

# **TO ALL ELECTORS OF THE PARISH OF BROOKLAND**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2023**

**23rd May 2023 @ 7.15pm in the Village Hall**

### **MINUTES**

Present: KCC Cllr Hills, F&HDC Cllr Martin, Cllr Wallington & 4 members of the public

#### **1. Introductions**

Cllr Wallington invited those present to introduce themselves

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Goddard

#### **3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2022 Meeting**

M Gillies proposed accepting the minutes from the 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by M Bicknell and unanimously agreed by those present as a true record of the meeting

#### **4. Matters Arising**

None

#### **5. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

We, as a Parish Council, hope you are all well and, like us, are enjoying the warmer weather and lighter evenings. We are very lucky to be living in such a beautiful part of the country, with its huge sky, crisp Winters, beautiful Spring flowers, long summer days and delicious autumnal roadside fruit.

We have recently had some correspondence from a local resident asking, "who we are, what we do, if we live in the village and when we meet".

We currently have four councillors: Claire Kennedy, Mark Bicknell, Mike Gillies (Vice Chair), Chairman Mrs Vicky Wallington and our Clerk Adrian Lawson. All councillors reside in the village (both sides of the A259) and in total have lived here for circa 30 years. We are all active members of the village: from litter picking to organising fundraising / fetes / street parties etc. All our children have attended Brookland Primary School, one of us has been actively involved in running the Village Hall, and another two assisted or had a spouse run the village playgroup. Whilst longstanding, active residents of the Marsh, two of us are new to the council: Claire & Mark joined in 2022, whilst Mike joined in 2019 and myself in 2018. As a Council we are all volunteers and meet every other month. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes are all published on our website, [www. http://www.brooklandparishcouncil.uk](http://www.brooklandparishcouncil.uk). Copies of the most recent agenda and minutes are also posted within the notice board next to the Red Post Box opposite the Primary School.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Maria Roberts (Vice Chair) who has recently resigned. Maria has been a much-valued member of the team for many years.

We are a forward thinking, community driven, council. We take all requests from yourselves seriously, and research them thoroughly. Since joining the council, we have made various improvements to the village for example: -

- Refurbishing the playground shelter on West Place
- Refurbishing the Telephone Kiosk on the High Street
- New Fencing & refurbishment of gates and railing at the Cemetery

- Cemetery mapping and burial record keeping database
- New Village Notice Board & Repositioning of the Church Notice Board
- Contribution and organisation of last year's Queen's Jubilee Street Party (together with the Village Hall Committee and Church members)
- New Waste Bins in the cemetery and the village
- Financial contribution to local charity groups including the Toddler Group and the Marsh Harrier
- Purchase of new playground equipment for Brookland Primary School
- A Brookland Village Sign
- Traffic / safety monitoring exercises
- Investigating EV charging points being installed in the village
- Seeking disability parking bays adjacent to Rosemary Cottages
- In the process of obtaining and stocking salt bins for the Village
- Planning discussions and analysis
- New Benches purchased
- Kings Coronation Event and many more.....

We are always actively looking at ways to improve our facilities in the village through replacement, additions, environmental or addressing safety issues in and around Brookland. We appreciate feedback, suggestions, and input from members of our community, and you are very welcome to pop along to our meetings and share any suggestions during the public session.

## **6. Parish Council Financial Statement**

The clerk outlined the Parish Council's income and expenditure for the last year and the current bank position – Appendix A

## **7. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Hills summarised his annual statement – Appendix B

## **8. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Martin Summarised his annual statement – Appendix C

Cllr Goddard's submitted his annual report – Appendix D

## **9. Questions and Comments from the Floor**

General conversations were held on water quality, flood risk for the area, community cupboard, neighbourhood watch and anti-social behaviour and reinstatement of ward police officers.

The meeting closed at 19.55

## **Appendix A**

### **Bank Reconciliation 31/03/23**

<b><u>Unity Bank</u></b>	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance - 01/04/22	52,920.98
Add	
Income	34,256.36
	<u>87,177.34</u>
Less	
Expenses	25,427.55
<b>Balance at 28/03/23</b>	<b><u>61,749.79</u></b>

**BROOKLAND PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Income & Expenditure 2022/23- Actual & Budget**

as at 31/03/23

<b>ACTUAL</b> <b>2021/2022</b>		<b>BUDGET</b> <b>2022/2023</b>	<b>ACT TO DATE</b> <b>2022/2023</b>	<b>ACT v BUD</b> <b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Forecast</b> <b>2022/23</b>
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
12,870.00	Precept	12,870.00	12,870.00	-	12,870.00
-	Other		19,220.74	19,220.74	19,220.74
850.00	Cemetery		75.00	75.00	75.00
340.00	Grant		500.00	500.00	500.00
-	Grave Digger			-	
1,992.49	VAT Recovered		1,590.62	1,590.62	1,590.62
<b>16,052.49</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,870.00</b>	<b>34,256.36</b>	<b>21,386.36</b>	<b>34,256.36</b>

<b>ACTUAL</b> <b>2021/2022</b>		<b>BUDGET</b> <b>2022/2023</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b> <b>2022/2023</b>	<b>ACT v BUD</b> <b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Forecast</b> <b>2022/23</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
3,719.04	Clerk's Salary & HMRC	3,850.00	4,321.72	- 471.72	4,321.72
180.00	Clerk's Expenses	180.00	180.00	-	180.00
72.00	Bank Service Fee	72.00	72.00	-	72.00
-	General Admin	278.00	47.75	230.25	47.75
90.00	Internal Audit	100.00	90.00	10.00	90.00
35.00	ICO	35.00	35.00	-	35.00
140.88	Computer Maintenance	180.00	164.29	15.71	164.29
150.00	Training	250.00		250.00	-
257.00	Legal & Consultancy Fees	-	4,650.00	- 4,650.00	4,650.00
14.39	Website	50.00	85.99	- 35.99	85.99
48.00	Village Hall Rent/Heat	300.00	112.00	188.00	112.00
193.70	KALC Subscription	200.00	193.70	6.30	193.70
72.00	SLCC Subscription	75.00	87.50	- 12.50	87.50
851.32	Insurance	900.00	923.35	- 23.35	923.35
1,380.00	Cemetery Grass Cutting	1,560.00	1,565.00	- 5.00	1,565.00
180.00	Cemetery Hedges	200.00		200.00	-
3,556.12	Cemetery Fencing	-		-	-
400.00	Cemetery Admin Fees	-		-	-
300.00	Clearance of Rubbish from Cemetery	150.00	300.00	- 150.00	300.00
-	Tree Inspection	-		-	-
420.00	Removal/Maintenance of Trees	1,000.00		1,000.00	-
269.50	Youth Area	-	1,042.25	- 1,042.25	1,042.25
120.00	Youth Area Rent	100.00	100.00	-	100.00
38.50	Wreath for Remembrance	50.00	40.00	10.00	40.00
	Contingency Fund	500.00		500.00	-
500.00	Contribution to Marsh Harrier	200.00	500.00	- 300.00	500.00
500.00	Village Hall Grass Cutting	1,000.00		1,000.00	-
147.00	Clock Maintenance	150.00	151.20	- 1.20	151.20
750.00	Telephone Kiosk Maintenance	-		-	-
232.80	Defib Maintenance	200.00	1,034.00	- 834.00	1,034.00
	Village Sign & Posts & Chain	4,000.00	5,219.32	- 1,219.32	5,219.32
	Platinum Jubilee	1,500.00	258.78	1,241.22	258.78
	Pop Up Events		533.93		533.93
630.00	Brookland PCC	-		-	-
	Waste Bin	-	290.00	- 290.00	290.00
	Contributions to Good Causes	150.00	412.00	- 262.00	412.00
1,590.62	VAT on Expenses	-	3,017.77	- 3,017.77	3,017.77
<b>16,837.87</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,230.00</b>	<b>25,427.55</b>	<b>- 8,197.55</b>	<b>25,427.55</b>

## **Appendix B**



### **Tony Hills KCC member for the Romney Marsh Division Annual Report April 2023**

#### **What a year...**

This has been a tough year for so many people. Yes the pandemic is on the way out, but with the crisis in energy costs, inflation, cost of food not to mention the migrant boats these have tested our community. Locally the state of the roads is a disgrace. Government has given a bit more money to the County to help, but it is not enough. We will keep telling the government that we need more support. As I say every month, here is the link to report 'potholes' online.

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/ReportAFault.aspx> We must continue to report dangerous potholes, the more complaints we log the more chance of getting them fixed.

I intend to have discussions with the Dungeness power stations concerning the heavy demolition traffic required in knocking the plants down. The access roads from Brenzett corner will need more maintenance.

#### **Ukraine**

The tragic war in Ukraine has created so much pain for their people. We must set ourselves for a long haul. Hopefully, the chaos to the energy markets will stabilize by the summer. As I have been saying, I'm very proud of how our communities have stepped up to the 'plate' to support those in need of help from Ukraine. War fatigue can set in, but we must stand strong and help Ukraine win this war. And continue to help those that need help and support the fight for freedom.

#### **Dungeness Nuclear Opportunity Site Reuse.**

I have been having many meetings with potential developers in the last few weeks of SMNR (small modular nuclear reactors). KCC formed a working group with our district council and MP to accelerate the opportunity of progressing a new build on the Dungeness site. Now that the government has committed more funds to the national drive for green nuclear energy.

#### **Climate Change**

Is the biggest single long term threat to the Romney Marsh is extreme weather. But I'm happy to say the EA have been working hard over the last year to improve our defences. Work is continuing at Lydd Ranges to defend the western side of the Romney Marsh and should be completed this year. This is all part of the FoCES plan (Folkestone to Cliff End Scheme) to defend the whole of the Romney Marsh. The last major section to complete is the 'Rother tidal wall east' this has now been started. The three year scheme is to protect the Guideford Levels from being flooded from the Rother or the sea. We can and will continue to defend the Marsh from the sea.

#### **Community Transport**

As I said last year, KCC has been forced through budget cuts to reconsider its community support for poorly used bus services across Kent. We need to find better supported means of community travel. I'm part of a working party to look into how we can make good use of the BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) funding. The Romney Marsh Partnership is still committed to creating a high speed shuttle service, an electric bus shuttle service from New Romney to Appledore station to access Ashford and Rye...The Green Line Service would link the two lines The New Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, and the Southern Region main line. With the excellent news that Lydd Airport are to start flying passenger services again, there has been interest from Lydd Airport to extend the service to include the airport.

## **My Kent responsibilities**

Positions I have served in over the last year.

***Deputy Cabinet member for Environment & Waste. Chair of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee. Member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee. Member for Kent of the Southern Region Flood & Coastal Committee. for Kent of the Kent & Essex Inshore Fishing Conservation Committee. Member of the Kent Environment Transport & Waste Cabinet Committee. Member of the Kent Environment Strategy (cross party group)*** It has been another challenging year at Kent County Council, working now in a new hybrid system some meetings 'virtually' from home others in person at Maidstone.

**Kent County Councillors have two main functions.**

**To represent residents of Romney Marsh at 'County' and do their level best to help with local concerns.**

**To play their part in 'running' the 'County' for the benefit of all the residents of Kent.**

**Tony Hills**

**Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh**

## **Appendix C**



### **District Elections & the next four years**

With the district elections out of the way, life returns to normal. As your representatives on Folkestone and Hythe District Council, Clive Goddard and Alan Martin are here for you. Please do contact us any time with your questions and concerns. We will make sure that your voice is heard.

We know that many people have day to day issues with potholes, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour and rural crime. Speed and volume of traffic on our lanes through villages is also an issue, and in Brookland specifically the A259 is a big problem that is not straight forward to resolve.

We will be working closely with Tony Hills & KCC to make sure that potholes are reported and not forgotten in the system. We will continue to work closely with the Romney Marsh Litter Picking Watch team and support their efforts to keep our area tidy. Please also let us know about fly-tipping problem areas so we can make sure these are escalated. (But don't forget to report these on the council website)

The District Community Safety team and local police are enhancing the support they provide to our area. One headline is that we will soon have a named PC located in our ward – somebody who can be directly contacted and who can support us with local issues. The new structure starts in June, with recruitment over the summer.

We are looking to see how we can support each community to address their specific challenges. We would like to extend the community speed watch activities across the Parishes and will start this discussion through the Romney Marsh Forum and Parish Council meetings. We will also speak with our new police contacts, Damian Collins and KCC to explore how we escalate and attempt to address the distress caused by speeding traffic (especially Bikes) on A259 through Brookland.

Finally, as a reminder Damian Collins our MP is on the Marsh and holds surgeries once a month. In addition, if you have any issues you want raised, or would like me to facilitate a specific meeting on a topic please let me know.

**Alan Martin**

**Folkestone and Hythe Member** for Walland and Denge Marsh

[Alan.Martin@folkestone-hythe.go.uk](mailto:Alan.Martin@folkestone-hythe.go.uk)

#### Appendix D

### **COUNCILLOR CLIVE GODDARD FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

It has been another challenging year but sound leadership and fine budgeting has meant that all the services that the District council provide remain in place.

I remain chairman of the planning and licensing committee for a record 8th year and I monitor local development with interest. Just a couple of weeks ago I was pleased to chair the meeting to give approval of Otterpool park

Locally, I was delighted to hear of flights starting to take place at Lydd airport later in the spring it's not going to be easy yet but it's a start. This I hope will bring more jobs for the parish. Talking of jobs and the local economy I continue to lobby all levels of government for Dungeness C, but a more realistic proposal would be SNR's small nuclear reactors as this is key to the area.

I remain chairman of the Romney marsh forum and we continue to pick up on key issues affecting the parish including speed watch, policing, border control and health provision. In fact we have the PCC Matthew Scott attending a future meeting.

I work closely with the police and thank them for their work and support and my past F&HDC colleague and KCC Cllr Tony Hills for all his hard work and continued support and welcome Alan Martin as my new colleague.

Both me and Alan will continue to work for the good of all local people young and old and help to provide a safer, greener, cleaner and thriving place for all to live in.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Clerk, Adrian for his continued hard work, assistance and support not only to myself but to the whole of the Parish of Brookland