

Upper Hardres Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 22 May 2018, 7.30pm at Bossingham Village Hall

Minutes

Chairman's welcome

In the absence of Chairman Paul Gordon, Vice-Chair Angela Waldron welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attending: Councillors Angela Waldron, Janice Rosen, Nick Waldron; Clerk/RFO Clare Hamilton; CCC Councillors Rosemary Doyle, Robert Thomas (arrived after attending Waltham PC APM); 16 parishioners.

Apologies: Chairman Paul Gordon (unable to attend due to a work commitment), KCC Councillor Michael Northey, Nick Smith (Hardres & Stelling News), Robbie Gambrell (Neighbourhood Watch).

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2017

Minutes of 2017 APM were approved and signed.

Chairman's Report

I would like to thank Steve Rayner who has now retired from the parish council after serving as councillor since June 2011, and as Chairman since May 2013. Thank you to my fellow councillors for voting for me as chairman, and we look forward to filling the casual vacancy for a councillor created by Steve's retirement very soon.

Presentation to Steve Rayner of a copy of the 1720 Upper Hardres Court Farm map.

Presentation of KALC Community Awards Scheme certificate to Phil Cope who has led Stelling & Upper Hardres Cub Scout Group with tireless commitment for 28 years. His long-standing dedication to young people is a major asset to the community.

Planning applications Since last year's Annual Parish Meeting, we have commented on 19 planning applications. In November, most of the parish attended the Public Consultation here in the village hall where outline proposals for private houses on The Street, and Affordable Housing on Manns Hill, were presented. We cannot comment further on this proposal as we have no further information at this stage. However, as a council, we spent a great deal of time discussing, researching, questioning and analysing the impact of these proposals, particularly the Affordable Housing aspect.

Each household in the parish should have received a Housing Needs Survey from ACRK (Action with Communities in Rural Kent). Please complete and return this form to ACRK - not to the parish council - as all views count.

Regarding Affordable Housing, we have spoken with Stelling Minnis Parish Council and Folkestone & Hythe District Council who are in general agreement to include residents of Bossingham and Upper Hardres in the 'cascade' for applications for the affordable housing in Brambleton Close in Stelling Minnis. There are some legalities for Folkestone & Hythe District Council to attend to, but we feel this is a positive outcome.

Bossingham Playing Field With the mini basketball court installed in December last year, equipment installation is now complete. This great asset to the parish is well-used and well-maintained. Equipment now in place appears to be 'just enough' for the parish's size and needs. However, if a parishioner would like to suggest any further equipment (and how it could be funded) we will consider its suitability.

We would like to thank Dave Webb for carrying out weekly playing field inspections.

Roads Keep reporting potholes to KCC! The more people who report faults, the more likely they are to be attended to. Last year, the speed limit on Pett Bottom Road in Lynsore Bottom was brought to our attention and, although we agreed with the parishioners concerned that 60mph along that stretch of rural road was unacceptable, KCC

disagreed. After discussion about traffic calming measures, we agreed to look into installing Village Gateways as a device to alert drivers to their speed and to encourage them to drive carefully.

Due to our restricted budget, we agreed to install these only if there was no cost to the parish council, and we were very grateful to KCC Councillor Michael Northey for confirming £2,000 of his KCC Member's Grant towards this. The balance will be made up by donations from parishioners. The Gateways should be installed in September.

Village Hall We have some restricted funds set aside for work to the village hall which have been called on for repairs to subsidence at the front of the building. The Village Hall insurers identified damage from tree roots as the cause, very sadly necessitating the removal of the beech tree and reduction of the oak tree. Work will be carried out soon.

Village Tidy Days Our rural environment is very special and our Village Tidy Days help to keep it that way. They are also a sociable occasion and good exercise too, and a great way to meet others whilst improving our wonderful Parish and enjoying some exercise all rolled into one. Do join us for the next one (to be announced).

Newsletter You should have received our annual newsletter recently. As information is available on our website, on the noticeboards and in the Parish magazine, we are considering making next year's newsletter digital and available by email only, so to make sure you receive one please join our Parish Email List. The Newsletter will continue to be pinned on the noticeboards as will details of upcoming events and meetings.

Parish Email List Our Email List now holds the names of 29 parishioners who receive meeting Agendas and Minutes, notices of Planning Applications, Highways information, and any other useful information relating to the parish. Due to new General Data Protection Regulations coming into force on 25 May, any requests to join our Email List must be made via a Consent Form which will be available at all meetings and from the clerk. This is a method of contact that can deliver information at short notice whilst also containing any relevant website links particularly that for the reporting of potholes.

ACRK pop up café Don't forget the Action with Communities in Rural Kent Pop-Up café which will be visiting the village hall car park again on Tuesday 29 May, from 2-4pm. Further dates are on the flyers and in the parish magazine. Seventeen people went along on its first visit on 1 May, and we hope it continues to be well attended.

Parish Grant Fund Awards 2018 We are very pleased to again be able to offer small matched Grant funding to local groups. We received five applications this year and after much debate, we are pleased to say that the Village People Amateur Dramatics who organise an amazing pantomime involving many from the Parish, Stelling & Upper Hardres Scouts, and Bossingham Pre-School have been successful this year and we hope to receive more requests for the 2019 funds.

We are very fortunate to live in a fantastic area which is enhanced by everything we do as a community. The more involvement we all have, the greater we can achieve. If you have any ideas you feel would enhance the area or the Parish Council, please just let us know.

Clerk & RFO's report

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 The Precept, funded by a small charge on each household's Council Tax bill, has risen slightly to £4,600 for this current financial year, due to significant cuts in our Concurrent Functions Funding from Canterbury City Council. Concurrent Functions Funding pays for grounds maintenance at the playing field and village hall, rubbish collection from the village hall, and parish council insurance. Funding has been reduced for 2017-21, and we will be increasing the Precept request again slightly for next year and digging into Reserves to meet the shortfall.

On the Notes to the Accounts, VAT is included in the Grounds Maintenance figure. As the PC claims back the VAT, the true overspend figure to the PC, ex-VAT is £686.

Our Reserves Policy includes Restricted funds for - repairs to the village hall and car park; maintenance of playing field equipment; and the annual Parish Grants Fund. We keep a healthy amount in Reserves to meet any unexpected expenditure.

Clerk's training To ensure that we are adhering to all the latest rules, regulations and procedures - of which there are a great many - and that we move forward professionally and efficiently, I am currently studying for the CiLCA qualification (the Certificate in Local Council Administration), and I'd like to thank councillors for their support.

Prints of 1720 map The PC now has a high-resolution scan of the map on the village hall wall of Upper Hardres Court Farm, dated 1720. Prints can be arranged, please contact the clerk.

CCC Councillors Rosemary Doyle and Robert Thomas, and KCC Councillor Michael Northey

Reports in Appendix.

Public participation and any other information

Anne Barlow, Upper Hardres Church Warden, outlined plans for work to be carried out at the Church to enhance community involvement. Fund raising of the required £94K is going well with only a £7K shortfall remaining after just two weeks.

John Gray, headteacher at Stelling Minnis Primary School, reported on work carried out to the school bell tower and highlighted varied opinions on the hourly chiming of the school bell. Funds will be raised to purchase a £1,600 'pull off' mechanism to limit the chimes to day-time only.

John Pitcher, parish tree warden, has volunteered to maintain the flower bed around the War Memorial in time for the anniversary in November. The tall bushes will be removed to allow the names to be viewed more easily and the flag pole cleaned. Robert Hubble, chairman of Stelling Minnis Parish Council, indicated SMPC may be able to contribute to the cost of work to improve the War Memorial.

Sarah Hymers thanked the PC and Councillor Michael Northey for supporting the village gateways.

The formal part of the meeting ended at 8.20pm.

Signed Angela Waldron *Vice Chair* 21 May 2019
(due to Paul Gordon *Chairman* unable to attend this meeting)

Chairman Paul Gordon

Parish Clerk Clare Hamilton | clrhamilton8@gmail.com | 01303 257321 | www.upperhardrespc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Reports from invited addresses

Councillor Rosemary Doyle *Canterbury City Council, Chartham and Stone Street Ward*

My year as Sheriff of Canterbury ended on 17th May last year, and I immediately exchanged one robe and chain for another as I was elected Lord Mayor of Canterbury that evening. I also became Chairman of the Council, and in that role then had to ensure that committees were reappointed and chairmen of those committees elected, as the law prescribes.

The following day the Lady Mayoress, former councillor Jenny Yonge, and I started on the first of many hundreds of engagements across the district. There are the annual celebrations of Whit, Easter and Christmas when we are in the Cathedral, plus the ceremonies to mark the Armistice and Remembrance Sunday, when there are wreaths to be laid in the Buttermarket. This year, we also marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele at Canterbury Cemetery, where the Lady Mayoress and I found graves of soldiers who had died in the 1st World War.

Christmas was the busiest time of our year, with engagements almost every day, with six on one memorable Saturday – and most of them outdoors! Luckily it remained fine, even if the temperature was hovering around zero and I needed to keep changing outfits to look appropriate for each occasion. The open-air concert on Christmas Eve in the centre of Canterbury in Rose Square was very special – I was standing on top of an open-topped bus with the Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Christmas Gift Fund, the Bishop of Dover and the Archbishop of Canterbury, viewing the enormous crowds.

As Lord Mayor, you become Patron or Hon President of a variety of organisations such as the League of Friends of the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Members of that wonderful organisation raise thousands of pounds annually to improve patient care.

The Lady Mayoress and I were often invited to visit charity events, or anniversary parties for organisations in the district. In this way we learned so much of the work that goes on quietly behind the scenes to help others – youth organisations such as the Brownies, Guides, Scouts and Sea Cadets have all invited us to see their activities and each of them relies on volunteers to run the routine administration which ensures a better life for our young people. There are those helping the handicapped, both children and adults, people reading the newspaper for the blind – too many to mention, but all supported loyally by people in the district.

It really is a job where you never know what will happen next, and one requiring numerous changes of clothing – what is appropriate for, say, helping to load a shipping container of medical equipment for Africa is not going to work at a garden party or a performance at the Marlowe. This is not to mention changing handbags daily with the potential to find yourself without keys, money for a raffle or collection or even a hanky....

We have travelled all over the district in all weathers – on beaches in gales, collecting litter in a blizzard, sweltering in the Cathedral in robes, but it has been an unforgettable experience. It all ended on 16th May in the Guildhall, when I swapped magnificent gold for my plain blue Councillor's gown.

It has given me a great insight into what happens all over the District of Canterbury, and has been much enjoyed, but now I shall enjoy being your Ward Councillor more and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Councillor Rob Thomas *Canterbury City Council, Chartham and Stone Street Ward*

There has been no let-up in the past twelve months as the council has continued its approach to be progressive while living within its means from reducing central government funding. The changes in the can be summarised in six broad areas:

Environment

- The council is currently consulting on two key strategies Air Quality Action Plan and the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Public Space Protection Orders have been renewed across the district, the one that hit the headlines was the requirement for dog owners to carry at least two bags on them to clear up after their dog in public spaces as outlined in the policy.
- Flytipping and litter have been the target of council the past twelve months. The council has supported more litter picks across the district as part of the Love Where We Live Campaign as well as increasing Fixed Penalty Notice charges to £150 to act as a deterrent as well as a new policy to fine those who throw litter from their vehicle. The council has had the highest rate of £400 Fixed Penalty Notices for flytipping in the county. A Bin review will also be completed in the near future.
- This year the council has agreed a policy on eliminating single use plastics within council buildings as well as signing up to the Refill.org free water scheme to allow the public to refill their water bottles for free to help avoid more plastics being discarded.

Transport & Infrastructure

- Dover-bound A2 slip road at Wincheap has received planning permission following the council's decision to gift the land for its construction. A planning application will follow in due course for the expansion of the park and ride on site.
- 9 electric charging points in urban locations with more to follow and a website to allow the public to suggest new locations.
- Creation of the sustainable transport forum to work with public transport providers and interested groups to develop solutions and implement plans for an improved
- A new multi storey car park has been approved to be built at Station Road West to add capacity to the ever increasingly popular high speed railway that will eventually see train times reduced to London to 50 minutes.
- Public realm improvements were part of the city centre transformation plan and this month (May 2018) the works begin on the Orange Street, Best Lane and the Friars scheme with plans being put together for Castle Street and St Georges Street too.
- City centre hospital? While it's not something within the council's control there has been much lobbying to persuade those in charge to bring the best medical facilities to our district. This may be aided by the fact that the two universities recently were granted 100 medical school placements for a new medical school.

Regeneration

- Derelict Tivoli arcade in Herne Bay was purchased by the council to bring the site back into use with a mixed scheme of retail and housing with the cost of the purchase to be offset against the future proceeds from the sale.
- Following the purchase of the half share of the Whitefriars shopping centre the council completed the purchase of the remaining half share for a future say in the district and an income stream to support council services in the future.
- The Kingsmead Riverside development has recently received planning permission which will include a cinema, leisure and retail space as well as more housing. Additionally following the purchase of the remaining half of Whitefriars this should help overcome land issues for the construction of the new hotel to replace the previous Slatters Hotel in St Margarets Street.

Housing

A key challenge for the council but action is being taken on a number of initiatives including:

- £10m of Right to Buy receipts spent on acquiring 40 family sized homes
- Developing housing in-house for the first time with a dozen houses being built in Kingsmead
- Hiring an Empty Homes Officer to bring empty homes back into use
- Bringing sites back into use such as the Tivoli Arcade (above)
- Housing adaptations with government grants to allow those with disabilities to remain in their own homes (about 90 per year).
- A land review of existing housing stock generated sites for 10 additional bungalows and 8 flats.
- Social lettings agency to provide housing management solutions to private landlords. This will help those on the council's waiting list.
- Remodelling study to ensuring a better mix of property types and tenures
- Borrowing limits and rent caps are set by the government but councils are lobbying to be able to do more to increase housing in a financially stable way.
- A big announcement also due imminently to the tune of £20m!

Leisure

- Kingsmead Leisure Centre. A proposal has been agreed in principle to extend the leases for the leisure service to Active Life as a newly formed subsidiary of Fusion, a larger UK leisure charity, with the proposal improving the financial demand on council resources while simultaneously agreeing to a nearly rebuilt leisure centre (n.b. more than a refurb).
- Marlowe Kit. Last year you may recall the council agreed to put the Marlowe Theatre into a trust as well as allow the Marlowe to take over the Heritage Museum in the Poor Priests Hospital? Following a grant received and work done over the winter the renewed offer of the Marlowe Kit is due to open imminently which will incorporate a new Escape Room as a fun educational activity to teach people more about Christopher Marlowe.

Finances & Other

- As budgets are reducing there is also a shift from being a centrally funded council to more locally funded in terms of the overall percentage of costs being met by council tax as well as other fees and charges.
- The proposed East Kent council merger didn't materialise but one initiative to improve service and be more cost effective came with the council agreeing to join the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership to ensure the rights skills and services could be offered in the construction sector.
- £1.5m community support in grants and rent concessions to community groups each and every year as well as a more dedicated support service through the RISE programme.
- The past year or so the council has undergone a Community Governance Review. Town councils were ruled out but revisions to parish councils are being finalised as well as improvements to the committees that represent the geographical areas of the district (Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable, and the rural areas). The final recommendations are due to be considered later in the year.

On a personal note I have been serving as Vice Chair of Regeneration and Property committee as well as sitting on the Planning committee, Audit, and the Rural Area Member Panel as well as the Heritage Champion for the district. Later this month we have two workshops to bring together ideas for a new Heritage Strategy to help preserve, protect and promote our glorious heritage.

I have continued with my appointments as director at Active Life and as a trustee at Canterbury Relief in Need charity.

Councillor Michael Northey *Kent County Council*

It was a pleasure to be re-elected for my fourth term as a County Council representative in last May's election. However, the boundaries have changed, and this is the first time I have represented Upper Hardres. The Division no longer contains most of the southern, urban part of Canterbury. Instead I now have parts of Wincheap, all of Thanington, and as far as St Augustine's, Chartham. The Division has more or less moved westwards and is more rural. There are now 17 parishes compared with the 10 parishes previously. It does make it more difficult to stay in touch with everyone, and it will take time to get to know the new area as well as the old. I am also busy as a deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education.

However, Clare, your excellent clerk, keeps me in touch with various parish issues, and constituents make contact as needed. I was pleased to be able to visit briefly for a recent parish meeting. I was happy to be able to offer £2,000 from my Member's Grant for your project of two new Village Gateways, plus "Please Slow Down" signs on Pett Bottom Road, which should help safety along that road.

KCC continues to provide a huge range of services, in spite of the difficulties posed by endless cuts in government grants, plus rising demand as the population ages, and inflation costs. 40% of the KCC budget goes for Adult Social Services including care of the elderly. KCC is a great champion of young people and children. The proportion of Kent young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) is now at 2.8%, which is below national levels. Though schools are now largely out of local authority control, KCC is still held responsible for school standards and for providing enough school places. Standards continue to rise, with 92% of Kent schools now rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted.

The winter and early spring weather caused many more pot-holes all over the country and the county. KCC found an extra £6 million for repairs and drainage work, and received a government grant of £2.5 million, so £8.5 million in total. Local Members now get the weekly figures of work completed. Since March 1, to the week ending 18 May, Canterbury District has had 1,333 square metres of patching and 2,396 pot-holes done to date. The number of pot-holes done is the second largest of the twelve districts. A total of £1,713,935 has been spent so far, county-wide, and much remains to be done.

All local authorities continue to press the government for more funding which is so vitally needed. Kent has a particular problem as its roads receive such a pounding, especially as a result of its position as the nearest way to and from the mainland of Europe. The Highways crews worked non-stop and heroically round the clock during the winter snow and we are very pleased to see that overall the county continued to function well.

Finance as ever continues to be a challenge. My Member's Grant, for good local causes, has now been reduced to £20,000. KCC had to raise the council tax by just under 5%.

Paul Carter and others at KCC continue to negotiate with travel providers to find more efficient and customised ways to provide rural transport, such as call a taxi or minibus schemes.

I recommend the KCC website to see the wealth of activities. This is also valuable for reporting problems, or finding out how to access help, such as social services needs. So many thanks to them and especially yourselves, not only council, but people and clubs etc, for all you do to make the parish an even better place.

Reports from parish groups

Bossingham Playing Field *Clare Hamilton, Parish Clerk*



With the mini basketball court installed in December 2017, equipment installation is now complete.

This great asset to the parish is well-used and well-maintained. Equipment in place appears to be 'just enough' for the parish's size and needs, however, if a parishioner would like to suggest any further equipment (and how it could be funded) we will consider its suitability.

Thank-you to Dave Webb for carrying out weekly playing field inspections.

Bossingham Village Hall Management Committee *Mark Rosen, Chairman*

The electrical inspection was finished on 22nd May 2017.

Sarah Hymers started in October 2017 as our new Secretary.

A new Cleaner started on 14th January 2018. The boiler was serviced the 22nd March 2018.

Subsidence was noted on 9th September 2017 in the front wall near the ladies toilets. The village hall insurer was contacted and they had a site investigation done on 31st January 2018. The site investigation found that the cause of the subsidence was the tree roots from the Beech tree next to the ladies toilets and the roots from the Oak tree in the front of the village hall. Also the site investigation found that the sewage pipes and drainage pipes near the ladies toilets were also blocked. I cleared the sewage blockage on 22nd February 2018 using my own rods. The drainage pipes were cleared on 25th April 2018 by a drainage company. The insurers are now waiting for the Beech tree to be removed and the Oak tree to be reduced before any remedial work is to be done. The Canterbury City Council has now given their permission for the tree work. Our Parish Council have agreed to pay for the insurance excess and cost for the tree work. We are now waiting for Andy Osborne to start the tree work which should be sometime in July.

I've also had an inspection done of the village hall roof and the outside and inside of the building and there is approximately £2500 of work that needs to be done.

I want to thank everyone on the Committee for their help and support.

Thank you to my wife for her hard work arranging the hall bookings.

Thank you to Dan for making sure we have enough money and Peter Crouch for auditing the accounts.

Thank you to the Parish Council for support and money to assist us in the running of the Hall.

Hardres & Stelling News *Nick Smith, Editor*

Firstly a big thank you to all who have written articles for inclusion in the Parish Magazine for without you there would

not be a magazine. I know that many readers look forward to the regular contributions and the occasional letters from readers.

Contributions regularly include community news from County, District/City, and Parish Councils together with the two Parish Churches and a message from the Parish Priest; as well as those from the Neighbourhood Watch, Headteacher's letter, History Group, Gardening Society, Helen the Vet, Johns Haffenden's Farmers notebook, Minnis Managers, a Poem from Alan Grant, Baillies Quiz (he's a clever dog you know), a brief weather report as well as information on the mobile library dates and team & natter afternoon. With occasional articles from other clubs, societies and individuals these all go to make what I hope is an interesting and informative Parish Magazine with something for everybody.

Once again the magazine was entered into the National Parish Magazine of the Year competition and gained 15th place out of 410 entries in the A5 category.

The Children's front cover art competition was well supported with 52 Entries. The winner was the December issue front cover and runners up were printed on both the back and inside covers, all in colour. There will be a competition again this year, but you will have to wait until the September to find out what the subject is.

A big thank you to Bruce & Margaret Crawford and their band of delivery agents for getting the magazine to you; to Ann Day for handling the finances and selling all the advertising spaces, not forgetting Emma and Bruce at Stelling Minnis Stores for willingly holding copy for me and allowing some readers to collect their magazine from the shop.

Any photos for the front cover should to be in Portrait format, please.

Footpath Warden *Rob Veltman*

Inventory of public rights of way and other publicly accessible paths in Upper Hardres:

* = runs along parish boundary % = path partially outside UH parish boundary bw = bridleway

NE corner clockwise

CB362* Stone Street-Catt's Wood Road 1.1km (north west end in Lower Hardres Parish)

CB372 Stone Street-jctn Bowhill Road & Hogg Lane 0.5km

CB367* Catt's Wood Road-Hardres Court Road (NW-SE) 0.52km

CB366* Pett Bottom-Broxhall Road (NE-SW) 0.9km

CB375 SE corner Bursted Wood-Bursted Wood Road at Manor House 1km

CB279A* (bw) (part) East end CB375 (W-E) 0.12km

CB279* (bw) Jctn CB279A & CB294%-CB284 above Lynsore Bottom 0.45km

CB373 Upper Hardres Court-Hardres Court Road (N-S) 0.5km

CB374 Bursted Wood (CB375)-CB376 (N-S) 0.55km

CB284* CB294-Lynsore Bottom (E-W) 0.1km

CB376 Lynsore Bottom via Mann's Hill-HE16 in Stelling Minnis 1.5km

CB377 Mann's Hill-Village Hall 0.2km

CB378 Village Hall-HE2 in Stelling Minnis (path to St Mary's Stelling) 0.2km

CB379 Lime Kiln Road X-roads-HE4 in Stelling Minnis (path to St. Mary's Stelling) 0.5km

CB380 (bw) Lynsore Road-Atchester Wood CB381 (NW-SE) 0.9km

CB381 (bw) CB380-Lynsore Road below Clambercrown (SW-NE) 0.75km

CB287 Jctn in Atchester Wood CB381&CB380-HE22 in Stelling Minnis (N-S) 0.4km

Total length of public footpaths & bridleways 10.2kms = 6.4 miles

Other paths

Permissive footpath: Jctn CB381 & CB287-Lynsore Court 1km

Unclassified County Road U11610: Limekiln Road X-roads-Bow Hill (S-N) 3.4kms

Unclassified County Road ? : Jctn Broxhall Road & Broxhall Farm Road-Bursted Wood Road 0.9km

Total length of publicly accessible paths in UH: 15.5kms = 9.7 miles

Neighbourhood Watch - Upper Hardres, Stelling and Bossingham *Robbie (Robert) Gambrill*

It has been nearly one year since I took over from Tony Lowe on his passing.

I have created an independent gmail account for ease of communication and in line with the new data protection legislation have kept it simple. Those who have requested information by email have been advised that I keep no related names or address details. Anyone I email can ask to UNSUBSCRIBE at any time. I have received advice from the police coordinator regarding data protection and am assured I am in compliance.

My main aim has been to compile relevant information and publish my monthly articles in the Parish Magazine. I recycle information from the Police and from the Canterbury NHW newsletter.

Local security matters have flared up on a few occasions and have been reported. A few local issues regarding unsafe drivers and compilation of relevant information have been successful in withdrawing driving licences for the safety of all.

Sadly, due to hospital appointments and regular visits to King's in London, I have been unable to attend meetings. This situation will not improve.

My aim this year is to search out and recruit a deputy so that there is continuity and shared responsibility. I will advertise starting in September.

PCSO Report *Gavin DODWELL 46057923*

Enclosed is a report for the rural areas from 01/04/2018 to 30/04/2018

Blean, Rough Common & Tyler Hill

Bike theft & Criminal Damage – Uni
Criminal Damage- Rough Common
Theft-Tyler Hill
Theft from a vehicle- Rough Common
Theft of a vehicle-Rough Common

Upper and Lower Harbledown Theft from Vehicle- Upper Harbledown

Chartham & Chartham Hatch
Vehicle interference- Chartham
Theft from a vehicle-Chartham
Theft-Chartham and Chartham Hatch

Petham, Waltham, Bossingham, Upper & Lower Hardres, Nackington
Criminal Damage in both Petham and Waltham.
Burglary -Street End
Theft from a vehicle- Lower Hardres

Bridge, Patrixbourne, Bishopsbourne, Kingston, Bekesbourne
Criminal Damage in Bridge and Bekesbourne

Barham, Woolage Village, Woolage Green, Womanswold, Adisham
Criminal Damage-Adisham

Littlebourne, Stodmarsh, Ickham, Wickhambreaux, Grove Ferry
Criminal damage- Littlebourne
Theft-Wickhambreaux

We have decided to produce a report that covers all the rural areas and also give other areas ideas of what's happening also. We have conducted speedwatch sessions in the areas also.

Stelling Minnis Primary School *John Gray, Headteacher*

Since the last meeting we have had an inspection from the Diocese into how well we work as a church school. This involves looking at our RE, our Collective Worship (assemblies) and our Christian ethos. We were delighted to receive an Outstanding judgement for this. We have been a church school since 1784 and it means a lot to maintain that tradition so well.



We are delighted that our tower has finally been repaired, paid for by KCC, but even more delighted to get the school clock up and running, paid for through funds donated by local people, money from a particularly generous benefactor plus a grant from the Beerling Foundation.

We look forward to the usual round of fun summer activities, including the Summer Fete at the Windmill on 30th June and the Minnis Mile and Hog Roast on 6th July.

We are always grateful to members of the community who give up their time to support and help us in school, with reading, with Forest School or through helping generally in class.

Stelling Minnis & Upper Hardres History Group *Ros Shefford*

As in previous years, we have provided monthly articles for the Hardres & Stelling News.

Interest on those articles covering local subjects has been raised among readers and we are getting feedback with more information. For this ongoing project, over the year we have been mainly concentrating on interviewing people, taking photos and getting articles together for our Minnis Memories follow-on book.

The title 'More Minnis Memories' has been agreed and we have found a company to do the printing and they will also help us with the general layout.

Nick Onslow gave a very interesting talk on Wooding and very generously donated the proceeds to our village book project.

Together with grants from the two Parish Councils, sponsorship and grants, we are delighted that we have also managed to raise the money to cover these publishing costs. Once all articles collated, cover and drawings decided on, we hope to have More Minnis Memories published in the next few months.

More talks are planned with 'The History of Sound' booked for 15th June, 2018 at SMVH.

During the coming year we plan to visit Lympne Castle, Brook Historical Museum and Brook Church, a Martello Tower and the tunnels at Ramsgate. We might even manage to fit in a visit to the Shepherd Neame Brewery.

Our membership numbers have increased, with more attending our regular, very friendly and enjoyable twice-monthly meetings.

We had a stand next to the windmill at the School Windmill Fete, where we chatted to the many visitors, answered questions about the villages and told them some of the local history. Once again, we shall have a stand at the coming School Windmill Fete on the 30th June.

Tree Warden *John Pitcher*

A very interesting year as far as courses, TPO walks and meetings concerning trees and ponds are concerned, all under the umbrella of The Kent Tree and Pond Partnership, ably lead by David Carey of Hadlow. David is an expert in these subjects and completely dedicated to the cause!

Tree wardens are increasing across the County and there is growing interest in ensuring that we preserve trees with tree preservation orders to prevent the full-scale destruction by developers and in some cases Councils, such as Sheffield where their policy is to remove vast numbers from streets in the City. Locally I have experienced no such problems, and there have been no discoveries of Ash die back etc, something that is prevalent in some parts of the County.

The Oak tree in the Village centre at Bossingham has had some pruning and we await to see if it will recover and regain its previous healthy state.

I continue to attend to and develop the garden by the village hall.

I would be prepared to improve the War Memorial site after discussion as to what is required as I feel a real effort should be made to make it an appropriate venue, particularly in this year 2018 as we commemorate the end of WWI. I feel we could have a similar service there for all the local school children as we did 3 years ago when they planted the mulberry tree in the garden at the village hall.

Village People Amateur Dramatics *Joan Faber, Chair*

We celebrated our 35th year with a production of Alan P. Frayn's Jack and the Beanstalk with Ethan Lockwood-Morris in the title role. As always, we are looking for people to join our group and this year we welcomed not only several youngsters but three adults, (four if you include the front end of the cow) usually so difficult to find, who all took on major roles.

Unfortunately we had to raise our seat prices a little this year as everything we buy or hire has also risen in price. However, we still had three very good houses and the bank balance just came out on the right side!

We are very grateful to Stelling Village Hall for accommodating us for rehearsals; to Bossingham Village Hall for allowing us to use the Hall's free time to paint, build set, erect lighting and sound equipment and the many other jobs that take so long. Without this facility we couldn't put the pantomime on. We would especially like to thank Pilates and the Gardeners for moving their meetings to free the Hall for our week.

Our 2019 panto will be on April 4th, 5th and 6th. So please put a note in your diary to come and support our young people who put in so much hard work to entertain you.
