

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held in the Community Centre Lenham on the 21st May, 2008, at 7.30 p.m. pursuant to the Notice duly published and given to consider:-

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous Annual Assembly
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Presentation by Stuart Bligh on the work of the County Archive and local history
6. Reports of Parish Council Committees
7. General discussion

Cllr. Godfrey presiding
10 Parish Cllrs. and B. Cllr. T. Sam
4 Local Government electors were in attendance

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. Crutcher

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on the 18th April, 2007, were read by the Clerk and confirmed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report a copy of which is filed with these Minutes.

5. PRESENTATION BY STUART BLIGH

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Bligh from the County Archives who gave a presentation explaining the work of the County Archives and how the facilities could be used by schools and the public. He also drew attention to the public consultation that was taking place until the end of May on the proposals for a new purpose built centre that would allow for better access and improved care of archive material relating to Kent. It would also house a new library for Maidstone. The Chairman thanked Mr. Bligh for attending and giving a very enjoyable and informative presentation.

6. REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Reports on the work of Committees during the past year were given by Committee Chairmen/spokespersons. Copies of reports would be available in the Library and on the PC website. Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr detailed what had been achieved regarding the implementation of the items in the action plan. He also mentioned that the Parish Council were having meetings with the Parochial Church Council.

Business Assn. Cllr. Michaelas gave an account of activities since the launch of the Assn. The Chairman referred to the placing of equipment in The Square which would provide power for events. This was being jointly funded by the Parish Council, Business Assn. and Market Committee, together with some funding from Maidstone BC.

Neighbourhood Watch Cllr. Richards reported that there were difficulties in getting the system together and finding people willing to be co-ordinators.

Publicity Officer Cllr. Richards reported that little progress had been made at present.

Recycling Cllr. Goodwin reported that consideration was being given on how the present site could be better utilised and that a further site in the Parish was being investigated.

Carbon Footprint Cllr. Goodwin would continue to consider further green issues.

Planning Cllr. Osborne detailed the various work undertaken by the Committee during the past year. It was noted that because of the KIG consultation process the Local Development Framework might now be held up for two to five years.

Environment Cllr. Greenwood detailed the various environmental activities that had been undertaken during the year. It was noted that the Parish Council now had a machine for clearing the detritus from the gutters.

With regard to the orchard project at Cherry Downs plans were in hand to hold a BBQ so that parishioners could be made aware of and enjoy the new facility.

Swadelands School Cllrs. Greenwood and Younger were on the Governing Body which would enable the School and Council to have a better understanding and work closer together.

Highways Cllr. Davison hoped that the spreadsheet set up to report items requiring attention would continue to improve things. The Chairman said that unfortunately there was nothing to report on the progress of the Post Bus.

Law & Order The Chairman reported on the work of the Lenham Policing Team and the policing initiatives being undertaken.

The Chairman thanked all the Cllrs. for their reports.

7 GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. George was concerned that there was so little interest from the Public in Parish Council matters. This feeling was endorsed by the Councillors.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.