

## KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Reception held on 14/03/2023 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs. N Allan (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mrs Q Broom, Mrs E Ellicott, R Shore-Quinain, M Disney, N Woofenden, J Penfold, E Southerden, N Sanders, Mrs F Ryan, District Cllr. D Pugsley, the Clerk and members of the community as invited.

**Apologies:** DCC County Cllr. J Berry and Mrs R Berry and various members of the community as invited.

**30/03/23. Welcome and Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council:** Cllr. Allan, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Parish Council likes to invite various people/organisations from the Parish as appreciation for their contribution to the community.

The format of the evening was explained, which consists of various reports and some guest speakers. Guest speakers included a number of parishioners representing various Parish organisations. The Chairman explained that questions may be asked at the end of any reports.

The Chairman then gave a report - *a summary of the report is below:*

**Elections 2023:** We are now at the end of the current four year term and a new council will be formed in May (2023-2027). District and Parish/Town Council elections are scheduled to take place on 04/05/23. *Details regarding submission of the nomination papers were given, all which have been publicised.* Due to district boundary changes the Parish will come under the Lower Culm Ward which will be represented by three ward councilors – we will be sharing a ward with Willand and Uffculme opposed to Bradninch. Hopefully the chance of our views being firmly represented will be increased by us having three district councillors opposed to one.

**Voter ID:** A reminder that photo ID is now needed to cast your vote in person at a polling station.

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**Culm Garden Village:** The next four years will continue to be busy with the continuation of the development to the East of Cullompton. As a Parish Council we have tried to focus on two particular issues:

1. To limit development this side of Horn Road to protect Kentisbeare as a separate community.
2. To try and stop any significant development on this side of the motorway until proper infrastructure has been put in place. This of course sees us sharing a position with Cullompton Town Council, which is refreshing.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Kentisbeare Parish Council are representatives on the Garden Village Delivery Board, and we have representatives on the Stakeholder Forum meaning that we should always be represented at these sessions.

*The Chairman referred to the restrictions on development to the East of Cullompton before road upgrades are in place.*

*Details were given of a presentation scheduled to take place on 30/03/23 by Danescroft – Danescroft have acquired a significant proportion of the East Cullompton allocation and are seeking to engage on this as they prepare a planning application.*

*The Chairman reported that the Parish Council will shortly be considering the more detailed planning application (Reserved Matters) recently submitted by Cullompton Cricket Club; the scale and traffic implications will be considered.*

**30/03/23 (Chairman's Report continued)**

**Playing Field:** We continue to maintain and try to improve the play park and the area is inspected monthly by the district council.

Following a well-attended drop in session/consultation day a few years ago from which we received good ideas and feedback we applied for planning permission for a cycle track, which was granted last year. We have just finished a procurement process and we are now looking at funding. Along with Melanie, a couple of councillors have been tasked with applying for grants to help with this exciting project. Please contact us if you have any ideas towards help with fundraising. Local involvement will greatly improve the prospect of raising money elsewhere.

**Vandalism in the Parish:** There are concerns regarding vandalism that has occurred over the last year or so. There has been theft of oil from the village hall oil tank recently, damage to the Clifford Pike memorial bench, damage to the park bin and vandalism to a car left in the hall car park. Very kindly, the Pike family have organised a replacement bench.

**Footpaths & The Woodland Trust:** Thanks to Elise for her hard work in keeping the paths in good condition; we are awarded an annual grant from DCC to help with footpath works. The summer evening walks were a success this year with the first walk being the Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk finishing at The Wyndham Arms for refreshments. We are in touch with the contractors working for The Woodland Trust. *Cllr. Mrs Ellicott encouraged anyone interested in assisting the Himalayan Balsam working party to try and eradicate the plant in Silver Wood should contact her.*

**Website and e-newsletter:** The website is a great asset which consistently receives more than 1,500 page views per month and along with the Facebook page provides an invaluable local information and news service for us all. The income generated each year from businesses advertising on the Parish website is approximately £1200.

The monthly electronic newsletter is very informative. Thanks to Maria for putting it together on our behalf. If you haven't yet signed up to receive it then we encourage you to do so.

**Christmas Eve:** Thank you to everyone past and present involved with this event; we will shortly receive an update. Thanks to those that help with the Christmas lights; our newest addition is the crosses for the tower on St. Mary's Church which we are delighted with - thanks to M D Fabrication.

**Grants:** We are pleased to award various grants to organisations and clubs. Annual grants are given to the halls and the three churchyards within the Parish.

**Ssinthill Youth Club:** We continue to support Sainthill Youth Club which is great, as it is available for the youngsters throughout the Parish. We particularly want to thank Des and Hazel Sussex for many decades of service to the youth club.

*Thanks were then extended as follows:* Thanks to all of our Parish Councillors for their hard work over the last four years, notably Queenie (who is an invaluable Vice-Chairman) and Melanie who really does the lion's share of the work for us all. Also, thanks for the support we receive from DCC and MDDC councillors, not just John and David, but also Bob Evans from Lower Culm who has observed our meetings and given helpful guidance as asked for some time now.

Thank you to everyone for helping to organise and set up this evening's meeting - thanks to The Keepers Cottage for supplying the refreshments and to Elise for organising the flowers.

Thank you to everyone for volunteering with various events and helping numerous organisations; the Jubilee, the pantomime, various shows & concerts etc. It is very good to see how broadly the workload is shared and how many people participate in the various events, highlighting the vitality of our Parish community.

**30/03/23 (Chairman's Report continued)**

We haven't managed to hold a reception for a few years due to the Covid-19 pandemic and it is good to do so again. I especially want to thank our Parish Councillor Felicity Ryan, who did heroic work coordinating support in Kentisbeare during that difficult period. We are also grateful to the many others that helped throughout the pandemic including Gemma in Blackborough and Lisa, Neil and Georgia at the village shop. We were also lucky to have Veyseys adjusting so rapidly to the changed circumstances and The Wyndham Arms and The Keepers Cottage for offering take-away meals. I am sure there are others that I should have remembered too.

Thanks are also due to Jackie who reopened the village stores with Debbie just over a year ago. It has become a truly welcoming heart of the Village.

Thanks also to Richard, whose knees have been among Kentisbeare's finest features for years now. It is hard to imagine a more helpful postman and we will all miss him.

*The Chairman then handed over to the various speakers.*

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**31/03/23. Other Reports/Speakers:**

- a) Cllr. Edd Southerden: A report was given on a Parish Councillor's evening on the beat with the local police; this was following an invitation from the local neighbourhood Policing Team for a councillor from each Parish to accompany officers on their patrols, so that they could see first-hand what the patrols spend their time working on.
- b) Cllr. Jeremy Penfold: (i) Details were given of the history project that Cllr. Penfold is heading; people are encouraged to make contact if they would like to be involved or have any information. (ii) As a member of Blackborough Village Hall Committee, Cllr. Penfold gave details of planned works at the hall together with details of events that take place at the hall.
- c) Christmas Eve in Kentisbeare, past and present – details were given by the organiser of the Christmas Eve event over the years to date. Thanks were extended to The Wyndham Arms for assistance.
- d) Local Businesses – two parishioners gave an overview of their separate businesses as run in the Parish.
- e) A representative from Cosmic gave details of the Future Farming Resilience programme

**32/03/23. Any Reports from DCC or MDDC Councillors:** MDDC Cllr. D Pugsley reported that he had been a District Councillor for many years but that he would not be standing again this year.

There were no further reports or questions and the meeting closed.