



HERNHILL NEWS

FEBRUARY 2014

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 29th January 2014

Present: Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mr G. Morsman, Mr M Woods, Mrs J. Geliot, Mr A. Chapman, Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). Apologies were received from Mr A. Bowles (County Councillor), Mr G. Bobbin (Borough Councillor), Mr M. Woodcock, Mrs B. Taylor.

The minutes of the following meetings, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read, and signed by the Chairman:

- Meeting of the full Council held on Wednesday 27th November 2013
- Extra-ordinary meeting held on Friday 20th December 2013

Reports: Mr G. Morsman reported that the trees at the top of Fairbrook hill which were falling onto the road have now been cleared.

Mr M. Woods commented on the state of the potholes on the road

between the village green and the church. The Clerk provided some quotes for patching/resurfacing work and will obtain additional quotes for this work prior to the next meeting, with the intention of instructing repair work in spring 2014. It was also reported that the yew tree in the churchyard is to be imminently pollarded and that trees are slipping down the bank into the road near the top of Church Hill (Staplestreet).

Mrs J. Geliot reported that there may not be adequate flood warning information for traffic on the flooded area of road on Staplestreet by Farming World. The Clerk is to investigate options for permanent road signs and to enquire what further remedial work may be undertaken to help resolve the flooding problem.

Mrs H. Figgis reported that the new Hernhill School will be 10 years old this year. It was also noted that the road sign at the Fostall turning off the Thanet Way has not yet been repaired (raised back to full height). KCC recently performed a site visit

Chairman: Helen Figgis 01227 751149
e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Sarah Muteham 01227 751053 or 07740 706189
e-mail herhillclerk@gmail.com

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840
and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

to the blocked/overflowing drain opposite The Dove but have yet to confirm what works have/will be done to remedy the flooding problem on Plumpudding Lane. It was also noted that the blocked drain at Godfrey's Grave has not yet been cleared and that the white road markings in the same area are in need of re-painting.

The finance report of 29th January 2014 was approved.

Planning: SW/13/1566 - a request for the retention of an illuminated sign. '*Thanet Way Service Station*'. The Council have no adverse comments.

TC/14/0005 - To reduce two Sycamores and one Beech by 30% at 2, Church Farm Cottage, Kays Lane. The Council have no adverse comments.

SW/13/1492 - a request for the erection of a detached property with associated landscaping and parking at Church Hill School Mews. The Council have no adverse comments.

Following correspondence with Swale Planning Department, there has been no further update on the planning application SW/13/1447 regarding the caravan on Plumpudding Lane.

Correspondence: an invitation has been received to attend the annual Civic Service at Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday 11th March.

Sue Owen is developing a website with accessible information relating to those named on the War Memorial.

The 'Kent Men of The Trees' have offered the Parish Council a silver birch tree.

The following items are to be placed on February agenda: Allotments, 1914/18 commemoration, Highways.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 26th February at 8:00pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

FAVERSHAM'S MINOR INJURIES SERVICE

Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is taking action following the request from local councillors and patients to try and keep Faversham's Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) open.

A steering group has been established by the CCG to review the process used last year to find a new provider for the minor injuries service. That process ended without success, resulting in

the CCG announcing that the MIU would have to close. After concern from the community, the CCG has arranged to keep the MIU open until September while it carries out a new review. The steering group includes representatives from Faversham GPs, The Friends of Faversham Cottage Hospital and Community Health Centres, Faversham Town Council, Faversham patients, Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council and Healthwatch.

The review will include:

- How the service specification was developed
- The process that the CCG used to try to find a new provider
- The feasibility of providing X-ray services.

Each area of the review will involve members from the steering group and a report will be produced. This report will be presented to Kent County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (KCC's HOSC) at the end of April and used to help decide on the next steps.

Dr Geoff Jones, NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCG clinical lead for community services, said: "The current provider has agreed to continue the Faversham minor injuries service until September 2014. This allows us plenty of time to undertake a full and thorough review. We, like the people of Faversham, were disappointed that the original procurement process failed to identify a provider that was able to continue the MIU service and also offer X-ray facilities in Faversham. And that's why this review is so important – we want to work with local people and organisations to look back at everything that has been done to date. If we missed something the first time

round or there are changes that could be made to help secure the future of Faversham's minor injuries service, then we want to know about it."

It is anticipated that the review will be completed by April. The CCG has requested to attend the KCC's HOSC April meeting to inform members on the outcome of the review. If anyone has any comments or concerns that they would like to discuss they can call 01227 791359, email c4.ccg@nhs.net or write to the CCG: NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCG, Brook House, John Wilson Business Park, Reeves Way, Chestfield, Whitstable, CT5 3DD.

An innovative new NHS service has been used more than 3,000 times by more than 2,100 people in its first month. Since its launch in December the web app, 'Health Help Now', has helped people from across the Canterbury and Coastal area get more in control of their own health by providing a quick guide to the right treatment for their symptoms. It also provides advice on whether a person may need to visit a pharmacy, their GP practice, or contact other services such as NHS 111.

