

SUTTON BY DOVER PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes

MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL, DOWNS ROAD, EAST STUDDAL ON TUESDAY 21 MAY 2019
AT 7.30PM

<http://www.sutton-by-doverpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>

- 1. Present and apologies:** B Merriman (Chair)
H Densham
G Smith
A Calthorpe
D Willet
11 Members of the public
KCC Member Steve Manion
S Smith (Clerk)
- Apologies: G Akhurst
DDC Member Nick Kenton

2. Approval of the minutes of the APM meeting held on 29 May 2018

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Calthorpe and all members voted in favour and they were signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of interest:

None

4. Matters arising from previous APM minutes

None

5. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Sutton by Dover Annual Parish meeting. There have been some changes in Councillors since the May elections. Ron Little and Charlie Hogben did not stand for re-election and we thank them for their service and we welcome Dave Willet to the Council.

The Parish Year

I am happy to report the end of year accounts for 2018/19 have been completed and are presently with the internal auditor. The audited accounts together with the Annual Report will be presented at the June PC meeting for approval.

A community litter pick took place on 7 April 2018 and although there were fewer volunteers than in previous years, a great deal of litter was collected and DDC removed over 40 bags of rubbish that afternoon. The PC had purchased their own equipment to undertake the litter pick, and produced their own Risk Assessment so that it was not tied to DDC's stringent rules. Thanks goes to the volunteer organiser, Claire Inglin and to everyone who took part.

At the beginning of the Council year members discussed the suitability of purchasing and installing a defibrillator for the Parish. Whilst investigating the purchase the opportunity arose to obtain one free from the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. After a number of months negotiations the defibrillator arrived and has just recently been installed outside this building and will be commissioned soon. The Community Centre, local KCC member Steve Manion and the Parish Council jointly funded the purchase of a cabinet and the installation costs for the unit. The Church have agreed to pay the ongoing running costs for the electricity.

We plan to have a training session on the equipment in the very near future for all those interested, and you will be hearing more about that later in the meeting.

The privet boundary hedge in the allotments and the boundary hedges around the orchard were extremely overgrown and were all cut back at the beginning of this year. Also meetings were held with the Natural Flood Management Officer to investigate ways of stopping water pouring off the fields to the side of the allotments onto the highway during periods of heavy rain. It was decided to cut a gully from the field behind the orchard into a natural hollow at the back of the orchard to redirect and catch rainwater which would then dissipate naturally. This appears to be working well and thanks go to the volunteers who undertook the digging. A good example of the community helping to solve its problems.

BT have installed the long awaited high speed fibre connection box in East Studdal, although unfortunately this only provides a high speed service to parts of East Studdal and no other areas of the Parish.

Last autumn sadly the much loved brick pillar Victorian Post Box in Maydensole was knocked down by a commercial vehicle. This has been replaced by a modern box on a pole. It is very frustrating that the Post Office refused to reinstate the original box even though the Parish Council wrote to them many times, supported by our local MP.

I would like to confirm the Parish Council is constantly reviewing the storage of data held to ensure it meets Data Protection Regulations.

On 22 September 2018 the Parish Council held its third 'Apple Day' in the community orchard. Although it was rather a dull day lots of people turned up to enjoy participating in picking and pressing the apples, taste the apple juice or just enjoy watching what was going on. A local parishioner provided hot dogs and tea/coffee and cakes were served. Parishioners who brought along their own bags and liquid containers went away with apples and juice to enjoy in their own homes. Grateful thanks go to Cllr Ron Little for organising the event and to those Parishioners who generously donated the use of their pressing equipment. The date for Apple Day 2019 is Saturday 14 September.

The number of planning applications dealt with by the PC during the year have been steady and on the whole applications were supported by the PC. An independent review group was set up to review the PC's planning policy and guidelines, and their findings have been published for public consultation. The findings and further actions required will be reported to the PC during the current year. Two development sites within the parish received outline planning permission, East Studdal Nursery in Downs Road (10 houses) and land adjacent to the Homestead, Homestead Lane (4 houses). All current planning application and resulting decisions can be viewed on the Parish Website.

