

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Reception held on 25th April 2017 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Mr J Wadsworth (Chair), Mrs Q Broom, Mrs T Dominy, Mrs W Reed, Mrs E Ellicott, R Shore-Quinain, M Disney, Mrs D Jackson-Wotton, County Cllr. J Berry, District Cllr. Mrs R Berry, the Clerk, Dr Catherine Bass the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network Co-ordinator, Mr Paull Allen from The Woodland Trust together with members of the community as invited. Cllrs. A Southall and Mrs Woofenden were present for part of the meeting.

53/04/17. Welcome and introductions. Cllr. Wadsworth, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending. Thanks were extended to all that volunteer for matters in the Parish; the Parish Council is very proud to have such an active Parish. A number of organisations were mentioned such as Voiceworx, Kenarts, the churches and bell ringers, the halls, the cycling group, Heartstart, the Players and the youth club. The Chairman explained that the Annual Parish Meeting was followed by a reception as an occasion to thank everyone - and it is used as an opportunity to remind everyone of the many great things that happen in the Parish, which includes Kentisbeare, Sainthill, Blackborough to mention just three areas.

The format of the evening was explained which consists of an annual report and guest speakers. Guest speakers included a number of parishioners representing various Parish organisations, together with two speakers from organisations outside of the Parish with whom the Parish has a connection; the Chairman then welcomed Mr Paul Allen, from The Woodland Trust and Dr Catherine Bass the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network Co-ordinator.

The Chairman explained that there was an opportunity for any comments or questions at this point or later on at the end of the meeting, and attendees were encouraged to engage with the Parish Council throughout the reception.

Kentisbeare Village Stores and The Keepers Cottage were thanked for providing refreshments. The Parish Council is keen to support local businesses.

54/04/17. Annual Report by the Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council. *A summary of the Chairman's report:*

Firstly, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors for their continued time and effort. I fully appreciate that being a councillor can be time consuming and occasionally an unappreciated position, but I know that you do it because you care about our Parish. Also, we couldn't do without all of the work Melanie puts in – so thank you Melanie.

It has been another busy year with the recent submission of The Local Plan (with the inclusion of some 1,700 houses to the East of Cullompton), and the Government approval of a new Garden Village on land to the East of Cullompton – which we formally heard about on the Bank Holiday morning, 2nd January 2017; apparently it was around 2am (and Tess was up reading the papers!).

Communication is a vital part of what we do, so the Parish Council was delighted to host a Parish meeting to tell everyone about the Local Plan submission in mid-January. The meeting was well attended, and thanks go to Mid Devon District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Berry for all of the information given on the evening.

Rosemary became our District Councillor two years ago. We would like to thank her for all of her time and efforts. Melanie and I (together with the entire Parish Council) very much appreciate her comments and feedback, and her great encouragement for our Parish.

Kentisbeare Village Hall Over the years, the hall has benefitted from improvements, making the hall a true asset for our community, and safeguarding its future for many years to come. In fact, the windows and doors that have recently been installed should apparently last 30 to 40 years and “see most of us out”! A huge thank you needs to go to Queenie Broom, she has spent hours on this, raising money, negotiating and bringing everything together.

The entire hall committee also deserves a very special mention for all of the time that they have spent in assisting. You may have heard that all of these doors, windows and barge boards cost some £79,000. The Parish Council agreed to grant £5000 over two years, and thankfully the hall has received a grant of £30,000 from Viridor.

So what else has happened this year - The Village Stores and The Wyndham Arms

We had a successful change in ownership of the village stores, and welcome Rachel and Lisa and families.

Many were at the huge turnout for Mike and Sally’s surprise retirement party held at The Wyndham Arms. Thanks go to Ali and John Dominy for helping to organise this.

We also thank John and Ali together with Mike and Leanne Perkins for the recent smooth transition in change of landlord and landlady at The Wyndham Arms, and we are pleased to welcome Craig and Anka to the village.

What would we do without our pub and shop? We wish you all well.

Thank you to those representatives from Blackborough and Sainthill - both of these villages are very active.

Over the last year both have installed defibrillators. Thanks go to Hilary Sanders, Andrea Penfold and Annette Gillett for their help here.

Blackborough Village Hall – this is another superb facility within the Parish

The Parish Council was delighted to help by securing the Tap Fund last year which was able to help towards new heaters. This year, the Parish Council has agreed to grant £1,000 to help Blackborough Hall.

A big thank you goes to all involved in the fundraising and grant applications in respect of recent renovations to the hall. With the social club, skittles, early doors at the hall, and the Altitude festival, now in its third year, there does seem to be a lot going on in Blackborough.

Sainthill - Thanks go to Des and Hazel Sussex together with Reverend David Beazley, and all others involved in the church activities and the youth club, for which the Parish Council is very grateful.

The youth club is a fantastic provision for the children throughout the Parish. There is a local pick- up and return service in the church mini bus, and also occasional trips in the school holidays.

The Parish Council has agreed to a grant of £500 within this financial year to help the youth club.

Back to Kentisbeare – We don’t have time to mention everything that the Parish Council does to help – but here are a some of the highlights relating to the last year:-

- The Parish Council is pleased to see the start of a toddler group; thanks go to Jenny Archer.
- The village enjoyed the fantastic production of Scrooge in December; thanks to Alan Boxer and all involved.

The Parish Council has been pleased to support both of these.

