

**Draft minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting of Petham Parish Council**

The meeting was held in the evening of Thursday 13th April at 7.30 pm, in Petham Village Hall

In attendance were Vice Chairman Cllr Collins, Cllr Mrs Knox, Cllr Mrs Spratt, Cllr Henderson, Cllr Patrick, Cllr Warden, the Parish Clerk Mr Beatrup, and 5 members of the public

**1. Chairman's Welcome** The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and outlined the format that the meeting was going to take

**2. Apologies for Absence** Chairman Cllr Norman Clark sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting

**3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 14th April 2022** Cllr Linda Spratt proposed that the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting were accurate. The proposal was seconded by Cllr David Patrick, and the Vice Chairman duly signed them

**4. Chairman's report for the year 2022-23** Vice Chairman Cllr Collins read aloud a summary of the Chairman's report. Including the work of the sub-committee in organising various parish events, and how successful they have been. These are continuing, and the resumption of the Boules Evening(s) at the Cricket Ground is being looked forward to. The report is presented below

**5. Other reports** Vice Chairman Cllr Collins went on to summarise the reports from the various groups regularly using Petham Village Hall. These are also presented below

**6. To consider matters raised by Parish Electors.** No matters raised at this time. It was requested that any matters arising at any time in the future should be notified to Parish Council members, and / or by email to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@pethamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pethamparishcouncil.org.uk)

**7. Close of meeting** All attendees were thanked for coming, and the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

The following reports have been prepared by the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Chair of the Village Hall committee, Village Hall user's, and City and County Council members, for the year ending 31st March 2023

**PETHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022 – 2023**

**Norman Clark**

Welcome to all.

The last year has been good in that our sub-committee's work to bring inclusion and cohesion to the community is showing rewards. We managed to hold a concert in the church with an international artist that raised over a £1000 towards the upkeep of the church. We held a race night which raised over £500 for the Pilgrims Hospice and our monthly social event on the first Friday of the month is going from strength to strength as is our film night. It is so nice to see so many people from the village attending these events and any monies raised is ploughed back into good causes & within the village.

Look out for our future events which include the Beer Festival and Market which will be in aid of the school's minibus appeal and our grand Coronation event which is one not to be missed.

### Finance

Our precept has remained the same as last year at £15800 and this helps towards maintaining facilities within the village but does not cover all our costs. Our ongoing costs include the electricity costs and maintenance of the street lighting, various grass cutting around the village, maintenance of the play equipment, gritting to roads in winter and our insurance costs.

Besides the aforementioned we have, over the last year, paid for the installation of cardio vascular gym equipment with help of a grant from Canterbury City Council, made a grant to the Church to help with burial ground maintenance, given a donation to Petham School, supported the late Queen's jubilee celebrations, donated to Kent Air Ambulance and planted the Queen's, green canopy orchard in the recreation ground.

Future projects that we are looking into are the installation of a village sign and the possibility of replacing some of the play equipment

### Planning Applications

We have considered numerous planning applications over the last year but the change in process has made it increasingly difficult to get ourselves heard.

As mentioned last year If Parishioner's or us as a parish council object to a planning application we no longer have the right to get it referred to committee We have now to enlist the help of our Ward councilors and persuade them that the relevant application should go before committee. Providing they agree with our objections they can then request this.

### Highways

Highway issues never cease and there have been the usual problems such as potholes, signs, overhanging trees, verges etc. You can report these yourselves as it may be quicker than waiting for it to be reported to a meeting of the Parish Council. The Tel no is 03000 818181 unfortunately Kent County Council will no longer accept reports by the App called Fix My Street, they are only one of two councils in the whole country that will not use this service which we find appalling.

The issue of Stone Street speeds has been accepted as a problem and at last a regulation order has been approved with a 40mph speed limit soon to be put in place. To This end, I would like to thank councilor David Patrick for his tireless work on getting this achieved.

