

**MINUTES OF LYDDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Lydden Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr R. Booth, Cllr. R. Andrews, Cllr. P Collins, Cllr. B. Collins, Cllr. M. Cregeen and the Clerk Jonathan Mount.

Late attendance by Cllr Beaney.

**1) Chairman's welcome and apologies**

No apologies received.

Cllr Seath did not attend

**2) Chairman's annual report**

Thank you all for coming this evening for LPC Annual Parish Meeting.

The Parish Council have had a good year and as we did last year, I want to extend all my thanks to the Parish Councillors for their hard work. There have been some changes with the Cllrs, and we continue to have spaces for co-option. The PC is of course a statutory body and the first level of government. There are limited powers a PC has but as we have demonstrated this year when problems have arisen, we are the first point of contact and can escalate any concerns. As ever, please report any concerns to us and report any highway matters to Highways England, any KCC matters to them, and so forth. Please do put yourselves forward to represent your community.

I would like to thank Lorraine Young who by virtue of recently moving, has left the PC but want to thank her for her work before her departure.

I would also like to extend my special thanks to Ray Andrews who has worked tirelessly on the Speedwatch campaign and also in developing our highways improvement plan. The HIP has been sent to KCC.

We very slightly increased our precept this year given the rise in living costs for everyone.

We have raised issues with regards to the parking and planning issues at the St Mary's Rise site and also submitted our views on the DDC Local Plan. The website now has a planning portal with updated planning applications therein.

Thank you to all the residents and to all the activities that have been going on at the hall and around the village. Thank you to the Village Hall, which has continued to increase revenue and hold events including Quiz Nights.

Thank you too to the LVCG for all it does for the community; it is very much appreciated. We were saddened to learn of the needless vandalism at the little library and will support them in taking it further as necessary. Well, that's it for another year. Best wishes.

Ryan Booth  
Chair to LPC

**3) To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

These were approved and signed

**4) Receipt of the unaudited accounts for the 2022-2023 financial year**

These were received and signed

**5) To receive an update from Dover District Council**

As you are aware we normally and periodically update with electronics communications when we have updates or good news to share

We hope you are all well and once again thank you to everyone for either calling us or emailing any urgent DDC parish issues or matters, we have actioned them all within hours as a result, which is far more effective to the residents, rather than having to wait weeks to discuss in monthly surgeries.

We are delighted with the many good housing projects that have been completed recently and are still ongoing in some parishes. Well done to some very future forward-thinking house builds, I'm sure many good new young people will be a vital contribution towards the renewing of the local community and our investment in EV charge points and PV solar technology within these greener developments. Much has been done to add this housing mix into our village communities.

I am mindful to add the ongoing support with the recent border force site and our intense campaigns towards the A2 being duelled up are still live and have received utmost support from our Local MP Natalie Elphicke, indeed this A2 campaign has been raised several times in the current Parliament at PM Questions.

We have also recently submitted funding requests to KCC Highways for more roadworks to be completed from the Lydden Hill to Temple Ewell road section. For any other potholes or repairs you need to do, please send us a picture and the exact location, and we shall submit it for you.

On another point since the post covid period, we have received many more funding streams for local Kent-based projects, if you have any non-profit ideas seeking funding support you may find charitable support here on this DDC listing below. DDC Councillor Beaney and Councillor Rose are always keen to support your applications.

We have produced a new here promise to continue the DDC work completed so far, which will include keeping:

- Safer communities for all areas of Dover Downs and River
- Community funding and support for all projects
- Electronic reporting systems for faster reactive services
- Zoom and teams meetings with any residents or parishes
- (You can now report via Twitter or email on any matter or SMS text) details below
- Keep our roads and hedges clean and repaired
- Keep crime down - ASB and other crimes are now very low in all villages of Dover Downs River
- Our efforts for the ward are now 2nd to Capel Ward in low crime stats - results recently published on Twitter @DoverDownsR - let's keep it that way!

You can use the community trigger to report ASB online or contact your local CSU via email

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Housing/Housing-for-Tenants/ASB/The-Community-Trigger.aspx>

You can now report crime directly on email

[csu.dover@kent.police.uk](mailto:csu.dover@kent.police.uk)

We have all had a lot to deal with during the Covid pandemic during this last electoral period but as a result of our digital push, we were able to keep in touch and remain safe, whereas many other communities simply shut down and did nothing, we are proud that your rural area became digitally connected very successfully during this period and created more transparent meetings at a local level, whilst providing essential funding, health, heat and food and services.

During the next period Councillor Beaney and Councillor Rose will continue our efforts for the local communities and keep the area safe and protected, as a spectacular example of AONB rural countryside we wish to continue to keep your village areas safe and protected.

