

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 18TH APRIL 2023

PRESENT: Cllrs; Holliday, Lake, Leppard, Pilcher, Seager and Young, together with District Councillor Martin Hibbert and County Councillor David Beaney.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: Alfsdotter and Norris

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2022 were agreed and approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr: Seager as present Chairperson. Proposed by Cllr: Lake and Cllrs. Holliday.

2. **MATTERS ARISING** None

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr. Seager (Chairperson) report for the year 2022/2023 to the meeting will be forwarded and are attached to Minutes of this meeting.

Reports from District Councillor Martin Hibbert and County Councillor David Beaney forwarded and are attached to Minutes of this meeting.

4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** None.

5. **DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

This was confirmed as Tuesday, 16th April 2024.

Signed Chairperson
16th April 2024

Chairperson's Report May 2022 – April 2023

Play Equipment.

This is continually inspected on a regular basis and various issues dealt with as they arise. Many thanks to Keith for checking the play equipment area and reporting all the problems that need to be addressed.

Speed Watch.

This has continued to take place and, after a quieter period over the winter, is back with renewed enthusiasm.

Platinum Jubilee.

A very successful event with the beacon lighting on Thursday 2nd June and the Street Party on the Sunday. Thank you to the working party, ably assisted by local volunteers, for all the hard work put into organising and making it happen.

Commemorative mugs were given to every child in Capel School. 105 saplings were planted with the help of local schoolchildren as part of the Queen's Green Canopy in the recreation ground. Sadly, due to weather conditions, a large number were lost so these have recently been replaced.

Resilience Plan.

This is still being updated on a regular basis but we are still waiting for a map of the location of fire hydrants throughout the village including the new development.

Grapevine Newsletter.

This is produced every month, now in colour, except in January. Thank you to Maureen for all the work she puts into this.

Highways Improvement Plan.

The working party is still meeting to discuss and update this. Currently looking at yellow lines off all the roads adjoining the New Dover Road to stop the parking so near a junction. Also, dropped kerbs in Victoria Road, Lancaster Road and Avondale Road to make disabled access easier. The latter is part of an ongoing plan over several years.

Coronation.

Another working party has been formed for this event. A 'Street Party' in the Village Hall is to take place on Sunday 7th May. Again, commemorative mugs are being given to every child in Capel School.

I would like to thank our Parish Councillors for their continuing support over the past year. Also, Maureen and Keith for all their knowledge and advise whenever it is needed.

On behalf of the Parish Council, appreciation goes to the Community Warden, Jan Henry, and PCSO, Sarah McGuinness, for their input in the village.

Philippa Seager

Signed Chairperson
16th April 2024

Dover District Council Annual Report- Cllr Martin Hibbert
2022 -2023

Post pandemic recovery at District level is now moving at pace albeit the current world circumstances and cost of living crisis still impacts on what can be done. A total of £780,000, funding has been made to help communities and residents with the cost of living. How to access this help and support can be found on the DDC website as well as a full range of other support services. To keep up to date simply register on the DDC 'Keep Me Posted' site and get news and alerts by email direct. Ward Parish Council websites also provide reciprocal support and advice information.

The DDC current programme of work is focused on local issues, local actions delivering not only for Dover and Deal but also for villages. Investing in the Port Dover by being granted £43 million of levelling up funding to use on new port control infrastructures to help keep Dover moving and stop clogging up our local roads. As well as seeking alternatives to TAP and pushing for improvements to the M2/A2, M20/A20.

Other important DDC actions this year have included the protecting of our environment and heritage. Cutting in house emissions by 50%, upgrading of street lighting to energy saving LEDs. Supporting the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, where it won the Great British Spring Clean Award. Arranging local Litter Picks organised by the new Community Roots van and team. The team also deliver a full range of community services direct to you, so make your bids early as this new service is becoming extremely popular. Good to note that Capel have already availed themselves of this service, coinciding visits with their regular Tuesday Farmers market day.

DDC is also delivering an ambitious programme to add five hundred new affordable council homes for people in need across the district, as well as shared ownership starter homes. The recent housing needs survey 2023 has now closed. The Strategic Housing Team will now start to analyse the responses and make a report.

One of the best bits of news that benefits all is that DDC set the lowest council tax in East Kent, as well being committed to maintain quality services for residents. Maintaining a full range of core services and support for communities. The budget includes provision for £1 million to be drawn from strategic reserves, helping to provide key services to support households. A decision was also made to provide more help to residents through an extension of the Council Tax Support Scheme, effective from the 1st of April. Also, all Councillors voted to keep their personal allowances at last year's level!

Finally, it is worth noting that DDC Cabinet members work hard on their assigned portfolios and provide regular detailed reports back to Councillors. I will continue to post out information from these reports where relevant to the ward.

Many thanks
Cllr Martin Hibbert
Alkham & Capel Le Ferne Ward

Signed Chairperson
 16th April 2024

David Beaney - MEM - Please find my annual report for this year. 2022 - 2023

This year has been very challenging for everyone living in Kent. KCC along with so many other Councils have struggled to deal with difficult problems all year.

We have seen huge inflation, the war in Ukraine and our borders constantly being broke with Asylum seekers.

We had a huge task of trying to set a budget this year, finical monitoring at the 9th month which is December showed a predicted over spend of 53 million pounds we were able to use a reserve tank of £25million against this, however it is inevitable that we will over spend this year.

As mentioned, before we have huge mandatory sectors of KCC that could use our budget alone, SEND being one of those.

We have had to deal with constant battles with border force and pass port control. In the last year we have had three occasions where the problem has become a huge problem for Dover Town and Kent. For the up-and-coming Easter weekend ferries are being asked not to book too many coaches on to one boat to try and ease immigration problems at passport control.

We have continued to help residents as much as we can. In the last several school holidays we have given out food vouchers for eligible children we continue to give free school meals, we have run a financial hardship scheme and have tried to keep as much support and services going to entitled residents with energy vouchers and water bills being paid.

We saw children's services receiving outstanding by Ofsted. In February KCC was designated one of the only 14 trailblazer councils for developing in the government's family hubs which is designed to provide integrated support for families and children this eventually gives us to access to 10 million pounds for transformation funding over the next two years.

We have seen an increase in Asylum seekers entering our country on small boats we are currently trying to home and support 1390 unaccompanied Asylum-seeking children from last year and we have now seen 260 enter this year that will receive the same help and support.

As a country we made the choice to try to help people in Ukraine by offering them refuge in England, Kent currently has 1767 guests staying with 854 sponsors. We have 349 Ukrainian children in our primary schools and 234 in our secondary schools.

I will continue to help and support our rural buses. we have received some money from central government but unfortunately, we won't know how that is being spent until June or July this year.

KCC have fixed 14000 pot holes in the last year and have patched 68414 sqm of road. We have received another 6 million for well needed road repairs

KCC are constantly looking for funding, they have just received 1.83 million to put towards refurbing 5 of their old buildings, this money is going to be spent on making them more efficient and this includes new windows.

We saw 19007 apply for secondary school places 78.2% of children got there first choice.

I believe you will see a difference in how s106 money will be contained when planning applications for larger developments go forward, I can see a lot more monies being asked for better forms of sustainable transport.

This is just a few points from a very busy year.

Many thanks Cllr Beaney.

Signed Chairperson
16th April 2024