

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WOODNESBOROUGH PARISH HELD  
ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009 AT WOODNESBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

Councillors	R Ovenden	K Ellen	B Wiseman
	D Woodward	B Baker	G Boorman
	D Smith		

36 Members of the Public	Steve Horton, Kent Highways Services
Dist Cllrs Butcher & S Leith	Sarah Wells Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He then introduced the members of the Parish Council to the meeting.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs D Ford & S Hoskins. Mr M Baker, Mrs & Mrs Baldwin, Rev D Harrison, Mrs J Galbraith and R Miller.

### **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last annual meeting, held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were available for all present to read.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **4. ROAD SAFETY AND SPEED AWARENESS**

Steve Horton from the road safety team at Kent County Council gave a thought provoking presentation on the causes of crashes.

The Chairman thanked Mr Horton and the meeting broke for refreshments at 8.30pm

### **5. POLICE REPORT**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to report to the community at your Annual Meeting.

I will start by introducing myself. My name is PC Ian Woodland, and I am the Neighbourhood Policing Officer covering the Sandwich Electoral Ward. This area includes the Parishes of Sandwich, Woodnesborough and Worth. Quite a large area to cover on a mountain bike.

Neighbourhood Policing is all about encouraging local communities to talk to us about their policing priorities, enabling us to act on them and provide feedback via the local press, village newsletters, the Parish Council, or to individuals.

I hold a monthly policing surgery at the Village Hall, advertised in advance on the bus stop notice board and in the village newsletter. This is a good opportunity to meet with me face to face in your village to share your concerns and useful information. This is very much a two-way process, as I am often in a very good position to provide information that may reassure you, or help you to prevent crime.

The Parish Council are provided with a monthly report giving up to date crime statistics for the Parish and the Ward, and they also engage in the PACT process, which stands for Partners and Communities Together. The essence of PACT is that local residents can speak to Parish Councillors or myself about their concerns, and these can be debated and a plan of action agreed at the next Parish Council meeting. Together we can then provide feedback to the community.

Woodnesborough is a genuinely safe place to live, with genuinely low crime levels. When you take into account that Kent is a low crime county, and the Dover District is one of the safest in Kent, it

should be very satisfying to know that you live in one of the safest parts of the District.

Crime in the Parish fell from 37 crimes in 2007-08 to only 20 crimes in the last year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. This is a fall of nearly 46%. 6 miscellaneous thefts were the worst problem last year, with 4 assaults, 3 burglaries to outbuildings, and 3 acts of criminal damage.

This financial counting year has not started as well as last year, with 8 crimes already on our systems since 1<sup>st</sup> April. There is plenty of time to suppress these levels before it can turn into a trend.

Many people will have concerns that the current recession will cause an upturn in acquisitive crime, but I believe that working together as a community we can disrupt criminal behaviour and keep crime levels down.

To this end it is with great pleasure that I can inform you that my colleague PCSO Ian Norton has begun to share my patrolling responsibilities for your Parish, so you will now enjoy coverage from 2 uniformed officers.

Most in the Parish will be aware of the recent sad death of a young motorcyclist on Foxborough Hill. Speeding traffic has been raised as a concern throughout the 30 mph limit in Foxborough Hill, and but is clear that this tragedy occurred in the de-restricted 60 mph zone, and other factors are known to have played a part. However, it brings to mind the need for monitoring and enforcement of the speed limits in Woodnesborough, so I shall continue to deploy with my speed laser during the forthcoming year. My message to motorists using the roads through the village is clear – don't take offence if I have to issue a speeding ticket – my job is all about community safety, and nobody wishes to see another tragedy here.

My next policing surgery will take place between 7.30 and 9 pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009. I look forward to meeting anyone with any concerns.

Thank you.

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It's my pleasure to present the report on the Parish Council's activities over the past 12 months. Dare I say it, but I believe it's been a slightly quieter year inasmuch that we have not had to deal with closure of the Post Office and shop.

