

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14/05/2024 in Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs. Nick Allan (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mrs Queenie Broom, Mrs Elise Ellicott, Martin Disney, Mark Kent, Mrs Lorna Downing, Oliver Forster, Neil Woofenden, Edd Southerden, MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor, DCC Cllr. John Berry, the Clerk and two members of the public.

70/04/24. Welcome and Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council: Cllr. Allan, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs F Ryan and MDDC Cllr. Andrea Glover. The Chairman then gave a report as below 71/04/24:

71/04/24. Elections 2023: Last year saw the start of a new four year term - following the elections we had two vacancies and there was a casual vacancy shortly afterwards. We were pleased to welcome three new members over the last few months - Olly, Lorna and Mark and we now have a full team.

Due to district boundary changes we are now the Lower Culm Ward and are represented by three ward councillors - following the elections we were pleased to welcome MDDC District Cllrs. Cathy Connor, John Poynton and Andrea Glover.

Planning and Culm Garden Village: We continue to respond to consultations and to liaise with MDDC regarding the garden village Danescroft held a second presentation/Q&A session back in the autumn for which there was a good turnout. More recently a sports hub concept has been put forward & Melanie has attended one meeting to date.

Playing Field: Improvements to the play park - we continue to maintain and try to improve the play park. Melanie and Edd are currently looking into funding for the cycle track. Unfortunately two applications have been turned down recently. Local involvement will improve the prospect of raising money elsewhere. We are grateful to a couple of groups that Melanie has spoken with that may be able to help raise funds.

Footpaths & The Woodland Trust: Thanks to Elise for her hard work in keeping the paths in good condition. The series of evening summer evening walks continue to be a success with the same format again this year, the first walk being the Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk finishing at The Wyndham Arms for refreshments.

Melanie maintains contact with the contractors working for The Woodland Trust and together with Elise they will meet on site with the contractor in Silver Wood shortly to look at any issues.

Website and electronic newsletter (K-NET): The monthly electronic newsletter is a good source of information, Business advertising via the website help to fund this. Every year we encourage people to sign up to the newsletter if they haven't already done so. Thank you to Maria for putting it together on our behalf.

Christmas Eve: Thanks to everyone involved with this village celebration. Whilst it now takes place on a much smaller scale (post Covid), we understand that the last two years have been most successful. Thank you to The Wyndham Arms for hosting the event.

Grants: We are pleased to award various grants to organisations and clubs; the two village halls, the three churchyards, Sainthill Youth Club and the football club.

This year we were pleased to help with the Chill and Chat monthly coffee morning held at Kentisbeare Village Hall and we are all delighted to hear of its success.

History Project: An ongoing project which Lorna is keen to take forward. Anyone able to help with this please contact Lorna, Melanie or one of the councillors. We have just looked at some memorabilia which a family have kindly donated.

(Chairman's Report continued)

Blackdown Hills Parishes Network: As a subscribing Parish, Edd & Melanie are our representatives, recently attending the AGM & also joining a tour of Hinkely Point as organised by the network.

Highways: Melanie is in regular contact with Helen our Neighbourhood Highways Officer. As DCC Cllr. Berry sits on the Highways & Traffic Order Committee he has been tasked with our request to move the 30mph limit sign; a decision is still awaited.

Other News, Portrait of HRH King Charles – we have just received a free framed portrait of HRH King Charles to celebrate his new reign. It is hoped that Kentisbeare Village Hall Committee will display the portrait in the hall.

Finally – thanks were extended to all of the Parish Councillors for their input, Queenie as Vice-Chair stepping in when necessary and Melanie our Clerk. Also, thanks for the support that we receive from our Devon County and Mid Devon councillors.

Continued thanks year on year to everyone for volunteering with various events and helping with numerous organisations.

Also an extra special thanks for those involved with Kentisbeare Village Stores, particularly Mike & Sally for allowing the shop to continue and for Jackie and her team for their hard work and for making the shop the success that it is.

72/04/24. Any reports from DCC & MDDC Councillors: MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor – after a year in post the books are now balanced without services having to be cut. Mid Devon is within the top 10% in the country with recycling. Community Payback are looking for jobs locally. Details have been publicised of the Let's Talk Survey. Brochures for vulnerable properties that may be subject to flooding can be distributed – as supplied by MDDC. DCC Cllr. J Berry: Cllr. Berry will continue to liaise with the Clerk and submit any reports via the monthly newsletter and Parish magazine. The Locality Budget is open for applications. Cllr. Elise Ellicott/P3 Footpath Co-ordinator: Last year saw another year of a successful series of organised walks with record attendance at the Annual Clifford Pike Walk with some 50 attending and around 40 or so attending the final walk which took place around Blackborough. The annual survey forms have now been completed and submitted to DCC. A date for the Himalayan Bashing (HBAG – Himalayan Bashing Action Group) is yet to be confirmed - if it is to go ahead this year.

73/04/24. Any Other Reports Business or Questions: A member of the public extended thanks and appreciation to the Parish Council for its work in the community. The two members of the public then continued by raising concern about the upcoming loss of the post office in the village and queried what could be done - if anything - to try and keep it or look at alternative options such as use of another space and a travelling post mistress. The Chairman confirmed that he would speak with those currently involved with the post office and report back.

There were no further reports or questions and the meeting closed.