

PLUCKLEY PARISH ASSEMBLY
Tuesday 10th May, 7pm at Pluckley Village Hall

The Annual Assembly was attended by 60 parishioners, including the County and Borough Councillors and members of Pluckley Parish Council and was chaired by Cllr Chris Housman, Pluckley Parish Council Chairman.

The following reports were given :

Pluckley Parish Council Chairman (Chris Housman) – The Annual Report had been circulated to all households and Cllr Housman spoke briefly about the Neighbourhood Plan, the Village Hall and the new Parish website. He confirmed that the Parish Council bank balance stands at £52,000, with £35,000 of this earmarked for the Village Hall extension. Cllr Housman thanked his fellow Parish Councillors for their work and commitment over the year.

County Councillor (Charlie Simkins) – Cllr Simkins reported on the following areas :

- Budget : Funding from central government has decreased and will continue to do so. The County Council has made savings and improved efficiency whilst maintaining frontline services. Further savings need to be made and there will be increased budget for adult social care.
- Social Care : KCC has to produce a plan to central government by the end of June.
- Education : It is the aim of central government that all schools should convert to academies by 2022. This is an ambitious target and account needs to be taken of population growth and the demand for new and expanding schools, whilst continuing to raise standards.
- Street Lighting : A contract has been awarded to convert all street lights to LED, taking approximately 18 months.

Borough Councillor (Clair Bell) – Cllr Bell reported on the Borough Council administration and areas of her own portfolio including

- Waste and recycling : Ashford recycling figures are in the top 10% of the country and the 2nd most improved
- Customer services : New systems are working well.
- Grounds maintenance : This has been moved back in-house and there is an effort to improve the borough appearance for both residents and visitors alike.
- Tourism : A very successful symposium had taken place.
- Town centre : Good progress has been made on some areas of regeneration.

Award Presentation - Ray Evison, Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils, spoke briefly of the work of the Association and presented the Community Award for Resident of the Year to Judy Pool.

Wealden Wheels – Alan Davies explained the background to Wealden Wheels and its role in the local communities. It has been awarded a grant for a new vehicle. Alan made an appeal for new volunteers which are very much needed.

Pluckley & Egerton Gardening Society – Patsy Morss advised that information is on the parish website and in Communicate. Membership is now made up of residents of Egerton as well as Pluckley.

Pluckley Village Hall/Panto Unlimited – Judy Pool reported on the Village Hall and Panto. Leaflets regarding both were available to those present. The Village Hall is well in credit.

Pluckley Tennis Club – Chris Housman advised that the tennis court has been refurbished and a multiuse games area is available.

Pluckley Chronicle – Kaye Sowden advised that this new magazine, by the villagers for the villagers, is available from the butchers and village shop, and encouraged parishioners to subscribe and write for.

Neighbourhood Watch – Martin Chambers advised on how information is disseminated and how residents can help. Leaflets were available to those attending the meeting.

Royal British Legion – Michael Wallis briefly explained the role of the RBL and thanked Pluckley parishioners for their outstanding contributions. A new poppy appeal collector is sought for Lambden Road.

Pluckley Heritage Centre – Janet Gwillim reported on a new Heritage Centre to be set up in the Church. She thanked the County and Borough Councillors for their contributions. It is hoped that the necessary repair work will commence in April 2017.

Hills and Other Unknown Donors - Janet Gwillim briefly explained the history and role of the Hills and Other Unknown Donors charity.

Pluckley Cricket Club – Alan Symonds reported that due to low numbers there was only a Sunday side. New players are welcome, as are supporters. Practice night to be confirmed.

Pluckley Women's Collective - Helen Bone advised of a newly formed club to be launched next month.

Ponds – Ros Rowan advised that ponds are looking good this year and she has been carrying out night monitoring of newts. Anyone interested in a garden pond survey should contact Ros.

Pluckley Church of England Primary School – Chris Housman read a report received from Pluckley Church of England Primary School. This report will be made available on the parish website.

Pluckley Pre-School – Jacqui Housman reported that the Pre-School will be closing despite attempts to prevent this. The Pre-School's most recent Ofsted was outstanding.

Pluckley Bell Ringers – This small group is always looking for new people to join the group or learn the art of bell ringing.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm

Meeting minuted by Caroline Levett, Clerk to Pluckley Parish Council