

CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF

26th May 2015

held at The Hayton Baker Hall, Ripe

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Cllr Webb (Chairman) Cllr White
 Cllr Ward Cllr Dunbar Dempsey
 Cllr English Cllr Brass

ATTENDING: A Stevens (Clerk). There were five members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Shonfeld. County Councillor Bennett and District Councillor Ede also sent their apologies.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman read from the attached report in which he said;

Fingerposts - 6 of our seven fingerposts have either been replaced or renovated and are now in very good order. We also have erected a new bench and Channers Lane and commissioned work to renovate our notice boards.

We would like to thank Wealden Community Dividend fund for the grant that has enabled us to complete these works.

The Lamb – During the year we registered both pubs as Community Assets. The owners of The Lamb put it on the market to sell. A committee has been set up to try and keep the pub open.

Broadband – Superfast Broadband has been installed in the Chiddingly exchange enabling many residents of Chalvington to be upgraded. Ripe should be ready by the autumn.

Planning - During the year we considered 20 planning applications and supported 17 and objected to 3.

A planning application from the previous year was referred to the planning inspector who overturned Wealden and our objection.

There have been a number of changes to the planning rules during the year.

Roads – We have been working with ESCC Highways Dept to make good the damage to roads and verges in the villages due to bad weather and use of Darp Lane by the contractors for the solar farm at Kitty Hawk farm.

Precept - to remain same as last year.

Bus Services – Following ESCC changes to the local bus services we delivered a petition objecting to the changes to ESCC offices in Lewes.

My thanks to our County Councillor Nick Bennett and our District Councillor for last year Steve Harms for all their help.

Welcome to our new Parish Councillor Geoff White and new District Councillor Phillip Ede, and our new PCSO Stephen Fenn. And a fond farewell to Mary Allcock.

Also to all the volunteers who produce our excellent Village Magazine which we all find so useful. And lastly a big thank you to all Parish Councillors and our excellent clerk Alison.

3. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR –

There were no reports from either the County or District Councillor on this occasion but it was noted that the Parish Council has had regular reports during the past year.

4. SPEAKER KATE FLEMING

Ms Fleming told those present about the activities and services of Ripe Nursery School.

The Nursery teaches the Early Year's Foundation Stage, has a higher than average staff to pupil ratio and 31 pupils on its roll. Children attend from as far afield as Uckfield and Polegate.

Children play outside as much as possible and also take part in the nativity, harvest festival and music festival. Technology is now part of nursery education and the school hopes to buy tablets and an interactive white board soon.

The Nursery now opens earlier at 8.15am and from September will be allowed to take children from one years old. There is also a Summer Club for children aged up to eight.

5. REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES OF HAYTON BAKER HALL – Professor Hill sent a written report in which he said that during the year;

The Committee Members during the year were:

Brian Hill	Chairman
Lys Drewett	Secretary
Keith Hopson	Treasurer
Val Hopson	Bookings Secretary
Peter Brass	Parish Council Representative
Gill Ross	P.C.C. Representative
Elaine Nicholls	W.I Representative
Debbie Sylvester	Flower Show Representative
Jooles Jackson	
Margaret Hallewell	
Sue Tyldsley-Hill	

During the year the programme of refurbishment and repairs was continued. Areas were treated for damp and repainted, the pipework was boxed-in, kitchen equipment was upgraded and new doors were fitted to the main entrance.

Our finances remain sound, aided by donations from the Parish Council, the Flower Show and the Music Festival. Keith Hopson, our Treasurer, has guided us wisely and efficiently throughout the year.

During the year the Hall has continued to be used by a variety of local and outside organisations. The pre-school has a new owner and opening hours have increased. Thanks are due to Val Hopson who oversees this aspect of our activities.

The Committee organised a number of successful events including the village quiz night and a table-top sale.

A growing problem facing the Committee is the lack of storage space. It is difficult to expand the premises, but it is hoped that a small grant from the local solar farm will enable some modifications to be made in the coming year.

The Committee met five times during the year and all members discharged their responsibilities effectively.

It has been another successful year and thanks are due to all Members whose dedication ensures that the Village Hall continues to provide a significant asset to our local community. It has been a privilege to work with such a friendly and motivated team.

6. REPORT FROM THE LITTER WATCH CO-ORDINATOR - Professor Hill sent a written report in which he said that during the year;

The group has just celebrated ten years since it was formed in 2004 and, sadly, it is just as much needed as it was a decade ago. Not so many cigarette packets are picked up these days, but their decline has been fully compensated for by coffee cups from Costa and Starbucks, by cans from Red Bull and Coca Cola, by discarded packaging from MacDonalds and various biscuit makers, together with a variety of objects ranging from nappies to newspapers, from supermarket bags to condoms.

Eighteen families regularly patrol the lanes and verges of our Parish and residents owe a big vote of thanks for their dedication and for the efforts they make. At a rough estimate, some twenty bags a month are stuffed with rubbish, picked up around the two villages, which adds up to a massive 2,400 bags of litter since picking began.

Nationally, England would seem to have about the worst record of any country in Europe. Further afield too, litter seems to be far less of a problem than it is here. Maybe because of strict fines and active enforcement, Australia, for instance, sees very little litter deposited in its streets. The same story in China where, on a recent visit to Canton, every dawn brought out hordes of sweepers to keep their city clean. The journey from Gatwick to Ripe via the A23, the Brighton & Lewes by-passes and the A27 is a litter picker's nightmare, giving the impression of landing in a third world country.

Enough ranting, next year will doubtless see our local pickers still patrolling the lanes to ensure our "oasis" is still a pleasant place to live.

7. REPORT FROM THE PARISH EMERGENCY OFFICER – There was no report from the Parish Emergency Officer on this occasion because there have been no emergencies in the past year.

8. REPORT FROM THE CUCKMERE COMMUNITY BUS (CCB) REPRESENTATIVE – There was no report from the CCB Committee on this occasion.

9. OPEN FORUM – Ms Fleming asked if it is possible to have a dog bin near the Nursery School. Residents agreed there is generally a problem with dog mess in the whole parish and asked for this to be an agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Councillor Ward confirmed the works to Darp Lane mentioned in the Chairman's Report have now been carried out.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.