The Parish Council have applied to adopt the triangle of land outside the Three Horseshoes as a Village Green. We have been told that the process can sometimes take a number of years to finalise.

Colin Stokes who has cut the grass and maintained the public areas for which the PC are responsible retired at the end of March. The contract will be retendered in the autumn and is currently being covered on a 6 months trial basis by Colin Little. This also means we currently have a vacancy as Tree Warden.

I would like to remind everyone that Parish Council meetings take place the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of August in this hall and that Councillors welcome the attendance of members of the public to these meetings. Also don't forget to visit the Parish website to view agendas, minutes, planning information, notices and reports on Parish Council events.

To Conclude

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank the following people:

Sue Smith our Parish Clerk, Sue does an excellent job despite its many challenges, she is always on top of things and we value her greatly.

Claire Inglin for acting as our internal auditor

Colin Stokes for his work as Tree Warden

Steve Manion, DDC and KCC. Steve is always at our meetings, shows a great interest in the Parish and has helped with advice and funding for which we are grateful.

Nick Kenton DDC. We are grateful to Nick for keeping us informed as to matters affecting our Parish.

Finally, I would very much like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support to me and their continued commitment to this community.

Thank you.

6. Presentation to Retired Councillor Ron Little

Ron had been a councillor for 47 years. Cllr Merriman gave a brief background to his history in the parish council, his input into the allotments and initiating the idea of installing a defibrillator. Cllr Merriman presented Ron with 2 engraved whisky tumblers with grateful thanks to him for all his efforts over the past years.

Ron explained to the meeting that he had joined the parish council in 1972 after being offered a place. He had been involved in a lot of things some quite controversial and had really enjoyed his time on the council.

7. Reports from other organisations in the Parish:

Sutton Community Centre

Claire Inglin gave the report for the Community Centre on behalf of the chair of the management committee.

The hall has several regular bookings including Karate Club and Zumba (replaced now by a step keep fit class). One off bookings continue to provide a good source of income.

The various members of the committee were thanked for organising and supporting the successful New Years Eve disco and American Supper as well as the regular quiz nights and Family Bingo evenings.

The hall now has its own website and a Data Protection Officer has been appointed from the committee.

The members of the committee and holding trustees were thanked for their support and hard work over the past year.

Rural Roundup

Report from the editor:

The magazine was now on issue number 95 and has been going for 10 years.

Each parish gets a couple of pages for news.

It is community magazine not just a church magazine.

Messy Church - Drop In - St Peter & St Paul's Church, Sutton

Report from Ann Ford:

The Tues morning drop in is being continued and has become a coffee morning. It fits in well with 'lets be social' so there is a coffee morning on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Quarterly there will be a Saturday morning with crafts and coffee. The summer one hopefully on 13th July 2019 will be held to raise money for the John Foche charity.

Every Tuesday from 12.30 there is an exercise class which is free at the moment as a grant is covering the cost.

Messy church continues in the hall and is now for adults as well as providing activities for children. The church has a new vicar.

The website and noticeboards will update any changes to the Sunday service in the hall.

8. Presentation on defibrillator and first response training

Katie Little brought along an AED and gave a short presentation on how it works assisted by Cllr Calthorpe. Katie kindly offered to do first aid sessions for the local residents as well as defibrillator training.

9. District and County Reports:

Steve Manion reported on the following:

DDC

The council is managing with fewer resources and is using them to the best advantage.

Regeneration is one of the key aims of the council.

Kearsney Abbey has a big refurbishment project going on.

KCC

There are difficult financial positions for councils at the moment although the county council does have a financially stable budget

Social care takes 40% of the budget.

The Council is working closely with its NHS colleagues and with schools.

Funding has been received from central government for road repairs in the area.

Cllr Manion paid tribute to Ron Little saying he would be sadly missed on the parish council.

10. Any Other Business

None

11. Meeting finished at:

8.21 pm

Date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 4 June 2019 in Studdal Church Hall.

Cllr Merriman thanked everyone for coming along and invited people to stay for refreshments