

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 8.00pm in the Booth Hall

1. Introduction

Parish Council Chairman Eddie Powell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reminded all present that the Annual Meeting booklet was available containing the reports provided by the Parish Council and Harrietsham Groups.

2. Present

Cllr E Powell (Chair), Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr R Dayes, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Luck, Cllr S Brown, RFO M Cuerden, Clerk A Broadhurst and Community Warden Martin Sherwood

Approximately 27 members of the public.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Griffiths, County Cllr S Prendergast

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2022

Miss A Joy proposed (from the floor) that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 27th April 2022 be approved. This was seconded by Mrs A Davis, with the majority in favour.

5. Guest Speakers - Mr D Payne, Mr G Haffenden & Mr N Denbow - Weald of Kent Rotary Club

Mr Payne spoke about the work of the Rotary Club, which includes raising money for local groups and their main aim is to improve other people's lives. The Club would like to strengthen its links with Harrietsham, as they have only ever helped one child who required ramp access to attend the pre-school located in Harrietsham church. Duncan spoke about the various types of fundraising events they are generally involved with and what the funds are then used for.

Mr Haffenden then spoke about the Rotary Club's Mike Collingwood Memorial Trust fund and how groups can apply for assistance towards costs such as helping to fund scouts going to jamboree, providing ballet shoes - anything which helps youths grow in their learning or future career choices. The fund can help any youths under the age of 25, who live within a 20 mile radius of Grafty Green.

Whilst the Rotary Club would welcome new members, residents can also become Friends of the Rotary and they currently have 60 volunteers in this role.

Mr Payne then spoken about the North Downs Walk, which will be taking place on Sunday 11th June 2023 in the village and walkers have the choice of a 1, 3, 6 or 9 mile route. Half of the money raised through sponsors goes to Cancer Research UK and the other half can go to any charity or cause that the walker personally supports. Duncan commented that last year's event had 400 walkers and only 4 were from Harrietsham.

6. Kent Association of Local Council's Community Award Scheme.

Cllr Powell explained that the award scheme is supported by Kent County Council and the Mayor of Medway and its aim is to acknowledge, and give recognition, to people who have made a significant contribution to their local community. He went on to say that there was one resident in particular who had always been the first to volunteer in the village and was the Parish Council's greatest supporter. This resident has been involved in numerous groups in the village including the Friends of St John's, Harrietsham Fish Scheme (including the Friday coffee morning), Harrietsham Ladies Group (formerly the Wives Group) and Harrietsham in Bloom. She has, most recently won the 'Best Kept Allotment' and 'the heaviest potato crop' at the Gardening Society's Annual Show. Cllr Powell concluded by adding that, on behalf of the Parish Council, he had great pleasure in awarding Miss Audrey Joy MBE, with the Local Council's Community Award for her unwavering dedication to the village community.

Miss Joy accepted her award and bouquet of flowers to a standing ovation.

The formal meeting closed at 8.35pm

Cllr Powell invited all present to stay for refreshments.