

PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 29 APRIL 2019

Minutes of the Pembury Parish Annual Meeting held in the Village Hall, High Street, Pembury on Monday 29 April 2019 at 8pm

Cllr David Coleman, Chair of Pembury Parish Council, presided. The notice convening the meeting was read.

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillors Paul Barrington-King, Sue Nuttall and David Reilly, 9 Parish Councillors and 34 parishioners to the 124th Annual Parish Meeting. Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

2. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Gillan.

3. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 18 March 2018 be signed as a correct record.

4. AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2017/2018

The accounts for 2017/2018 had been audited by an external auditor and no issues had been raised. These had been circulated to everyone in the Pembury Village News, were available at the meeting and were on the website.

The Clerk gave a report explaining that the surplus had gone into reserves and would fund various projects. The Council was now in a strong financial position because of prudent savings.

It was proposed by one resident and seconded by another resident that the accounts for 2017/18 be received.

5. UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2018/19

Unaudited accounts for 2018/2019 were also available at the meeting and were on the website.

The Clerk explained that, following requests, the timing of the Annual Parish Meeting had been altered in order that more up-to-date audited accounts could be presented and that draft accounts for the previous year could be circulated.

It was proposed by one resident and seconded by another resident that the accounts for 2018/19 be received.

6. REPORT ON WORK OF PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that many changes had taken place over the past year in particular with governance and legal requirements laid down by Central Government. These had created a lot of administrative work for the Council.

The Parish Council had highlighted the following issues that are important to Pembury with the Borough Council. The draft plan was still awaited:

- Inadequate junctions into the village from the A21;
- Infrastructure issues – parking, drainage etc., all need to be addressed before any potential development;
- Major on-street and off-street parking problems;
- Shortage of smaller housing for residents who wish to downsize.

Chairmen of each Committee/Working Group gave the following reports:

a) Planning & Highways Committee

- Regular meetings to consider planning applications.
- The Hendy Motor village application had been received. This would be debated at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting on 13 May and a response sent to TWBC;
- Many highways issues had been debated including the lack of parking, poor state of the roads and volume and speed of traffic;
- A reminder was given that Planning & Highways Committee meetings were held once a month and everyone was welcome to attend.

b) Finance and Human Resources Committee

- Purchase of a new Mitsubishi truck for the groundsmen's use;
- Phase 2 of repairs to the play equipment in the Recreation Ground was underway;
- Installation of security fencing at the depot;
- Replacement of the War Memorial plaques and subsequent mounting of the old plaques at Pembury School
- Substantial costs had been paid to ensure that the Parish Council is GDPR compliant;
- Following a query about the precept increase, it was explained that in order to maintain facilities/services and to invest in the future of Pembury, this had been necessary;
- The Finance and HR Chairman concluded by telling the audience that the Committee meetings are now open to the public

c) Amenities

- The Scarecrow competition;
- Picnic on the Green;
- Pride in Pembury horticultural competition with a Winners' Tea in October;
- Firework display. The bucket collection was used to fund village projects;
- Tennis coaching has been set up following a local resident's request to hire them;
- Litter pick in conjunction with the Rapid Relief Team;
- Remembrance Sunday event and the residents who knitted the poppies were thanked;
- Christmas Lights.

d) Communications Working Group

- Responsibility for communicating village events and activities;
- Updated the Parish Council logo;
- Pembury Village News;
- Built a new Pembury Parish Council website;
- Social Media – a Facebook page had been set up and the audience were urged to share, like and comment;
- Consider other social media platforms in the future.

e) Environment Working Group

- Refurbishment of the War Memorial – many thanks to Richard Snow;
- Clearance work at the allotments, particularly on vacant plots and 'clear up' days arranged;
- A seasonal groundsman had been employed to help and would be working until the beginning of November;
- Considered alternative measures to improve security at the allotment site;
- Purchase of the large Gardener's shed;
- Introduced a deposit scheme for new allotment tenants;
- Regular allotment inspections;
- Agreed to allow allotment tenants to keep bees in designated area;
- Planted flower bed behind the Memorial Wall;
- Work to hedges at the Burial Ground and more work is planned for the trees in the Church driveway;
- Addressed the continuing problem of dog fouling at the Burial Ground with signs and articles in the Pembury Village News;
- Huge thanks to Hugh Boorman and his volunteer team for their regular work on keeping footpaths open etc.

