

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WOODNESBOROUGH PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022 AT 7.30pm IN THE ATRIUM AT WOODNESBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** -Councillors B Baker (Chair) A Boniface C Charter M Goodwin Alison Hilton  
Anthony Hilton A Riley S Mallett

Joanna Jones Clerk to the Parish Council Cty Cllr S Chandler, Dist. Cllr D Friend  
21 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr D Smith, Hilary Baldwin & Mervyn Baker.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 had been on the Parish Council web site for the past year and were available for all present to read.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from last year's meeting.

**4. SPEAKER - The History of Vine Farm – Cllr Simon Mallett**

Cllr Mallett gave a very interesting talk, illustrated with photographs detailing the history of Vine Farm since being mentioned in the Doomesday Book to the present day.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mallett and closed the meeting for refreshments at 8.15pm.

The meeting reopened at 8.40pm.

**5. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Cllr Brenda Baker – Thank you all for coming to this meeting and for your interest in our village and the Parish Council.

Whilst much of what we do in the Parish Council is routine, we do also have interesting and lively discussions. Occasionally, whisper it quietly, controversial issues too.

We welcomed two new members to the council this year, Amanda Riley and Simon Mallett. We have dealt with approximately 20 planning applications and received 25 decisions, some of these carried over from the previous year. Of the applications, we supported 14 and objected to 6.

We have also had to deal with several issues relating to heavy lorry traffic to the new build on Woodnesborough Road Sandwich and concerns raised by new residents regarding the speed of traffic through the village and also on Fleming Road. We have now been able to agree our Highways Improvement Plan with Kent Highways but unfortunately, they would not allow us to move the 30mph speed sign at The Frost, as far as we had wished but it will now be further down towards the bend and new signage will be put up to warn of the very dangerous and narrow bend on the Marshborough Road. These small improvements have cost us in excess of £3,650.

As a council we continue to deal with matters relating to the new Village Hall which continues to be well used, as does the play area. We have a new memorial bench on the green and we also have had the hedge trimmed but leaving some specimen trees in place. There have also been trees planted to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Speeding remains a concern in the village and the SID unit, Speed Indicator Unit, which has been placed at various points around the village is proving useful.

Our new Clerk Jo Jones has been invaluable to the Council and to me as Chair. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to all my colleagues on the council and in particular to Alistair Boniface, my deputy, for their continued support last year. We have lost a couple of councillors through the year and we are also about to lose another as Doug Smith has decided to retire. I shall miss his support and I have been grateful for his experience and knowledge and we all wish him well.

My grateful thanks go to Ken and Linda Butcher for their work in providing flowers at the top of Fir Tree Hill and also around the New Hall. I think you'll agree that the flowers are a delight and improve the look of the village. This will be the last year that they do this as they have decided to retire from this responsibility, but I'm very pleased to say that the Woodnesborough WI have kindly stepped into the breach.

We also very much appreciate the work of Robert Atkinson in keeping our village clean and tidy and for the continued support of the community and our environment that he provides.

Being a bit of a technophobe, I must mention that the Parish Council website is very user and mobile friendly. So please take a look and keep up to date on the doings of your Parish Council. Don't forget that all our meetings are open to our parishioners and public and if you have any queries you wish to raise please just email our Clerk Jo and we will do our best to address your concerns.

Thank you for listening to me and if you have any questions I will do my best to answer them.

Cllr Baker showed the meeting the Jubilee water bottles that the Parish Council will be giving to the children of the parish and explained that the email that had been received about vehicles travelling at speed in and out of the Village Hall car park would be added to the June agenda.

Cllr Baker also advised that if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk, Jo Jones for an application form, 07903739792, clerk@woodnesborough-pc.org.uk.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **i) District Councillor Dan Friend**

District Cllr Dan Friend thanked Cllrs Mallett and Baker and then gave his report, covering the balanced budget at DDC, forecourt developments at Sandwich, DDC's success in lobbying KCC regarding Operation Brock, support for Ukrainian refugees and P & O workers and that the Local Plan is almost at the next consultation stage.

