

# Allhallows Parish Council

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## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 At 7:00 pm** **CROSS PARK PAVILION, AVERY WAY, ALLHALLOWS**

### **(draft) MINUTES**

36 members of public present  
Parish Clerk – Chris Fribbins

Parish Cllrs:

- a. Chris Draper (Chair)
- b. Pat Huntley-Chipper (Vice Chair)
- c. Yvonne Forrest
- d. John Luck
- e. Karen Draper
- f. Sandra Bennett
- g. Dave Bennett

Medway Cllrs:

- h. Phil Filmer
- i. Roy Freshwater
- j. Mick Pendergast

The Parish Clerk – Chris Fribbins explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting (enacted in law since 1894!). It was a meeting of local residents, organised on their behalf by the Parish Council. If the parish chair is present, they chair the APM. It had been advertised on Notice Boards, the Parish Web Site and in two editions of Village Voices that had been delivered to every household.

1 To receive apologies for absence.

- k. Alan Marsh
- l. Mark Skudder (Youth Club event)
- m. Noleen Skudder (Youth Club event)
- n. PCSO Christopher Price (off rota and other commitments)
- o. Craig Austin (family bereavement)

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Printed, projected on screen and accepted.

3. Financial Statement 2015/2016

Although the financial year only ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March, reports were distributed and the Clerk explained the improvements to budget monitoring. The reserves of the parish had grown this year, although there are pressures forecast in 2017/2018. A

Budget Monitoring Report for 2015/2016, a Draft Annual Return 2015/2016 and the Budget for 2016/2017 were distributed and will be available electronically, on request and on the parish web site.

The Annual Return will be published on-line, and on notice boards for 30 days in June (actual date to be confirmed) before sending to the external auditor. Background financial information will also be available for inspection, by appointment.

The council is working with our 'web master' Clive Stanley to review the web site and improving the content. A move to a new service and use of [www.allhallows-pc.gov.uk](http://www.allhallows-pc.gov.uk) is being considered at the May meeting. Regular (and historic) financial data is being considered.

#### 4. Medway Councillor's Report

Cllr Phil Filmer – spoke on the financial pressures on Medway Council and the intent to limit the impact on 'visible/front line' services. There were plans to improve the Medway Tunnel and the route from there to the Four Elms Roundabout – consultation has been completed and comments being assessed. There will be speed cameras in the Tunnel. There are investigations into improving Strood Town Centre – a challenge with the A2 passing through. Phil was asked about issues at Deangate Ridge – and had there been any prosecutions for fly tipping where CCTV had been installed? - he would talk to the relevant cabinet members.

Cllr. Roy Freshwater (on behalf of himself and Cllr. Mick Pendergast) – spoke about concerns around the development pressures on Medway and, in particular, the green space on the Hoo Peninsula. There were concerns about social care costs for the elderly. He suggested that a Lodge Hill development with fewer houses might be proposed. He also reported opposition to the Lower Thames Crossing and felt that this could be linked to the London Mayor's plan for an airport.

#### 5. Local MP's Report

Kelly Tolhurst MP had not supplied any report. The clerk reported on her report to the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Annual Parish Meeting. She had expressed concern about the housing numbers that Medway Council have to provide, and had opposed the Lodge Hill development.

#### 6. Reports from Local Organisations

- a. Village Hall Committee- Glenda Davis gave a verbal report (\*).
- b. Cross Park Association- Shirley Melly gave a verbal report (\*)  
There will be a Fun Day on the 5<sup>th</sup> September.
- c. Short Mat Bowls- Shirley Melly gave a verbal report (\*)
- d. Guides/Rainbows/Brownies - Cheryl gave a verbal report regarding pressures to keep cost low and thanking the parish council for their support in paying the hall hire costs and extra funding towards storage and trips.
- e. Allhallows Village Fete Committee- Steve gave a verbal report. The 2015 event had been well received and they are up for the challenge to make 2016 even better. (Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, more details soon on Parish web site)
- f. Youth Club – Pauline Thompson gave a verbal report regarding the facilities provided and service provided to the community. They had current concerns regarding the impact of changes to the cleaning arrangements.
- g. Friends of All Saints – Written submission read by the Clerk (\*)

## 7. Chairman's Annual Report- Cllr Chris Draper

Alan Marsh had been the Chair from May until he resigned in November 2015 when he took over. He reported on the challenges the parish had faced since being elected in May 2015 with three parish clerks. But now that the current clerk had been appointed the parish are getting back on top of the issues and moving forward.

The parish are actively involved in freshening up the village and worked with Bourne Leisure, Medway Clearance Services, Andy Baker and volunteers to clear up the land on the left side of Avery Way as you enter the villager. This was at no cost to the parish.

The parish have spoken to the Village Hall, The Youth Club and Cross Park about the desire to work with them to improve their facilities. We are currently processing a grant application for £1,000 to the village hall. They have also supported the Guides/Brownies and Rainbows with a number of grants. At the Brimp we are responsible for the rates, electricity, buildings insurance and some external cleaning as well as maintenance of the football arena, CCTV and floodlighting. We have signed an occupational license for the Youth Club, doubling the length from one year, which it has been since opening, to two years (with a desire to extend this further in the future). Along with Cross Park, all three have their own 'management' committees that operate their facility and organise fund raising events and volunteer work. Cross Park is starting to catch-up and have raised almost £80,00 to restore, fit out and maintain the pavilion. All of the pavilion income is paid to the parish council as a contribution towards costs which, currently, fall on the parish council – although there is an aim to get them self-sufficient as soon as possible.

We have recently agreed to launch a competition for local residents (and especially school children) to design a parish logo that can be used on our web site and letterheads.

The Village Fete will take place on our recreation ground on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and there will be a Fun Day at Cross Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Our employees – Chris Fribbins (Clerk), Kathy Colyer (Caretaker/Cleaner), John Price (Caretaker/Cleaner), Mick Smith (Relief Caretaker/Cleaner), Denise Claughton (Cleaner Village Hall/Cross Park) and Frances Tomlin (Brimp Cleaner) often do above and beyond their duties and I thank them. We do take our employer responsibilities seriously and want to ensure the best arrangements are in place for their ongoing employment.

I would like to thank the many volunteers that help maintain and improve our village, and there is always a need for more. Just a few hours a month can help our local groups - in some cases to survive.

Parish Councillors are also volunteers and receive no pay but they have considerable responsibilities. Unlike a Medway Councillor, they do not have a large team of officers to deliver the service and rely on a small number of part time staff, often they also do much more than their 'job description'.

**There is always a lot to do and if we work together we can achieve a lot.**

8. Guest speaker: Craig Austin (Bourne Leisure)  
Unable to attend due to family bereavement.

9. Other Business at Chairman's Discretion

Parish Planning – Medway Local Plan – Parish Clerk

Although there had not been many planning applications in the parish, the parish had submitted detailed response to the Medway Local Plan (Issues and Options) consultation in February. The background to the need for a local plan and where it fits into national policy was explained. As the current plan dates back to 2003, it does leave the area open to planning applications in areas not designated in the Local Plan (although it does still have to go through the planning process). This is the third attempt to adopt a local plan and there had been a 'Call for Sites' at the end of 2014. A site had been proposed in Allhallows to develop the Leisure Park (c. 1,600 homes), although this has been rejected by Medway Council currently (the proposer has been contacted to see if they can overcome the concerns raised). The next stage will be a Draft Local Plan which will identify both the preferred sites and those rejected (with reasons) for consultation in early 2017. It is planned to adopt a plan in 2018. It must be stressed that there may be focus on housing in the Local Plan, but it covers much more. All representations/comments made during consultation will be replied to directly or within the plan documentation itself.

#### Parish Employment Issues

After speculation and comment on Facebook and in emails to the parish clerk regarding decisions made about the employment of a cleaner for the Youth Club and the Village Hall – the parish clerk has produced a statement on behalf of the parish. There was no intention or desire for the Youth Club to close (in fact a desire for it to flourish). There was no intention or action to sell the Brimp site. The parish is waiting for a legal response from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on some specific questions and this will be presented to the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for consideration by the parish. The statement was printed, but is also available on the parish web site as part of the APM reports.

#### 10. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked everybody for coming and re-iterated his thanks to the local organisations and individuals who give their time and skills to the parish. Allhallows is Better when we Work Together.

Meeting closed with an informal buffet