[Cllr-david.beaney@dover.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr-david.beaney@dover.gov.uk)

[Cllr-mark.rose@dover.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr-mark.rose@dover.gov.uk)

Stay safe - keep safe - continue the work  
Cllr Mark Rose  
Cllr David Beaney

## **6) To receive an update from Kent County Council**

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 broken with asylum seekers.

We had a huge task of trying to set a budget this year, financial monitoring in the 9th month which is December showed a predicted overspend of 53 million pounds we were able to use a reserve tank of £25million against this, however, it is inevitable that we will overspend 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 passport 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 onto 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 from Ofsted. In February KCC was designated one of the only 14 trailblazer councils for developing the government's family hubs which are designed to provide integrated support for families and children this eventually gives us 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 potholes in the last year and has 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 refurbishing 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.

## **7) To receive short presentations by local community groups**

- **Lydden Village Hall**

No report received

- **Lydden Primary School**

No report received

- **St Mary the Virgin Church**

### **Lydden, St Mary the Virgin**

#### **Benefice of Temple Ewell and Lydden**

We are a two-parish benefice that includes Temple Ewell and Lydden.

We are a growing community of about 55 members and our weekly attendance is up by over 5%.

Financially we are sound and are registered as a charity. John Glass and Chris Tyler manage the finances at Lydden.

#### **Churchwardens**

We have three Churchwardens. Liz Waller, Judith Shilling and after 15 years of diligent service, Liz Thomas-Friend has stood down from her responsibilities and handed over the reins to John Glass.

John has lived in the village for over 50 years. He served on the Parish Council for about 14 years and was a school governor for four years. He is a member of the Rotary Club and runs their Shoebox Scheme sending humanitarian boxes to Romania and areas affected by wars and earthquakes.

Over the last three years, John has been supporting Liz in the running of the church and we look forward to him taking over as Churchwarden alongside Liz Waller and Judith Shilling.

#### **Sunday Services**

We have church services on Sundays at 09.00 am at Lydden and 10.30 am at Temple Ewell. We also have a Family Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 11.00am and a weekly Prayer & Share meeting on Wednesdays.

#### **Family Services**

Christingle Service – Christmas Eve

Pet Service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

The King's Coronation

#### **Church and Fabric**

The general condition of the church is good thanks to the ongoing works of Dewi Thomas-Friend and others, and we are very grateful to Sylvia Friend for the beautiful flowers that are on display and that she opens the church daily for visitors. Hospitality is alive and well in Lydden!

#### **Churchyard**

The spring bulbs which were planted last year have all bloomed and we hope to repeat this again to ensure that the churchyard continues to thrive.

We log and record the wildlife within the Church, especially our bats.

We have signed up to the Bat Society and follow their advice to ensure that we protect and uphold this unique environment.

We have registered as an Eco-Church and we are keen to pursue the idea of wildlife boards in the churchyard to enhance and enforce the natural beauty of the area.

We liaise with Colin who cuts the grass in the churchyard to ensure that dedicated wild areas are allowed to flourish alongside the cut grass.

Many thanks to Nina and Tim Dougall for creating and presenting the beautiful signs for the church and churchyard annexe.

### **Community Involvement**

We continue to liaise with the community and are trying to build partnerships wherever we can.

### **Future plans**

To develop the churchyard as a place of 'Wellbeing,' and to carry out more Family friendly and Community Services.

Revd Ian Parrish  
Priest-in-charge  
Tempel Ewell and Lydden

- **Lydden Village Community Group**

Sharon Taylor read her report and expanded on some of the topics mentioned in her report.

We continue to host the annual village Scarecrow and Pumpkin trails and this year brought forward the scarecrow trail to coincide with the Coronation celebrations.

We also decorated parts of the village with bunting and after a donation from the Parish council our volunteers painted the railings and stones surrounding the pond before the bunting went up. We also held a children's Coronation art competition with each entrant receiving a specially commissioned gift from the LVCG.

The Little library continues to be a valuable resource for all members of not only our village but from surrounding communities as well.

Sadly, it was vandalised earlier this year, but due to the overwhelming support of our members the library was thoroughly cleared of all the glass, the damaged doors were removed, and missing panes replaced with Perspex. Despite many witnesses and names being reported no further action was taken by the police. As recently as this week, the children's bookcase was damaged and is now awaiting repair by one of our volunteers.

As part of our continued initiative to bring the community together and keep our village clean, we set up the Lydden Litter Pickers group.

We have purchased litter-picking equipment and have distributed it to our team of residents who go out on a regular basis and pick up litter on the roadsides and pavements in their part of the village.

Finally, we would like to extend a big thank you to the whole community and the Parish Council for their continued support.

- **Allotments' report**

A short report was given by Cllr Cregeen. There is currently a waiting list for allotments. The main concern is water and its availability. At the moment there are no spare allotments

**8) Question and answer session**

There were none

**9) Any further updates that community groups wish to provide**

- PCSO report

No report received

**10) The meeting closed at 8. pm**

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE