

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 8.00pm in St John the Baptist Church

1. Introduction

Parish Council Chairman Eddie Powell 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 Powell thanked all of the organisations that had submitted an article, adding that he was very proud of how many groups there are in the village.

2. Present

Cllr E Powell (Chair), Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr V Foster, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr C Roots, RFO M Cuerden, Clerk A Broadhurst, Community Warden Martin Sherwood, PCSO Boyd (from 8.35pm) and County Cllr S Prendergast (from 8.30pm)
Approximately 15 members of the public.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Moore

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2018

Peter Brown proposed (from the floor) that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 25th April 2018 be approved. This was seconded by Audrey Joy, with the majority in favour.

5. Guest Speaker - Michael Smithson from the Alzheimer's Society

Michael Smithson started by mentioning that the Alzheimer's Society had appeared on the One Show this evening as they will be heavily represented in this weekend's London Marathon. He stated that Dementia is the leading cause of death in England and Wales. He gave the following facts:

- 150,000 people live with dementia and, by 2020, this will rise to 1 million people, due to an aging population
- In Kent there are 24,000 living with dementia and two-thirds of them live in the Community (not in a care home)
- Dementia is known as a silent killer as many people do not leave their homes.

The Alzheimer's Society offer the following services:

- Day Services
- Home Support Services to provide care in the home
- 12 Dementia Cafes in Kent and Medway
- 7 Peer Support groups
- Young Carers group

They are involved with the following initiatives:

- Encourage people living with dementia to be active and healthy, which is good for the body and mind
- Work with Mote Park Leisure Centre who run dementia specific activities (including swimming and table tennis). They also work with golf courses around Kent.
- 'Time for Dementia' & 'Memorabilia' - People living with dementia give talks and mentor university students at Canterbury, Greenwich and Brighton Universities, helping future doctors, nurses and pharmacists to have greater knowledge during their training.
- Dementia Friends - working with Parish Councils and businesses to provide information and training to encourage all to be more dementia friendly.

There are lots of different conditions linked to dementia but the most common are Alzheimer's and vascular dementia. Alzheimer's is a disease that affects parts of the brain. Vascular Dementia is caused by strokes or TIAs (mini strokes). This type affects the brain gradually and a patient may not even realise that they have had a TIA. Symptoms to look out for:

- Short term memory is affected, with long term memory being retained from childhood
- Concentration issues

- Struggling to plan and organise
- Having difficulty memorizing small tasks (ie making a cup of tea)
- Language can be affected with words being jumbled
- Visual understanding and spatial awareness can be affected
- Calm rational people can have a different personality

There is no cure for dementia, but it is hoped that, in 10 years time, there will be significant progress in research. Medication can slow down some of the effects of dementia, offering a better quality of life in the early stages. There is funding for cancer and heart disease but very low assistance for dementia care; which is unfair treatment.

The Community Warden asked a question about dementia in the community and Michael responded that there are wristbands that can be worn which have information and contact details. If residents know of a person living with dementia in their community, they are all able to assist to keep them safe.

Michael Smithson added that he would stay to speak to any residents confidentially if they had any concerns they wished to discuss.

Cllr Powell thanked Councillors for voluntarily giving up their time to work in the community. He also thanked the Clerk and RFO for their work during the year.

Cllr Powell invited County Cllr Prendergast to speak and she thanked the Parish Council, Clerk, Community Warden and residents for their work.

The formal meeting closed at 8.44pm

Cllr Powell invited all present to stay for refreshments.