

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 8.00pm in St John the Baptist Church

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. Cllr Powell thanked all of the organisations that had submitted an article. Cllr Powell spoke about the major development that has taken place within the village and how this has had an effect on school places and the doctor's surgery.

2. Present

Cllr E Powell (Chair), Cllr G Dean, Cllr J Sams, Cllr J Moore, Cllr F Stanley, Cllr M Allardyce, RFO M Cuerden, Clerk A Broadhurst, Community Warden Martin Sherwood and County Cllr J Whittle
Approximately 35 members of the public.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Sams, PCSO Rowley

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2016

Cllr J Sams proposed that the minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 27th April 2016 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Dean.

5. Guest Speaker - *County Councillor Jenny Whittle*

Cllr Jenny Whittle thanked the Parish Councillors for all of their hard work. She informed all present that this would be her last visit to Harrietsham as a County Councillor as she is standing down at the elections to be held in May. Jenny had been chosen as the candidate on her daughter's first birthday and had not realised the work involved in the role at the time. Her area covers from Stockbury to Headcorn also Frinstead and Wormshill, with Kent County Council being responsible for 300 services in the County. The main issues that she has dealt with have related to Education, Special Educational Needs Services, Adult Social Care, HGVs using inappropriate lanes and highways issues which are mostly pothole related. Jenny thanked all of the residents that had been involved in the War Memorial project, which she had supported and added that the work undertaken to refurbish the war memorial had been fantastic. Jenny felt that social renting for young families and the fixed income for older people are two real issues that need addressing. Isolation and loneliness are becoming a real problem in the County and it was wonderful to see the work of groups in both Harrietsham and Lenham to try to alleviate this issue for older residents.

On behalf of the residents of Harrietsham and the Parish Council, Cllr Powell thanked County Cllr Whittle for all of her support and presented her with a gift.

Cllr Powell then took the opportunity to thank the Clerk for her hard work and support and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

At the conclusion Peter Brown introduced himself as a member of the History Society and personally thanked Jenny for her support with the work completed on the War Memorial. He added that the target was to improve access to the memorial and hopes that her successor will be as supportive.

During public discussion the following points were covered:

- Query to the rise in Precept for 2017/18
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Concern regarding the MBC Planning Committee
- A20 improvements

Mr Ken Kay then offered to assist the Parish Council with progressing the defibrillator project as this had not progressed since he had resigned as a Councillor.

The formal meeting closed at 8.50pm

Cllr Powell invited all present to stay for refreshments.