

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs; Alfsdotter, Harris, Lake, Leppard, Norris, K Pilcher, S Pilcher, Seager and Young, together with Community Warden Jan Henry.

**APOLOGIES:** None.

1. **PRESENTATION**

The Chairman of Kent Association of Local Councils, Mr Neville Hudson, presented the Kent Association of Local Council Community Award to Tracey Martin.

**Citation:**

Tracey formed an event "Capel Scarecrow Festival" in 2023, with a Facebook Page, encouraging the community to make Scarecrows to be displayed outside their houses for the October Half Term week. A trail was formed in this first year, and many visitors purchased and contributed for a "map" to find out where they were. They then walked round the Village to view over 40 exhibits. All monies raised in 2023, £900, was donated to Great Ormonde Street Hospital.

Alongside this, Tracey organised competitions, with prizes, relating to the Scarecrows produced. Visitors to the Facebook Page voted for their "favourite, most creative, funniest, scariest and an overall winner".

In 2024, following community requests, Tracey decided to do it all again.

The funds raised last year, £765, went to the local Primary School for their "Opal Play Scheme" project.

Tracey has made a significant contribution for our local community by these events, getting everyone out and about with their families, which has been enjoyed and very much appreciated by local residents and visitors alike.

It is hoped that Tracey will continue this, by bringing everyone together, raising funds for another worthwhile project or charity.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024, were agreed and approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr: Seager, as present Chairperson. Proposed by Cllr: K Pilcher, seconded by Cllr: Lake and agreed by all.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**      None

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr. Seager (Chairperson) reported for the year 2024/2025 to the meeting. Report attached to these Minutes.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**      None.

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

This was confirmed as Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

Signed ..... Chairperson  
21st April 2026

## **Chairperson's Report May 2024 – April 2025**

### **Play Equipment and Recreation Field.**

The skate ramps and landing surfaces have been renewed. A new zip wire plus various other defects have been dealt with when reported during the year. The tree heights and boundaries, after a survey, have also been dealt with by a contractor. Thanks go to Keith and Jamie for regularly checking the play equipment and recreation area.

### **Speed Watch.**

These have continued to be carried out, weather permitting, on a regular basis with shorter hourly sessions when very cold. Cllr. Sam Pilcher is now the Delegate for this. The Police van has been attending regularly. All results of sessions are available on Parish Council Website.

### **Grapevine Newsletter.**

Maureen has continued to do a sterling job every month, except January, to make sure this is out on time and all contributions are received to inform residents of events etc. Thank you to her and everyone involved in the distribution.

### **Highways Improvement Plan.**

Installation of the drop kerbs, which have been done but without tactile paving, ongoing. Workmanship was poor with slabs lifting in some places – this was finally redone in October 2024. Ongoing issue with tactile paving in Beatrice Road. Yellow lines finally agreed after consultation, but the delay meant an increase in price when implemented.

The 2025 plan is now being discussed to identify what needs to be included, and an online meeting with Community Engagement Officer, Kent Highways is due to take place on 22 April.

### **Resilience Plan.**

The plan is available on the website. It needs to be reviewed this year to update the information. Assistance is now available to help create a plan that is more user friendly.

### **80th D-Day anniversary, Thursday, 6th June 2024.**

This was a successful event with Senior Police Cadets doing the marshalling to the Battle of Britain Memorial for the beacon lighting.

### **VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

We are planning to have a celebratory afternoon tea in the Village Hall on Thursday 8 May from 13.30-15.30hrs.

### **Not forgetting....**

I would like to thank all of our Parish Councillors for their continuing support over the past year. Your input, as and when needed, is a vital part of making the wheels turn in so many different areas. Also, Maureen, Keith, Tony and Chris for their knowledge, advice and guidance whenever it is required, especially around planning issues which has been prevalent during 2024/5.

On behalf of the Parish Council, appreciation goes to the Community Warden, Jan Henry, and PC, Cheryl Ellis, for their continued input in the village, as well as County Councillor, David Beaney, and District Councillor, Cllr. Martin Hibbert, for attending meetings when available and keeping us updated on various important topics.

Philippa Seager

Signed ..... Chairperson  
21st April 2026