

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF
LUDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN LUDESDOWN VILLAGE HALL
ON 18th March 2013**

PRESENT

Cllr. Mandie Jones - Chairman
Cllr. Sally Stanier
Cllr. Chris Mileson
Cllr. Paul Gillard

Cllr. Bryan Sweetland – Kent County Council
Cllr. Alex Moore- Gravesham Borough Council (part attendance)
Mrs. Marian Beresford - Clerk

8 Parishioners

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and welcoming Bryan Sweetland as the new KCC representative.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Nick Rogers
Stewart Turner – Vigo RFC
Anne Greenstreet – Cobham Colts
Colin Campbell – Luddesdown Benefactory

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THE 12th March 2012.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 were circulated before the meeting and Cllr. Stanier proposed and Cllr. Mileson seconded that they be signed as a true copy of that meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising

5. COUNCIL OBSERVATION ON FINANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2011/12

The Precept for 2013/2014 has been set at £4500 which is £20 less than 2012/13.

After all our payments have been met our bank account balances will be as follows at the end of the year on 31st March 2013, provided that no unexpected expenses occur. This takes our total expenditure for the year to £4123.

Current Account £782.73
Deposit Account £5166.03

Our accounts are looking particularly healthy at the moment owing to a donation of £977.60 from the Diamond Jubilee Committee. The council is currently considering purchasing a memorial bench with this money, to be placed in the recreation ground.

6. KCC REPORT.

Cllr. Sweetland introduced himself and gave a brief resume of his role as KCC member for Gravesham Rural and cabinet member for Environment, Highways and Waste.

Cllr. Sweetland expressed the sad loss of Cllr. Mike Snelling earlier this year, praising his hard work and dedication to the local community.

This year is going to prove challenging once again for the council. This year's budget remains the same and restructuring and finding smarter ways utilise funds are underway. There is not enough money to bring roads up to perfection, after many years of neglect, but headways with repairs are now slowly being made.

Cllr. Sweetland answered questions put forward by members of the parish.

7. GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. Alex Moore gave brief details of the new 'Lend a Hand' mortgage scheme for 1st time buyers and the 'Gravesham Can' Community Group Fund. He reported a 1.9% increase in council tax and confirmed that there would be an increase in council house rent.

Cllr. Moore confirmed that 24 new council houses will be built in Gravesham.

Cllr Moore left the meeting after giving his report.

8. REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Luddesdown Village Hall Committee.

Mr. Colin Dickens reported income for bookings this year had increased by 10% and that donations had been received from Gravesham Rural Neighbourhood Forum and from a private sector company.

The committee organised two successful fund raising events this year, namely a Thai evening and Quiz evening, both of which were well attended.

The hall has been redecorated and Colin thanked the many volunteers who undertook this mammoth task.

The next project is to grass an adjoining piece of farmland and build some decking to form usable outside space. Plans to replace the plastic chairs in the hall are also underway.

This year will mark the Village Hall's 150th anniversary and a celebration will be arranged in the summer.

The Trustees of Luddesdown Village Hall

Mr. Kevin Bampton thanked the Village Hall committee for all their hard work through the year, raising funds and carrying out extensive repairs and refurbishments.

Luddesdown Rights of Way Group

Peter Adams (Chairman) reported a successful year for the group with membership now standing at 80.

The Group continues to organise two walks a month together with spring and Christmas social events, all of which are well attended.

Peter thanked the Parish Council for their donation towards the memorial bench in memory of Ray Bassett. It is hope that the bench will be installed by the end of April, weather permitting.

The Luddesdown Benefactory

The Charity's report was received and read by The Chairman and is attached to the end of these minutes.

Luddesdown Society

Mr. Colin Dickens gave the report on behalf of the Luddesdown Society. It was another successful year for the Luddesdown May Fair despite poor weather leading up to the day.

The society delivered Christmas hampers to the elderly members of the community again this year and donations have been made to: Kent Air Ambulance, Treetops and The Village Hall.

The New Year 's Day walk day was very well attended this year and a successful French evening was hosted. The Christmas party was not so well supported but was enjoyed by those who attended.

Luddesdown Cricket Club

There was no report

Luddesdowne Parochial Church Council

There was no report.

Vigo Rugby Football Club

The report was received and read by Cllr. Jones and is attached to the end of these minutes.

Cobham Colts Football Club

The report was received and read by Cllr. Jones and is attached to the end of these minutes.

Luddesdown Benefactory

The report was received and read by Cllr. Jones and is attached to the end of these minutes.

9. PLANNING

Improvement for access/stacking area. Red Wood. Forestry Commission.

The council responded to the consultation, expressing concerns on the impact of increased lorry traffic on unsuitable country lanes.

Notification has been received from the Forestry Commission that works can proceed without the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

10. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr. Sally Stanier thanked Cobham Colts for their continued use of the pitch and their help with the maintenance which has proved challenging this year due to the continuing wet weather. She wished them success for the remainder of the season. Thanks were also given to GBC for their continued work in keeping the recreation ground in order.

The swings have been removed by GBC for repair and should be returned for the summer.

Despite extensive refurbishment in 2012, the pump house has flooded twice. However, the problem has been dealt with and rectified without delay on both occasions.

The Parish Council is currently considering installing a new bench in the recreation ground to replace the one which was removed after being vandalised. Money donated from the Queen's Jubilee Committee will be used to purchase the bench and GBC have kindly offered to install it for us.

11. ROADS VERGES AND CYCLIC MAINTENANCE

It was considered that in general KCC were responding to reported problems although the roads remain in a sorry state, mainly due to the adverse weather conditions experienced this year.

The council has been asked by the highways department to compile a list of priority work; this is currently being looked into and will be forwarded by the end of the month.

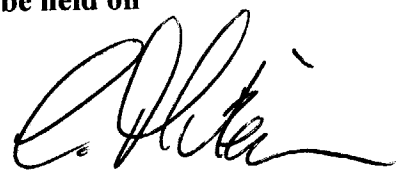
Fly tipping seemed to improve for a time but there have been several new incidents over the last month. General litter dropping remains a problem on the lanes and footpaths.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Adams thanked Gerry Minister for his kind offer of help with regard to the installation of the memorial bench.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The business part of the meeting closed at 9:00p.m.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on MONDAY 14th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.



17/3/14