

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2018 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs Broom (Chair), Mrs T Dominy, Mrs E Ellicott, R Shore-Quinain, M Disney, DCC Cllr. J Berry, MDDC Cllr. Mrs R Berry, the Clerk and one member of the public. Mrs W Reid and Mrs S Woofenden were present for part of the meeting.

Democratic Period: None.

53/05/18. Welcome and introductions. Cllr. Mrs Broom Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and this was followed by an annual report:

The Parish Council was pleased to help Kentisbeare Village Hall towards the purchase of windows and doors with a grant of £2500. £1300 has been given to the three churchyards within the Parish and £500 has been given to Sainthill Youth Club.

A Parish poster competition was run for the children of the Parish, and copies of the winning entries are now on display in the committee room of Kentisbeare Village Hall. Also on display is a painting of St. Mary's Church, Kentisbeare, which was kindly donated to us earlier in the year.

Thanks go to Jonathan Wadsworth for his service as a councillor since 2010, and more recently as Chairman; we were sorry to lose Jonathan last autumn.

DAAT - at the present time the Parish Council is working with Devon Air Ambulance Trust for a night time landing site, which will be located on Kentisbeare playing field.

Kentisbeare Playing Field - Melanie managed to obtain a roundabout for the playing field recently which has just been installed. A concrete table tennis table was installed a few months ago, partly funded with a grant that Melanie secured a while ago. Thanks go to Debbie for her help with carrying out the weekly checks at the playing field.

The Woodland Trust - the Parish Council has a good working relationship with The Woodland Trust and Melanie keeps in touch regularly. We try to help to improve the site and keep it open and accessible for all. Support was given to The Woodland Trust last year in a grant application for some work in Rhododendron Wood, Blackborough.

Website and e-newsletter - the electronic newsletter is a going well and thanks go to Maria for her hard work. The income generated from businesses advertising on the Parish website within the last financial year was £1240.

Garden Village Proposal - the Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council is a representative on the Garden Village Delivery Board, and we now have two representatives on the Stakeholder Forum. Thanks to Tess for attending these meetings. There is a proposal to hold a consultation in Kentisbeare in the near future.

Footpaths – thanks to Elise for her hard work in keeping the footpaths and bridleways in good condition.

Christmas Eve - the Christmas Eve street party now attracts over 400 people, and we were happy to assist by funding Chapter 8 training last year. Thank you to all of the volunteers that make this event happen, and also to those who help with the Christmas lights.

Finally thanks go to all Parish Councillors for their hard work, to Rosemary and John who support us in every way possible, and thanks to Melanie for her hard work and guidance.

54/05/18. Annual Report from MDDC Cllr. Mrs Rosemary Berry.

The Local Plan was submitted last year, but delayed for a Sustainability Appraisal, the recommendations of which have been consulted on, so it is now back on track and will go to Public Examination later in the year.

Self Build Register -within large developments 20% of land will need to be allocated to self-build. Anyone interested in self-building, should register with MDDC. This does not apply to very small developments or individual self-builders.

Culm Garden Village - now has a Project Manager “Paul Brockworthy”. Work is ongoing to Masterplan the Garden Village, and it is intended this should come to public consultation later this year. The initial 1750 homes will come forward when the Local Plan is approved, but the Masterplan will address the potential for up to 5,000 homes which are likely to come forward in the future. I attended the Stakeholder Group on 28/04/18. £230,000 has been received in initial funding and Mid Devon successfully bid for £10 million Housing Infrastructure Funding to improve M5 Junction 28. A relief road is essential to remove traffic from Cullompton Town Centre. Cullompton has been targeted for new development by virtue of location, next to the M5.

Budget

Despite further reductions in direct funding, MDDC balanced the budget with a small overspend, made up from the New Homes Bonus. In future councils will have to raise their revenue locally from business rates. As part of a pilot scheme, MDDC has been awarded 100% retention of business rates for a year, but there is no guarantee this will continue. With no direct government funding from 2020, all councils will have to be innovative.

Recycling is good news in Mid Devon - but there is more to do before we reach the levels of recycling which are normal in Scandinavian countries. Dog owners can now use any bin.

55/05/18. Annual Report from DCC Cllr. J Berry.

Despite the impression given in the press, Devon is recognised as a well-managed council and has yet again balanced the budget for the year. The overall budget is £1.1 billion. Council tax has been fixed at 2.99% plus 2% for Social Care.

An extension to Cullompton College will start in the autumn - to provide more classrooms and to increase the dining hall size.

St. Andrews and Willow Bank Schools are being modernised in order to take more pupils, and a new primary school will be built on the North West Development.

Devon has been able to grant 94% of pupils their first choice schools.

There has been an increase in the number of young children in care, or being fostered, now up to 25 years old.

Adult Social Care Budget has been increased

DCC has teamed up with a national charity to provide modern technology, and other equipment to help people who have disabilities or need care to stay in their own homes. This should also help carers in their work.

Traffic matters are still a major cause for concern - DCC has put an embargo on any more development being approved before improvements to Junction 28. Unfortunately this was over ruled by the Planning Inspector who visited at peak time. He commented that as traffic kept moving - albeit slowly, there are other places which are much worse.

I have had meetings with Gregory Distribution and DCC, seeking solutions on how to improve road layout and traffic lights, to improve their access to M5 Junction 28. Plans are now in progress to improve the exits and access roads, soon to be finalised. The plan and timing is dependent on replies from contractors.

Funding is being sought for a new motorway junction and a relief road, to take traffic away from Cullompton town centre.

The Highways budget has increased, and an extra 12 million secured for pothole repair, but potholes remain a major source of concern. However, roads around Kentisbeare have been improved, and two more are planned. Potholes can be reported online but need to be at least 40 millimetres deep and 300 millimetres across.

Possible pull in near Hollis Farm - we are still waiting for a response from DCC Planning regarding costs and a possible way forward.

Blackborough House Proposal - due to the Blackborough House application, highways matters are being consulted on, which could include provision for passing places.

Ian Sorenson, Highways Officer is looking at the certificate of lawfulness, via MDDC, and what it covers. He has suggested MDDC Planning look at the Environmental Report, and the impact on local amenity. He has yet to decide on a decision, on the mitigation program or highways improvement and the proposed travel plans.

56/05/18. Annual Report from Cllr. Mrs Ellicott – P3/Footpath Co-ordinator

It has been a good year along the footpaths and bridleways apart from some damp areas such as Silver Wood. The Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk was a success last year, and the series of summer walks are due to start later in the summer.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.