

## HEADCORN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, Headcorn Village Hall, Church Lane, Headcorn, TN27 9NR  
Tel: 01622 892496 Email: clerk@headcornpc.org.uk



### HEADCORN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7:07p.m in the Village Hall, Longmeadow.

#### **In attendance:-**

Cllr James Thomas presiding, Vice-Chair Linda Thorogood, Cllr. Barrs, Cllr. Mather, Cllr. Glanfield, Cllr. Coppen and Cllr. Sexton.

Clerks: - Stefan Christodoulou, Susie Barkess and Jo Mitchell.

CLO: - Stuart Ellesmere

Kent County Councillor Shellina Prendergast

Maidstone Borough Councillors Martin Round and Ziggy Trzebinski

There were 90 parishioners present.

#### **Apologies received from:-**

Kent Police Officer Chad

#### **1. Welcome by Chair of Headcorn Parish Council**

Cllr Thomas opened the meeting and welcomed all attending.

#### **2. To Approve the Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved.

#### **3. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman.**

Good evening, everyone. We are once again gathered here for our yearly Annual Meeting of the Parish. I would like to share with you all our achievements for the past year. We are very proud of our Village and this wonderful area where we all live. Please do stay after the meeting for a selection of nibbles and drinks.

Our year started off with the first annual "Headcorn in Bloom" events. We pushed this through April until early July and announced a winner in mid-July. We had several competitors who all had beautiful gardens and picking a winner was very difficult. We have already started advertising it for this year so please do join in if you fancy winning the prizes that are all garden related, from seeds to plant vouchers. Everyone in the Parish is invited to enter so please don't be shy, no matter your level of green-fingered-ness.

Early in May the Village events kick off with the Annual May Fair organised by the Headcorn School PTFA. Last year the weather stayed dry throughout most of the day and the attendance was as high as always. So many thanks to the PTFA for all their sterling work on this event.

Amongst the projects undertaken over the last year, these included the resurfacing of the Weavers and Dawks Meadow PROWs. Both of these badly needed doing. Whilst we were resurfacing, we asked the contractor to reline Church Lane to make parking easier. We have also resurfaced the Scout Hut/Allotments carpark. Now all HPC owned areas are resurfaced and should last well into the future.

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Staying at the Allotments, we also had some new compost clamps so that their waste plant material can be composted and recycled as soil to enrich their plots. Hopefully future harvests will be even more bountiful!

The last two big spends for the Village were to renew some play equipment on Days Green, replacing the nonfunctional roundabout with a new fully working one and to add a mother and baby swing as well as a swing for disabled children so as to include them more in play options in our Village. We also added some more Christmas Lights to our display along North Street and along the High Street which we very much hope you all enjoyed. We do love to make the Village look jolly, Christmassy.

The Lengthsmen were busy at the beginning of the year replacing all the fencing on Parsonage Meadow and making it as dog safe as they could manage. This now means that Doggos and Puppies can play freely on the green whilst their mums and dads enjoy the re-sited picnic tables.

The only two planned big events in this coming year are the D-Day Commemoration on Days Green, planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> June, more information will be forthcoming shortly, and the Remembrance Day Parade, we are still working on how to better broadcast the sound so that everyone might hear the ceremony. As always we are looking at future events for the village and if any parishioners have any suggestions, please do let us know.

Although it has not happened yet the last item for the year has been preparing for the elections in May. Once the results have been ratified I am proud to say we will have 12 out of 13 seats at our Council filled. Therefore, if any of you would like to fill the last remaining seat please do let us know so that you may be co-opted in June to add your voice to the Council.

To finish, I would like to thank my Vice Chair Linda Thorogood and my fellow Councillors. I would also like to welcome our second Assistant Lengthsmen Richard, and thank the Lengthsmen's team as a whole, without whose constant work this Village would not be the envy of other parishes. I would also like to welcome and thank our brand new Community Liaison Officer Stuart Ellesmere who over the last two months has been helping Parishioners in the Village and has already made a huge difference. To complete my "thanks", I would like to thank our clerks Stefan, Susie and Jo for their continued commitment and diligence. The help, support and advice from them all has been invaluable in enabling me to fulfil my role as Chairman. A duty I hope I will continue to discharge even after May. Finally, but in no way least, I wish to give special thanks to Malcom our esteemed lengthsmen who is retiring after working in Headcorn for the last 9 years. We wish him all the best and now he can relax a little bit from all his hard work for us and continue his hobby of metal work for other people.

