MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WOODNESBOROUGH PARISH HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd APRIL 2024 AT 7.30pm IN THE ATRIUM AT WOODNESBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Present: -Councillors B Baker (Chair) A Boniface C Charter M Goodwin T Hall

A Hilton A Riley S Mallett K Shubert

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

11 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Major Holt, Douglas Smith & Mervyn Baker and Alison Hilton.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting, held on 25th April 2023 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 – Simon Mallett

Major Holt was unfortunately unable to attend as guest speaker, apologies had been received, best wishes were sent to him and his family. Cllr Simon Mallet instead gave a very interesting talk on the Adventures of Dudley Disney Kenny which also detailed the beginning of the RAF.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mallett and closed the meeting for refreshments at 8pm.

The meeting reopened at 8.20pm.

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.

As usual there is always much that is routine in the Parish Council meetings but there are also interesting discussions to be had and sometimes, even occasional controversial things too. We have dealt with about 24 planning applications this year and received many decisions. I am pleased to say that members of the public attended several of our meetings, mainly in response to some planning applications but often to raise issues they have encountered. If you do have any concerns regarding matters affecting the community or area please contact the clerk and we can discuss it at our meeting. There is continuing concern over enforcement by DDC but we continue to work with them on this. We have also had several problems with footpaths this year, some being deliberately blocked and others not being cleared, however this is being attended to.

Last year we needed to co-opt 2 councillors as we had had 2 councillors step down. As we initially received 4 applicants, after interviews I am pleased to welcome Karen Shubert and Tracy Hall as our new Councillors.

We continue to deal with matters relating to the new Village Hall which has been open now for several years and is being very well used and is a great asset to the village. There have been some problems with anti social behaviour and there were 2 very small fires in the play area and also we had problems with boy racers in the car park doing donuts. The flagpole has been in place for a while now and my thanks go to Cllr Tont Hilton for putting the flags up at various times for us.

Speeding always 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. However it was stolen in October and we have had to replace it. Someone with a guilty conscience perhaps! The new Speed Watch group has been formed and operates independently of the Parish Council but with our thanks for the work they will do after completing all the training. The police have also done some speed checks in the area and I understand they issued several tickets.

Our clerk, Jo Jones, continues to be invaluable to the council and to me as Chair of the Parish Council. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to all my colleagues on the council and to Alistair Boniface, my deputy chair, for their continued support last year.

My grateful thanks go to the WI ladies who continue providing flowers for and cultivating the bed at the top of Fir Tree Hill. I think you'll agree that the flowers are a delight and improve the look of the village. We also very much appreciate the work of Robert Atkinson in keeping our village clean and tidy.

The Parish Council website is very user friendly, please take a look and it keeps everyone up to date on the doings of your Parish Council.

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

6. REPORTS

i) Clerk – Finance Report

The Clerk presented the Finance Statement.

Finance Statement – Unaudited Accounts Receipts and Payments 2023/24

RECEIPTS	Actual to 31-03-2023	2023/24 Budget	Actual to 31-03-24	
Carried Forward				
General funds and reserves	29,532.21	29,796.68	29,796.68	
Precept	22,887.42	23,364.95	23,364.95	
VAT	456.88	843.43	843.43	
Interest	35.54	50.00	109.05	Note 1
Heating system payback	1,481.62	1,500.00	1,852.00	
Other - Donation, Wayleave, Village Hall rent/Flagpole refund	244.50	0.00	80.15	Note 2
Grant - DDC & KCC Jubilee Grants/Insurance Claim	570.00	0.00	3,618.00	Note 3
Total	55,208.17	55,555.06	59,664.26	
PAYMENTS	Actual to 31-03-2023	2023/24 Budget	Actual to 31-03-24	
Salaries				
Clerk	4,936.60	5,000.00	5,387.91	Note 4
Environment Engineer	1,907.40	1,920.00	2,103.08	Note 4
Employer Pension Contribution	1,191.94	1,150.00	1,383.78	Note 4
	8035.94	8070.00	8874.77	
Admin Costs General	383.40	520.00	520.50	
Postage, stationery, consumables	253.19	250.00	215.84	

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Note 1 - Higher interest rates this year

Note 2 - Refund on damaged flag pole

Note 3 - Insurance claim for stolen Mini-SID

Note 4 - Nationally agreed pay rise higher than anticipated

Note 5 - Replacement doors for Village Hall

Note 6 - Play area inspections and two repairs

Note 7 - Replacement Mini-SID

Note 8 - Materials for 30mph banner supports

Note 9 - Flag pole & installation & flags

Note 10 - Field gate for Green

The Clerk answered a question about the Highway Improvement Plan.

ii) District Councillor Dan Friend

District Cllr Dan Friend's report included the Precept, garden waste collection costs, social rents, car parking charges, changes to the Port Health Authority checks and planning fees and the DDC grants scheme. He also took questions about the green waste collection scheme and reported that the proposed closure of Richborough HWRC is currently off the table.

iii) County Councillor Sue Chandler

Kent County Council Chandler's report included the lack of funding for local government and the escalating costs incurred, it also covered Highways, Highway Improvement plans, Richborough Household Waste Recycling Centre, planning initiatives, Adult and Children's Social Care costs and Environmental initiatives.

Kent County Cllr Chandler explained that through the year she had worked on a wide range of issues including, environmental, social care and public rights of way issues and would continue to do so and welcomed the opportunity to come to Parish council meetings and thanked all of the volunteers, including the Paris Councillors for everything that they do.

KCC Member for Sandwich and the Villages, Email: Sue.Chandler@kent.gov.uk 07989134576

Cty Cllr Chandler then answered questions on unaccompanied Asylum-seeking children and the increased costs of adult and children's social care.

The Chair then thanked Cty Cllr Chandler and Dist Cllr Friend for all of their hard work for us. Everyone was thanked for coming. A member of the public thanked the Parish Council and detailed the success that they had had reporting potholes.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm