

PETHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2019

In attendance were Cllr Linda Spratt, the Parish Clerk and eight members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Knox

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

It has been another busy year for Parish Council, especially for our Clerk who continues to be inundated with emails that she has to deal with. Less postal communication seems to have made way for much more electronic.

Parish Council business always consists of day to day issues such as reports of pot holes, road drainage street lighting, footpaths and the like. The most talked about and the most concerns from members of the public is planning. We have commented on numerous application but have spent the most time on several which we felt strongly enough about to object to parts or all of. We do not undertake objections lightly, it means we may have to speak at a planning meeting to put forward our views and also the criteria for objection is very strict. Sticking up for parishioner's interests is the most important thing and our local knowledge helps us to recognise applications that fall short or will not fit well in our ANOB and conservation area parish.

The planning department look at things in a very different tick list/rules sort of way and lately they and us have not seen eye to eye on several occasions.

As the lowest rung on the local government ladder I do feel that we are not always properly listened to. We share the least of a very small pot of funds with which to satisfy our parishioners expectations of the limited powers that we actually have.

In common with other local parishes we have encountered a lack of willingness to serve on Parish Council. This year we have not held an election as no other people put their names forward to apply. It was fortunate that a previous councillor decided to re-apply or we would have found ourselves without the required number. I find this a great pity but while filling out the lengthy and quite complicated paperwork it is easy to see this deterring people. Fitting in council work with everyday work and home commitments also puts people off applying. It is also true that being a Parish councillor is a frustrating business. Trying to achieve projects, get things fixed, or even looked at is a marathon of effort for a snail's pace of effect.

I am making this sound quite grim (which it can be) but the flip side of this is a satisfaction of trying to make things better and keep things working locally. That is why we do it.

This year the Parish Council has taken over the lease of Kenfield Cricket Ground and now runs it for the benefit of the Parish. Extensive improvements have been made to the Pavilion and the ground in general. It is now beautifully maintained and hosts regular matches and a cricket fun day for anyone who wants to play or just watch an afternoon cricket during the summer season.

As ever I am really grateful for the hard work of our Clerk Sue Shaw who keeps us running on the straight and narrow and for the support in our work here of my fellow councillors.

Linda Spratt

Chairman

REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Reports were received and some read by representatives of the following organisations, written copies of which are held on file with the Clerk.

Baby and Toddler Club,

Zumba,

Village Hall

Kenfield Cricket Ground

Tuesday Tappers,

Arts Group

VH Booking Secretary

Cllr Robert Thomas

QUESTIONS AND MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH ELECTORS

- Parking: Number Plate Recognition
- Parking on Yellow Lines
- Lack of Warden Coverage in Villages
- Chequers Public House (This will be on the June Council Agenda)

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm inviting all to take refreshments

Signed.....Date.....

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