

SHADOXHURST PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AS A VIDEO-LINKED MEETING DUE TO ALTERNATIVE LOCKDOWN MEASURES
DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS ON
THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST 2020 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr M Richmond Coggan (Chair), Cllr D Ledger (Vice Chair),
Cllr R Crowley, Cllr R Hills
PARISH CLERK: Ms C Laming
BOROUGH COUNCILLORS: Cllr D Ledger
COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Cllr Mike Angell
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were two Members of the Public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received by Cllr S Cass & Cllr J Hayward.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed that Mr D Ledger should sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2019.

Proposed Cllr D Ledger

Seconded Cllr M Richmond Coggan

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2019 APM

There were no Matters Arising.

4. PARISH COUNCILLORS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As a summary for the last year and a bit, I would say that the Parish Council has continued to mature and grow. A considerable amount of work has been put in, much was achieved but as ever there is always much more to do. We have welcomed John and Roger as additions within the year, though we have lost Colin and Paul. Both had made great contributions to our work in their time on the Parish Council, they have also contributed to our community, in particular, Colin continues to lead on the weekly coffee club. John and Roger have made significant contributions in their short time with us.

I am always greatly appreciative of the work that everyone does. It is a team effort and I think that the load has been shared better in the last year, when I have been distracted by other work following my election to the Borough Council. My ethos throughout my own tenure on the Parish Council has always been and will continue to be one of serving our community to the best of my ability. Everyone in the team has played a strong part in the work of the parish. Both Martin and Stuart have led admirably on sizable chunks of our work particularly on planning and improvements to the village hall respectively.

Changes have had to be made in 2020 as our lives were turned upside down by Covid-19. It has shown that our village community spirit is alive and well. Many stepped forward offering help and it was greatly received. I personally thank all those who volunteered. Quite a few did not find themselves needed and perhaps were frustrated. Those that did have tasks to do, did so enthusiastically and selflessly. We need to thank them all. I have heard that a few in the village have died from the virus, and we must send our condolences to their family and friends.

I must single out and thank Caroline in this report. At the start of the financial year we were hit with the bombshell that our Parish Clerk Judith was stepping down after some 20 years of serving our parish. We had a swift learning curve in the needs of recruitment, and I am indebted to Rob for his help with the process. Caroline joined us in July last year and has worked very hard to learn the job and the myriad of processes that are found in local government. She has supported me and I hope that I have suitably and adequately supported her when it was needed. She is a valuable member of the team and I thank you for all that you do.

Finally, I must make a special mention of my partner Sheila who puts up with me rushing about on parish business, holding meetings and phone calls. Thank you for your patience.

5. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

All financial reports were circulated, and questions taken.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT

It has been an interesting first year, lots to learn. As well as involvement on the Licensing Committee and hearing applications and the River Stour Internal Drainage Board, crucially I am a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which meets monthly to review processes and decisions. I am currently involved with a digital transformation task group. I am also a member of the Local Plan and Planning Policy Task Group, which with all the planning changes ahead will be a key place to watch how things pan out and influence where I can.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

There was no report.

8. ANY OTHER SPEAKERS

Dr James Kelly from Kingsnorth Medical Centre presented the Council with their draft plans to relocate their premises.

9. FORUM OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.34pm

Signed
Chairman

Dated