

# Luddesdown Parish Council

Email: [clerk@luddesdown-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@luddesdown-pc.gov.uk) Website: [www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk](http://www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk)



## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 21 March 2022 in Luddesdown Village Hall at 7:30pm

**In the Chair:** Cllr M Newnes – Vice-Chairman of Luddesdown Parish Council

**From Luddesdown Parish Council:** Cllr N Clark, Cllr C Mileson

**Also Present:** Cllr T Rice (Borough Councillor), T Harris (GBC Environmental Enforcement Manager) and S Fishenden (Clerk)

**Plus eight members of the public**

### Item 1: Chairman's Welcome

Cllr M Newnes welcomed those present to the meeting, explaining he was chairing in the absence of Cllr Moorhouse due to a family bereavement.

### Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr A Moorhouse, Cllr J Rossouw and PCSO K Lowe.

### Item 3: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15 March 2021

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 March 2021 were approved.

### Item 4: To receive reports from the following:

#### 4.1 Cllr Tony Rice – Borough Councillor

Cllr T Rice reported that GBC had approved the 2022-23 budget at their last Full Council which was just under the referendum limit.

The Cascades Leisure Centre replacement project is in the initial stages and it looks set to take 2-3 years to complete.

The boundary review for Gravesham Borough Council has a deadline of 5 April by which the government must respond to the Electoral Commission on their proposals.

#### 4.2 Luddesdown Village Hall Committee

The Clerk read a report provided by the Village Hall Committee, a copy of which is below:

*"Since we reopened the hall in June last year, following the Covid lockdowns, we have been very pleased with the number of bookings we have received. By way of comparison; in the period June '19 till February '20 we had 54 bookings and 30 of those were from a gospel church group which used the hall every Sunday afternoon. In the period June '21 till February '22 the hall has been booked on 59 occasions even though the gospel church has not yet returned due to their fears over Covid.*

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*As far as maintenance of the hall is concerned; we have had a couple of issues in the past year. We had a problem with the central heating boiler; the expansion tank lost pressure and we had to have it replaced. We have also had to rip up and replace the kitchen floor. The old timber floor was badly rotted due to water damage. Rainwater had been running off the concrete path and seeping through the wall into the kitchen. We have replaced the timber floor with concrete and laid a new floor covering. We have also dug a drainage channel outside. This has been filled with gravel and rainwater now drains away safely. We also had to replace the codelock on the front door as the old one developed a fault.*

*This year we are hoping to have the exterior window frames, the interior walls (below the wooden dado rail) and the interior woodwork repainted. We are also going to get a tree surgeon in, to cut back some of the tree branches overhanging the car park and the cricket club's storage container. We also need to replace the pane in the loft window, which is broken.*

*I had hoped to be able to unveil our new Wifi this evening but, unfortunately, we have been let down by Openreach. We have the router ready to go but I spent 7 hours down here last Monday, waiting in vain for Openreach to keep their appointment to install a phone line. They have now given us a date of 19th April to do the work. Fingers crossed they will turn up this time. Once we have Wifi up and running I will of course let you know the password.*

*The Trustees of the hall continue to provide our committee with financial support and we are extremely grateful to them. As the Council is aware we want to erect Village Hall road signs in the area and the Trustees have asked me to let you know that they are prepared to pay for those signs as and when approval is received. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for its support and for the donation you kindly gave our committee in 2021.*

*To finish, the hall has a very healthy schedule of bookings for the remainder of 2022, including 8 wedding receptions, so the immediate future is looking good."*

## 4.3 Any other local organisation present

### **Gravesham Borough Council – Environmental Enforcement**

Mr T Harris introduced himself as GBC's Environmental Enforcement Manager. He has been in post for eighteen months. He wished to thank the Parish Council for their fly-tipping camera initiative.

GBC currently have several ongoing court cases for fly-tipping and have had a number of successful prosecutions. When this is the case, GBC will 'name and shame' offenders. Members of the public can report suspicious vehicles they believe are fly-tipping to [tipoff@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:tipoff@gravesham.gov.uk)

### **Luddesdown Society**

The Society are planning to revive the May Fair post-Covid. They are desperate for younger volunteers to join.

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## ***Cobham and Luddesdown PCC***

The current priest-in-charge; Angela Walker is retiring on 15<sup>th</sup> May at Cobham.

The garden of remembrance at Luddesdown has a service of dedication due to take place soon.

For the Queen's Jubilee, a tree planting with plaque in the churchyard is taking place on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

The parish magazine will be returning around April and they are currently looking for a co-ordinator to assist with this.

## **Item 5: To receive the Chairman's Report for 2021-2022**

The report was noted. It is available to read on the website.

## **Item 6: Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

***The meeting closed at 8:27pm***