

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT
BEECHWOOD HALL ON 16th MAY 2019**

Present: Cllr.Tamsyn D'Arienzo (Chair)

In attendance:

Mrs J Toomey – Clerk to the Parish Council

5 members of Hamsey PC 5 members of the public Cllr.Isabelle Linnington LDC

Meeting commenced at 7.05pm.

1) Apologies for absence – Cllr.Justin Harmer

2. Welcome and overview by the chair of the Parish Council.

Parish Council chair, Cllr.Tamsyn D'Arienzo welcomed residents and gave an overview of the council year. (full report attached)

3. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed

4. There were no matters arising from the 2018 meeting.

5. Report from the Beechwood Hall trustees

The chair of the Hall managing trustees gave a report (attached)

6. The Lewes District Councillor gave her report

Cllr Linnington thanked everyone for voting her back in at the May 2nd election but wanted residents to know that she was here for everyone regardless of how they voted. Cllr. Baughan asked if she had noticed changes now wards had been combined? The answer was no, not really, but it does mean that Cllr.Sharon Davy is available as cover during holidays etc.

7. The clerk/financial officer to the council gave the financial report.

8. Questions from the floor

There were no questions

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council
Bowling Green, Chiltonton Lane, East Chiltonton BN7 3QU, East Sussex
Tel: 01273 890621 Email: clerk@hamsey.net

Annual Parish Meeting Report from the Chair May 16th 2019

I asked each person on the council about how they felt the past term had gone for them and for suggestions of any improvements or support they would like to see in place for them in order for them to be as effective as possible in their role this term on the council.

Cllr Mike Dodd

Cllr Dodd says he enjoys working with the active members on the council and recognises the need to sometimes challenge the status quo; looking at new ways of adding value to the whole community, groups and individuals. Cllr Dodd has noted that some councillors have a very high workload and he would like to see this more evenly spread between councillors this term.

I will add that Cllr Dodd has been effective in stepping back and taking the strategic view in negotiations on behalf of the parish. Although very passionate about what he believes in, Mike is also very good at keeping a level head, particularly when we are dealing with acrimonious communications. Cllr Dodd has had useful insights at the planning applications he has visited.

Cllr Ian Ginn

Cllr Ian Ginn has felt frustrated at times about slow progress of some matters raised with county council and would like to resurrect our talks to improve our say in planning committee cases with LDC. Ian would also like to see the whole council joining in litter picks and other community improvement initiatives.

For me Cllr Ginn remains an experienced and committed councillor who is very supportive of the whole team including me. Cllr Ginn is always willing to be involved in meetings and planning site visits as well as practical tasks which save the parish council money and improve our facilities. It is not unusual to see Cllr Ginn with a jet-wash attached to his back cleaning up Malthouse Way playground or helping to look after the grounds of Cooksbridge Stations whilst under the separate remit of Cooksbridge Station Partnership.

Cllr Robert Baughan

As Vice Chairperson, Cllr Robert Baughan has been an amazing support and a constant, reliable member of our team. Cllr Baughan never ceases to amaze me with the sheer quality and volume of astute, measured and carefully worded responses and actions to the many and varied communications he receives and the mountain of tasks that he undertakes. This has been a busy year for Cllr Baughan where he has seen very many hours of his personal time spent liaising with Network Rail for a smooth and successful delivery of the level crossing upgrade. Without Cllr Baughan's input I have no doubt that this could not have yielded such a smooth transition and positive outcome for Cooksbridge and the motorists or rail passengers passing through.

There are too many areas and tasks undertaken this year to list here but I have been particularly impressed at Cllr Baughan's determination to persuade Highways to carry out much-needed pavement repairs along A275 between Malthouse Way and Offham Garage. Those taking the time to read Cllr Baughan's reports on Railway, Highways, Environment and more recently Planning will appreciate his respectfully persistent approach paying dividends. This term Cllr Baughan has agreed to introduce Cllr Kinch to the Highways working group with an extended handover and I know he will be a great trainer.

Cllr Baughan wishes to continue in his role as Vice Chairperson this coming term.

Cllr Natalie Kinch

Cllr Kinch was working with Cllr McBrown on Children and Young People this year. She has really enjoyed working along-side the team and found planning site visits interesting. Cllr Kinch enjoyed the Emergency Planning Workshop which gave us a

great insight into what should happen if an incident or emergency should occur in the parish.

This is Cllr Kinch's first term as councillor and she has volunteered for projects to understand and support residents' needs, including users of Downsview Carpark and Malthouse Way playground. Cllr Kinch has proved willing to offer practical support where required, including playground planning, clean-up workgroups and supporting events.

Natalie is looking forward to the challenge of taking on Highways liaison this term, with the support of Cllr Baughan.

Cllr Kate McBrown

Cllr McBrown has enjoyed working with the team this year and I'm pleased to know that she wishes to continue her role of looking out for the interests of Children and Young People, as well as new opportunities in the year ahead.

At the last Annual meeting I was singing Cllr McBrown's praises for always keeping children and young people high on our agenda and for being willing to get involved in fund raising and making plans come to life. This past year Cllr McBrown has gone from strength to strength and I continue to be impressed by the way she has used her position as councillor for the good of the residents. Cllr McBrown has taken on considerable voluntary extra duties in her separate role at Beechwood Hall and continued to shine in all of the new challenges brought to her this year.

Cllr Justin Harmer

Cllr Harmer gets on with everyone on the council but has found it hard to dedicate much time this past term outside of the odd planning site visit when the Planning Committee needed an extra person. The team appreciates the good relations and would welcome more involvement from Cllr Harmer this term.

Clerk to the parish council, Jenni Toomey

I said last year that Jenni is the glue that holds the council together and it is truer than ever. Jenni's financial, logistical and money-spinning grant expertise have been a credit to every member of our parish and all of the parish council, who's role has been made easier by her support. Jenni's experience and wisdom is called upon on a weekly basis from wide-ranging queries and not a lot of what we have achieved this past year would have been possible without the support of Jenni. We are very lucky to have Jenni on the council and I would like to thank her for all her support and guidance.

May 2018-May 2019

I would like to thank each member of our council and our clerk for their ongoing commitment to the council and for bringing their own unique strengths to their roles. It is a pleasure to work with such a diverse but ultimately respectful and harmonious working group. This year progress has trumped the challenges. Not all planning decisions have been easy and no decisions are taken lightly. We continue to listen, grow and learn as a council and I hope that most people in our parish feel well represented by us. Online communication via Facebook and our community website have been useful tools in sharing information and in understanding residents' views and we try to balance this with quarterly paper updates in The Hamsey News to make information accessible for all. It has been my honour to serve as Chairperson this year and I will be happy to continue in the role for this coming term if elected.

Cllr.Tamsyn D'Arienzo, Chair, Hamsey PC.

**Min. 5 - Report from Beechwood Hall trustees:
Report from Beechwood Hall Trustees for Hamsey Parish meeting 16/05/2019**

Key Developments and Improvements:

Over the last year we have successfully achieved our objective of upgrading the facilities, particularly within the Park, with the new Playground, the expanded hard surface car parking extension and the Multi Activity Court.

The success of these can be measured by the increased level of activity and usage and the very positive feedback received from residents.

Importantly, this has also been financially beneficial, having been achieved at virtually nil cost to the Hall as a result of acquiring/winning grant funding with great success. Jenni's expertise being invaluable.

Building on this, plans for the next year include a further expansion to meet the needs of a wide range of age groups, including outside Gym equipment and facilities to encourage cyclists.

Both the Hall and the Park have also benefitted from the more formalized maintenance arrangements put in place, as we work to protect this major asset.

Financial Performance:

We are in a very strong financial position, obviously helped by the unexpectedly strong influx of grant funding, requiring little drain on our reserves, which currently stand in excess of £38K.

The income stream from bookings remains fairly constant and enables us to cover expenses without draining those reserves.

Management Resources:

We face a continued challenge to attract people to join as trustees and to take on critical roles such as Secretary, which means we are reliant on a core team to take on the increasing responsibilities – this is a concern.

Issues and Concerns:

One of the other "developments" introduced was the installation of CCTV cameras to protect the Hall. This decision was not taken lightly and sadly has been justified by the variety of incidents, including vandalism that we have endured. This is a worrying trend, particularly given its mindless nature and has been further exacerbated by destruction and "disappearance" of equipment provided for the enjoyment of the facilities. This needs to be addressed urgently if we are to preserve the major asset within the parish for continued enjoyment of the residents.

Summary:

The Trustees are grateful for the continued cooperation and support received from the parish council, enabling us both to continue to improve the opportunities provided to the community.

Rod Hearn

Chair of Beechwood Hall & Park Trustees

Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

Bowling Green, Chiltington Lane, East Chiltington BN7 3QU, East Sussex
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