Over the next year we will be looking at ways to lower the speed in the village. We have now enrolled in Speed Watch and will soon be setting up regular speed checks around

the village. We do need volunteers to assist in this, it requires very little time during the week so if you can help, please pick up a leaflet and contact us.

We have now managed to get many of our salt bins replaced with green ones so that they are more in keeping with the conservation area. However, there are still some outstanding that need replacing.

### Kenfield Cricket Ground

We continue to maintain the cricket ground but over the last year the cricket club have not played many games. We would like to encourage more use of this marvelous facility so please feel free to contact us if you would like to use the ground. We will be commencing our Monday night Boules evenings next week and are in the process of organizing our annual fun cricket day on August 26th.

### Thanks

I would like to give thanks to my fellow committee members for their continued input and time that they give to make this an effective Parish Council. Also special thanks to Dell Warden and Dee Knox who will both be standing down this year. Also a special thanks must go to Linda Spratt who after many years of service to the council and community including being chairman is also standing down. Last but not least a thank you to Mike Sole our local county councillor who is very active and assists us in many matters

### **PETHAM VILLAGE HALL CHAIRMANS REPORT March 2023**     **Linda Spratt**

As I get nearer to completing my time working with you all I have been thinking back and came to the conclusion that things do not really change much at all!

The issues that arise have the same pattern over the years just in a different order. We are still trying to balance villager's hall requirements with hiring for parties and weddings which add much needed funds. Maintenance issues continue to always be expensive to rectify or replace items that have broken completely. Keeping the hall in a stable state is the biggest challenge both in appearance and finances and has always been so.

I think the last 3 years have been the most difficult and that is true for everyone, personally, financially, mentally and physically. The hall as the centre of the village alongside the school and church has been very difficult for us to manage and keep afloat. It is testament to us all that we have managed to keep things going and provide some stability.

It is good to see some more groups starting up and some new initiatives being put forward. All of us work very hard to run the hall in the best way we can and most people in the parish recognise that. It is always true that you cannot please all of the people all of the time but I would hope that those who are quick to criticise are willing to put

forward some effort and ideas to change things rather than just negative comments. We all put in time and effort to run the hall for the benefit of everyone. While we do not seek applause for doing this it would be nice to feel appreciated sometimes.

Thank you "Team PVH" you are all great and I appreciate all that you do.

### **Art Group Report 2023**

We have met on a regular monthly basis (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) since last April, but the attendance has been patchy, particularly in the darker winter months when some are reluctant to chance the icy road conditions. There are 6 of us who meet regularly and support each other.

During the early part of the year, since last April, it was decided to set ourselves a challenge following a course of 30 tasks set out in an Art magazine. These were a series of visual prompts aiming to get us out of using the same techniques and media. We had intended to 'show and tell' at Christmas, but that session was cancelled due to snow. Some of us have battled on and found it stimulating, but many are still yet to complete the 30 tasks set. With the light evenings it may encourage a more dedicated attendance and hopefully stimulate more creative ideas.

We are a friendly and supportive group and would welcome more participants. For more information contact Chris on 01227 700588 or 07946179855

Chris Coleman

### **Tuesday Tappers Report 2023**

We have returned easily to our usual pre-pandemic schedule. We continue to support our Tutor, Kate, and she puts us rigorously through our paces during our hour long sessions. We are a loyal bunch and all good friends now.

We have gained another local recruit, who is an already adept tapper and have maintained our core of 8 participants most weeks. We all love dancing and thoroughly enjoy the classes which are full of laughter. After the success of the show in the summer term last year, Kate is retaining that format and we are looking forward to showing our routine and watching the younger groups do the same.

We always welcome new participants so do come along on a Tuesday at 7pm if you want to try a lesson for free. Contact Chris on 01227 700588 or 07946179855 for more details.

Chris Coleman

### **Zumba Report 2023**

We have had a very good year over all since our last report. Gemma, our Tutor, had her baby, Freya, who is almost 10 months old and is now heading back to full time work after Easter. We had a lovely interim Tutor, Yaz, who filled in for Gemma until she felt able to return which ended up being the beginning of the September term 2022.

