

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 23RD April 2007

The Annual Parish Meeting is slightly earlier this year due to the Borough and Parish Elections on 3rd May. Three of our members have decided to retire and I would like to thank them for their hard work over the years. Two of our parish councillors are also Borough Councillors. As always we have had heavy agendas and the new planning meeting to discuss new plans has helped lighten the load at full meetings.

We discussed the Borough's Standards Committee and Planning Protocol at some length and understand that the new NALC recommendations which are imminent are unlikely to be implemented by the Borough in time for new councillors for the next 4 year period.

The village sign has been manufactured and is ready to be installed as soon as the land has been landscaped and formally given to the Parish.

The Parish has sent delegates to the KAPC, Parish Forum, Green Corridor and Willesborough Dykes meetings as well as being consulted on a variety of issues.

A duplicate bronze WW1 memorial was handed in to the parish and this is now in the safe keeping of the Church.

The Parish has continued to search for a site for a MUGA but at the moment it seems that the best option is for Ashford Leisure Trust to take the project forward as they appear to be willing to man the pitch. In our search for this pitch we entered into discussions with Persimmons and as a windfall have now been promised a sit-out area by the Tesco's roundabout.

The usual maintenance of the playing fields continues but we no longer have anybody using the cricket square and only one regular football team. We are still negotiating with ABC for a lease for the field beside our playing field. It could be that the land could just be for amenity use if there are no football teams wishing to play at Kingsnorth.

There were lengthy discussions and a lot of heated arguments over ABC's request for funding of Park Farm Recreation Centre. In the end we concluded that this was a valuable asset to the community and agreed at our October meeting a sum of £15,000 for the period November 2007 to April 2008 and later £18,000 for the period 1st May 2007 to 31st March 2008, with the Borough matching our contributions. The Centre has now been renamed the Kingsnorth Recreation Centre and appears to be very well operated. The Parish also took independent legal advice on the lease it holds with ABC.

The Borough's Core Strategy has been published and developers are targeting Kingsnorth as a huge development area in contradiction to the Strategy under Regulation 32. The Parish Council has made strong representations against their proposals but the outcome will not be known until the Inspector makes his decision.

Consideration was given to the employment of a temporary street cleaner for non-adopted roads, but we first needed to contact the developers who are still responsible and have met with limited success.

The ongoing water leak on Church Hill has finally been repaired and to date has not re-emerged. The BC's planning committee has asked the parish along with local residents for their views on the Tesco's extension as it affects the residents and we have arranged a meeting for next month.

At last month's meeting the Parish Council agreed in principle to consider any financial request for the restoration of the Mission Hall at Stubbs Cross.

We anticipate that the long-awaited traffic calming on Park Farm will take place this summer. We were against the proposed measures outside the Queen's Head as they could jeopardise our own ideas of traffic lights at the bottom of Church Hill.

At the end of this four-year period I would like to thank all our councillors for the work they have undertaken for the parish. Also to our caretaker, Geoff Blackmer, our cleaners and litter picker, Peter and Shirley Cleave, and to our Community Warden, Don Bacon. And above all to our Clerk Jenny Mills who does a magnificent job for us.

A. Hicks
Chairman