

**KINGSNORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2007,  
at Furley Park Primary School Hall

PRESENT: Mrs. A. Hicks (Chairman); Dr. H. Moorby; Mrs. C. Vavasour; Mr. J. Debonnaire; Mr. T. Horsman; Cllr. J. Holland; Cllr. J. Wedgbury; Cllr. J. Davidson; Cllr. P. Bartlett; Cllr. R. Harrington; Cllr. M. Angell; Mr. D. Geoghegan (KCC, Community Liaison Manager) and 9 parishioners.

1. **Welcome and Apologies** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from: Mr. M. Ciccone; Mr. G. Parr; Mrs. L. Ross; Mr. D. Bacon.

2. **Guest Speaker**

The Chairman welcomed the KCC member for Ashford Rural South, Cllr. Mike Angell, who introduced and showed the KCC film on the 'Towards 2010' project.

MA said he was grateful to Furley Park for letting the PC use the School for the meeting. He particularly mentioned members of the Parish Council and Borough Council who would be retiring at the election on 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Reg Harrington, John Debonnaire, Cecillie Vavasour and Geoff Parr. He thanked them for their support which had been extremely helpful. He said he would incorporate his annual report in this item and mentioned that during the last year he had attended 275 meetings. This did not include one-to-one meetings with officers and individuals. He had noticed that there had been some campaigning by Eurostar staff who were handing out information about Ebbsfleet. Ashford want the Brussels schedules back and market research is being carried out.

Regarding the new traffic calming in Kingsnorth. The developers will pay for the pelican crossing and traffic calming on Church Hill and Park Farm. There is not enough money to pay for everything that is required as well as the traffic lights. He hoped that some more funds will become available in the future. If any further development took place at Park Farm, more traffic calming would be needed. Because of new development there is ever more pressure on the roads and no peace and quiet. It would be advisable for the PC to try and get it delayed as long as possible or stopped, although there was not much hope of this. The development at Chilmington Green is already being steam-rolled through.

In 1997, KCC had serious problems KCC with finance. Work during the next 4 years to 2001 had been successful, as had the following period to 2005. The 'Towards 2010' project covered the next 5 years and included District Councils and voluntary organisations. There were now 200 Telecare clients and 1500 people using the red payment card. When challenged on the lack of commitments mentioned in the film, MA said that there were 63 targets and action plans underpinning the 'Towards 2010' project and these were listed on the KCC website, which he advised people to look at for this and other information.

JH mentioned Eurostar's claim that it is going to improve transport in Kent. He wondered why KCC had not been campaigning for the Ashford services to be kept. MC said that there had been a recent meeting between Damien Green and Eurostar and KCC has been putting pressure on Eurostar to go back to their original schedule. Eurostar staff had been trying to counter what KCC had been doing but they had not given up. Prof.

Moorby commented that it took a long time to drive to Ebbsfleet which reduced their claim that it was a convenient location.

Cllr. Harrington mentioned the lack of cardboard and plastic recycling facilities. ABC could not take plastic as KCC do not recycle it. MA said that plastics were very expensive to move to centres where they could be recycled, and transport over long distances was not environmentally friendly, but they were constantly working towards finding a way to do it. Mrs. Horsman mentioned the lack of wheely bins in Ashford and the fact that residents had to supply their own black sacks. RH said that it would cost another £100 a year on the Council Tax to supply and empty wheely bins. There was a comment that the money being spent on altering the ring road could have been better spent on wheely bins. However, the finance for the ring road was not coming from ABC; it was being Government funded, with the work being carried out by Kent Highways after planning by Ashford's Future.

MA reported that each year County Councillors are allocated £10,000 to spend on worthy projects in their constituency and he listed the organisations and projects that had been given donations in the last financial year.

**3. Approve minutes of the last meeting**

It was proposed by PB, seconded by JH and agreed that the minutes of the last annual parish meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006 should be approved as a true record.

**4. Matters arising from the last minutes** There were none.

**5. Chairman's annual report**

AH gave a summary of her annual report. Some copies had been distributed to the meeting and a copy is attached to these minutes.

**6. County Councillor's report**

MA had given his report items under 2, but there were some further questions. JH mentioned the fact that Kent Highways were trying to extract money from those querying the placing of stones and shrubs on the verges. A cheque for £60 had been requested before an Inspector would come and have a look. He also said that an administration fee of £178 excluding VAT had been requested for getting quotes, etc. for installation of a low kerb by KCC approved contractors. MA said that local authorities are allowed to charge for services. Dropped kerbs used to be the responsibility of District Councils but they are now under KCC Highways. If JH would give him the information on the specific cases he had mentioned, he would get an answer.

JH mentioned that amounts of money are included in S.106 agreements for new developments towards libraries and he wondered what is happening to the money being pumped into them. MA said Ashford Library is the busiest in the county. Ashford's Future had now got to decide what is going to happen instead of the Discovery Centre. Libraries had lost some staff because of streamlining. There were now many more services in libraries other than books.

Mr. Gardner mentioned that he had hoped the new traffic calming on Park Farm would be installed this summer before residents moved into the new houses. He asked what the timetable was for this. MA understood that it would not be installed before the autumn. Mr. Gardner said that he was surprised that there had not yet been a fatality and that it would be very unsatisfactory if residents had to wait another winter with

mothers and their children having to take risks when crossing the road on their way to and from Kingsnorth School. He hoped that pressure could be brought to bear to speed this up.

7. **Borough Councillors' reports**

Weald South Cllr. Peter Davison said that he had had a very busy year. He sat on the Overview & Scrutiny Resource and Best Value committee which had looked into secondary education and the Borough's budget. He was on the Planning Committee and LDF Working Group. His ward covered 5 parish councils. He was a Borough representative on the Julie Rose Stadium Management Company which would be staging the Cancer Race for Life and a Triathlon. They were looking into the possibility of using the facilities at the Stadium as a venue for pre-Olympic Games team training. Conningbrook Lake was to be used as a water sports centre and there would be facilities for the disabled facilities. The 19<sup>th</sup> May would be the Stadium's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Cllr. Davison was very concerned about rural lanes and D roads which were in an appalling condition. He was also concerned about the Chilmington Green development and the additional housing that was proposed for the south of Ashford. It was important that the PC should keep alert and object to this.

MA asked whether there was any mention of accommodation provision in relation to the 2012 training camp proposals. PD said that there would be no Government funding for facilities outside the M25 and no hope of funding from KCC or ABC. They would need a nation with funds who could pay their own costs so the likelihood was that they would have to say no. In any case, there would not be enough accommodation in the Ashford district. Asked about a date for the Stour Centre opening, PD said that 'the summer' was being quoted.

Weald East Cllr. Bartlett said that one of the first projects of the new Council is to award the contract for waste collection. He agreed that there was not enough recycling, However, at present, no waste from Ashford was going to landfill at the moment as it was being used to test the Aylesford waste-to-energy plant. He gave an update on the ring road project.

Park Farm North Cllr. Harrington said that he was retiring at the election after 28 years as a Borough Councillor and 40 years as a Parish Cllr. He reported that planning permission for the Learning Campus was being given and that there would be 1200 pupils. The premises at Jemmett Road would be going up for sale and outline permission had been given for 214 dwellings on that site. He had attended the Pre-examination meeting on the LDF core strategy. The Inspector, Mr. Grainger, gave details on how he intended to conduct the examination. He was not going to have a formal enquiry into particular sites and hoped to finish in 3 weeks, which was a very short period. Barristers for Jarvis/Pentland Homes said that Smartlink would not work unless they got planning permission for their site. They wanted a formal public enquiry. Persimmon want a formal enquiry on their sites for 500 houses and said it would only take 1 day. The Inspector said he would consider it. The Inspector has agreed to have a formal enquiry for Cheesemans Green north because it has planning permission but ABC want to change the use to flood plain. The Landowners Association complained about number of changes to comply with eco-homes; they are not happy because of the cost. Capel House Trust want the site for 1026 homes at Court Lodge to be included in the Core Strategy.

Washford Farm

JH spoke about matters in his ward. There had been a spate of vandalism in the play area. The slide had been made unusable as the safety barriers had been removed. He had advised ABC not to adopt the play area for the time being. There was a flooding issue in some back gardens and a drainage engineer was investigating this week. During the year he had held 4 ward surgeries. He had been trying to improve the situation regarding litter along Millbank Rd. KCC had chopped down a section of trees when they should only have been trimmed. He had been trying to talk to the Head Teacher of Christ Church School. It had been discussed at the School Council and there was something about it on their website. This is a problem that ABC need to tackle.

Park Farm South Cllr. Wedgbury said that apart from the main committees he had been a member of the Nature Conservation Forum. He hoped that the new environmental centre at Singleton Hill will be as good as the one shown in the KCC film.

**8. Parish business**

Cllr. Wedgbury mentioned a problem with boulders on the verge at Church Hill; a car had been damaged when it ran into one. The Clerk will contact Highways about this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Chairman

Report by Aline Hicks, Chairman, Kingsnorth Parish Council

At this time last year we were awaiting the option most favoured by the Borough Council for the development of Ashford. When the Core Strategy of Preferred Options was published we found that most of the intense development for Kingsnorth was planned for after 2031. Although in the period 2001-2011 there would be some development at the northern edge of the Discovery Park and northwards from the previous area to join up with Brisley Farm. The Parish Council responded that it was concerned with the flooding to the north of Magpie Hall Road and it was not suitable for housing.

Following the Preferred Options the Parish Council was approached by Mr. Jarvis, a builder, who did not agree with the Borough's proposals as he would like to develop his land much sooner. A public meeting was held at which Mr. Jarvis outlined his plans for the 600 acres controlled by his group. The Parish Council decided to seek the opinion of the residents most likely to be affected by the new proposal. A survey was organised on our behalf by the Borough Council's Electoral Office which showed overwhelmingly that the residents wanted to abide by the Core Strategy recommendations, i.e. not to permit development around Mill and Hill and the village until after 2021.

As many of you will have noticed the new roundabout being built on the A2070 will give access to the new development Park Farm South, which is based on the principles of the Poundbury experiment, and later to Park Farm East. Your Parish Council has continued to push for traffic calming measures along Bluebell Road and Church Hill and firmly believes there should be traffic lights at the bottom of Church Hill.

Due to very heavy wear last summer it was necessary to extensively repair the football pitch by laying new turf. Three new picnic tables were installed on the playing field with a grant from our County Councillor.

The application by Tesco's to enlarge their store was opposed by the Parish Council but so far no date has been given at which we can voice our objections to the Planning Committee.

Last summer there were reports of youths hanging around the car park at Tesco's and the Parish Council paid for the Outreach Youth Van to visit the youngsters. The van was manned by two youth workers and equipped with games and relevant information was given out.

A request from the children of Kingsnorth School Council resulted in two outdoor games tables being given to the School. I understand these are very well used at playtimes.

A piece of land at the bottom of Church Hill will shortly be made over to the Parish Council for the improvement of the village. This is likely to be a grassed area with a path joining the pavement on Mill Hill to the pavement on Church Hill. We are very grateful to Jarvis Homes for this generous gift. Your Parish Council proposes to erect a village sign at this site. (*Plans were displayed at the meeting.*)

During the year the Local Education Authority proposed that a chalet bungalow on Mill Hill should be turned into an educational establishment for an alternative curriculum for excluded pupils. I arranged for an informal meeting between the LEA and residents to discuss the proposal. The planning application was refused.

The next major project for your Parish Council is to install a second football pitch to the west of the pavilion. We are currently in discussions with ABC to lease the land.

As always the Parish Council would like to hear from residents of the parish, which includes Brisley Farm, Washford Farm, Westhawk, all of Park Farm, Stubbs Cross and the old village, about proposals they think we should pursue. We also now have a short period at the beginning of all monthly meetings at which you are invited to bring matters of concern to our attention.