

SHADOXHURST RESIDENTS' MEETING

Page 1

Minutes of the First Annual Residents Meeting, held in the Pavilion, Shadoxhurst, on Saturday, 13 May 2017 between 2 pm and 4pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Mr D Ledger (chair), Mrs S Ellis, Mrs C Procter, Mr S Cass, Mr K Carroll, Mr R Crowley, and Mr M Richmond Coggan

PARISH CLERK: Mrs J Batt

COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR: Mrs A Hicks

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were 15+ Members of the Public present.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr Ledger welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council and Borough Councillor Hicks.

2. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN REPORT

My first year as Parish Chairman has been a steep learning curve and kept me busy nearly every week, and often each day too. I am proud to serve as Chairman and take the role very seriously. There are a lot of things to be done. In the last 12 months, we filled all the vacant posts of Councillors and I am pleased to report that we have a very good and dedicated team, every one of whom is keen to work for the good of the village. Previously there has been rather a turnover for a variety of reasons, and often at least one vacancy. In 2017 I am hoping that everything has stabilised and the team will stay together to deliver the exciting things being planned.

We formed the Village Forum last June and villagers have embraced it and every meeting is well supported. There are some 70 villagers on the mailing list. We also started the Coffee Club, which initially met fortnightly, but soon moved to weekly. Apart from a break at Christmas, it is supported each week by regulars, and others less regular but never the less continue to support it. I count it as a great success and thank Val, Sheila and Colin for being the mainstays of the Club.

We are I think, gradually building up the morale and motivation in the village thanks to all the Parish Councillors and others regularly involved in the Forum. All this takes team work and I hope that we can take this to new heights in the coming months.

Communications are key, and we are striving to improve these. Village events have been held, including the Table Top Sale, spring clean and

Showcase Event. Other events are in the wings for this year. All need people to help. I thank you all for stepping forward.

Planning and development issues continue to dominate my Parish involvement, and whilst we lost a key field to development recently, as long as I am able to put time and effort into local affairs, I promise that I will work hard to protect the village as best as I am able. There are a number of residents that help with the planning work and I am grateful for their continued support.

In spite of the development threats facing us at the moment, I will co-ordinate and lobby for the rectification of the twisted planning process we currently have nationally. The system is so heavily weighted, the injustice must be highlighted and I for one choose to fight and not roll over in the face of undue pressure. Testing times are ahead.

A hearty thank you to each of the Parish Councillors for all the work you have done and the support that you have given to me. I am very grateful for this, I think we do make a good team. Finally, I must thank Judith for all the work you put in. it is tough to juggle all the parishes you do, but you are always there to help me when I ring or turn up on your doorstep, you put me back on the straight and narrow and give advice, no matter what else you were doing at the time. Printing the newsletters at weekends and a myriad of jobs in the evenings too are all much appreciated by me.

3. REPORT BY COUNCILLOR MIKE ANGELL - KCC

Savings have been achieved by restructuring the County Council, entering in to commissioning contracts for services which have reduced overheads and still get value for money and which have not affected the delivery of front line services. All this includes balancing the budget for this financial year.

The levy from the public wrapped inside the 2per cent increase on Council Tax for Social Care has helped and indeed another 24 million from central government has also helped but not completely covered the cost of care for the elderly.

Before you ask the money that was invested in Iceland has now been recovered not only by KCC but also the Kent and Medway fire and rescue service plus interest (over 1 million pounds).

I have been engaged as follows at County Council: during the last year I was: Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which involves the monitoring of improvement and future plans, and a direct contact with the Care Quality Commission. Commissioning Advisory Board, Planning Committee. Chairman of the General Purposes Fire Authority Committee, Sussex Community Rail Partnership Strategic Board, Joint

Transportation Board, Ashford Chairman Youth Advisory Group and Local Children's Board to do with specialist children's services.

This has kept me pretty busy as well as constituency matters which are growing with the housing developments. Most of my enquiries deal with Highways matters, apparent lack of infrastructure and no doubt there will be school appeals to come to my attention. There are issues which concern me in that the pressure is now on our rural roads and infrastructure or lack of.

There are now regular discussions about traffic calming as a result of the very soon to start building at Chilmington Green. This includes the upgrading of the A28 between the tank roundabout and the Matalan roundabout. Work is also going on in design and finance seeking for an extension to the dual carriageway on the Great Chart bypass. In addition, I am informed that the work on Junction 10A will commence next year. The JTB has been pressing Highways England for the Barry Road entrance to be redesigned with a roundabout. We await their agreement.

Among other things I have been pressing the NHS for a health centre in Chilmington Green with facilities for Minor injuries, ray and consultant clinics in order to reduce the need for patients having to visit the William Harvey.

My very best wishes to the Parish Council and thank you for your excellent voluntary support to the community.