- Last year, Queen Elizabeth the Second was 90. Celebrations took place in the Parish and the Parish Council helped by funding the hall hire for the ball and the tea party. The church tower was open, and if you were brave enough to climb it, the view was worth it in the end.
- Every year, you'll see me (and some volunteers such as Rob and Tim) putting up "Parish Council Christmas Tree lights". A huge Christmas Eve party follows in the Square. Rupert Ballantyne will be saying a few words later on behalf of the Christmas Eve Committee.
- It was lovely to see so many at St Mary's Carol Service this year, and the two nativities were well attended at Sainthill and Blackborough.
- The Parish Council is pleased to continue to give annual grants to the three churchyards within the Parish.

The Tap Fund - The Town and Parish Fund is a grant awarded by the district and county councils, and is a useful way of supporting a wide range of local projects across the district

The Tap Fund has served our Parish well recently. Melanie applied for, and was successful in securing funds from the fund amounting to:

- £933 from the underspend pot for the installation of Broadband at Kentisbeare Hall.
- £3314 from Phase 1 2016-17, for Kentisbeare Hall for new windows and doors
- £1,400 from Phase 2, 2016-17, towards an outdoor table tennis table for the playing field; this to be combined with £700 which Melanie had previously obtained elsewhere as a "Sports Grant."

Communication - the website and e-newsletter appear to be a huge success.

Last summer the Parish Council asked Maria Thorne if she could produce a monthly e-newsletter. The newsletter is emailed each month to around 300 people who have signed up. If you are not yet on the list please email Melanie or Maria to sign up.

Communicating to Parishioners is a large part of what the Parish Council wants to do. Last year, we purchased a new noticeboard for outside of the pub.

There are now five external notice boards within the Parish (including the one outside of the shop). There is the Parish website and monthly e-newsletter and we still have the Parish Magazine, so hopefully everyone is well informed!

The income generated last year for advertising on the Parish website was £1,440, and Melanie and Maria are working hard to increase this figure. If anyone knows of any business that wants to advertise, please let us know.

Highways – brief details were given of the possibility of a private contractor clearing all of the drains within the village, twice yearly. This is something that the Parish Council is investigating due to a shortage of funds from DCC.

The Parish Paths/P3 - thanks go to Parish Councillor Mrs Elise Ellicott who is the P3 Co-ordinator. P3 is a scheme run by Devon County Council, to help Parishes maintain and improve footpaths, and a grant is available annually.

A Parish Paths Facebook page has now been set up. This is a useful place to look out for news and also to report any issues along our paths. The Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk this year will be held on 04/06/17 starting at 2pm and will finish with a cream tea at Broadhembury Village Hall. The 6-week summer evening walks will start sometime in the weeks following.

Works on the paths this year include a new gate along footpath 2 following the removal of the stile which proved tricky for some to climb.

The Woodland Trust and Silver Wood

Elise may well be looking for volunteers in Silver Wood sometime in the summer to help with the eradication of the Himalayan Balsam Plant.

Keeping with Silver Wood, Melanie and I suggested a new footbridge in Silver Wood, last year it was installed. It makes a fabulous circular walk, so thanks to Paul Allen for the co-ordination.

The Parish Council is grateful to be able to work closely with The Woodland Trust; Melanie is in regular contact with Paul and we meet with Paul when we can.

55/04/17. The Chairman then gave thanks to everyone that helps to make the Parish such a great place to live before handing over to the guest speakers:

Paul Allen from The Woodland Trust - gave details of the possibility of upgrading part of the path in Silver Wood as discussed with a few members of the Parish Council recently. Details were then given of the recent clearance of 'Rhododendron Wood' (Bridleway 41) in Blackborough, as part of a national campaign to eradicate a tree disease affecting Larch trees and carried by Rhododendrons which are non-native shrubs.

Dr Catherine Bass co-ordinator of the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network – details were given of the Network and how and why it was formed, together with some of the issues that the Network are currently trying to address which affect many of the rural Parishes that have a full or partial footprint within the BHAONB. The date of the AGM is 29/06/17, and anyone is welcome to attend.

Rupert Ballantyne on behalf of the Christmas Eve Committee – initially when the celebrations started on Christmas Eve some 15 years or so ago, there were around 100 attendees. Over the years numbers have increased, and last year some 400+ people were present. People are encouraged to step forward to help with this and other events within the Parish such as the fete.

Reverend David Beazley: Minister at Sainthill – gave information on the youth club together and church at Sainthill. Reverend Beazley thanked the Parish Council for the grant awarded.

Alan Boxer: Kenarts – Kentisbeare Village Hall is an asset to the community and lends itself to the performing arts, and brief details were given of Voiceworx and productions held in the hall together with information on a youth theatre group, which is due to start shortly which will run predominantly from Kentisbeare Village Hall.

David Snell: Chairman of Kentisbeare Village Hall Committee – brief details were given of the recent refurbishment. The committee has recently reviewed its charges, and there is to be an increase from September. New members are encouraged to join the committee, and anyone interested should contact the chairman or hall secretary.

Greg Bottrill: Altitude Village Festival – The Altitude Festival is now in its third year and it is hoped that it will again be a sell-out. Thanks were given to all involved with the running of the festival. Funds raised go to charity and the village hall in Blackborough.

Mid Devon District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Berry – Cllr. Mrs Berry thanked Kentisbeare Parish Council for hosting the evening. Brief details were given of the recent submission of the Local Plan, as reported previously and details are available on-line. Some details were also given with reference to the budget.

56/04/15. An opportunity was given for any other organisations to report. The Vice- Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr. Mrs Broom thanked Cllr. Wadsworth for his leadership as Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council, and for all of his time and commitment and reported that much of his time is over and above that of Parish Council meetings.

The meeting closed between 8.30pm and 9pm and was followed by refreshments.