

# SHADOXHURST PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly, held at the Village Hall, Shadoxhurst, on Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 7.00 pm

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Mr D Ledger (chair), Mrs S Ellis, Mrs C Procter,  
Mr Caroll, Mr Cass, Mr Crowley and Mr Richmond Coggan

**PARISH CLERK:** Mrs J Batt

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR:** Mr M Angell

**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There were no Members of the Public present.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An Apology for Absence was received from Borough Councillor, Mrs A Hicks

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Ledger should sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 10 May 2017.

Proposed Mrs Procter                      Seconded Mrs Ellis

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2017 APM**

There were no Matters Arising.

**4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr Ledger thanked the Clerk and Councillors for their help and support over the past year and reported that improvements have been made to the Recreation Field and the newsletter and that there has been an increase in activities and groups over the year.

The speed limit throughout the village is to be reduced shortly.

Councillors have made good use of the S106 money, which has been used to fund the Recreation Field car park, a new fence between the Recreation Field and the field behind it and the Community Exercise Equipment

Sadly, we have lost two fields to housing, and there is a threat of more development, but we are trying to maintain morale and in terms of influence we have talked to Ashford Borough Council, our MP and the Minister for housing in an attempt to get the voice of Shadoxhurst heard.

**5. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Summary Receipts and Payments for the year 2017-2018 were circulated and questions taken.

**Proposed Mr Richmond Coggan      Seconded Mr Cass**

Councillors thanked Mr Angell for funding this project.

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

Over the past year I have been a member of the following committees: Planning, Overview and Scrutiny, Standards, Ashford Water Group and the Infrastructure Group.

I also try to attend all of the Planning Policy Task Group meetings, the Chilmington Green Stakeholders and Ashford Strategic Delivery Board.

In addition, I represent Ashford on the River Stour Internal Drainage Board, Citizens Advice and Marshlink.

Last December I resigned as a director of Kingsnorth Primary School, now an academy run by the Church's Aquila Group. However, I am back on Kingsnorth Parish Council. You will know all about the plans for your area brought forward to the Planning Committee. At this meeting, one has to keep an open mind and bear in mind the greater good as well as village aspirations.

At the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the committee revised the youth provision within the borough, whilst acknowledging that there are other clubs (eg church youth groups) that are not included. There was also a presentation on transformation plans for the William Harvey Hospital and Local Care Arrangements. They have also looked at the doctors' surgeries in Kingsnorth and ways in which the projected increase in population can be accommodated. Most members have also completed the Online Safe-Guarding Course which I passed with 100%!

Over the past year I have been particularly concerned about surface water drainage and how new estates will discharge this into river systems. In this respect I have spent a lot of time reviewing the Chilmington site. At this site there is also a major obstacle to development – sewerage. At a high-level meeting with Southern Water Services we were assured that a new drainage system will take effluent directly to the Bybrook Plant.

Much of the time spent by officers during 2017 at Ashford Borough Council has been in delivering the new local plan, which was presented to the Planning Inspectorate just before Christmas last year. The Public Examination begins on 11 April and we will have to wait until probably the autumn to learn if it is considered sound.

You should also be aware that I am Deputy Portfolio Holder for Housing, which covers most of the social housing in the borough. Whilst residents sometimes contact me to see if they can have a council property, I have to say that there are approximately 1500 householders on the housing list and vacant properties are usually given to those with the greatest need.

In Shadoxhurst there are two new developments near the Kings Head, both approved by the Planning Committee, but driving past these sites at the moment is most depressing with mud everywhere. We have heard of other developers keen to put up more housing in this rural area. A great deal of community spirit has been engendered by the newly formed Forum and I commend everyone for their efforts with this enterprise and especially the Parish Council for their enlightened approach.

### **REPORT BY COUNCILLOR GARETH BRADFORD – ABC**

The past year has been my busiest yet as a Borough Councillor but not due to work on the ward. The vast majority of the hours I contribute are spent supporting my role on the Cabinet. As portfolio I am responsible for Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety and Highways and Transport for the entire borough and that obviously entails a heavy meeting commitment.

I currently serve as Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board and work on a task and finish group to support that work. I also sit on the Local Children's' Partnership Group. I am a principal member of the Community Safety Partnership, the Serious & Organised Crime Group and the Compliance and Enforcement Board. I also sit on the Kent & Medway Police & Crime Panel. I am a member of the Joint Transportation Board and attend the Strategic Transport Group.

In addition to these Portfolio responsibilities I am a member of the Planning Committee, the Planning and Planning Policy Task Group, the Trade and Enterprise Board and attend the usual meetings for Cabinet.

Although this work takes me away from the day to day on Weald South it directly benefits the ward as it does the Borough. I hope that members of the Parish Councils know that I shall attend to any of their issues or concerns directly when they are reported to me.

Going forwards I expect this year to be busier than the last. I know that some Borough residents maybe concerned regarding the future of the William Harvey Accident & Emergency Department. It is far too early to speculate about future changes to the regions health provision and please be assured that whatever decisions are made by the NHS they will be targeted at providing the best health outcomes for people requiring emergency care and made with the benefit of advice from the people we most trust with our health; the clinicians who are our Nurse Practitioners, Doctors and Consultants.

Planning is a most controversial issue with the potential to impact significantly on people's lives. I have, in the past year, through actions I have taken, become unpopular with some residents within the ward. I don't apologise for the decisions I have made but I am genuinely sorry if people have felt impacted by them. It is sometimes difficult when you have the benefit of training, experience and an inside track, to persuade concerned residents that you are attempting to act in their best interest. It would be much easier to play the

popular vote but that would be dishonest, and I don't feel that my potential re-election is worth compromising my integrity.

Positive things are happening in Ashford with developments underway for the Cinema, Brewery, Aldi Supermarket, two Hotels, the Commercial Quarter and the Outlet extension. These works will of course necessitate some travelling delays and inconvenience. This we must expect and accept. I am personally excited about Ashford's future.

I do really respect and appreciate the work of the Parish Councils and I apologise for having to attend other meetings in your place. That situation probably won't change this coming year but please believe that I am, in all of my undertakings, representing the best interests of Weald South, as well as the Borough of Ashford.

**7. REPORT BY COUNCILLOR MIKE ANGELL – KCC**

This has been an exciting and interesting year for me.

I was selected to be the Vice Chairman of the County Council with a strong possibility of becoming the Chairman on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

However, life has to go on in which has involved me in continuing to scrutinise the local NHS and their plans for the future. This includes examining the recovery plan for the South East Coast Ambulance Service to help the service come out of special measures.

In addition, I have been working to study the plans for the future of the stroke service which is undertaking a complete overhaul which is badly needed. As a matter of interest, I have met with a number of stroke survivors who welcome the possibilities of a future plan.

In my role as Vice Chairman there have been occasions where I have attended civic duties on behalf of the Chairman such as citizenship ceremonies which are held twice per week. Here those people from other countries all over the world have applied to the Home Office and reached the final stage of certification which are presented by the County Council Chairman or Vice Chairman at a ceremony at the Archbishop's Palace. I have also visited voluntary organisations and charities in all parts of Kent and sometimes Medway on behalf of the Chairman.

Recently I attended a conference of Early Years Education for children with Special Needs and Learning Difficulties which was initiated by Hamstreet School.

This in addition to the normal help and support that I give to my constituents.

I am taking over as Chairman on 17<sup>th</sup> and been working on the programme for next year. My Charity for the year is the Samaritans. I have been invited to get involved with Brexit problems in Dover and Canterbury.

Latest news for Shadoxhurst is that the 30mph going to go ahead. It has cost £3000 for the legal fees plus £9000 to do work on the ground. An Ashford firm will be contracted to undertake the work.

Mr Ledger thanked Mr Angell for funding this project.

8. **ANY OTHER SPEAKERS**

There were no other speakers.

9. **FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

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

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

Chairman