

**MINUTES OF GREAT MONGEHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 6th APRIL 2017 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors	J Gatland	I Lawrence	T Madgwick	C Saville
	P Swales	P Hambrook	T Ridyard	
S Wells (Clerk to the Council)	14 Members of the public	Dist & County Cllr S Manion		
PCSO Shannon-Louise Eager	Dist Cllr Kenton			

Cllr Madgwick opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, as the Police Officers present are on call it was agreed that the agenda should be amended slightly to let the new PCSO introduce herself.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

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

Boundary Wall Farm Buildings Mongeham Road

This had been reported to Dover District Council Building Control and a response had been received stating that DDC have responded to reports of danger in the pasted and that in their view the wall was currently safe (April 2016) but that it 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. DDC had also reported that the wall is a curtilage listed structure, requiring listed building consent to be demolished.

4. CSO INTROCUCTION

PCSO Shannon-Louise Eagar introduced herself to local residents. There were some questions from the floor about speeding vehicles.

5. KENT, SURREY & SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE TRUST

The local Air ambulance service was launched in 1989 with one helicopter and 2 paramedics. They ran a swoop and scoop service, picking up patients and flying them to the nearest A&E department. It soon became obvious that much more was needed and could be done to help bring specialist care into the field.

A long-term view of the service was taken and work started to bring together the necessary staff, equipment and funding to provide specialist trauma service to the road side as needed. This includes specialist pilots, doctors and paramedics as well as custom build helicopters and miniaturised equipment. The crews can perform open chest surgery and amputations on site if required and can administer specialist drugs usually limited to hospital usage. Blood transfusion can be performed onsite due to specialist blood warming equipment.

The service attends between 8 and 10 call outs a day and is now able to fly at night due to new helicopters and specialist night vision headsets. The Air Ambulance service is a charitable trust that receives no funding from the NHS or central government.

The Chairman thanked the speaker for a very interesting and informative talk.

6. SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

Cllr Chris Saville gave an update on the speedwatch scheme currently operating in the parish. Since the watch started 1200 people have been reported for doing 35 mph or more in the 30 mph areas of the parish, of those 191 were travelling in excess of 40 mph with the fastest being 53mph.

Cllr Saville explained that the first year had been very difficult because of administrative problems within Kent Police Speedwatch administration that meant they could not train volunteers who had put their names forward. A new computer system has now been introduced by Kent Police that was having some teething problems, but will eventually make running Speedwatch easier.

Training can now be undertaken on-line so we can get people involved a lot quicker than in the past. There has been a reduction in speeding of 20% on the limited sessions we could do in the previous 12 months. Cllr Saville went on to give AA statistics that showed that low speed accidents with pedestrians had only a 25% likelihood of serious injury but this became 75% as speeds approached 40mph.

Volunteers are needed to run more sessions at each of the ten sites we have authorised in the village, so anyone who is interested please come forward.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcome everyone and thanked them for attending, he encouraged local residents to speak to Councillors if they have any problems or issues in the village.

Following the resignation of Geoff Dunne & Abbi Hughes-Edwards, I would like to welcome back Penny Swales and a new member Chris Saville who were co-opted onto the Council earlier this evening.

Christmas – Thanks to Mr David Solley for providing and Ian Lawrance 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

Church Path cleaned in May and June. The Parish Council purchased “SLOW DOWN” signs to be displayed by local residents on specified dates, to try and reduce the speed of traffic through the Village.

We continue to support Speedwatch as you have already heard from Chris.

A request was submitted to KHS for Parking Restrictions on Mongeham Rd, at the bottom end by the Parish hall where there is no footpath, and outside 148 also in the area with no footpath. It was hoped this would make it safer for pedestrians as they would not have to go out into the road to get past parked cars. However KHS have said that due to budget cuts they would not commission a scheme. The Council are now going to request that our KCC member takes this project on board as a member's scheme grant project.

Tree Warden – Cllr Ian Lawrence had been on a training event in June 2016 and will be looking after the trees in the Parish from now on.

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.

Resilience Planning – A public meeting was called to discuss a possible plan for Great Mongeham following the presentation at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. Unfortunately, only 4 people came

to the meeting and in light of this very low interest it had been agreed that the Council would not pursue this matter.

Planning Applications

There were 21 planning applications submitted to the Council for comment during the past year. I would like to point out that the Parish Council is only a consultee on planning applications; Dover District Council are the authority that can either grant or refuse planning applications using local policies and policies handed down by central government. These policies change, so an application that may have been refused 5 or 10 years ago may now be granted – or vice versa. There is no right of appeal from the local community or the Parish Council should an application be granted. Only the applicant can appeal if their application is refused.

On the finance front we:

Continued to pay for the planting of the window boxes by Brian Knight– Thanks Brian

Grants

The £1000.00 ring-fenced for the Parish Hall roof was released in May 2016. An additional £1000.00 has been promised to the Parish Hall committee for floor resurfacing.

£160.00 was provided to pay for the Bouncy Castle at the 2016 Fete.

Grants can be applied for all year round, the application form can be downloaded from the Parish Council web site.

Precept Setting

After much discussion the members agreed to set the precept at £8787, a 1.56 % decrease in the Parish Council element of the Council tax from last year.

Parish Council web site

The Parish Council web site has been moved to a new hosting site, this means it will be more flexible and mobile friendly. All minutes and agendas as well as accounts can be viewed. The Village News Letter will also be on the site in future. Please let us know if you would like more information included.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions, there being none he completed his report.

8. REPORTS

a) Finance Report – Clerk to the Parish Council

A copy of the year end accounts had been included in the report pack and was available for all present to see. The Clerk spoke briefly to the accounts.

b) County Councillor – Steve Manion

Kent County Council continue to operate under financial constraints. The funding from central government is reducing year on year however services must still be provided. The cost of Adult and Child social care are still rising, however a 2% increase in the precept has been raised to help pay these costs.

KCC continue to arrange for school travel and subsidise the Kent young people's travel pass and the 16-18 travel pass.

c) District Councillors – Steve Manion & Nick Kenton

The district councils of Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet looked into the feasibility of establishing a new single council for East Kent. This considered replacing the existing five district councils with a new single council, which if approved, would have been the largest of its

kind in the country. Councillors from all five authorities agreed in July 2016 to explore the advantages and disadvantages of a merger and to examine how a new single council could operate.

On the basis of the findings from a five way Business Case, Ashford Borough Council announced it would not be involved in the creation of a single council, but remained strongly committed to working closely with any future new council. The councils of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet then considered a four-way Business Case.

Meetings were held at Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet councils on Wednesday 22 March to consider the findings of the four way Business Case. Councillors were asked to decide whether to progress to the next stage of public consultation, to ask local people for their views. Dover and Thanet councils voted to progress, however Shepway District Council voted not to proceed. Canterbury's Policy and Resources Committee voted to recommend to Full Council that consultation should go ahead, but just as the Full Council meeting started, news of Shepway's decision came through. As a result, Canterbury did not take a vote on consultation, but instead agreed to continue discussions to explore alternatives. As approval was required from all four councils to progress, plans for a single council will now be put on hold. The councils will now take time to consider the alternative options to identify a suitable way forward.

Dover District Council (DDC) has brought the maintenance of its parks and open spaces in-house with effect from 1 April 2017 as a new team of 25 directly employed staff gets to work on Council-owned land across the district. The launch of the new team follows a Council decision in September 2016 to take the service back in-house at the end of the contract with English Landscapes, which expired on 31 March 2017. Most of the English Landscapes staff are transferring to DDC.

As we continue to work hard to keep the district a great place to live, work and visit, Dover District Council is stepping up its commitment to crack down on littering and dog fouling - by working in partnership with a private enforcement company.

From 3 April, DDC will be teaming up with Kingdom Environmental Protection, who will carry out enforcement in conjunction with the council for a 12 month trial period. This will be in addition to the work of DDC's Environmental Crime Team. If the trial proves successful, DDC will look to continue using a contractor.

DDC's enforcement officers will continue to patrol the district, but will be able to spend more time on other issues as well as littering. This would include work on fly-tipping investigations, and other dog-related issues such as strays and the enforcement of the Public Spaces Protection Order for our parks and beaches.

The project means no additional cost to the Council, and any money coming to the Council from Fixed Penalty Notices will continue to be put back into supporting the service. DDC is following in the footsteps of seven other Kent authorities who are currently working with Kingdom Environmental Protection.

Work continues on the Dover Town Center regeneration with lots of building work stated.

There were a number of questions from the floor which were answered by the members.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm