

PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 25 APRIL 2024

Minutes of the Pembury Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 25 April 2024 at the Village Hall, High Street, Pembury at 7.15pm. There were 18 members of the public present.

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and the new format was explained.

2. MINUTES. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11 May 2023 be signed as a correct record.

3. DRAFT UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 2023/2024. Unaudited accounts and reserves for 2023/2024 were reported and noted.

4. OPEN FORUM. Various questions were raised and included the following:

- Litter picks on larger roads were queried.

Community litter picks could take place on roads with no more than 30mph speed limits. Litter picking on faster roads were the responsibility of Kent Highways or Highways England.

- Storm drains filled with sediment and tarmac from recent re-surfacing was raised.

Everyone was encouraged to report these through the Kent County Council (KCC) Online reporting tool.

- How can the Parish Council engage better with the community.

Existing methods included the website, social media and the PVN. Other ideas were welcomed. A suggestion to hold meetings virtually was made and would be explored further.

- The policing of overgrown hedges was raised.

Everyone was encouraged to report these through the KCC Online reporting tool. An article would be included in the next edition of the Pembury Village News (PVN).

- There was concern about pavement parking.

An update on current parking rules was shared. An article on considerate parking would be included in the next PVN.

- There were serious concerns about the safety of the junction of Canterbury Road and Hastings Road.

The Parish Council could get a petition to support double yellow lines at the junction and work with KCC and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC). Any work would be at the Parish Council's cost.

- A query was raised about how Stanam Road had received double yellow lines. It was confirmed that this was due to problems with rubbish lorries being unable to get into the road due to parked cars.
- There was concern about fire engines being unable to get through certain roads due to parked cars restricting access.
- The Pembury Volunteer Group were thanked for everything they did for the village.
- Concern about speeding and parking along Hastings Road which would be exacerbated by the new proposed development. A request for more thought into the plan was made.

The Parish Council could consider using a transport consultant to assess the planning applications when they are submitted. KCC are in consultation with developers about highways matters as a result of the proposed developments.

- A suggestion to hold the Annual Parish Meeting virtually was made which could encourage more people to attend.

This would be explored.

- Residents were encouraged to sign up to the weekly TWBC newsletter which had details of bin collections and nearby planning applications.
- Concern was raised about young people's mental health.

An article would be included in the next edition of the PVN.

- 5. CLOSE.** Attendees were thanked for attending and encouraged to speak to Councillors to find out more about the work of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman