

# Pluckley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2002 at 8pm in Pluckley Village Hall.

Present: Janet Gwillim (Chairman), Trevor Oliver, Paul Cornwell, Rosemary Davies, Ann Murray, Cllr Eileen English (ABC), Cllr Richard King (KCC), and residents: G L Warner, Angela Bates, Ron Dodge, Cynthia Linzey, Ray Reese, M J Reese, Ian Mills. (clerk Mrs J Grebby)

## 1 Apologies for absence:

Mr S Crookston, Mr B MacDonald, and Eurofoods

## 2 Minutes of 2001 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April, 2001, were read to the meeting. These were approved (proposed, Miss A Murray, seconded Cllr Mrs E English) and signed by the chairman, Mrs J Gwillim.

## 3 Chairman's Report

Mrs Gwillim reported on the activities of the parish council during the past year. These included the parish council meeting on 11 occasions. The plans committee met on the first Monday of each month when there were planning applications for consideration. The village hall committee also meets on the same evening. All parish council meetings are open to the public.

The parish council adopted the new Code of Conduct for Parish Councils on 18 March 2002. This comes into effect from 1 May 2002.

Unfortunately the parish clerk who started in April 2001 was unable to continue due to personal reasons. Jackie Grebby took over from September. She is unpaid as she remains a parish councillor.

A precept of £8,000 for the last financial year has made it possible to spend approximately £4,500 on the village hall, £1,300 on the recreation ground, £1,500 on village tidying. The recycling banks at the village hall raised £644. This year, a precept of £10,500 has been requested.

There were 43 planning applications considered by the parish council. Of these, 5 were sent as a courtesy consultation since they were in either Little Chart or Smarden. 13 applications were recommended for refusal. In all but 5 cases Ashford Borough Council supported our recommendations.

A general tidying up of the village started in the autumn with a contractor hired to do the work. Many areas are now improved. This work will be on-going throughout the coming year.

Pluckley was fortunate to win the 'Young People' section of last year's 'Village of the Year' competition. We were also highly commended in the 'Business' section. The parish council are very grateful to Eileen English for all her hard work in preparing the entries.

## 4 Speakers

### a. Mrs Eileen English, Ashford Borough Councillor

Mrs English explained the various changes within Ashford Borough Council since it changed to become a 'cabinet' style body.

She has completed the village's entry to the 2002 'Village of the Year' competition, but warned that it would probably be the last time she could take the task on.

b. Richard King, Kent County Councillor

Mr King reported on the KCC's 80% success in achieving set targets and reported that new targets have been put in place for the next four years.

The KCC has expressed concern over the new Planning Green Paper which suggests that structure plans will be taken over by regional authorities. It also states that parish councils will not be statutory consultees. KCC are against the government's proposals for new housing in Kent and will fight vigorously against these.

Although ABC has been asked to increase the number of houses in the Ashford area, the trend is towards 'quality higher density housing.' House building should be economically led.

Mrs English added that there are no plans for development in Pluckley

c. Ann Murray – Village Design Statement

This is a document researched, prepared, and written by residents. The entire parish was invited to take part in a workshop held in September. This was followed by an exhibition in October allowing everyone to make further comments. One draft has been prepared, the second, informal, draft is nearly ready for submission to ABC, although pictures need to be added.

One of the important things to stress is the diversity of houses within the landscape.

Mrs English added that the importance of the design statement is that it is considered in conjunction with planning policy.

d. Jackie Grebby – Village Hall Improvements

Since the parish council took over the management of the village hall at the end of last summer, a number of remedial works have been carried out, most obvious of which is the new notice board and the addition of outside lighting. New tables have been purchased, locks repaired and changed, guttering repaired, emergency lighting upgraded, and a computerised system of bookings and invoicing adopted.

Future plans include disabled access, rewiring of the electricity boards, and secondary lighting to allow for the requirements of parties, etc. It is hoped that replacement windows, redecoration, and resurfacing of the floor will be considered soon.

e. Janet Gwillim – Golden Jubilee Celebrations

An advisory committee has been set up to consider arrangements for 3 June 2002 celebrations. Street closure has been applied for in case the recreation ground is too wet with the church for shelter. Plans are for a fête with various sideshows, free teas for both children and over 60's, a baby show, dog show, cream teas in the church and, in the evening, dancing.

500 commemorative mugs have been ordered. Half of these are for all children under 16 who live in the parish. The balance will be for sale.

Mr & Mrs George Homewood have agreed that Scots pines may be planted on the ridge to replace those that have fallen over the past years. A seat and village map is also planned.

Funding is via an ABC and a lottery grant, although local donations are also needed.

## **5 Any other business**

Mr Geof. Warner congratulated the parish council on the works done so far on the village hall. He queried the necessity of spending some of the precept on

clearing the Forge Hill footway (since in the past it had always been done by KCC Highways) and the Westfields path (in this case the residents concerned have paid). In reply, he was informed that although ABC Highways department were aware of earlier responsibilities, they were unable to fund the work. They had, however, agreed to consider essential resurfacing to the Forge Hill footway. The clerk agreed to research documentation relating to agreements between the parish council and residents of Westfields.

Mr Ian Mills asked what information the parish council had on an application for a mobile telephone mast on land at Penlan Farm, New House Lane. The chairman replied that the parish council had received no communications regarding the application since it was first introduced in May 2001. If, as Mr Mills intimated, a revised application was shortly to be released then the parish council would be able to discuss it when they received the paperwork.

Mr Ron Dodge requested that something be done about the vehicles parked on verges in Lambden Road – in particular a small PSV that had been adapted to carry motorcycles, and which was currently without a vehicle excise licence, and also a similar vehicle that was parked at the southern end of Lambden Road and which at present was without wheels. Richard King replied that grass verges belonged to the highways authority/council but that enforcement action generally took such a long time to effect it was rarely done. On the matter of vehicle licences, he would be in contact with the chairman of the Kent Police Authority and raise the matter. Mrs Grebby stated that the parish council had contacted Superintendent West of the Weald division as asked him to investigate both these matters and that of the parking in the station area.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:16pm.

All those present were then invited to enjoy light refreshments.