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We have a loyal core of about 8 participants but have suffered some weeks with a lack of attendance due to illness – covid still lurks, unfortunately. We are a friendly and welcoming group. We don't take it too seriously. We enjoy it and have a great deal of fun!

We gained some lovely Australian visitors, a couple, to the class who were excellent attendees and knocked on the head that Zumba is only a female activity. They stayed until Christmas and will be back later this year. We would like to empathise that dance is for all and we welcome all. So do come and try it. Dance is the best way to keep fit!

Want to have a go? Come to a free session. (Weds 7.30 – 8.30pm) Contact Chris on 01227 700588 or 07946179855 for more details.

Chris Coleman

### **French Conversation: Fridays 10.30 – 12.30**

This group is now well-established and vibrant with a high standard of spoken French. Unfortunately, we lost 2 new members after only a term one for reasons of work. We have therefore had to raise the fees again-now £75 per term-but still a good deal for 20 hours.

I was saddened that we appeared to lose 2 of our slots next term due to wedding bookings. That has never happened before - Karine can only do Fridays now - so I hope in the autumn we can retain our Friday slot. Overall, a very good year since our restart!

Shirley Lyne.

### **Statement from Joe Toomer Kung Fu Schools**

My name is Joe Toomer I am a Kung Fu Instructor with the Franchise Kung Fu Schools which is owned by Master Paul Hawkes and Peter Andre, yes the Peter Andre...

I have been with Petham Village Hall for 3 months and I am very pleased with how nice the hall and location is at a fantastic price with lots of parking which is very hard to find and would love to spread the word of my business Kung Fu Schools...

I teach Children from the ages of 4+ and Adults of all ages as your never too old to learn Kung Fu.

Learning Kung Fu has many benefits such as good discipline, great for stress, anxiety and depression which a lot of young children are now going through because of school with bullies or many other reasons...a lot of my students suffer with anxiety and they have said its helped them greatly with their confidence and self-esteem.

We offer a Fantastic deal of 4 weeks FREE Kung Fu Lessons with great prices!

If you want to know more please contact me on 07827766651 or my Facebook page Kung Fu Schools Canterbury or BOOK on our website [kungfuschoolscanterbury.co.uk](http://kungfuschoolscanterbury.co.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to listen and look forward to seeing new students in class.

Joseph James Toomer

### **Baby & Toddler Group Report 2023**

Despite increased advertising on Facebook and the setting up of a WhatsApp group, our numbers have not improved significantly. Meeting fortnightly has meant we have been able to increase the amount we pay the hall in rental fees, but only just. We are very grateful for the fee reduction which has helped us to continue, albeit in a reduced format.

We do have a core group of 3 loyal families but cannot survive on this number. We are ever hopeful that things will pick up and will battle on to make it happen. We know that for Early Years development and the chance for Parents and carers to meet locally, this is an important facility. It has been running for over 40 years and we hope to ensure that it continues. Do join us!

We meet fortnightly on Tuesday morning from 10 – 11.30am. Contact Chris on 01227 700588 or 07946179855 for more details.

Chris Coleman

### **Yoga Classes at Petham Village Hall 2022 -2023**

When the lockdowns of 2020 came, Yoga classes at both Petham and Waltham closed. This was such an uncertain and unsafe time and I wondered if we would ever get re-started or if like so often happens, temporary closures would become permanent. When we were able to re-open, Petham hall was only available for the nursery so I decided to move the class to Waltham temporarily.

In May 2022 returning to Petham felt like the right thing to do. I must admit I was full of anxiety, we had all learnt to appreciate more personal space, the small hall had often felt airless and squashed, so as a class we agreed to a trial run in the large hall, taking with us the precautions we had agreed to ensure everyone felt comfortable.

The world still felt a bit unsafe and absolutely full of rules and regulations but re-start we did albeit with a limit on numbers. And here we are one year on, we now have a lovely settled group of regulars, some of whom have been coming since the class started in 2014. The students who had come to Waltham were very happy to be back and it was lovely to see some old faces return along with a few new ones.

As we are all aware, Covid is still around and we all like our space, so class numbers are still limited. I don't ask people to pay for a block of sessions so this does mean juggling numbers occasionally. Saying that, we rarely achieve a full class, but usually there's usually enough to make it enjoyable and the slightly larger classes add a fresh dynamic making the atmosphere more positive. I'm not currently advertising or taking on new students as I would not be able to offer them a regular place, but will keep this under review.

So after an anxious start, it has been a real pleasure to be back enjoying the comfort of the large hall and the beautiful views during our yoga practice. I hope the students

enjoy the classes as much as I do and continue to notice the health benefits that yoga brings.

I would like to say thank you to Chris Coleman and Sharon Acaster for managing the bookings and payments in such a helpful and can-do way, plus all other members of the committee for their hard work. Special thanks to all my lovely students for coming along and sticking with it during these difficult times.

Lynn Saxby

**COUNCILLOR MIKE SOLE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

I've had another busy year as Kent County Councillor for Canterbury South and Canterbury City Councillor for Nailbourne ward. Through my monthly updates to parish councils and residents I keep everyone informed about my activities and work for the local area. I'm always keen to get involved in issues and help out where I can. I've highlighted just a few things in this annual report.

By working with parish councils, residents and KCC I am very pleased that we have been able to improve road safety locally with reductions on speed limits. A 40mph limit is now in place in Bramling and a new 30mph limit is on its way in Woolage Village, and a 40mph at Petham Stone Street.

I am able to support highway improvement projects like these with the grants that I have access to from KCC, although the grants available have now been reduced by KCC to just £3,600 a year, and this also includes grants for community groups and other projects in my county division. I opposed these cuts.

I am currently working with residents and meeting with Stagecoach to see if there is anything that can be done about the loss of the 17 bus evening service, following the removal of KCC funding. Last year I was very pleased though to have played a part in saving the 11 bus route when my petition achieved over 1,000 signatures in just a few days.

The Canterbury Local Plan is extremely controversial, and I continue to work with residents, parish council and community groups to oppose the Adisham new town and the expansion of Aylesham into Womenswold.

I continue to work to get litter and fly-tipping cleared and was very pleased to see the proper deep clean of the Ropersole lay-by take place that I have campaigned for.

With cuts in pothole funding I am in touch regularly with KCC Highways to keep pushing for repairs to our roads.

At KCC I have regularly questioned Southern Water about the dumping of sewerage in the sea.

I have been working through the bureaucracy to try to get changes to the unpopular Wincheap gyratory scheme that is due to start this year. With my (now much reduced) KCC Combined Members Grant, and Canterbury City Council Opportunities Fund I have been able to support

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many local projects including, Littlebourne warm room project, Barham Bowls Club, Wickhambreaux playing field, Thanington Resource Centre, Lower Hardres Speedwatch, Barham Primary School, Bridge Village Playgroup and Barham Football Club.

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023**

#### **Report by Councillor Robert Thomas**

I sat down to write this report and I thought to myself it's been another challenging year in local government. I then realised in my 12 years of attending annual parish meetings that for most of them I've reported that it's been "another challenging year for local government".

So, it's been another year in local government...

I thought I would outline four different areas. Those being: the wider context and its impact on local government, pressures on local government, my own personal input over the last 12 months and finally looking ahead.

Starting off with the wider issues obviously we started the year on high with the Platinum Jubilee to celebrate her majesty's excellent service over last 70 years. This, of course, was followed with the sad passing of the late Queen who, I'm sure for the vast majority of people, would have been the only monarch they've known. Both the county and city councils were involved in the proclamation of a death and organising a celebration of her majesty's life at the cathedral.

I'm sure the other major global events have not passed your attention in the last 12 months either. We've had the illegal invasion of Ukraine, the persistent pressure of high inflation, the mini budget episode late last year and the consecutive increases in Bank of England interest rates. Added to this the revolving door in Downing Street.

Like many households this has had a big impact on council finances. At the same demand for council services has remained high, in particular at the county council. Attempting to coordinate this upon the backdrop of a huge amount of uncertainty is not always easy.

The city council has been working through a number of changes in recent times. The cabinet system of governance is now firmly bedded in for taking decisions. A system that must be in place for a minimum of five years. The waste collection service through the council-owned Canenco has worked through a number of teething issues and has now taken on the grounds maintenance contract from Serco.

Over the past twelve months my role at the city council has remained limited as I've served on Audit committee as well as attending Council.

However, my time at Kent County Council continued as elected representative for Canterbury North. My role there is much busier than that at CCC. I currently chair both Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee and Kent Pension Board. I also serve on Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee, Growth Economic Development and Community Cabinet Committee, Governance and Audit and other ad hoc committees.



As a backbencher you also get the opportunity to get involved in other areas of council. I sat on a Short Focus Inquiry on S106 Developer Contributions. However, it was my role as chairman of the Short Focus Inquiry on Highway Improvement Plans which provided a great opportunity to enhance of the work of what currently happens for local requests to improve the highway network. The recommendations are currently with the Cabinet Member for Highways to consider and the outcome should be reported back soon.

Additionally, I also attend the cross party Kent Plan Bee Members Group. We consider a number of issues such as the chemicals used management of weeds, initiatives such as No Mow May and other best practices.

KCC has also developed a Kent Plan Tree strategy. The aim is to establish a tree for each resident. Therefore 1.5 million trees should be planted. Through the member scheme I recently agreed for 900 trees to be planted at Neals Place Meadow (Rough Common).

I particularly enjoy working on the environmental issues and have continued to support the East Kent Parks Forum and Canterbury District Biodiversity Network. Through the latter we arranged a briefing about KCC's new Country Parks Strategy and will be taking a delegation to see the Brockhill Country Park in July to see the team in action.

My appointment at World Heritage UK through the city council comes to an end shortly but pleasingly the Canterbury World Heritage Site Management Committee are putting the finishing touches to a new strategy to improve the way it is managed, by all partners, and the challenges we face. Hopefully a new coordinator and digital offering will follow thereafter.

Through the Joint Transportation Board we've discussed the transport strategy which underpins the new Local Plan as well as the impending Wincheap gyratory road which will be constructed later in the year. It's fair to say there's been plenty of pushback on these schemes which have, until recently, bypassed backbench input.

Looking ahead we have local elections on 4th May, a new Local Plan to be agreed, the Stodmarsh issue needs to be resolved and a backstop of March 2025 to deliver the Levelling Up Fund project to name just some of the milestones to come.

Being at the heart of these challenges is why we are involved in local politics, to ensure our community can be the best it can be, and it's fair to say that the number of tough decisions ahead will be just important as ever.

Thank you to the clerk, parish councillors and community groups who add so much to village life and are often the unsung heroes. Even if it is not said I'm sure the residents are grateful for all your efforts.

I wanted to finish by saying a massive thank you to everyone. That's irrespective as to whether they voted for me in 2011, 2015 or 2019 or not at all. It's been a huge pleasure to have been your representative. I didn't think it was something I'd ever be able to do and it's a huge honour that I'll always cherish. I hope I got more things right than I got wrong during my time at the city council. It's never been about me but giving back to the community. However, when I look back, I am proud to have been the Leader of the Council that recognised the need to act on climate change and deciding to end the badly performing East Kent Housing. Additionally, I

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brought to the council's attention housing in Vulcan Close, Whitstable that was surplus to NHS requirements and bought by the council to house residents on the housing waiting list. Additionally, having served as Heritage Champion I hope that I managed to bump the importance of our heritage up the priority list.

I shall hugely miss the opportunity to make positive change at the city council but having been involved in local politics for approximately a quarter of my life the time has come to pass the baton on to someone else who can bring new ideas to the council.

I wish you all well for the future.

Best wishes,

Rob Thomas