

Shadoxhurst Village Forum

Notes from the AGM of the village Forum meeting held in the Pavilion

At 2.30pm on Saturday 12th May 2018

- To maintain the quality of life for all in the village
- To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council
- To re-kindle community spirit and engender friendship
- To build social feeling in the village
- To suggest things that will bring people together
- **With a vision to create and develop a positive community spirit**

1) Welcome and Introductions

21 people attended the meeting.

Cheryl welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Open Forum

There were no items added for consideration at the end of the meeting.

3) Minutes from the Forum meeting on 22/2/18

Minute 4.2 - Amend spelling of name to 'Aline'. The minutes were then agreed as a true record of the meeting.

4) Matters Arising from the Minutes / Updates

Re 4.1 - The question was asked if the £200.44 has gone to the RMR campaign. Cheryl said she thought £606.60 had gone to the Rural Means Rural group (RMR) in total. Will has kept the car sticker money to purchase more stationery, holding a balance of £91.83 to date.

Re 4.3 - No one has come forward to claim the raffle prizes yet.

Re 5.2.4 – Sarah has asked to hold a 'dementia friend' talk. We hope this can be organised for some time during the summer holidays.

5) Chairman's Report

Over the year there has been a focus on events to bring people together – we can't imagine the village without the coffee club now. There has been a quiz night and two murder mystery evenings. The Harvest Fete had been hard work, but there has been lots of positive feedback so we're doing it again on Sunday 30th September.

We have donated to, and raised funds for, RMR. This money has contributed to a professional putting a case together regarding adoption of a Landscape Protection Policy and speaking on our behalf at the Local Plan Examination.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered throughout the year – of course we can always do with a bit more help and some younger people would be nice! Any takers please let Cheryl or David know. We have grown and developed as a Forum and it's been an enjoyable year as Chair.

6) Reports / Updates from the Clubs

6.1) Sewing Club

The Sewing club meets regularly on Thursdays. Subs are £1.50 and include refreshments. It's not a teaching group, it's about self-help and our friendly group of people advise and support each other. Projects to date include new table cloths, Reindeer Christmas food bags (for the football club), tabards for Ark Drama's next production and a map of Shadoxhurst quilt (2016 version). For more information, please contact Sheila on 733540

6.2) Beavers and Scout Groups

Simon gave his report: Every child has the right to an adventure! It's not just about badges, it's also about exploring what's happening around us and trying something new, and supporting each other. This year the group has taken part in village events, such as the Village Clean Up and the successful Harvest Fete. There have also been several hikes around the village. There have been visits to Leeds castle, Dungeness Power Station, RHD railway and Ashford Fire Station. With the help of their imagination the Beaver colony has also visited the International Space Station and seen, via video links, what the Earth looks like from space.

For the last 2 years the Beaver colony has been runner up in the district 5 a side football match. This year both teams were in the semi-finals. From April 2017 to March 2018 an amazing 395 badges have been awarded. Four of these were the Chief Scout bronze award - the highest that can be awarded to a Beaver. There were also 16 1st night away from home badges awarded.

Simon also showed us some posters that the Beavers had created after they had helped out with the village clean-up – they reminded people to clean up after their dogs!

This year we will be celebrating 50 years of Scouting in Shadoxhurst. We are planning a BBQ event to be held in July or August and we hope that you will all join us. We are happy to support the village whenever we can and are looking forward to participating in the Remembrance Day event in the village, and the church celebrations later in the year. All three of our sections will be participating in the Harvest Fete in September.

For more information, please contact Simon on 07704 789155.

6.3) History Club

This is very much a 'people's history' club – it's very informal and none of us are history experts! We do, however, like to find things out and share our knowledge and memories of how life in Shadoxhurst and the local area has evolved over the years. We're interested in how things connect together, and how the past has influenced the present, which in turn continues to shape our future.

We're a friendly group and everyone is welcome to participate, contribute and share their ideas. People have brought in old maps, photos, documents, newspaper cuttings and we are starting to build up an archive. Over the last few months we have drawn heavily on the mine of information contained in Mr Chowns' village history book. We have visited Green Farm Hall House and the Parish Church. We have had a presentation from Sheila about tracing your family history.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us, if you're new to the area come along and discover the history of your new village, if you've lived here for a while come along and share your stories – we meet every other Thursday morning 10.30am - 12 noon in the Pavilion. For more information contact Carol on 732084

6.4) Ark Drama 2000

Ark Drama is based at Kingsnorth Church and is open to all youngsters irrespective of race, creed, religion or ability, age 7 to 21 years old. We meet on Tuesday evenings, during term time, from 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Last summer we performed the Annie (junior) musical at the Tower theatre, which was very well received. Over the year the group also ran and performed at the St George's day service in Kingsnorth church, it also managed the parades for both the Remembrance and St George's day services in Kingsnorth; 5 of our members sung for a senior citizens group in Headcorn; we performed at Shadoxhurst Harvest Fete in September, also providing and managing the PA system for the whole event.

Future events: On Saturday June 30th 2018 we will be performing 'Into the Woods' (junior) at The Tower Theatre in Folkestone. Please come along and support Ark Drama group, there will be a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 7pm. Please obtain your tickets (adults £6 and concessions £4) from the Tower Theatre Box Office on 01303 223925. If you don't want to travel direct, a coach will be available to collect and return from the Pavilion car park in Shadoxhurst but please note this is only for the matinee performance. Contact Lis or Peter if you would like to book a place on the coach.

Ark Drama will be performing at Shadoxhurst Harvest Fete and providing the PA system. They will also be marshalling for the Remembrance Day in Kingsnorth on November 11th.

For more information please contact Lis or Peter on 732901 or email ArkDrama2000@outlook.com

6.5) Gardening Club

If anyone is interested in joining / running a Gardening Club please step forward! Jean, who has previously run a successful Gardening club, is willing to offer advice to any takers. Co-ordination is through Sheila on 733540, please ring her if interested in taking part.

7) Neighbourhood Watch Report

All residents are members, and there's no charge. There are signs around the village, the owl signs are for owl watch – another name for neighbourhood watch.

The scheme aims to help protect people from harm and theft. If you are in any immediate risk of harm you should of course dial 999

Peter Webb is our central coordinator – he liaises between the village and the police (Andrew Judd). Peter also posts bulletins on-line. Comments are made to Facebook, Next Door, Shadoxhurst Parish Council website and the village newsletter. Country Eye has an app for your smart phone where you can report fly tipping. Someone mentioned that James Haan runs the community safety unit at Kent County Council. Perhaps we could have a community safety stall at our village fete?

Peter gave a presentation and showed us the latest crime statistics for our village. There isn't a lot of crime in Shadoxhurst compared to some other areas, but it is important to report every crime to the police. This is because police cuts mean they have to work smarter – your reports add to their intelligence base and are fed into the bigger picture of what's going on – and if crime is reported we get more police.

8) Parish Council Chairman's Report

There have been improvements made to the village over the year. Money from planning gain has enabled us to install adult exercise equipment on the recreation ground. The new look village newsletter is much improved, and we are in the process of a speed reduction to 30mph in the village.

People power can work and can make a difference – after so many cars continued to crash into her garden near Bromley Green crossroads, Sally and her family have campaigned tirelessly for better safety on this part of Ham Street road. Changes in road signage and the addition of rumble strips are now scheduled. David also thanked Ian and Carol for holding a residents meeting about planning, Cheryl for chairing the Forum and Peter for coordinating Neighbourhood Watch. There are lots of groups and clubs in the village. David's message is 'if you persist you get things done'. He sees the Parish council's role as holding the village together and boosting morale.

Regarding planning and development, David has met with Ashford Borough council, our MP Damian Green, and the Minister for Housing Dominic Raab, speaking on behalf of Shadoxhurst and other villages. The Local Plan is under review and David has been attending the Public Examination on our behalf –

working hard to influence things. Community is important – feel free to talk to your Parish Council – it's about helping each other.

There are currently planning applications for developments in our village. People need to respond – we don't want Shadoxhurst to be joined up with Ashford. We need to work together.

9) Village Fete

The fete will be held on the recreation ground on Sunday 30th September 2018. We'll need lots of volunteers please! Please let Peter know if you can help.

10) Financial Report of the Forum

The balance is £897.12 and no other events are planned at present.

11) Constitution and Future Forum Arrangements

The Forum discussed the pros and cons of remaining under the auspices of the Parish Council or of becoming a separate group with its own constitution and committee. Under the present arrangements Forum spending has to be authorised by the Parish Council (because the money from village activities are held ring-fenced in its accounts and the parish council is accountable for them). The Forum also benefits from free use of community halls and insurance cover. Three or four people were concerned that Forum spending could be vetoed by the Parish Council, although it was pointed out that this had never happened. Some people made the point that they had raised money for the village and expected it to have the oversight and accountability of the Parish Council, someone else felt they had raised money specifically for the Forum and so they didn't feel it should be in the Parish council accounts at all.

Cheryl proposed that a vote should be held (by show of hands), "Is the Forum to remain part of the Parish Council"? The vast majority voted in favour of the Forum staying as part of the Parish Council. It was agreed that draft Terms of Reference would need to be created and be agreed by the Parish Council. Some people felt it would be good if all forum members could have the opportunity for some input into this draft document.

12) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in The Pavilion at 7pm on Thursday 21st June 2018