



HERNHILL NEWS

DECEMBER 2016



PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact the Clerk with regard to Parish Council business on
•07740706189

•hillclerk@gmail.com

•hernhillpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Full copies of the approved minutes will be available on the Parish Council notice board on the Village Green.

The Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th October was attended by four Parish Councillors and two members of the public.

The Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th November was attended by five Parish Councillors and six members of the public.

Some members of the public attended the meeting to express concerns over the proposed affordable housing development on Kays Lane, as put forward by Clifford Construction for the Hernhill Housing Model. The Parish Council ad-

vised that to date the planning application for the site has not yet been submitted to Swale Borough Council and was therefore, unable to offer any further information.

Planning matters:

•16/507703/AGRREQ - An application for prior approval of the local planning authority for the erection of an agricultural barn for storing animal feed and machinery. Evaluna, Plum pudding Lane.

•16/507606/FULL - Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding into 1 dwelling house. Brook Hall House, Waterham Road.

•16/507908/FULL - Change of use from existing barn store (domestic) to two holiday lets. Chapel Plantation, Dargate.

There is still an allotment plot available to rent on the Parish Council allotment site at Kays Lane. Please contact the Parish Clerk if interested.

Chairman: Tony Chapman 01227 750874

e-mail tt.chapman@vfast.co.uk

Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189

e-mail hernhillclerk@gmail.com

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

Councillors considered budget items for the next financial year and will confirm the budget and precept at the January 2017 meeting.

Several applications were received for the vacant position of Parish Councillor and the Parish Council will co-opt a new Councillor from these applicants.

The Parish Council has secured additional grant funding for a litter bin within the Parish and are looking to place a new bin near to the Village Hall/playing field.

Members of the public are reminded that they can report highway matters such as potholes and veg-

etation obstructing the highway or footway either to the Parish Clerk or directly to Kent County Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 25th January 2017 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend. If members of the public wish to speak on a subject at the meeting then please can they contact the Clerk prior to 18th January so that relevant items can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

The Parish Council would like to wish all Parishioners a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2017.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

What is happening to Democracy? In the United States a surprise result in the Presidential Election leads to what? Rioting on the streets by those who did not support the winner, destruction of businesses and private property, as well as the burning of their own national flag. In Swale, we have had Police and security deployed outside the Council offices and the Council Chamber for the last cabinet meeting, after the Leader of the Opposition encouraged people to invade the Chamber, occupy Councillors seats and thwart the Democratic process from taking place.

Also, the start of one Parish Council meeting was attended by Police Officers because at least one member of the Parish Council claimed to be frightened and intimidated by the questioning and scrutiny (largely from elderly residents) of their decisions and financial probity.

Is this the Democracy that I have given a large part of the last forty years to both serve and preserve?

At the beginning of the month, I attended the Conservative Party Conference; good to listen to the new Prime Minister and her Ministerial team. On the final day I left early in order to be back in time to chair Swale Borough Council's Cabinet. A short meeting allowed me to reach Selling Parish Council a few minutes after it had started. The Parish Council defies my powers of description. You really had to be there to gain any understanding. In forty years of attending Parish Council meetings, I have never experienced anything remotely like it! The other four Parish Council meetings attended in October, Graveney, Boughton, Newnham and Dunkirk, were very mild in comparison.

Other meetings of note last month included a Sittingbourne Town Cen-

tre regeneration partnership and a meeting of District Councils National Network, both held in London. The Kent Downs and Marshes Leader Group held its Annual General Meeting at Elmley on Sheppey, which I attended. I also chaired a Swale Rural Policing meeting and attended a Growth and Economy Cabinet Committee at County Hall, a Thames Gateway Strategic Group held in London, a Strategic Flood Meeting held at County Hall and a briefing for all of those County Councillors representing divisions within Canterbury and Swale. The latter was addressed by officers of both the County's education and Social Services Directorates. Both Swale Borough Council and

Kent County Council held Full Council meetings during the third week of the month. With these out of the way, I took the chance to take a break. Highlights of which included visiting St. Peter's in Rome. I can find no words to express the effect this had on me, I can only urge all readers to attempt to visit, at least once in their lifetime. After that welcome break, which was followed by the first week of November as described at the start of this report, I can only hope that the rest of this month is quieter.