### **The Council**

There were no changes to the Council itself and responsibilities remained the same. However, I am pleased to advise you that Cllr Gary Boorman was elected Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee at its AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. I am sure that Gary will do an excellent job having both practical and management skills as well some spare time. My thanks are given to Dominic Shawcross, the retiring chairman who has worked hard over the past few years but alas has difficulty in finding the time bearing in mind his commitment with the very successful Karate Club and Tai Chi Club in this hall 3 nights a week which thankfully he is continuing with and working full time.

We were delighted at the beginning of the year to accept Geoff Stiff's offer to be our Tree Warden having recently moved into the village. He has had a number of years experience as a Tree Warden in his previous parish.

At the beginning of the year Bill Newport decided to give up his job of litter collecting in the Village – after 20 years. Although Bill had been unwell for some time we were sorry to see him retire, he had become a well known figure throughout the village. The Parish Council decided to make a presentation of an engraved tankard to Bill at the Annual Flower Show in August with which he was trilled together with a report in the EKM.

We decided to appoint a replacement for Bill who was Mrs Karin Waite who you might say followed in Bill's footsteps. Unfortunately Karin phoned and advised me in April, that due to personnel circumstances, she would have to give the job up. She regretted the decision as she had enjoyed doing the job and meeting villagers.

**Last Annual Parish Meeting**

Fantastic news – during the year the street light in Vine Lane at the junction with Marshborough Lane was re-installed and working. How many years has the Council been pressing for that?

It is now well over 1 year since the Post office and Shop closed. Although this was a bitter blow to the life of our village as far as I am aware residents have coped with the loss and adjusted their lives accordingly.

A new notice board has been provided by the Parish Council in the bus shelter by the Old Vicarage on which we are trying to publicise news and events for the village. If you have a notice for display contact Patrick Thomas, at Fernside, The Street who lives directly opposite the bus shelter. But I will add it is being kept for village activities and not for commercial advertising. This is perhaps one of the difficulties we have found is not having the Shop, a central point, for the selling of tickets for events. Natalie Ford was brilliant at this.

Again I would re-iterate that if anybody has any real problems then they should contact a Parish Councillor or members of the Church who have an excellent pastoral care team.

**LDF & New Village Hall**

Turning to the Local Development Framework, LDF for short, hopefully you will be aware that the District Council has now moved the process to the next stage – the Core Strategy – which is the key plan that maps out the District Council's future over the next 20 years. There has been a consultation period, ending in late March, when people had the opportunity to make comments on it.

So far as the LDF and a new village hall are concerned I can only advise that there is very little to add since this time last year. We understand that representations on the Sites Allocation document published last year, are still being studied by the DDC Forward Planning team and will not go out for its next round of public consultation until June 2010.

The Parish Council has enquired on the possibility of proceeding with a new village hall before the LDF process had finished. We were advised that current planning legislation did allow for community buildings to be built but would have to provide evidence of how the project was to be funded. However, the land owner of the Sandwich Road site has stated that he would not be prepared to release any land solely for that purpose.

**Police Matters**

As you have heard Ian attends our meetings on a regular basis together with Police Surgeries here in this hall. I'm sure you will agree that the very low crime rate we have in our village is reassuring. Perhaps that's the reason why very few people attend the surgeries. I can add little to Ian's report only to say thank you, Ian for the time you devote to our village and long may it continue.

**Highway Matters**

Following the tragic death of a teenage lad in March on Foxborough Hill and the excellent thought provoking presentation from Steve this evening, your Parish Council continues to assess how it can improve the safe movement of traffic and people around the village.

Foxborough Hill continues to give us concern. The Parish Council requested Kent Highway Services to consider moving the 30mph signs on the hill further down the road towards Foxborough Tyres in an effort to get motorists to reduce their speed far sooner than the brow of the hill.

