



PARISH COUNCIL OF SANDHURST, KENT

Please reply to Catherine Catt, Parish Clerk, Old School, Back Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5JS 01580-850295

DRAFT MINUTES SANDHURST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Tuesday, 4 June 2019

1.	Welcome from Cllr Terry Hannocks
	The Chairman welcomed people to the Annual Parish meeting.
2.	Apologies for absence
	Apologies were received from Cllr Cope, Cllr Merritt and Cllr Robinson.
3.	To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 May 2018 (already circulated)
	Pat Longley proposed; Michael Clerk seconded and it was unanimously agreed by those present the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2018 were a true record of the meeting.
4.	Reports : Cllr Sean Holden - Kent County Council (KCC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Critical issue – A268 closure for 11 weeks from 17.6.2019.</u> First of all Cllr Holden wanted to address this and expressed concern that the road would be closed during the summer and the closure will have a big impact on people and businesses. He also expressed concern that there had been no consultation about the work but understands it is an emergency situation where the gas main needs to be replaced. He noted the works would involve an 18-mile diversion. <p>Cllr Holden reported he had just attended a meeting with KCC Highways and contractors and was pleased to report a proposal to reduce the work to 7 weeks ending on 4.8.2019 had been agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Holden reported on 2 projects he has been working on during the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Pollinator Action Plan</u> Cllr Holden chaired meetings to look at action which can be taken to address the threat faced by pollinators. He asked for everyone to get involved even if it is just keeping a window box or letting daisies grow in gardens. He explained one of the actions KCC has taken is to change its arrangement for cutting hedgerows. ▪ <u>London Lorry Scheme</u> Cllr Holden is chair of the HGV group which wants to create a London Lorry Scheme which will mean HGV's will have to use strategic routes and could be fined for using country lanes.



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	<p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Holden for his work and especially his efforts to mitigate the impact of the road works.</p>
4.	<p>Reports : Cllr Godfrey Bland - Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Election 2.5.2019</u> Cllr Bland talked about the election process and reported on the outcome and believes the changes will make an interesting challenge. He thanked the people who had voted for him. ▪ <u>Planning</u> Cllr Bland is the new Deputy Chairman and believes this will be a major challenge for TWBC. He explained TWBC's target is 670 new houses per year for 20 years and work is being carried out on a new borough development plan. The draft plan will be ready for consultation in late summer/early autumn and will contain available areas for development by ward. Cllr Bland said the provisional number of new houses in Sandhurst is 25 which compares very favourably to adjacent parishes/wards (Cranbrook 400 and Hawkhurst 650). The draft plan will be updated following consultation and a final plan should be available by the end of next year. <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Bland for his help and support.</p>
5.	<p>Guest Speaker – Police Community Safety Officer Simon Humphreys</p> <p>PCSO Humphreys introduced himself as the new PCSO covering Sandhurst, Staplehurst, Benenden and Cranbrook where he is based at Cranbrook police station. He gave an overview of the service explaining that budget cuts since 2010 had had a significant impact on the Police but Police & Crime Commissioner Scott had secured an increased precept which has meant 180 extra officers were being recruited. He explained that whenever possible he works with other organisations and agencies and the PSCO is part of the Community Safety Unit and as such is aligned with borough councils. The Community Safety Team consists of Vulnerable Adults, Domestic Abuse, Missing Persons and Youth Engagement and provides a local visible policing presence which follows up especially with the victims of burglaries.</p> <p>The PCSO also provides crime prevention advice and urged people to mark and register property on websites such as immobilise.com (property marking) and securedbydesign.com (HO crime prevention website).</p> <p>The Chairman thanked PCSO Humphreys for his very useful talk and welcomed him to Sandhurst saying he would look forward to working together.</p>



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6.	Parish Council Report from the Chairman
	<p>Cllr Hannocks presented his report a full copy of which is available from the Clerk.</p> <p>A member of public recognised it had been a difficult year because of the malicious remarks which had been made but asked the Chairman to remember the great things that had been created in the village during the last seven years and thanked him for everything that had been done.</p>
7.	Questions from members of the public
	<p>The following question was raised: <u>Why has the flashing traffic speed sign on Rye Road not been replaced ?</u> Cllr Bland explained the sign had stopped working and could not be repaired as it is obsolete and is unlikely to be replaced by KCC due to cost. Cllr Holden responded stating the cost is approximately £6k and signs last about 5 years subject to vandalism. He agreed with Cllr Bland it is unlikely to be replaced due to cost cutting measures. It was suggested large '30' signs could be painted in the road instead and Cllr Holden agreed to take this request away.</p> <p>Speedwatch is working well but is always in the same place and it was suggested it should be moved around. PCSO Humphreys said he will go out with the Speedwatch team so if an issue is identified the Police can be sent out.</p> <p>Another member of public pointed out a 'SLOW' sign needs repainting and a '40' sign is missing and asked for these to be addressed. Cllr Holden asked for an email to be sent to him so he can take the request forward.</p>
	End of Meeting
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and invited them to join the Councillors for refreshments and the opportunity to have informal discussions.</p>