FIREWORKS

The annual Fireworks Display at Mount Ephraim is run by a team of volunteers. Many of these dedicated people have been involved for more than ten years. Several key organisers wish to step back from future events and replacements for these people MUST be found otherwise the 2014 display will not go

ahead.

A open meeting for all interested parties is being held on Wednesday 12th February from 7.00pm to 11.00pm in Hernhill Village Hall. Please come along at any point and show your support for this fantastic local event.

Thanks

Simon Carroll DCA Chairman

CHURCH URBAN FUND

Please will you bring your boxes (or cheques) to church as soon as possible. If by any chance you do not have a box, then please let me know. This is a very worthy cause and in times of economic pressure, your contribution is much needed.

Barbara Taylor
01227 751293

THE FOLLOWING ARE COPIES OF LETTERS BETWEEN ME AND THE RT. HON. HUGH ROBERTSON MP

e-mail taylornews@hotmail.co.uk

9th January 2014

Dear Mr. Robertson,

There is growing concern that this Government has turned its back on the countryside. Your support with respect to a local issue would help to counter this view.

Dargate is a small hamlet in the middle of farmland on the outskirts of Hernhill, near Faversham. Some years ago we had to fight-off having a rubbish dump built on some of that land. Now we are faced with the first stage of urban development on adjacent land. Local residents are furious at an apparent lack of determined action by the authorities.

Overnight a static caravan has been established on the edge of a field in Plumpudding Lane. The owners have put down hard-standing; put up fencing, gates, sheds, a post box and connected a telephone line. This unauthorised development is clearly a precursor to further development on this land which is established for agricultural use.

Your help in preserving a little of the countryside for future generations is urgently required.

This open letter will be published in the next issue of the Hernhill News. A response from you for publication would be most welcome. If you wish to do so, please send your letter to taylornews@hotmail.co.uk. The closing date for articles is Monday 27th January.

Yours faithfully,

Alan D. Taylor

cc. Mr. Andrew Bowles
4, Selling Court
Selling
near Selling
KENT ME13 9RJ



Alan D Taylor Esq
Yew Tree House
Dargate
Faversham
Kent
ME13 9HG

Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP
Faversham and Mid Kent
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

11 The Square
Lenham
Kent
ME17 2PQ

Tel: 01622 851616
Fax: 01622 850294
Website: www.hughrobertson.org.uk

10 January 2014

Dear Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your e-mail about travellers in Dargate. It was kind of you to let me have your views.

I agree with your sentiments entirely. As you may know, I have written, met with, and had endless conversations with both Swale and Maidstone Borough Council, the police, parish councils and residents along similar lines over previous cases.

As a result, I will write to the Chief Executive of Swale Borough Council on your behalf. I will let you know as soon as I receive an answer.

Incidentally, whilst writing, it is ridiculous to allege that the government has 'turned its back' on the countryside. I made my Maiden Speech on the countryside, have lived in this area all my life and spend a considerable amount of my time on rural issues. Indeed, I visited Hernhill Primary School, with Helen Figgis, only a couple of months ago. This accusation comes from the New Year coverage of the lack of a vote to repeal the Hunting Bill. The brutal fact is that we do not have the Parliamentary numbers and so any such vote would be lost.

All my very best wishes.

Yours etc.

H.R.

The response from Swale is one the next page.

Swale House, East Street,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT
DX59990 Sittingbourne 2
Phone: 01795 417394
Fax: 01795 417141
chiefexecutive@swale.gov.uk
www.swale.gov.uk



Rt Hon. Hugh Robertson MP,
11 The Square,
Lenham, Kent,
ME17 2PQ

23 January 2014

Dear Hugh,

Mr Taylor - Development on Land at Plumpudding Lane

I refer to your letter dated 10 January 2014 in respect of the above matter, and note your comments.

I am able to advise you that this matter has already come to the attention of my Council. Initial information that some form of development was being undertaken was received by the Enforcement Team on 11 October 2013, which caused an immediate site inspection to be undertaken by Planning Enforcement staff.

This inspection confirmed that a caravan had been located on the land, along with some outbuildings (dog kennels) etc which did not benefit from any planning permission. Officers were advised by the occupiers that they were living in the caravan but had nowhere else to go. They were also advised that a planning application had already been submitted to the Council.

On returning to the office the Enforcement staff were advised that an application had been submitted but was invalid due to lack of details. A decision was taken to restrict any further development on the site, and accordingly a Temporary Stop Notice was served on 16 October 2014.

Since then, whilst the original application remains invalid, a second valid application has now been submitted (reference SW/13/1447) which is now under consideration. Both applications essentially identify the development as being for the siting of a caravan, store shed, dog and animal housing, and the use of the land as a small holding, although include differing supporting details.

As you will see, whilst the site will continue to be monitored, the situation is being dealt with under normal development management procedures by way of the consideration of an appropriate application. Please do let me know should you require any further advice.

Yours sincerely,

Abdool Kara
Chief Executive



Are you registered to vote?
www.swale.gov.uk/all_about_voting



THE LION'S ROAR

I'd like to kick off 2014 by saying a massive Happy New Year to you all from me, Charlotte and all the staff here at the Red Lion!

