement. In planning, littering and dog fouling. To tackle this issue three enforcement officers have been employed by DDC to deal with littering and dog fouling, offenders are now being tackled and fixed penalty notices are now being issued. Additional planning enforcement officers are also in post.

Dover District Council is working in partnership with Dover Town Council to trial the “Pick It, Bin It, Win It” incentive scheme. People seen disposing of litter responsibly, or picking up after their pets are being rewarded with a post card, which allows that person to enter a monthly prize draw, and gives them the chance to win a £25 ‘Love to Shop’ voucher.

Dover District Council has unveiled plans for a potential £75 million investment in social and affordable housing in the district by 2028. We’re exploring options for the delivery of up to 500 new affordable homes, including building new council houses and working with registered social landlords to unblock any obstacles to affordable housing on new developments.

Discovery park continue to expand with over 100 businesses currently on site and more looking to move in, additional funding is also being progressed. The Discovery Park has been listed as the most successful enterprise zone in the Country.

Plans for the St James’s retail and leisure development in Dover town centre took a major step forward today after the Compulsory Purchase Order made by Dover District Council was confirmed by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This will now allow the Council acting with its development partner, Bond City, to complete the assembly of all outstanding third party land interests and enable the redevelopment of the St James’s area to proceed.

Waste and recycling continue to be successful, with 50% recycling level being regularly met in the district. This saves KCC £30 million in land fill tax over the next ten years. A recent survey has shown that 40% of the residual waste is made up of food that could be recycled, door step callers are currently working in the district to try and educate homeowners to reduce this level.

DDC has become the first local authority in East Kent to have a full Local Plan in place, following adoption of its Land Allocations Local Plan. This gives certainty about land identified for potential development for the next 20 years.

Questions were asked from the floor about recycling and parking at the Sampson Court development.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kenton and Manion.

Police Report

I am PCSO Tony Edwards, your neighbourhood PCSO for Eastry ward. I have been the ward PCSO now since 7th July 2014.

This report is specific to Mongeham parish of Eastry Ward and does not contain any information related to any of the other parish councils.

Kent Police have recorded 49 crimes between 1st March 2014 and 28th February 2015, the time of writing this report, for Mongeham parish. Of these 49 crimes, there were 24 which relate to violent, sexual or financial crimes or to instances of domestic violence or harassment, which cannot be released to the public. There are however some details of these crimes recorded on the ‘crime statistics’ website at <http://www.police.uk/kent/113/>

Please be aware that although the above crime figures look high, a large number of these crimes were committed on St Richards Road, St Martins Road and the surrounding area. This area borders the Mill Hill area of Deal which continues to be a problem area in the district. If we were to exclude this small area of the parish from discussion, then Mongeham is as safe an area as any of the other villages in Eastry ward and across the rural areas of Dover.

There are no identified 'problem areas' within the parish, so the majority of my patrols have been based around the more public areas of the villages and the roads and properties which have been victims of crimes. I regularly conduct foot patrols in the evenings in the St Richards / St Martins Road section of Mongeham Road as a preventative measure. I understand that speeding remains an issue and ask that any instances of this are reported through the normal means, through **101** or **999**. This is a problem which has been passed on to the new Proactive Team Proactive Team based out of the Dover Community Safety Unit and I hope to have some sort of speed enforcement planned soon.

There were a number of Theft from Motor Vehicles, Burglary Other (sheds, garages, unoccupied businesses) and 'walk-in' Burglaries which were committed between March and December 2014 which were likely committed by the (now in prison) number of youths from the Deal area, but again, lack of evidence means they were not caught for these particular crimes named above.

In terms of anti-social behaviour, again, excluding St Richards / St Martins Road, Mongeham parish has been relatively quiet when compared to other areas within Dover District though there does continue to be recurring problem with the use of nuisance motorbikes in the village and surrounding rural area. For the most part, Mongeham has simply been en-route to somewhere else, but there have been a few occasions where the main roads and farming land in the parish has been used for the vehicles. The use of nuisance off-road vehicles continues to be a problem across all rural areas of Kent and is difficult to police, as the vehicles will often fail to stop when requested to do so. I would urge you to continue to ask people to report this to **101** or **999**, as the more evidence we gain the more likely it is that we catch people for it. This is another problem which has been passed on to the new Proactive Team Proactive Team, and I hope that collaboratively we are able to do more about this issue when the problem arises again in the Easter and Summer Holidays.

If there are any particular areas or issues that you would like me to focus on this coming year, please be sure to pass them to me as early as possible so that I can make any arrangements necessary for extra resources and arrange my priorities and shift patterns accordingly.

It has been a pleasure to work in Eastry ward and look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the floor before he closed the meeting.

A question about the old style street lights was asked, these were being replaced by Kent Highways services for far less attractive lights. Local residents asked if the old style lights could be kept, she reported that Walmer PC have kept theirs. The Parish Council to investigate. **Action Parish Council**

The wall that formed the boundary of the derelict farm building on Mongeham Road was causing concern due to lack of maintenances, bricks were dropping onto the road. The Parish Council to investigate. **Action Parish Council**

The meeting closed at 8.25pm and the Chairman invited everyone to stay for refreshments.