For those of you for whom this is my last newsletter of 2016 may I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Andrew Bowles



CAROLS ON THE GREEN

This will be on Saturday 17th at 5.00pm on the Village Green. If the weather is unkind we can use the church. After singing carols, all are invited for hot drinks and mince pies in the church. Don't miss it. This is a great way for children and adults to get into the festive mood.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS

Extracts from Villagers letters

a) Whilst we have no objections to affordable housing in principle, the original plan on show at the exhibition in February was for three houses only in Kays Lane. It would now appear that the revised plan which incidentally at the time of writing has NOT been submitted to the Planning Department as stated by Mr Clifford the Builder in the article, is for three

houses and two additional bungalows with parking for 11 vehicles. No additional parking for more cars and visitors.

Our main concerns are for the additional traffic flow in Kays Lane which is unsuitable for random parking which we already experience with the overflow from The Red Lion and The Church. This results in illegally parked vehicles on both corners and on the footpath with elderly and disabled

people from the bungalows having to walk in the middle of the road. We already experience traffic congestion in the village from the additional vehicles parking in the road outside the old School development.

Impending danger from contractors vehicles accessing the site will result in loading and unloading materials in the lane causing more chaos with existing traffic, i.e. Farm vehicles, lorries and parcel deliveries trying to negotiate the narrow turning and the roadway.

We also wonder what provision if any has been made for the parking of vehicles belonging to tradesmen working on site.

b) We moved to our house a few years ago and have enjoyed the peace and quiet of our conservation village.....in a village like Hernhill, is this just the start of 'garden grabbing' which has the potential to significantly alter the

nature of our beautiful village.

Furthermore, we question what 'affordable' means in this case. According to the government, affordable is for 'first time buyers under 40 years of age at £250,000 or less. However, we note that in the article in last month's magazine, the only condition for eligibility was 'a strong connection to the Village'.

We would like to make the following points:

- 1) How 'affordable' are these properties to people in the Village?
- 2) Will the developer be applying the Government's other conditions: first-time buyers under 40 years.
- 3) We would be interested to see what feedback was received after the exhibition.....
- 4) The developer says a significant number of people expressed an interest.....How many?

CHRISTMAS TREES 2016

Thanks to your support in 2015, we're pleased to report that, for 250 trees, donations totalling £10,095 was raised and is being given to 45 parishes in this area, and 20 national charities as listed: Kidney Research; Cancer Research; Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres; Macmillan Cancer Support; Marie Curie Cancer Care; Pilgrim's Hospices; Samaritans; Help for Heros; Alzheimer's Society; Motor Neurone Disease As-

sociation; Cystic Fibrosis Trust; Demelza Kent; British Heart Foundation; Brain Tumour UK; British Heart Foundation; Pancreatic Cancer Action; Parkinsons UK; MS society; Prostate Cancer; Walking with the Wounded.

Although we had good growing conditions in the spring but dry in the summer and autumn there should be available a reasonable number of trees of the traditional Norwegian spruce in the 4ft to 8ft range and even some taller. Also

available will be some softer blue tinge Serbian spruce of the same size with also some a little taller. Please phone or email us to fix a time and date, preferably at weekends, to visit to select prior to collection nearer Christmas. The trees are growing and will stay in the ground until collected so they stay fresher for longer.

Trees will be available for selection from Saturday 5th November. Please contact us to tell us when

you'd like to come

As before, the arrangement is for you to make a donation for your tree; half is returned to your parish church with the balance going to the 20 named charities.

This is a great chance for you to raise funds for your parish church, and some deserving charities at the same time.

Alison and Peter Howard, Nashs Farmhouse, Luddenham, Telephone 01795 532596 or e-mail nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICAR

Over the Christmas holiday many of you may be making a special journey to visit family or friends. The Christmas story in the Bible is also full of journeys. Mary and Joseph travelled the seventy miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census, no cars in those days, not even for a heavily pregnant young woman. The shepherds made the short journey from the fields outside Bethlehem into the town to find the new baby in a stable. The wise men journeyed perhaps one thousand miles to find the new born king and Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus had to flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod.

The longest and most unusual journey in the Christmas story is the one Jesus made from heaven to earth. He left his place in heaven at God's right hand and came to earth to live as a human being. Thirty three years later he was

nailed to a cross to die, and buried in a borrowed tomb, but the journey was not over. He conquered death, was seen alive by many people and returned to heaven. Even that is not the journey's end, someday, Christians believe, he will return as King of kings and Lord of lords.

In January I will be making my own special journey as I travel to Tanzania to spend a few months with the Anglican Church in Tanzania. This will be my third visit to that beautiful country but this time I am visiting an area I have not been to before. My detailed plans are still to be finalized but I hope to spend the first couple of weeks at a language and orientation school and the rest of my time visiting churches, Christian groups and the diocesan girls' secondary school. This is all as part of a sabbatical I have been granted by the diocese here, a time to refresh my spiritual life and ministry. While I

would hope that I will give to the various people and groups I visit I know I will gain far more from them. As you take a Christmas journey this month, reflect on the journey Jesus made for us and please pray for me as I prepare for my journey. Services and events will

continue as far as possible as normal while I am away thanks to our curate Paulette, our reader Keith and a good team of volunteers. Paulette and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Revd Jean Burrows

THE ESTATE OF PETER SADDLETON

A legacy of £5,000 has been left to the Fabric Fund of St. Michael's Church by Peter Saddleton who died on Monday 18th April this year. The following is an extract of the letter from his son Richard. "...my father had a long association with St Michael's church which stretched from his baptism

in early 1934 to his funeral this year, and of course he is now resting in the churchyard with his mother and father and grandparents who also had a strong connection with the church.

We aim to ring a peal in his memory with a band of family and friends on Thursday 29th December which would have been his 83rd birthday."



BREATHING SPACE

The next opportunity will be on Friday 16th December in St. Michael's Church.

Come any time between 7.30pm and 8.30pm to enjoy some rare, refreshing peace. Do bring a torch.

NEWS DELIVERY

There is an urgent need to have someone deliver the Hernhill News in the Fairbrook area. It is not a big job because there are only 16 copies to be delivered and then only



once a month for 11 months.

Please help and contact me on 01227 750874 or e-mail

tt.chapman@vfast.com

Many thanks.

Tony Chapman

BITS AND PIECES

Black Friday, in fact black week, has passed us by. Did you get any bargains? Which Magazine found that a number of the 'bargains' were nothing of the sort. I hope

that you didn't get caught. With that over you can now look forward to the January sales to mop up the rest of the money that you didn't have in the first place, and all courtesy of the credit card. At

the time of writing this I still have some presents to find so I am steeling myself for a trudge round Canterbury. Maybe I'll see you there.

I was horrified to hear that a van driver was fined £200 for not displaying a 'no smoking sign' in his commercial vehicle. I have been told that the fine for actually smoking in the vehicle is only £50. Is that really the case?

Having got planning permission for a truck-stop in Dargate, the owners have put the site on the market for about £2.8 million. The estate agents are implying that a further 'Change of Use' might be possible. They are clearly suggesting that yet another housing site might be permitted.

On the subject of applications for house building, the article from Jason of Clifford Constructions has generated considerable comment. One of the questions raised with me concerned the meaning of 'Conservation Area'. In brief, a conservation area is one of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance

of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are three areas that apply to us: Hernhill itself, the Fostall and Dargate. Full details are available on-line from Swale. Some Villagers have put their specific objections in writing to me. I have included earlier representative extracts from a couple of letters. Of course, the important thing for everyone to do now is to make their views known in writing to the Planning Authorities.

As usual, the printers and deliverers and I will be taking a break in the New Year, so there will be no issue of the News in January but I need your articles by Monday 25th for the February issue. I would also like your first look at dates for the rest of the year which I will publish in order to minimise conflicts.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Cheers!

ADT



To book the Village Hall go to www.hernhill-bookings.net

A copy of the Hernhill News and other local information can be found on the Village website. www.hernhill.net

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NEXT ISSUE

**Mon
25th
Jan**



Sun Dec 4	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 6	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Thurs 8	1.00pm	White Horse	Craft Centre lunch
Sat 10	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Fri 16	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sat 17	5.00pm	Village Green	Carols on the Green
Sun 18	4.30pm	Boughton P.C	Lessons and carols
Tues 20	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Sat 24	4.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Crib Service
	11.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Midnight Service
Sun 25	9.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Sun 1 Jan 2017	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 3	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sun 8	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 10	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Fri 13	7.30pm	St. Michael's Ch	Breathing Space
Sun 15	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues17	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection
Sat 21	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 22	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 24	-----	-----	Blue Bin Collection
Wed 25	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 29	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 31	-----	-----	Green Bin Collection