

**MINUTES OF GREAT MONGEHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors	B Knight	J Gatland	I Lawrence
	T Madgwick	G Dunne	A Hughes-Edwards
	S Wells (Clerk to the Council)		19 Members of the public
	Dist & County Cllr S Manion		PCSO Tony Edwards
	Sue Carr DDC Resilience Team		

Cllr Madgwick opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs T Ridyard & P Hambrook. Dist Cllr Kenton

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

Street Lamps

County Cllr Steve Manion contacted Kent Highways Services (KHS) Reference Street lights. The lights kept by Walmer Parish Council were funded from there KCC Members highways fund. It is now KHS policy to replace all lamps with LEDs to save money, the old lamps are not compatible with LEDs.

Boundary Wall Farm Buildings Mongeham Road

This was reported to Dover District Council Building Control.

Further questions were asked about the wall that is still in a state of disrepair, it was requested that the wall be listed. Sue Carr from DDC said she would ask DDC building control officers the current situation with the wall. Please see her response below.

The Head of Assets and Building Control, Martin Leggatt, states that they have responded to any reports of danger and will continue to do so. He has contact details for the owner, who previously has responded quickly to remove any danger and it is the owner's responsibility to keep it safe. If it were a DDC wall we would carry out a monitoring programme.

His view is that currently the wall is safe but will deteriorate from the top and from time to time small areas of brickwork will become loose – at which point action will be needed to remove the potential danger.

He has also informed me that it is a curtilage listed structure, requiring listed building consent to be demolished.

4. RESILIENCE PLANNING

Sue Carr from the Dover District Council resilience planning team was in attendance to talk about resilience planning. She explained that DDC and KCC had a duty to prepare emergency and resilience plans and they did this in conjunction with emergency services under the banner of the Kent Resilience Team.

However she said that although parish Council had no duty to have a local plan, as the people on the ground with local knowledge they could if they wish produce a plan that would be tailored to the local area. Plans can help to increase the readiness and resilience within the local community in the event of an emergency as community groups are able to provide support to statutory agencies (if needed.) It can also give the ability for community groups to support themselves when outside assistance from statutory agencies is delayed or overwhelmed.

Plans could identify the risks most likely to impact your community, identify relevant steps to mitigate and respond to emergency situations. Identify vulnerable people/groups in the community. Identify community resources available to assist during an emergency including people, facilities and equipment. Provide key contact details for the Community Emergency Response Team, local volunteers, the Emergency Services and local authorities.

To help produce a plan a template had been produced for use by local communities and training is available to local parishes wishing to produce a plan.

Sue answered some questions from the floor and some discussion took place on plans already produced by local groups. The Chairman thanked Sue for attending.

5. SPEED WATCH

The Chairman reported that a new Speed Indicator Device had been purchased by the Parish Council for use by the local speed watch scheme, this equipment is far more efficient than the unit previously borrowed from Nonington PC. At the moment 4 sites had been identified as safe by Kent Police, however the Chairman and Cllr Gatland are trying to get a site identified in Mongeham Road near the center of the village. The Chairman thanked County Cllr Manion for the grant of £500 towards the cost of the new SID unit.

6. CHAIRMAN REPORT

New Cllrs Following Election in May 2015

This year we have been joined by three new Cllrs Geoff Dunne, Ian Lawrence and John Gatland. We are also pleased to welcome back Abbi Hughes-Edwards.

Events

Fete – This year's Fete made a surplus of £640 which will be given to the Parish Hall Committee to go towards a new roof for the Parish Hall. In future the Fete will be run under the control of the Parish Hall Committee. Thanks to Tracey Ridyard for her hard work in arranging the fete for the Parish Council over the past few years.

Christmas – Thanks to Mr David Solley for providing and Ian Lawrence for putting up the tree. Another good turn out to sing carols round the tree and enjoy some festive refreshments arranged by the Great Mongeham Society and sponsored by the Parish Council. Thanks to The Great Mongeham Society for arranging the refreshments.

Highways

This year the Council has paid for some small adjustments and repainting of lines at the traffic gateway on Willow Road. We have also had 3 bollards installed at the Junction of Cherry Lane and Northbourne road to prevent parking on this dangerous corner. Although this may not have been as successful as hoped. Church path was cleaned in May and parts of it will be cleaned again in the next few weeks.

Defibrillator

In October a Public Access Defibrillator was installed at the Parish Hall, this unit was provided by the Parish Council as part of a scheme to provide PADs throughout Kent in rural locations. The unit and installation cost £1,545. A small price to pay if we can save a life.

Mowing of the Green

The Council continues to pay for the green in front of the Parish Hall to be mowed between March and October.

Planning Applications

There were 11 planning applications submitted to the Council for comment during the past year.

On the finance front we:

Continued to pay for the planting of the window boxes, thanks to Brian Knight.

Grants

£1000.00 has been promised to the Parish Hall committee for roof repairs. These funds will be ring-fenced until 31-3-2018 to give the hall committee time to secure the rest of the money needed for this project.

£191 to the Great Mongeham Dance & theatre group for a new boom box

£213 to 1st Great Mongeham Brownies to help with a recruitment campaign

Precept Setting and Changes to Council Tax Benefit scheme.

After much discussion the members agreed to set the precept at £8787, no increase in Council tax from last year.

UK Power Networks Priority Service Register

On the back of the agenda delivered with the Village News was some information about the Priority Service Register. We would strongly encourage anyone that falls within the criteria to register with UK Power Networks. This is a FREE service

If you live in UK Power Networks area then the following can apply:

- Customers who are dependent on medical equipment
- Customers who are chronically sick
- Customers with a disability
- Customers who are blind or visually impaired
- Customers with young babies
- Elderly customers
- A nursing or residential home
- Other cases will be considered too so please get in touch

Parish Council web site

All minutes and agendas as well as accounts can be viewed. What other information would you like to see included.

The Chairman answered questions from the floor. Traffic volumes & parking on the pavement were discussed

7. FINANCE REPORT

The Council accounts for 2015/16 were in the meeting pack, the Clerk went through these and answered questions.

8. REPORTS

County Council Report Steve Manion

Kent County Council continues to face unprecedented financial challenges. A reduction of over 30% (£58m) in our revenue support grant from central government as part of the efforts to balance the nation's finances. An increase in costs of £80m from increases in demand for services (particularly adult social care). So KCC members approved a 1.99% council tax increase raising £11m towards all council services as well as an extra 2% for the National Social Care Levy which will raise an additional £11m specifically for social care.

The government accepts that councils with social care responsibilities need to raise more funding to meet the increase in demand for social care and an extra 2% levy is now allowed provided this is spent entirely on social care.

KCC had £50m on deposit in various Icelandic Banks and has now recovered this in full plus around £1.3m in interest payments. KCC is the only council that made a full recovery as other councils sold their rights at less than 100% of value. KCC had always said that the Icelandic Banks had good assets and that we would work for full recovery. This has paid off handsomely. The £50m is not new money so cannot bridge our budget gap but the £1.3m of interest is very welcome.

The costs of LED lighting have now made it cost effective to switch all KCC's street lighting to LED which will save energy & maintenance costs, carbon tax and allow more controllable dimming of lights at night and non peak times. The switchover has begun and will cover the whole of Kent within two years. We estimate the investment made to install LED will be repaid within 7 to 8 years from the energy and other savings.

Dover District Council report – Steve Manion

The improvement in Dover are finally happening, Burlington House has been demolished and the project is now proceeding.

An exciting heritage project for the Kearsney Parks has been presented to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Enterprise Zone at Sandwich, formally the Pfizer site continues to succeed.

Cllr Manion then answered questions from the audience.

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