There is a collection for Malcolm and if anyone would like to contribute please speak to the Clerks at the end.

#### 4. Questions on the report were taken from the audience.

A suggestion was made to affix magnets to the gates in Parsonage Meadow to secure the gates shut. This will be looked into by the Clerk's Office and Lengthsmen.

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### 5. Reports from Offices of Local Authorities: -

#### **Maidstone Borough Councillor Martin Round**

Councillor Round started by apologising for the new waste contract that has been badly implemented by the contractor resulting in a lot of missed bins throughout the County. He also talked about the efforts he has gone too to get the waste problems with the new bin lorry contract dealt with. He also mentioned working with our new Community Liaison Officer to help with vulnerable people in the Village, as well as the socioeconomic challenges experienced by some of the residents of Headcorn.

#### **Kent County Councillor Shellina Prendergast**

Shellina pledged to work closely with the Parish to support vulnerable members of our community and with the school to provide extra help to ensure that school transport for children, especially SEN children, is available to help them get to school. She also bought up the financial problems KCC have been having and their need to make cut backs but that she still had money in her Councillors grant fund to help local projects and societies if they had small financial needs that qualified.

### 6. To invite Village Representatives of the Clubs and Societies to address the meeting.

#### Clubs and Societies:

- Joanne Denness, Leona Franklin and Juliette Norton – Headcorn Surgery
- Margery & Mike Larkins – Headcorn Ukulele Group
- Mark Greenwood – Gardner's Society
- Pauline Rand – Headcorn Seniors Lunch Club
- Susie King – Royal British Legion
- Duncan Payne – Allotment Association and Churchyard Group
- Geoff Haffenden – Rotary Club
- Robert Huddleston – Headcorn Tennis Club
- Jack Keeler / Tom Kelly – Headcorn Primary School Chair of Governors
- Beccy Wood / Tracy Williams – Headcorn Primary School PTFA
- Noel Grabham – Methodist Church
- Fiona Haskett – St Peter's and St Paul's Church
- Terry Glanfield / Dee Mannerings – Singing for Health
- Bridget Dungey – Headcorn Handbell Ringers
- Phil Harris – Scouts Group
- Peter Rich – Headcorn Art Club
- William Messenger – Headcorn Social Club
- Bella Mansfield – Heart of Headcorn Community Hub
- Matthew Botley – Headcorn Football Club

#### Reports received from:

- Table Tennis Club.
- Headcorn Ladies Group.
- Short Mat Bowls Club.
- Headcorn Aerodrome.

These were read out by the Clerk.

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### **Attending but not speaking:**

Geoff Pearce – Table Tennis Club

Headcorn Cricket Club

Sue Clarke – Badminton

Jane Armstrong – Judo Club

### **Report received from Kent Police:-**

Charlotte and Chad have taken over the beat ward of Staplehurst, Marden and Headcorn approximately 4 months ago and as you know they have been finding their feet with their new roles. So far they have tried to dedicate time to each of their wards equally and fairly but have recognised how demanding of a ward Headcorn can be with its ASB, Shoplifting, vehicle crime, local crime etc. After speaking with local shop owners and residents they are happy to report that most have seen a decrease in ASB, shoplifting, etc since their arrival.

They have been working tirelessly around all of these issues and have tried to integrate into the village with our faces being out there. They have also been trying to work with as many agencies as possible including the local parish, neighbourhood task force, Maidstone borough council and others.

As you may know they have been using the “My Community Voice App” to publicise their daily activity, this also gives people a chance to respond and ask questions. If anyone is interested in this and wants to receive updates please feel free to email Chad at [15829@kent.police.uk](mailto:15829@kent.police.uk) with your NAME, EMIAL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER and HOME ADDRESS and he will register you.

Charlotte and Chad have so far have started and will continue to do the following: -  
Numerous speed checks around Headcorn (Lenham Rd, Kings RD, Maidstone Rd, etc.)

- Lots of foot patrol and proactive patrol.
- Interaction with the local shops, encouraging them to report all crime.
- Days of action where there are multiple patrols out looking for specific crime and being visible.
- Vehicle seizures.
- Dealing with 999 calls.

This was read out by the Clerk.

### **7. Questions were taken from the Audience.**

A Parishioner asked a question about a project to put ANPR Cameras in Church Lane. The original plan was for ANPR Cameras but we had just had a report back that said they might initially try a physically monitored parking system rather than a remotely monitored parking system. Further discussion is needed.

Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed By:

Date:

17/4/25