

ST MARY HOO PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 MAY 2012 IN THE FUNCTION ROOM OF THE FENN BELL INN, FENN STREET, ST MARY HOO AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Cllr Bill Budd, Chairman; Cllrs Paul Hassell, Mrs Carol Heyburn and Bill Khatkar; Mrs Roxana Brammer, Parish Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Phil Filmer, Chris Irvine and Tony Watson, Medway Council.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2011

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2011 having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Budd, seconded by Cllr Mrs Heyburn 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 Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011 was received.

No questions were asked.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Budd gave his report:

We have had some successes and some disappointments this year. Some issues carried over from last year have still to be satisfactorily resolved and the Parish Council will continue to campaign for improvements. The speeding traffic, increased hazards at the Fenn Corner roundabout and road flooding during rainfall will continue to be on our agenda.

The regeneration of "hub airport" proposals will no doubt concern many residents and we have made our views known to our Medway MP and Council Leader.

On a positive note we have carried out some work in the nature reserve in line with the management plan and resumed distribution of the magazine which we share with Allhallows.

There is still a vacancy for a councillor which we hope to fill soon and we would still welcome a footpaths officer to report on footpath conditions throughout the village as Ann Stanbrook has relocated abroad.

There is an increasing need for maintenance of parish assets which includes the pond and nature reserve areas as well as notice boards and seats. It is desirable for our Amenity committee to continue and hopefully to recruit volunteers to help improve our community. Unfortunately the only alternative is yet again to increase our precept to meet costs. Our gratitude goes to those who have given up their time for this important task. I would like to

say a special thank you to Martin and Lynne Botley who have volunteered to help me with the distribution of the magazine at the Barn Street end of St Mary Hoo. It is much appreciated. We would appreciate help in the Rose Cottages and Hall Road areas.

Also special thanks to Roxana our Clerk for keeping us on the right path and looking after our finances and correspondence so efficiently and to Clive Stanley our Webmaster for his valuable contribution.

Finally I say thanks to my fellow councillors for their participation in various meetings and committees and for their commitment to serving our community over the last year.

There is still much to do and I encourage all of us to to give it our best and get involved to make a difference and secure improvement for the parishioners of St Mary Hoo during the 2012/13 session.

5 MEDWAY COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The written report of the Peninsula ward councillors was read:

It has been a challenging year for Medway, as the government continues to reduce public spending. This has meant that your local council has had to make an additional £14.3 million of reductions this year.

Medway Council has managed to achieve this difficult task whilst maintaining front line services. Council tax has also been frozen for an unprecedented second year, which means that we have yet again maintained the lowest council tax in Kent, which is at least £130 less than the average across the county.

In the budget for 2011/12, funding was found to continue the popular free-swimming initiative, which has enabled nearly 60,000 under 11s and over 30,000 over 60s to swim for free. Medway's 19 Sure Start centres were again protected, with additional funding for extended nursery provision.

The council is committed to moving towards a Freedom Pass for young people in a sustainable and affordable way and this year we enhanced the half price bus scheme to include weekends. This means that young people in Medway can use the Youth Pass seven days a week. Medway Council has also continued the Villager community bus scheme and the 9am start time for concessionary travel.

To help improve the prospects for our young people, the council has established an apprenticeship programme with local small businesses. Since October this has created around 90 apprenticeships in local companies. In addition, the council also joined the national "100 in 100" scheme which aims to get 100 pledges from businesses in 100 working days. We exceeded this with 190 placements achieved.

In partnership with the University of Greenwich, BAE Systems and the Royal Engineers, the council is working to bring a University Technical College to Medway, which would specialise in engineering and construction studies for 14-19 year olds.

2012 is a Year of Celebration in Medway with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Games, the bicentenary of Dickens' birth and 200 years of the Royal Engineers. To mark these occasions, a number of events are being held including a River Festival in June.

All Medway councillors have reaffirmed their complete opposition to the proposed Thames Estuary airport and have allocated funding for the Stop Estuary Airport campaign, with

posters, leaflets and car stickers available to all local residents. The council is also working with other local authorities in Kent and Essex to examine possible alternatives to these proposals.

Your Ward Councillor team has and continue to actively raise residents' concerns about the impact of the proposed Lodge Hill development to the wider, and neighbouring, communities on the Hoo Peninsula. This includes highways infrastructure, impact to local amenities and the natural environment.

6 OTHER BUSINESS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

No matters were raised.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 8.00 pm

SignedChairman

On theday of2013