

## KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs. Mr J Wadsworth (Chair), Mrs Q Broom, Mrs E Ellicott, R Shore-Quinain, M Disney, Miss T Dominy, A Southall, County Cllr. J Berry, District Cllr. Mrs R Berry, the Clerk and two members of the public.

**Welcome.** Cllr. Wadsworth, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**60/04/16. Apologies.** Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs S Woofenden, Mrs W Reed and Miss D Jackson.

**61/04/16.** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28/04/15 were approved on 19/05/15, minute ref: 77/05/15.

*An opportunity was given for any comments/questions of which there were none.*

### **62/04/16. Annual Report by the Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council.**

Thanks were given to all Parish Councillors for their hard work, time and continued support during the year. During the last year the Parish Council has been pleased to welcome Cllrs. Southall and Miss Dominy. Thanks to Cllr. Southall for his help as Chairman of the Planning Committee, and thanks to Cllr. Miss Dominy for her interest and communication with the Parish.

Melanie our Parish Clerk. Thanks were given to Melanie for her support and work throughout the year.

Melanie has recently prepared unaudited accounts for the year which show the total income for the year as £28,203.97 and the total expenditure as £28,310.57.

### What the Parish Council has achieved this year

- We were delighted to welcome Rosemary Berry as District Councillor.
- We were very pleased to be awarded £1,500 from DCC to help with footpaths (P3). An additional £150 was awarded for Melanie's entry in the DCC photography competition.
- We have continued to grant the three churchyards in the Parish.
- We have been awarded £812.95 towards a new laptop and scanner and extra works to help towards compliance with the Transparency Code.
- We purchased two fantastic new benches for the park, yellow and blue.
- The Parish website generated £1,045 of income.
- 2015/16 was the start of the Parish "E-newsletters" (k-net).
- A small group has been formed to look at this history of the Parish with the view to an open day later in the year.
- The Parish Council awarded a grant of £177.42 to Kentisbeare Players to help purchase new staging for their production last autumn.
- Extra Christmas lights were purchased for the village tree. A lot of positive comments were received as to how nice the tree and lights looked.
- The Annual Parish Meeting and Reception was well attended last May, and we had many guest speakers telling us what they have done for the community. We received lots of positive feedback – as clearly this the only forum where everyone can hear what "everyone else" is doing for the Parish. All-in-all, a highly valuable evening.
- Melanie was quick of the mark to apply for an "under spend" in the Tap Fund – as a result we were able to help Kentisbeare Village Hall in the purchase of new blinds; we were awarded an extra £612.50 and a total grant of £1,426.50 was given to the hall.
- We have continued to try and work closely with The Woodland Trust as this is an excellent asset for the community and we are privileged that they let us all use (and benefit) from their site. Following requests from the Parish Council, the Woodland Trust has kindly agreed to install (and fund) another bridge to allow users a circular route taking in both sides of the stream. The bridge should be installed shortly.
- Finally we are still awaiting a decision with reference to The Local Plan.

Christmas Tree Lights Thanks go to Steve Bazley, Tim Percival, Duncan Thorne, Steve Ridout and Jono Rich, as well as Rob and Martin from the Parish Council for helping to get the lights up and taken down again.

Mid Devon District Council's Allocation of houses for the next 30 years Mid Devon District Council was given the brief by the Government to find "suitable building sites" for nearly 8,000 new homes in the district. MDDC's preferred site is East of J28, East of Cullompton. We have not heard the definitive finding yet, so we are still waiting for same. It is anticipated that the Plan will go to the Inspector in June and a report will follow in the autumn.

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MDDC has adopted and approved the North West Cullompton Masterplan. The site was allocated in the Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document in 2010, for mixed housing and employment development (with some 1100 houses with 35% affordable housing) including a new primary school and community facilities and extensive areas of green infrastructure.

Website Last year, with the help of Cosmic in Honiton, we launched our Parish website. The Parish Council agreed to instruct Maria Thorne to run same. Not only is the website running smoothly but it is fast becoming a key part of communication within the Parish, spreading the word for everything that is happening within the Parish. The website's costs are effectively partially funded by the companies that advertise on the website and thanks go to all concerned.

Over the last year, we've had 22,740 page views and 11,649 visits. With the most popular page continues to be the local businesses page, with 981 views.

Whilst matters are going well, there is still some work that we need to do:-

- We now have 44 companies advertising on the website which generated £1,045 during the last financial year, and we hope to generate more this year.
- Thanks go to Maria for all that she does. She works very hard liaising with companies.
- Maria devises and issues an "email'able newsletter". We still need more help from the community to let us know what is going on; the more we know, the more interesting the website and newsletter will be for everyone.

#### Facebook

- 256 people follow the Kentisbeare Parish Facebook feed (i.e. "Likes").
- In the last month, we've "reached" 1,588 people.
- 805 people have "engaged" with the page.
- A couple of photos have a combined reach of 890.

**64/04/16. Police Report.** An annual report shows an increase of 49.1% in the number of incidents reported and a reduction of 14.3% in the number of crimes recorded between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

**65/04/16. Parish Paths - P3.** The Annual Clifford Pike Walk was well attended last year with an interesting refreshment stop at Orway Porch, where walkers could look around the robotic milking parlour. A programme of summer walks is planned to start at the end of July with members of the P3 committee aiming to lead a walk each. The cutting schedule is just about to start. Recently the clearing of vegetation along the permissive path near Silver Wood has been undertaken. The growth of the Himalayan Balsam plant in Silver Wood needs monitoring.

**66/05/16. County Councillor John Berry.** There has been a cut of £30 million in the 2015/16 budget with a similar reduction required in the 2016/17 budget. Some facilities/services have been cut such as lengthsman and grass cutting.

Training for Snow Wardens has taken place in some areas. DCC may be able to help towards the training of wardens for Highways. Monies from the Tap Fund may now be used for grass cutting and ditch clearing.

The Audit Commission has given Devon the all clear regarding children in care. There is still a need for foster carers for young children.

The South West receives approximately £250 per school child less than other areas of the country. The shortfall has been discussed with ministers in London.

£2240 has been granted from the Locality Budget to the Parish of Kentisbeare over the last 12 months

As a reminder, the direct number to report any highways issues is 0345 155 1004.

**67/05/16. District Councillor Mrs Rosemary Berry.** A new Chief Executive was appointed earlier in the year and an aim is for an attendance at Parish Council meetings. The grant from the government was cut last year and this grant will gradually disappear. Money was taken from the new homes bonus to help cover the deficit.

The new waste and recycling scheme has proved successful and a number of people have signed up for the chargeable garden waste scheme.

Electric Nights Streetfood is returning for another summer of food, music and family fun at Tiverton Market. In January, Electric Nights Streetfood won the NABMA award for Britain's Best Small Food Market.

The Local Plan: The Local Plan will not be submitted until August due to an investigation regarding Junction 28 in respect of the Environment Agency. Whilst the NW Cullompton Masterplan has been approved, there are still concerns about the width of the road through the new development. Land allocation is being considered at Junction 27.

**68/04/15. Any Other Business.** None.

*The meeting closed at 8pm and was followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.*