

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Reception
held on 28th April 2015 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. Mr J Wadsworth (Chair), Mrs Q Broom, Mrs S Woofenden, Mrs C Lunn, Mrs W Reed, Mrs E Ellicott, R Shore-Quinain, M Disney, Miss D Jackson, County Cllr. J Berry, District Cllr. D Pugsley, the Clerk and members of the community as invited.

60/04/15. Welcome and introductions. Cllr. Wadsworth, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Parish Council and the Clerk.

61/04/15. Apologies. Apologies were received from Cllrs. C McIntyre and various members of the community as invited.

62/04/15. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2014 were adopted on 10th June 2014 (minute ref: 83/06/14).

63/04/15. Annual Report by the Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council. To include the unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015.

The Chairman explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting and Reception. A Reception is held every other year, to show appreciation and give recognition to those involved in making Kentisbeare what it is. Details are given of what the Parish Council do within the community and what has been achieved over the last year or so. Representatives from various organisations are invited to give a brief report.

An opportunity was given for any comments/questions.

The Chairman then gave a report as follows: Being a Parish Councillor can occasionally be an unappreciated position. It's completely voluntary, and time consuming, so I would very much like to thank all Parish Councillors for their hard work, time and continued support throughout the year.

A New Term. Kentisbeare Parish was uncontested in the recent nomination period. There are ten seats of which there were an equal number of candidates, so next week (7th May 2015) brings no election for Parish Councillors. We are losing two councillors, Clive McIntyre (Mac) and Carole Lunn, and we look forward to welcoming two new councillors.

Mac and Carole have been a key part to the success of the Parish Council. Mac has been the Parish Council's planning expert, so his years of experience in building, development and the planning system will be greatly missed. Carole has always been keen to offer help and support on lots of matters like parish walks and her enthusiasm and great sense of humour will be missed by us all.

We have two new members joining us from May, both of whom live in the village of Kentisbeare. Andrew Southall has lived in the village for 22 years and Tess Dominy has lived in the village for 7 years.

All of the other Parish Councillor are staying put – thank you all for staying on for another four years. Again, Councillors do all this and give their time freely so it is appreciated.

Melanie our Parish Clerk. Another year and what an interesting year it has been. I couldn't have done it without Melanie.

She really is very good at sifting through the correspondence and keeping all the Parish Councillors abreast of what is happening both nationally and locally. Basically she does all the work, it's not only me, but everyone in the Parish Council appreciates it.

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The Pantomime Thanks for another great production this year, and special thanks to Geoff Nicholson, who unfortunately could not make this evening.

The Playing Field. The playing field has had new equipment, a basket swing in March 2014 and a cable runway just recently. Melanie successfully applied for S106 funds and the Town and Parish (Tap) Fund 2013/14, which has been used to fund the project predominately, together with monies from the Parish Council. S106 funding is available to each Parish/Town Council via MDDC, effectively paid for by development within the area. The Tap Fund is based on the number of electors in each Parish, and is a combination of funds predominately from DCC, made up with funds from MDDC. The feedback on the play park facilities has been excellent, so well done to Melanie for what she has successfully achieved, it is appreciated greatly.

Kentisbeare Village Hall. We have been pleased to help Kentisbeare Village Hall with some funding towards renovation work. We were awarded the Tap Fund 2014/15 to help with this. Melanie was also pleased to be awarded an extra £612 offered on a first come first served basis, due to an under spend in the Cullompton rural area. This made the total grant given to the village hall £2412.50.

Planning. Due to MDDC now sending the majority of applications electronically, we have had to purchase a projector, a screen and accessories at a cost of £470. We have donated the screen to the Kentisbeare Village Hall, and it is now installed in the committee room, and is available for hirers of the hall.

Active Villages. We were pleased to pass details of a £250 grant available for a fitness group to run in Kentisbeare Village Hall for a number of weeks. We were also awarded some money to purchase a table tennis table for the hall, and this money is held in reserve at the moment.

Silver Wood. Melanie is in regular contact with The Woodland Trust, regarding grass cutting and overgrown areas including the river bank. Last summer, following our feedback to The Woodland Trust, lovely, rustic logs seats were installed, which the school and all other woodland “users” are delighted with.

Over the past couple of years, the Millennium Woods has been plagued by Himalayan Balsam. Elise Ellicott has organised regular cutting out of the plant before they have had time to shoot their seeds. Last year we didn't really need a working party as the pesky plants didn't really appear but we know they are coming back and Elise has already talked about another “session “in June. We will need some volunteers, please let us know if you are keen to help.

St. Mary's Church. We were pleased to help the church with £150 towards the purchase of new ropes for the bells.

Parish Churchyards. We are pleased to continue to help the three church yards with a total annual grant of £1300.

Highways. Melanie is in contact with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer on a regular basis, and we do try our best – to report potholes, blocked drains and ditches and general road/highway issues.

Parish Paths. We are pleased to host The Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk, which I believe has been running for some 13 years, and Elise will give details shortly of the next walk. Parish walks were a success a couple of summers ago.

Kentisbeare Charity Ball. Thank you to Nick and Sarah Allan, and Nick's sister Cate Hayward.

Christmas Tree Lights A special “thank you” to David Snell, Tim Percival, Duncan Thorne, Steve Ridout and Jono Rich – as well as our councillors Rob Shore-Quinain and Martin Disney for helping to get the lights up in the tree and then taken down again.

The Parish Council was pleased to be invited to the Devon and Somerset Emergency Services Annual Christmas Carol Concert at Exeter Cathedral last Christmas. Several attended and it was well worth it.

Website Last year, after some delays we agreed that we would approach Cosmic Web Design in Honiton. Several months ago, Maria Thorne was approached by Melanie and she offered to help on a voluntary basis with the setting up and implementation of the website. We quickly realised that we needed some ongoing help overseeing the website because there are lots of groups, organisations and over 50 companies who advertise. We set up a website committee, Queenie, Melanie and myself from the Parish Council, and Maria. The four of us have been trained on how to manage the website. Given Maria’s skills, enthusiasm and immense knowledge, the Parish Council all agreed earlier this year that we would enter into a contract with Maria to help with its day-to-day running/management. Maria tweaks, adds content, makes changes to adverts and liaises with companies. With the advertisers paying a small amount each year, we hope to make the website self-funding. Ben Sanders Carr and Alan Boxer helped with some of the initial set up, so thank you to them both. We are still developing the website and next up will be the email newsletters. Email mailing lists about upcoming events. We still need more help from the community. Please tell us what is going on, the more we know, the more interesting the website will be for everyone.

Mid Devon District Council’s Local Plan Review Proposed Submission

This has been progressing slowly for the past couple of years, and recently the Parish is starting to appreciate what is happening. We organised a public meeting, and arranged for a Planning Officer to be present to give details of the proposal. We are not going in to any detail tonight other than to say we have now passed a response on to the district council.

A summary of income and expenditure was available, as follows:

Total Income £17483.48: Precept £14715, Grants £2126.50, VAT 474.93, allotments £30, bank interest £2.55, KVH office expenses £134.50.

Total Expenditure £20329.48: Grants £2436, allotments £30, Playing field expenditure £5933.75, Audit £225, Subscriptions £356.77, insurance £366.16, training and travel expenses £291.85, Clerk’s salary & office expenses £5264.15, hall hire £148, P3 maintenance of footpaths £1025.95, VAT £1800.47 (refundable), Parish News £295.90, Christmas lights £30, website £2111.98, misc £13.50.

Combined bank balance as at 31/03/15: £19965.03.

64/04/15. Parish Paths - P3. Cllr. Mrs Ellicott explained her role as P3 co-ordinator for the Parish. Kentisbeare is part of the DCC P3 scheme and the Parish receive an annual grant which helps towards cutting vegetation and general repairs to stiles and gates. Cllrs. Mrs Ellicott and Mrs Lunn have recently been walking most of the footpaths to help with the production of a Parish leaflet. The Clerk and both councillors are due to meet with DCC shortly to take this forward. The Annual Clifford Pike Walk will take place on Sunday 21st June 2015, further details to follow. It is hoped that the Parish Council will organise a series of summer walks throughout July and August.

65/04/15. Parish Website. Cllr. Wadsworth introduced Mrs Maria Thorne as Parish Website Manager and a presentation followed.

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66/04/15. County Councillor John Berry. Cllr. Berry expressed thanks to the Parish Council for organising the reception which is both enjoyable and informative. Thanks was given to everyone for their attendance, it was a pleasure to see so many present. Savings of £40 million were made last year and the same is required for 2015/16.

Both MDDC and DCC will maintain frontline services. The recent consultation regarding public buses is as a result of a number of routes being uneconomical. It is hoped that some routes will be saved. The school budget is ring fenced. The John Tallack Youth and Community Centre in Cullompton is being run by Cullompton Town Council with sessions run by volunteers.

Children's Care is of a concern in Devon, DCC have extra funds to put into child care homes.

Information was given on the Town and Parish (TAP) Fund, which as previously mentioned Kentisbeare Village Hall has benefitted from this year. The cycling club and Kentisbeare Heart Start have benefitted from the DCC Locality Budget.

Highways has seen a cut of £430,000. Areas affected have been grass cutting, lengthsman, gritting, snow clearing, weed spraying and picnic sites. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer was given praise, he has a good knowledge of the local area.

The deadline for responses to the Local Plan has passed, and all responses are with the Inspector. Cllr. Berry expressed his concern as to the proposal of the size of the development at Junction 28, Cullompton.

67/04/15. Any Other Business. Reports from organisations within the parish.

David Snell reported on Kentisbeare Bell Ringers and thanked the Parish Council for their recent donation which will help with new bell ropes. On 20/06/15 there will be an open day in the church tower.

Other speakers were as follows: Mrs Helen Ainsworth, Head of Teaching and Learning at Kentisbeare Primary School, Mrs Sarah Pritchard - Meals on Wheels, Mrs Elizabeth Hoar - St. Mary's Church, Mr Stuart MacFadzean - Kentisbeare Junior Cycling Club (KJCC) and Kentisbeare Children's Orchestra (KJCO), Mrs Hilary Sanders - Kentisbeare Heart Start, Mr Greg Bottrill - Blackborough Early Doors, Mrs Heather Lamport- Voiceworx and Kentisbeare Players, Mrs Queenie Broom – Kentisbeare Village Hall. Mrs Broom gave a brief report on renovations to Kentisbeare Village Hall and thanked the Parish Council for their donation.

68/04/15. Cllr. Mrs Broom thanked Cllr. Wadsworth for his leadership as Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council, for which members are most grateful.

69/04/15. Cllr. Wadsworth closed the meeting and gave thanks to The Keepers Cottage for their provision for the evening.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm and was followed by refreshments.