

# SHADOXHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Page 42

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, held at the Village Hall, Shadoxhurst,  
on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 7.30 pm**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Mr W Hollands (Chair), Miss M Smith, Mrs J Kozlowski,  
Mr S Frost

**ALSO PRESENT** Mr C Stanley, Webmaster

**PARISH CLERK:** Mrs J Batt

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR:** Mr M Angell

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:** Mrs A Hicks and Mr G Bradford

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were 18 Members of the Public present.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Hollands should sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14 May 2014.

Proposed Mr Frost                      Seconded Miss Smith

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no Matters Arising.

**4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS**

Nothing to report.

**5. REPORT BY COUNCILLOR MIKE ANGELL - KCC**

Since the final report on my Select Committee on Commissioning of Services, I have been involved with the Commissioning Advisory Board which oversees commissioning proposals prior to their being presented to the Cabinet Committee for approval. This is the first time in the history of the County Council that there is significant member involvement in the procurement and commissioning process. This is being developed further with intensive member training in being able to recognise and monitor outcomes.

I also sit as Vice Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny. Topics that are currently being addressed are Patient Transport (a chaotic service that was – now being improved), Children and Adolescent Mental Health, once again not at all satisfactory and has been recommissioned and beginning to show improvement. In addition I have been attending the reports of the Care Quality Commission's inspection of the Medway Maritime Hospital, William Harvey Hospital and Kent and Canterbury. Currently the Committee is receiving regular updates on their improvement plans and shortly the same treatment for the Maidstone and Pembury Hospitals.

My other jobs at County Hall are:-

Planning Committee which mainly deals with Schools, Waste and Highway applications.

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Service, where I sit on the General Purpose Committee which oversees the External and Internal Audits, Statistics concerning road traffic accidents, fires and also the Channel Tunnel.

The Joint Transport Committee with Ashford Borough Council, I attend once a term.

Also this last winter, I have had a busy time due to flooding issues on my patch as well as keeping a watchful eye on developments.

I am very grateful to the Parish Councils for their support and must congratulate them for their efforts as energetic volunteers. I try and get round to their meetings, but sometimes it is difficult to attend them all.

**6. REPORT BY COUNCILLOR ALINE HICKS – ABC**

The following report was submitted by Councillor Aline Hicks

Thank you for re-electing me in the election last week. I personally achieved 2053 votes. The highest recorded in the Borough Council.

Just to remind you, Weald South covers Kingsnorth (Stubbs Cross Ward), Shadoxhurst, Woodchurch, Warehorne and Orlestone and Hamstreet.

With the advent of Ward Member Grants I have been able to support various charity/community organisations in all of this area known as Weald South. We expect to be given another Ward Member Grant for 2015/2016.

In addition to the usual council business, I served as a trustee of Ashford Leisure Trust, the Borough Council's representative on the River Stour Internal Drainage Board, a governor of Kingsnorth Primary School, a director of Woodchurch Information Centre and I attend the Marshlink Railway meetings. We are currently awaiting our positions for 2015/2016.

The impact of the so called 'Bedroom Tax' failed to have any impact on council house tenants as we introduced Intervention Officers who are able to assist tenants with any problems. Overall the Borough Council is working with the DWP, Citizens Advice Bureau and other agencies to provide support to residents who may be affected by the Universal Credit System which the government is rolling out across the country and which has now started in Ashford

A big problem we have nationally is an ageing population, and in Ashford we are addressing this subject by improving our facilities for older residents. We have redesigned Farrow Court in South Ashford to ultimately provide 104 homes, and worked closely with Age Concern to improve their Day Care offer.

Throughout the Borough we are looking at updating all our Sheltered Homes and this will include Danemore in Tenterden and Cotton Hill House in Hamstreet. Not all older care provision is provided by the Council and we work in partnership with various Housing Association to meet the demand such as Chamberlain Court opposite the John Lewis Store.

With regard to general housing for families and our younger generation, officers from the Planning Department are working closely with parish councils, to identify building sites that would be acceptable for development under the Local Plan which is currently being revised. As I see the situation, no decisions will be made until the autumn and even then this could slip.

The Conservative administration is seeking to improve the economic offers within the town centre. Many residents feel that the main thrust of general housing should be concentrated in the town and this is now happening with the conversion of Charter House, the Old Tax Office and Trafalgar House from offices into dwellings. There are also plans for the development of the area between Elwick Road and the railway line. We are also putting pressure on Network Rail to address the station access and improve the Eurostar service.

House which will generate a considerable amount of income for the borough and enable us to keep the rates in Ashford as low as possible. The probable purchase of Park Mall will give a long-term opportunity for the re-generation of that part of the Town Centre.

At last the old garage site in Shadoxhurst is being improved. The site has been acquired by Orbit who will provide market housing as well as the all-important social housing for local residents.

Parking around Nairne Close and on Church Lane can be horrendous and I have made my feelings clear that the Council should not seek to develop the two garage sites in the Close.

Also, given the proximity of the Chilmington development, I consider that it would be inappropriate for the new Local Plan to include any large scale developments.

There are several planning applications in Shadoxhurst which are giving cause for concern.

When I was elected 8 years ago I had no idea that planning matters played such an important part in the role of a Borough Councillor and only wish that when I left school I had trained as a Planning Lawyer instead of working for the Inland Revenue.

**7. FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Residents expressed their concern at the activities taking place in Criol Wood and at the planning applications which have been submitted.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

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