

MINUTES OF LYDDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at 7.30pm on 9th May 2024 at Lydden Village Hall

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr R. Booth, Cllr. P Collins, Cllr. B. Collins, Cllr. M. Cregeen, W Smith, S Fuller and the Clerk Irene Bowie.

1) Chairman's welcome and apologies

No apologies received.

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.

This year we welcome new Councillors Wendy Smith, Linda Smith and Susan Fuller. We also welcome our new Clerk Irene Bowie.

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 within the Village 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. Well, that's it for another year. Best wishes.

Ryan Booth
Chair to LPC

3) To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

These were approved and signed

4) Receipt of the unaudited accounts for the 203/24 financial year

These were received and signed

5) To receive an update from Dover District Council

No Report received.

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

No report received

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**

No report received.

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
Temple 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

CHAIRMAN

DATE