7. REPORT FROM TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCILLOR.

Cllr Sue Nuttall reported on the following:

- Cllr Nuttall thanked everyone for their support during her four-year term and said that she had very much enjoyed it.

8. REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Paul Barrington King reported on the following:

- Discussions with Highways England to try and improve the congestion at Kippings Cross following the dualling of the A21 at Tonbridge;
- Funded a road sign at Kings Toll Road;
- Funded the repainting of the Gateway signs;
- Funded an additional Gateway sign for Woodsgate;
- Had put some money towards the renovation of the War Memorial;
- Funded drainage work for the football club in the Recreation Ground;
- Arranged three litter picks along the A228;
- Road repairs had been carried out along the Maidstone Road to Woodsgate;
- Resurfacing of the Pembury Road had been arranged;
- In discussions about improvements to the roundabouts;
- Speed Indicator Device to be installed in the High Street. Initial traffic survey has been carried out;
- Working with a parent from Pembury School on a 20mph speed limit outside the school;

- A pothole blitz is due to go ahead shortly;
- Become Chair of a Select Committee on knife crime in Kent.

9. OPEN FORUM

It was reiterated that the Parish Council had not yet considered its response to the Hendy Motor Village application and could only listen to comments and not respond.

A resident asked about the proposed extension to Woodside Playing fields for sports use. The Parish Council confirmed that Highways England had major concerns about access from the A21 and therefore this was not now going ahead.

A resident stated that she was aware of two people who had already been offered jobs at the proposed Hendy site and asked how this could happen, if planning permission had not yet been granted.

Another resident stated that she had heard of a couple of dealerships on North Farm telling customers that Hendy's would be going ahead on land next to Tesco.

It was confirmed that there was a page on the Pembury Society website with information on the Hendy application.

A resident thanked the groundsmen for their excellent work throughout the village. She also asked if the Parish Council still published footpath maps and felt that they should be more widely available.

The resident also raised the issue of Woodside Road and Kings Toll Road being used as a rat run to avoid Kippings Cross and thought this would only get worse if Hendy's were given permission and was outraged that Highways England had said that there was no money available to make improvements.

A resident urged people to use the footpaths otherwise developers or landowners could have these footpaths rerouted and they would never be re-instated.

A resident asked whether the A228 was being considered by Kent Highway Services as part of the strategic road network and asked if road repairs were going to be carried out? The Council explained that this was being re-considered as a strategic road. Funds would be made available for repairs.

A resident asked why the Musical Picnic took place on the Village Green and not the Recreation Ground as this would be safer for children. The Parish Council agreed to consider this.

A resident had concerns about overgrown hedgerows limiting the width of pavements. Cllr Barrington King asked her to contact him directly with details.

The resident also asked who the land behind the houses in the Ridgeway belonged to? It was confirmed that one of the stakeholders was Tilhall, based in Groombridge.

A resident asked why Tesco had not made any comment about the Hendy application?

A resident who had recently moved to Woodsgate Way commented that people park in that road and walk across to Tesco to do their shopping.

A resident wanted it to be noted that the residents of the Glebe are already facing huge problems with parents' parking when Cllr Barrington King discusses the reduction in the speed limit outside the school.

A resident queried the cycle lane at the junction with the A228 at Woodsgate Corner and cars parking across it. Could this be policed? It was explained that the cycle lane had not been formally adopted and therefore nothing further could be done to stop parked cars across the cycle lane. Highways England had been approached about putting yellow hatching at the junction to make it safer, but they said that this would not be suitable.

10. PRESENTATION TO CLLR DAVID COLEMAN

As Cllr David Coleman was retiring from the Parish Council after 36 years, there were speeches and a presentation from previous Parish Council Chairs, Sarah Clarke and June Crowhurst, the current Vice-Chair, Cllr Katy Brooks and a video from Greg Clark MP. They all remembered his huge contribution to the village and wished him well in the future.

11. CLOSE

The Chair was thanked for his tireless work for the village during his time on the Parish Council.

The meeting was closed at 9:35pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman