

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 27th April 2016 at 8.00pm in the Ambrose Hall

1. Introduction

Parish Council Chairman Ken Kay opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reminded all present that the Annual Meeting booklet was available containing the reports provided by the Parish Council and Harrietsham Groups. Cllr Kay gave a brief overview of the work completed by the Parish Council over the past year, these included:

- Protection of the Glebe Field from travellers
- Approval to purchase two defibrillators for the village
- Scrub bash completed at Teers Meadow
- 0% increase to the precept
- Duck house refurbishments on the lake
- The defeat of the Court Lodge Road application and appeal
- Creation of a Planning Design policy for the village
- A Parish Council website and Facebook page

Cllr Kay went on to thank members of the community for their support and work during the year (Audrey Joy, Tony & Carole Bell, Tony Tippen and Jose Perfan) and also thanked the many volunteers in the various organisations in the village as, without them, many groups wouldn't be able to run.

2. Present

Cllr K Kay (Chair), Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr M Williams, RFO M Cuerden, Clerk A Broadhurst, Community Warden Martin Sherwood and County Cllr J Whittle

34 members of the public.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Sams, Cllr G Trussler, Cllr S Morris, Cllr E Powell, PCSO Boyd

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2015

Cllr J Sams proposed that the minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 29th April 2015 be approved. This was seconded by Brian Rust; with 12 in favour (Councillors and residents who were present at last year's meeting)

5. Guest Speaker - *Duncan Payne (Walk Chairman - The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent)*

Duncan Payne spoke about the forthcoming North Downs Walk, which is to take place in Harrietsham on the 19th June 2016. The walk started in 1985 and has raised £480,000 for charity to date. Walkers raise sponsorship which is split (50/50) between Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and their own chosen charity, so far £240,000 of the money raised has been donated to CRUK. There are three walks of different length that take place (3, 6 and 9 miles) and Duncan showed the three routes that are followed, highlighting the check points and places of interest along the way. He urged residents of Harrietsham to take part in order to raise money for charities important to them and to help reach several milestones for the Walk this year - raising £500,000 for charity and reaching an annual total of 500 walkers. Anyone interested could pick up a registration form or register on line (<http://wealdofkentrotary.org.uk>). The Clerk will also have registration forms in the Parish Office.

6. Guest Speaker - *Frank Bradshaw*

Frank Bradshaw gave an interesting talk on defibrillators, explaining how to deal with a person who has collapsed. This includes completing cardiac compressions whilst someone calls 999 and gets the defibrillator, using the equipment, through to handing the patient over to the ambulance service. During the discussion it was noted that the defibrillator should be stored above 5C (heated cabinets can be purchased) and must not be kept in direct sunlight. Suitable places to locate the two new defibrillators was discussed and Frank recommended that one be outside the Village Hall, with the other being located close to the Post Office/Harrietsham Club. It was also noted that the defibrillators should be registered with the South East Ambulance Service

so that they are able to direct callers dialling 999 to them quickly. Residents were shocked to hear that the average age for a heart attack victim is now 25 and 16 for a stroke victim.

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At the conclusion of Frank's talk, Marjorie Darby spoke briefly about the Health Walks that have been taking place for the past 3 years. There are two walks that are 2.2 or 3.5 miles which run every Thursday, with another walk taking place on a Saturday morning which starts and finishes at Lenham Village Hall.

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County Cllr Whittle highlighted an issue with school places for families in the village. It was noted that 37 children had applied for a space at Harrietsham School, 30 were awarded a place, 6 were offered one of their other two choices but 1 place had had to be allocated. Cllr Whittle has asked KCC to investigate this situation urgently, as this issue will only escalate as the size of the community increases. Cllr Whittle thanked the Parish Council and the Fish Scheme for their assistance in recent s106 talks where nearly £100,000 had been secured for Adult Social Care. Cllr Whittle also informed all present that she has raised concerns with Maidstone Borough Council that they are not listening to Parish Councils and residents over the housing number issue.

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Cllr Kay gave a personal public apology to the previous Parish Council, as, on reflection, he felt that they had been put under pressure over issues that had arisen during the 18 months leading up to the elections. He added that this was his own personal view and not that of the Parish Council's.

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Cllr Kay then concluded the meeting by thanking Trevor Allwood (who had had to resign from the Parish Council on health grounds), his fellow Councillors, Village Organisations and the Clerk, Amanda Broadhurst, for their help and support over the past year. The Clerk was then presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The formal meeting closed at 9.20pm

As there were no questions from members of the public, Cllr Kay invited all present to stay for refreshments.