### **ii) County Councillor Sue Chandler**

## **Kent County Council Member's Report to Woodnesborough Annual Parish Meeting – May 2022**

It's so good to be here at your Annual Parish Meeting seeing you in person after the last two years of virtual meetings, valuable though they were. At Kent County Council during the past year support for residents impacted by Covid and lockdowns continued through the Helping Hands scheme, information and dedicated phone lines throughout utilising Government Covid funding.

In May elections for the County Council took place, a very different election this time around because of the restrictions, I felt privileged to be re-elected as the Member for Sandwich and the Villages and subsequently was asked to continue by the Leader as the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services.

So I will start by updating you on our children's services and education for both of which the past year has been a continuing challenge. Our children's social workers continued their work through Covid,

seeing children and families face to face when it was needed, the number of our referrals began to increase as we came out of the lockdowns and the impacts of those lockdowns and children not being in school became evident. Whilst so many parents did absolutely sterling work in teaching children at home for some it was more challenging, and the lack of social interaction for children has had significant effects. We are seeing a significant increase in children with identified special educational needs.

Schools, of course, have gradually returned to something nearer to normality and teachers too have done an incredible job throughout but it is clear that some children have fallen some way behind in both their development and education. We recognised that and this time last year launched out Reconnect two year programme for children and families, the entire Kent community has come together to help children reconnect with many aspects that they had missed during Covid, the offer encompassed holiday schemes, sport, free bus passes for the summer holidays, subsidised access to leisure centres, free access to online learning, food vouchers, Dover District Council Community Team was a fantastic partner in this. The programme will continue to September this year, the full offer is on the KCC website. It has just been nominated for two national awards.

The Kent Commissioning plan for schools shows that the Sandwich local area has sufficient places both in primary and secondary right now, although for the next two years there is a bulge going through secondary which makes it a little close. If all the housing in the draft Dover Local Plan is built there will be a need for an additional one form entry primary school but not until the end of this decade. Ofsted inspections have only just started again following Covid and no testing has happened so there is no recent performance data to share.

Adult social care continues to see a rise in demand, particularly for care in the home and undoubtedly the lockdowns have had a detrimental impact on many older people, the advance of digital health and communication has been accelerated hugely by KCC during the past year with investments in systems for home which can monitor health and enable people to live independently in better health and require less hospital visits, but there is a recognition of the need for social interaction and a Select Committee on social isolation made recommendations which are being considered. Adult Social Care continues to require over 40% of the overall KCC budget and the 1 % increase in Council Tax specifically for that is recognition of the growing demand.

Roads and traffic continue to be major concerns for residents, and the Parish Highways Improvement Plans continue to be effective tools in achieving some improvements to our local roads, achieving 20 mph speed zones in Wingham and Goodnestone, extension to speed limit areas, improved village gateways as in Ash and Preston, additional signage and road markings. There is always more work to be done, particularly in reducing the speed of traffic which I know many residents are particularly worried by, the ambitious Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy launched in November last year aims to reduce death on Kent roads to zero by 2050 Kent and is specifically addressing those concerns. The overall highways budget has reduced this year in line with the level of funding from Government but the emphasis on pothole repairs remains, as always please report these through the online system, if you have problems doing that or don't get a response do please email me and I can follow up.

Progress with the KCC Net Zero Action Plan continues and it is worth mentioning that since 2010 KCC has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 73%, a considerable amount of the work is grant funded, we have been successful in gaining significant funding in this area. Plan Bee continues to encourage people to consider how they can support pollinators which are so important, if you are interested you can sign up for a monthly Plan Bee newsletter. Also check out the green roof on the bus shelter in Wingham which was funded through this scheme.

Most recently we are supporting those residents who have so generously offered to host Ukrainian refugees, so far in the region of 1,200, working in partnership with Dover District Council who are carrying out the initial inspection of properties to agreed criteria, KCC have received over 1,700 DBS applications so far which are being processed and we put extra resource into that. Our Schools

Admissions Team is supporting Ukrainian families with children to find school places local to their host family, normal admissions criteria apply, currently it is taking about 2 weeks from enquiry to find places. There is a wealth of information on the Kent.gov website which is being constantly updated. It is important to reiterate that hosts will only have contact from either Council when they have been matched with refugees, we do not get details until that point. Both Councils are also putting 'wrap around support' in place for the refugee families when they arrive.

Cty Cllr Chandler then took questions on various issues including Highways.

### Sue Chandler

KCC Member for Sandwich and the Villages

Contact details [Sue.Chandler@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.Chandler@kent.gov.uk)

Phone: 079891345

### iii) Clerk – Finance Report

The Clerk presented the Finance Statement.

#### Finance Statement – Unaudited Accounts Receipts and Payments 2021/22

RECEIPTS	Actual to 31-03-21	2021/22 Budget	Actual to 31-03-22	
<b>Carried Forward</b>				
General funds and reserves	9,082.93	25,005.31	25,005.31	
Precept	20,635.00	21,736.56	21,736.56	
VAT	8,862.51	292.72	292.72	Note 1
Interest	3.27	0.72	0.81	
Heating system payback	866.30	2,560.00	3,257.74	Note 2
Other	1,028.69	0.00	0.00	
Grant	900.00	0.00	0.00	
Section 106 Planning contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,378.70</b>	<b>49,595.31</b>	<b>50,293.14</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Actual to 31-03-21</b>	<b>2021/22 Budget</b>	<b>Actual to 31-03-22</b>	
Salaries Clerk	4,327.85	4390.00	4354.00	
Environment Engineer	1,627.44	1669.36	1660.80	
Employer Pension Contribution	1,031.09	1066.77	1060.01	
	<b>6,986.38</b>	<b>7,126.13</b>	<b>7,074.81</b>	
Admin Costs General	341.18	500.00	369.45	
Postage, stationery, consumables	102.33	200.00	77.29	
Insurance	470.99	500.00	493.46	
Bank Charges	72.00	72.00	72.00	
Audit Fees	355.99	330.00	232.00	
Annual Meeting	0.00	50.00	0.00	
Hall Hire	0.00	185.00	147.00	Note 3
Village Hall other - Storage Container	505.50	0.00	140.33	Note 4
Village Green Mowing & Grounds Maintenance	1,120.00	1,500.00	1,665.78	Note 5
Play Area Safety Inspection/Maintenance	210.00	400.00	388.55	
Councillor Expenses	0.00	400.00	10.26	

Training	95.00	300.00	150.00	
Church Yard Grant LGA 1972 Sect 214/215	0.00	750.00	750.00	
Grants	500.00	750.00	750.00	Note 6
Section 137	0.00	200.00	0.00	
Equip Handyman	23.61	50.00	523.50	Note 7
Flower Beds	53.94	120.00	75.12	
Membership	52.50	900.00	468.96	
VAT	292.72	0.00	456.88	
Election Costs (saving for 2023)	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	
Contingency	135.10	3,714.18	129.00	Note 8
Loan Repayment scheduled	3,397.54	3,398.00	3,397.54	
New Play Area	414.23	0.00	0.00	
Reserves	0.00	18,000.00	0.00	
Defibrillator Parts	0.00	0.00	274.00	
Speed Indicator Device	0.00	150.00	0.00	
Events	0.00	200.00	0.00	
Highways Improvement Plan	0.00	3,000.00	2,800.00	Note 9
Web Site	914.00	300.00	315.00	
Building Community	0.00	1,750.00	0.00	
Improving Village Environment	0.00	2,750.00	0.00	
Office Equipment	330.38	0.00	0.00	
Beacon & Jubilee	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,373.39</b>	<b>49,595.31</b>	<b>20,760.93</b>	
Bank Reconciliation to 31-03-22				
NW Current Card Account	705.61	Open Bal	25,005.31	
NW Reserve Account 539	8,080.84	Receipts	25,287.83	
Unity Trust Bank	20,745.76	Payments	- 20,760.93	
	29,532.21		29,532.21	

Note 1 – VAT refund higher in 20/21 due to new Play Area

Note 2 - Delayed payment from 20/21 received in 2021/22

Note 3 – Hall Hire as face-to-face meetings resumed from May 2022

Note 4 – Planning Permission fee for Storage Container

Note 5 – Green Mowing & Hedge Cutting

Note 6 – Grants – Village Magazine

Note 7 – Skipper Trolley for Environmental Engineer

Note 8 – Bus Shelter Maintenance

Note 9 – Highway Improvement Plan – 30mph & Sat Nav signs

The meeting closed at 9.17pm