

ST MARY HOO PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2008 IN THE FUNCTION ROOM OF THE FENN BELL, FENN STREET, ST MARY HOO AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Cllr Bill Budd, Chairman; Cllrs Bob Beckey, Paul Hassell, Mrs Kit Johnson, Bill Khatkar; Mrs Roxana Brammer, Parish Clerk; three members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Phil Filmer, Ken Bamber and Mrs Janice Bamber, Medway Council.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2007

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2007 having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Khatkar, seconded by Cllr Mrs Johnson and agreed they were a true account of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3 ACCOUNTS

The Financial Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 were received.

No questions were asked.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Budd gave his report:

You may remember that last year Maureen Stanney did not seek re-election and prior to that the Clerk Eric Woodards had resigned after 51 years' service and had been replaced by Roxana Brammer. Sadly Eric died last August and at New Year we learnt of the death in Australia of former parish councillor Dr Chris Rigby. We welcomed Paul Hassell to fill the vacancy caused by Maureen's departure and he immediately became very involved. As you know I work away from home and I have relied on my colleague councillors and the Clerk.

Last year we had no major decisions to make. However there have been some issues with the Biffa site. Bill Khatkar has been monitoring these and the situation is better than before.

There has been a lot of interest in the village amenities, especially the pond. It has been neglected for too long and there is a necessity to improve and maintain. We tried to obtain a grant to carry out the necessary work professionally but were turned down. Thanks are due to Cllr Beckey and the volunteers for enabling us to do the work. This will be done over the next few months and all costs will come from our rural liaison grant allocation, rolled over from previous years. In addition to the pond, our newly set up Amenity Committee will be addressing maintenance of the conservation area. This was bequeathed to the Parish Council and has to be maintained and the maintenance has to be paid for.

The tarmac surfaced public footpath near the churchyard which had to be repaired and resurfaced a few years ago has become heavily overgrown with moss and this has had to be dealt with as a matter of safety. I would like to thank most sincerely those who organised and provided the new finger post at the junction of Hall Road and the Ratcliffe Highway.

My thanks also go to our webmaster Clive Stanley and to you all for your attendance.

Cllr Beckey gave a more detailed report on the work to the pond and again thanked the volunteers. Andrew Laphorn said the road safety aspect was a plus. Tim Weedon said he wanted to thank the Parish Council for its support, especially Cllr Hassell.

5 OTHER BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

a Medway Councillors' Report

The written report of the Peninsula ward councillors was read:

“Unfortunately your three councillors Janice Bamber, Ken Bamber and Phil Filmer, are unable to attend your meeting this evening.

It has been another busy year for the Hoo Peninsula and for Medway. Last year we were re-elected as your local councillors and we are proud to represent you again for another term. We were re-elected on the promise that the Conservatives would keep Medway's Council Tax the lowest in Kent and introduce bus concessions for school children, and that is what we have done. Any increase in this year's Council Tax has been kept to a minimum and half price bus concessions were introduced in September for school children going to and from school.

We were disappointed at the way Government reduced the Medway Planning Authority to a consultee on the application for Kingsnorth Power Station. However, the matter is still 'live' as 2000 Greenpeace supporters are expected to descend on Hoo in August.

After the intervention of your Ward Councillors a court injunction was issued for the travellers to leave the site at Buckhole Farm. They have in fact left the site. The injunction remains in force.

The Bells Lane development kept us very busy with complaints about lorries depositing mud on the road and the appalling conditions the new householders were having to tolerate i.e. unfinished road and pavements, lack of electricity, contaminated water and poor standard of workmanship in the houses. Lessons were learned and the next development was conditioned so that the road was put in before the development of houses.

Plans are in place and Phil is actively working with officers to solve the problems of introducing the Walking Bus for Stoke Primary School.

Exciting plans are also being prepared for the future of the Black Lion Leisure Centre in preparation for the Olympics in 2012 and beyond and Medway Council are currently working on a submission to achieve World Heritage Status for the Historic Dockyard and surrounding area.

Medway Council is currently going through a management restructuring process which coincides with the retirement of one of our directors and the move to our new headquarters at Gun Wharf, finally bringing Medway Council's operations under one roof. There will now be a leaner management structure and a more integrated and cohesive organisation. We will certainly find it much easier with all the resources situated in one building instead of having

to commute between the Municipal Buildings in Gillingham and the Civic Centre in Strood.

Our flagship Contact Point in Chatham has been officially opened this month, replacing the Chatham Local Office in Military Road. There are Contact Points in each of the five centres in Medway, as part of our commitment to provide easily accessible services to the communities they serve. Future plans are to have a Contact Point on the Peninsula.

The Customer First programme, which puts our customers at the center of everything that we do, has been awarded Chartermark status, recognising it as a service of excellence. Also our world-class contact center has been recognised as best practice amongst other councils in Britain and as far away as Denmark and New Zealand.

We are also pleased to report that we have secured funding for bus, road and rail improvements and will be making upgrades to the A228. In partnership with Network Rail, as part of the National Station Improvement Plan, the Council has also secured £1m towards renovations at Gillingham station. A number of road safety measures have been introduced in Medway including variable message signs, which inform drivers about the road conditions ahead.

In the past few months the idea of constructing an airport in Medway has reappeared and proposals to build a tunnel extending from the Hoo Peninsula to Essex have emerged. Both plans are financially flawed and would decimate the peninsula. Recently the Leader of Medway Council Councillor Rodney Chambers and Portfolio Holder Phil Filmer supported by KCC have met with the tunnels promoters to oppose the proposal. Rest assured that your local councilors will fight both the airport and the tunnel proposals.”

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.25 pm

SignedChairman

On theday of2009