

SUTTON BY DOVER PARISH COUNCIL

<http://suttonbydoverparishcouncil.org.uk/>

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes

Meeting held in Sutton Community Centre on Tuesday 31st May 2022 at 7.30 pm.

1. *Present and Apologies*      B Merriman (Chair)  
   G Smith  
   A Calthorpe  
   L Steger  
   H Densham  
   D Willet  
   17 Members of the public  
   S Smith (Clerk)

*Apologies:*                      G Akhurst

2. *Note the minutes of the APM meeting held on 4th May 2021*  
Noted for accuracy. All agreed

3. *Declarations of interest*  
None

4. *Matters arising from previous APM minutes*  
None

5. *Chairman's report*  
Attached

6. *Reports from representatives of local organisations:*  
*Community Centre*

The hall has been extensively refurbished with a new heating system, new cloakrooms and updated kitchen equipment. Electric charging points are to be installed in the car park. KCC and DDC were thanked for their funding contributions towards the projects.

The small meeting room has been decorated and renamed the Windsor room dedicated to the hall's long serving quiz master.

The Committee have been working hard both in and outside the hall which continues to run regular quiz and bingo nights, Karate, Tai Chi, dog training classes and band practices as well as one off events.

This October marks 40 years since the hall was opened and an 80's themed birthday party is being planned to celebrate this. All are invited.

*Sutton Church*

The Church is open again after having been closed for almost two years, although services are reduced.

The hall is also being fully used again for events such as Messy Church and the monthly coffee mornings which are growing in strength.

Thanks were expressed for allowing the Church events to carry on in the Community Hall while the floor of the Church Hall was being repaired.

### *John Foche Charity*

A background on the history of the Charity which dates back to 1610 was given by the Charity's correspondent.

Currently the trustees meet up once a year to discuss the delivery of Christmas hampers in the parish. These are given as a goodwill, friendship gesture. Unfortunately, because of Covid the hamper delivery did not go ahead in 2020 and vouchers were given instead. In 2021 Haynes (in Ashley) made up and delivered the hampers. The Trustees will be meeting again in November to make arrangements for this year's deliveries.

### *PCSO*

No report.

### *Chocksgoaway*

The group made up of local residents was formed to object to the proposed airfield at Little Mongeham. Details of the forum can be found online and information on the airfield application is available on the DDC Website.

A short history of the proposed airfield application at Manor Farm was given. The application submitted in April 2021, is for a runway, 7500 aircraft movements, hangars and camping pods. Disappointment was voiced that local residents were not consulted before the submission was made as is usual with such applications.

Fundraising continues, up to date £18,000 has been raised although more will be needed in the future. The funding has been used so far to cover the cost of the various aviation consultants engaged by Chocksgoaway to counter the details of the application and to pay for legal advice. After submission of the application, DDC consulted the local parish councils as statutory bodies, all have objected to the application. A list was read out to the meeting of various other organisations also objecting to the proposed airfield.

A concern was voiced that if the runway was granted the site would then become a brownfield site and open the land up for development

Currently a DDC planning officer is reviewing all the documents and will make a recommendation to the planning committee. No date has been given for the committee meeting yet but it is expected to be in the near future.

A query arose as to whether the proposed helipad is still part of the application. Apparently, it is however its general use has been removed and the helipad will only be used for emergencies.

## 7. *Questions/Comments from local residents*

A local resident complained about the recent verge cutting in the parish. Disappointment was voiced on the standard of the work and it was pointed out that the fire hydrant in Homestead Lane had been hit by the machinery. Clerk to report this to Highways.

A question was asked about the recent consultation on reducing the KCC funding for bus services which for this parish means no public buses will be serving the area, leaving people vulnerable without transport. No update is available at the moment.

## 8. *DDC and KCC reports*

KCC report read out by Cllr Smith. The report covered:

KCC's relationship with Government

Levelling up Kent

KCC's role in achieving Kent's environmental ambitions

Health and social care integration

KCC's relationship with schools

9. *Any other business*  
*None*

Meeting finished at: 8.15pm

For info: Next Monthly Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30pm in Sutton Parish Community Centre

Cllr Merriman thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and invited them to help themselves to the refreshments.

## CHAIRMANS REPORT 2022

COVERING THE PERIOD APRIL 2021 – MARCH 2022

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Sutton by Dover Annual Parish meeting.

### **The Parish Year**

The year began with Parish Council meetings still being held virtually via zoom, but happily there was light at the end of the tunnel and following a massive government vaccination program a more normal life style slowly started to emerge in the early summer. The venue for the PC meetings was moved to the Community Centre to enable social distancing to be practiced and face to face monthly meetings recommenced in June.

The relaxation of Covid Regulations came too late for the annual Parish litter Pick to take place, but a number of community minded Parishioners had undertaken litter picking whilst out walking. Thankfully in September 'Apple Day' resumed in the Community Orchard and what a lovely day it was. It was good to see, as well as the usual supporters, new members of the Parish coming along to join in. Everyone who wished to was able to take part in the picking, juicing and tasting the apple juice as well as taking home juice and apples for a pie or two! Grateful thanks goes to those members of the Parish who supplied the equipment on the day. Many of the same volunteers offered their services on a chilly but bright day in January to prune the fruit trees in the orchard, so we are hoping for a bumper crop of fruit this year.

At the beginning of 2022 Councilor Kate Little left the Council and Councilor Linda Steger was appointed. Linda has taken over responsibilities for the Community Orchard and Allotments. All allotments are flourishing and the boundary hedging round the allotments was reduced in height and width thanks to the adjoining farmer and an allotment holder.

The play equipment in the Recreation Ground has continued to be much used and has become quite a venue for families now there are picnic benches and bench seating available.

There has been a steady flow of planning applications dealt with by the PC during the year, these were mostly for extensions and additions to existing properties and in the main were supported by the PC. Those applications for new builds were viewed taking the village confines into account and their suitability in a rural area.

In addition to the above two planning applications were received which for differing reasons have caused concern to the Parish and surrounding Parishes. The first being the application for a grass airfield in Little Mongeham and you will be hearing later on in the meeting from Chocksgoaway Group regarding the current position. The other being change of use to land between Sandwich Road and the A256 to a Gypsy/Traveler site, accommodating 8 pitches. The PC objected to both these applications and DDC are still to make a decision.

Work has yet to commence on the two approved development sites in the Parish. These being the former East Studdal Nursery and land adjacent to the Homestead, Homestead Lane. The PC continue to follow up planning breaches with DDC planning enforcement department. All current planning applications and resulting decisions can be viewed on the Parish Website.

In September the PC discussed DDC's Settlement Confines Consultation, and supported the proposed settlement confines for East Studdal, Ashley and Sutton.

The PC have continued to investigate and respond to issues raised by Parishioners and land owners alike, regarding rights of way, dog fouling, traffic safety etc

The PC purchased new IT equipment at the beginning of this year and replaced both the laptop and printer. A new battery and pads were also purchased for the defibrillator which is sited on the external wall of the Church Hall, Downs Road.

The PC noticeboard which was outside the Church Hall in Downs Road was moved to a more accessible site inside the bus shelter by the Memorial Gardens. The Library come swap shop of children's toys which had been set up and much used, during lockdown was discontinued.

The 2021/221 accounts have been prepared and signed off by the internal auditor. The audited accounts together with the Annual Report will be presented at the June PC meeting for approval.

## To Conclude

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

Sadly Sue Smith our Parish Clerk will be retiring at the end of July. Sue has done an excellent job over the past 6 years and will be sadly missed. We wish her well in her new found freedom!!!

Claire Inglin for acting as our internal auditor

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.