Unfortunately this was refused at present as there is a review on a national basis of all speed limits on A & B class roads. In Kent this being conducted by KCC's outside consultants Jacobs. This work has now commenced in East Kent over the next year and this Parish Council will be making its presentations about this road. A centre white line on the bend in Beacon Lane is still awaited.

A number of requests have been made to land owners and Kent Highway Services for attention to overhanging hedges and trees – we still seem to have a problem on Fir Tree Hill. The pothole problem has been minor compared with many other parishes.

I would like to express our thanks to Dover District Council and its contractor for the prompt removal of graffiti on a number of road sign earlier in the year. Unfortunately, it was not possible to completely clean all signs as the cleaning agent has to be so strong such that it began to removal surface of the sign itself. Thankfully PC Ian Woodland had a good idea who was responsible for the graffiti and has nipped in the bud.

The Council has had complaints about dog fouling especially in the top of Fir Tree Hill area. This has been brought to the attention of the DDC Dog Warden who has visited the area and posted warning notices. Dog fouling is unnecessary especially as there is a dog waste bin nearby and it is illegal. So please help to keep our village clean and tidy. A similar problem has risen at the junction of Coombe Lane and Marshborough Road and the Parish Council is trying to get a bin installed here.

Our Footpaths Officer, Cllr Ken Ellen reports a quiet year with only one enquiry.

### **Planning**

Over the past 12 months the Council has commented on 15 applications most of which have been supported. The majority have been extensions to existing housing premises which seems to be the way forward for many families instead of moving.

However, the application for the enlargement of The Bunker, The Old RAF Radar centre in Ash Road on the parish boundary did give us cause for concern. Although Councillors were not opposed to the enlargement and prospect of more local employment, we were concerned about the movement of HGV's during the 6 months or so construction period. Fortunately this traffic was not scheduled to pass through our parish which embraces Marshborough but we felt that we had to support Ash Parish Council because the HGV's were to travel from the Ash by pass and turn up New Street at the junction of Sandwich Road. The application has been granted by DDC with numerous conditions some of which concern a change of route via Cherry Garden Lane. Two of your Parish Councillors will be keeping a watching brief on the development when it commences.

We were delighted to see Wood Ash Garage re-open under new ownership following a make-over of the site, a vast improvement.

### **Village Hall**

I have drawn attention to the Village Hall, this building, which is owned by the Parish Council and managed by the Village Hall Management Committee a number of times in the Parish magazine.

Do you know how many village organisations use this hall? – At least 10 regular users apart from seasonal activities and private functions such as children's parties. Some were shown on the slide show at the beginning of the evening. It is a credit to the people who run these groups on providing such a vibrant village as we have in Woodnesborough. Thank you.

So when I express concern about the importance of the upkeep of this hall, you realise the effect it would have on those organisations if we let it deteriorate. It has been necessary to have minor repairs carried out to the roof, though I fear is only a stop gap exercise. You only have to look at the ceiling over the stage and in this hall. At present the Parish Council is attempting to clear soil,

vegetation etc at the rear of the Hall and have a retaining wall built to remove water penetration into the kitchen and store room. This will not be a cheap.

My thanks to Cllr Gary Boorman for helping me to remove the ivy over the front of the building recently. Unfortunately this revealed a number of other items which will require attention soon.

**The Centa – the old Youth Club**

I can give little information about the Centa only to say that the site has been sold to a property developer subject to obtaining planning permission for housing on the site.

In May the Council wrote to the District Council to protest against their withdrawn of the cesspool emptying service but to no avail. However, Cllr Steve Hoskins did draw attention to the use of Bio Tanks to replace existing cesspools and details of such installations can be found of the Parish Council's web site.

Risk assessments have been carried out by Cllrs Doug Smith and Gary Boorman of the Village Hall and the Village Green equipment during year.

In December the Council adopted the new Model Publication Scheme as required by Central Government under the Freedom of Information Act. Again details have been posted on the web site.

Parish Councillors have continue to attend a number of meetings with the Police, the District Council, and the KCC Neighbourhood Forums as well as wading through volumes of consultation documents, reports and other papers from Central Government, KCC and the District Council.

If you want an update about the Parish Council please visit our web site – [www.woodnesboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.woodnesboroughpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) which is maintained efficiently by Sarah.

Over the year many residents have commented to me on the attractive flower bed on the corner of Fir Tree Hill. The Parish Council's thanks go to Ken and Linda Butcher for their work they do on this flower bed.

I would like to organise a cleanup party during the summer to walk around the village. If you can help please let me know and I will arrange a date.

And now I would like to give our thanks to our Clerk Mrs Sarah Wells, who works hard behind the scenes to keep the Parish Council running so smoothly.

To conclude I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow councillors for their support and their enthusiasm. I feel it a measure of that enthusiasm that they seldom miss a meeting unless away on holiday.

Thank you for your attention. David H-Woodward

Cllr Woodward then took questions from the floor, a question about the provision of a new village hall was asked, this lead to a discussion on the need for a new village hall that was supported by the vast majority of those present.

**Receipts and payments to 31-03-09**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Carried Forward	8,485.08	8,485.08
Precept	10,000.00	10,000.00
VAT	0.00	195.57
Interest	400.00	244.02
Other	0.00	250.10
	<b>18,885.08</b>	<b>19,174.77</b>

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Salaries	4740.00	4081.90
Admin Costs - General, Insurance, Office	1615.00	1200.41
Village Hall Inc Insurance	2800.00	986.61
Village Green	1800.00	1,157.09
Councillors Expenses	250.00	0.00
Training	250.00	0.00
Grants	1075.00	700.00
Equip Handyman	50.00	64.76
Membership	100.00	107.25
VAT	0.00	710.02
Contingency	785.08	405.11
Bus Shelter	3420.00	3,435.69
Other Projects/New VH	2000.00	0.00
	<b>18885.08</b>	<b>12848.84</b>

**Bank Reconciliation**

Current Account	60.00	Receipts	19,174.77
Reserve Account	2,407.62	Payments	-12,848.84
Bonus Saver	4,772.43		<b>6,325.93</b>
	<b>7,240.05</b>		
Unpresented Cheques	-914.12		
	<b>6,325.93</b>		

**2009/10 Budget**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Carried Forward	6,325.93
Precept	11,000.00
VAT	694.00
Interest	300.00
Other	0.00
	<b>18,319.93</b>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Salaries	4,810.00
Admin Costs	1,535.00
Village Hall	5,800.00
Village Green	1,800.00
Councillors Expenses	250.00
Training	250.00
Grants	1,075.00
Equip Handyman	50.00
Litter bins	350.00
Flower Beds	200.00
Membership	100.00
VAT	0.00
Contingency	799.93
Other Projects/New VH	1,300.00
	<b>18,319.93</b>

The Clerk explained the above figures and answered questions from the floor.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **i. District Councillor**

Cllr Butcher introduced himself. As it was now getting late Cllr Butcher briefly outlined the major success of the past year, the increase in recycling collection which is now up to 40%. He then said he would answer questions from the floor. There was a question relating to the roll out of green waste from those parts of the parish not yet included.

Cllr Leith reported that he had dealt with the problems highlighted last year about the advertisement of the LDF process and Site Allocation document. He was still Chairman of the DDC Planning committee. Again in the interest of speed he then offered to answer any questions from the floor. There being none, the Chairman thanked Cllr Leith.

Cllr Woodward asked if there were any further questions on any subject before he closed the meeting.

An enquiry was raised as to why County Cllr Ridings had not attended the meeting even though he was down on the agenda. The Clerk explained that he had confirmed his attendance and she had expected him to be at the meeting. There was disappointment from the audience as Cllr Ridings had not attendED an Annual Meeting since 2005.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.