4. **REPORT BY COUNCILLOR ALINE HICKS – ABC**

Mrs Hicks updated those present on the progress of the following projects within Ashford Borough: -

The Commercial Quarter
Elwick Place
Ashford College
Jasmin Vardimon Dance School
Chilmington Green
The Station Spurs

The Cabinet is involved with responses to SE Rail Franchise.

The list of documents to be included in the Local Plan will be published at the Cabinet Meeting due to be held next Thursday and changes to the published plan go to Cabinet on 16 June.

Mrs Hicks attended the Open Space Strategy Workshop and reported on the documents necessary to guide developer contributions.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is run by volunteers and is in need of funds to help keep it going. It advises people on benefits, debt, housing, relationships and employment.

Ashford Borough Council is due to elect a new mayor next Thursday.
Mrs Hicks thanked everyone for their involvement in the village.

5. VILLAGE FORUM

Mr Ledger reported that The Forum burst into life on 13 June 2016 and has met 11 times since. All meetings are well attended and he thanked everyone who does attend for their support. The Forum needs to improve communication with the residents of the parish. The Forum is very informal and there is no compulsion on members to do anything if they do not wish to, but it tries to provide events that people want to come to and possibly get involved with, although at the moment it relies on people offering to help. Good progress has been made over the last year with the refurbishment of the planters for which we must thank Val and Colin Carroll, we have attempted to improve the drainage on the Recreation Field, lobbied various agencies about problems with broadband, held 2 CPR Training sessions, undertaken traffic counts, a spring clean, held Showcase Shadoxhurst and a Table Top Sale.

Mr Ledger said he hoped that the Forum could make the 2nd year better than the first.

Mr Richmond Coggan thanked Mr Ledger for his work with the Village Forum.

6. ECCLESIASTICAL REPORT

Reverend Caroline Mansley, Team Vicar for Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst introduced herself and explained to those present that Shadoxhurst is on the southern boundary of the newly formed Ashford Town Parish, which consists of 10 local churches divided into 5 pastoral areas. One benefit of this change is that the Parish will be able to employ a Missioner who will be paid for from money received from the Church Commissioners.

With regard to Shadoxhurst, Rev Mansley said she hoped that there would not be a noticeable difference although due to this re-organisation Shadoxhurst Church has now become a Chapel of Ease which means that it is not required to hold services every Sunday, although there continue to be 2 Holy Communion Services per month and a Songs of Praise once a month.

The roof of St Peter and St Paul's, Shadoxhurst needs at least £10,000 worth of work in order to repair part of it and the PCC is awaiting the results of the Quinquennial Inspection before proceeding with this work in order to save extra scaffolding costs.

Rev Mansley explained that The Friends of Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst Churches raise funds to help with the upkeep of both churches and she handed out membership forms and Standing Order mandates to everyone present and asked them to consider joining The Friends to help to raise money towards the repair of the roof and celebrates its 20th anniversary on 21st May when there will be a service at Kingsnorth followed by lunch.

Rev Mansley thanked Helen West, our Verger for all her work for Shadoxhurst Church

Mr Ledger said that churches are a community building and suggested that the Parish Council and Village Forum should consider ways in which the church could be used for Community events. There are no toilet facilities available in the church at the moment, but this may be something that could be investigated once the roof has been repaired.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR VILLAGE FORUM

Mrs Cheryl Vander offered to take on the role of Chairperson of the Village Forum.

8. ELECTION OF MINUTE TAKER FOR VILLAGE FORUM

Mrs Carol Procter agreed to continue to take the minutes

9. VISION FOR SHADOXHURST

Mr Crowley presented the Parish Council's Vision for Shadoxhurst and explained that it is open to discussion and consultation.

10. FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

A petition is being drawn up to try and get the speed limit on the Hamstreet Road reduced to 40mph.

Members of the Parish Council asked for support as they intend to lobby our local MP and ABC regarding a green belt around the parish and will also contact other parishes and ask if they would Join with us so that we can all speak as one voice. Those present Unanimously agreed that the Parish Council will proceed with this project.

A discussion took place on planning policy with regard to green belts and Mrs Hicks Reported that for every 10 houses built there should be ½ an acre of open ground and suggested that the Parish Council should see if they could get this extended to include zones around the village.

A resident asked how easy it would be to persuade developers to give greenbelt land to the parish. This would be in their gift.

It was unanimously agreed that parishes need to regain planning control.

A few residents in the parish are working on the Village Protection Policy and Mr Ledger asked if anyone else would be prepared to help.

It was considered a good idea for new clubs and societies to be allowed to use the hall free of charge.

The following ideas were put forward for consideration: -

- Race Night
- Murder Mystery
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Distribution of Information on a monthly basis
- A Directory of Small Businesses with an event to promote them in July
- Quiz Night – arranged for November
- A mega meeting of local villages affected by development
- A Video of the Village
- A Village Survey

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Signed Date.....
Chair