Hopefully you've recovered from the Christmas excesses and finally finished that Christmas cake. If you're already looking for something new to celebrate, well, Valentine's Day is obviously on its way. I'm really impressed with the menu our chef has proposed. Personally I'll be choosing sweet potato and camembert fritters, followed by a classic beef bourguignon. For dessert I'll be tucking into a chocolate torte with honeycomb pieces; whatever you fancy, there's plenty of choice with three courses only setting you back £24.95.

We have been banishing those January blues with our Sunday afternoon jazz sessions. Do join us

on the first and third Sunday of every month. Make a note in your diary for Saturday 1st March and join us for a good old fashioned Village knees up. A reggae band will be providing some dancing tunes and there will be a complimentary hog roast. Just bring your own rolls to share.

Shrove Tuesday is a little later this year (4th March) with our very own "pancake factory" open from 3.30pm onwards. This gives us the opportunity to try out our new crepe stone! For £4.50 treat your kids to pancakes and a drink. We are hoping for a bit of audience participation with the cooking too!

Finally, a massive thank you to all of you who helped spoil 'Honey' over Christmas! She loves all her toys, and clothes, and shoes.....

Ben Edwards

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Between 15th and 16th December items were taken from a stable in the grounds of Kemsdale Stud Farm, Kemsdale Road. The items were later found nearby.

A 42 tonnes Excavator, and a metal gate, was stolen from a compound at Thirwell Farm Wey Street Hernhill Faversham. This happened between 17th and 22nd of January.

Between the 14th and 16th of January two bicycles and a padlock were stolen from a garden shed in Berkeley Close Dunkirk (XY/002050/14)

A strimmer was stolen from a garden shed in Staple Street sometime between the 16th and 17th of Jan-

uary (XY/002077/14)

Several power tools were stolen from a farm property in Courtney Road, Dunkirk between 12th and 19th of January (XY/002119/14).

If you have any information that could help investigators with any of these incidents, please contact Kent Police on telephone number 101 and quote the relevant Crime Number.



Mike Pearce

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 15th March at 3.00pm in the Village Hall, Hernhill. We are hoping for a good attendance.

The first event of this year will be the Spring Show. This will be held

on Saturday 29th March in the Village Hall.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Allan George on Monday 23rd December 2013. He had been a member for many years and our former show secretary.

Peter Bentley

1914/18

Over the past 12 years my husband and I have been researching the stories behind the names on the local war memorials of Boughton, Dunkirk and Hernhill. To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in

August this year, we are updating our material, as more information has become available. We are in the process of developing a website to make our research widely accessible. The work should be finished by early this summer.

Sue Owen



HARENHYLLE

I was recently asked if I knew of the origins of the name of the Village. Extensive research was carried out by Ricky Holdstock (The original editor of the 'News'). This was his assessment.

"Hernhill was named centuries ago by people who lived elsewhere and who wished to identify the location of this community, to distinguish it from all others. There has been much speculation on the derivation of the name. It has nothing to do with the mythical Herne the Hunter, that's for sure; and 'Herons' Hill' can also be discounted, as the word did not enter the language of

north Kent until long after the first documented mention of the place. Other suggestions include "grey hill", and "hill on a comer"; even less likely are "hill with a stone altar" and "high ground with woodland".

The most probable derivation is from the Old English word for hares (They can still be seen cavorting on the slopes to the east of the church). So Hernhill (Harenhyll) is taken to mean "the hill of the hares", a creature highly venerated by the Celts. The Parish Council has taken the representation of a hare coursing uphill as the Hernhill's emblem."

ADT

FROM THE VICAR

Bananas - we love them - and not only in this country, they are the most popular and most traded fruit in the world. In the UK alone we eat

over 5 billion of them a year and in 2012 we spent over £550 million on our favourite fruit. Bananas are the fourth most important food crop in global agriculture after rice, wheat

and maize. The banana business is booming but not everyone is enjoying the benefits.

The majority of bananas that we eat are grown in Latin America, the Caribbean or Africa, by workers on large plantations or by small scale farmers. Many of these farmers and workers are seeing their earnings cut in real terms while also grappling with rising costs of production. This is because there is severe pressure in the banana business to keep prices low. Intense retail competition in the UK has seen the price we pay for loose bananas slashed to unsustainable levels. In the past ten years, as the cost of producing bananas has doubled, the UK supermarket sector has almost halved the shelf price of loose bananas.

The good news is that since the first 'Fairtrade' bananas appeared on our shelves, 13 years ago, we have achieved a huge amount. More than 1.2 billion Fairtrade bananas are now sold in the UK each year, that's one in every three bananas we buy. Fairtrade provides a vital

safety net for some banana farmers and workers by paying a minimum price that aims to cover the costs of sustainable production, and an additional premium that farmers can use to invest in community projects or to improve their businesses. This empowers producers to take control of their lives and provide their families with the basics such as education and healthcare. But, too many still suffer. Their problem is the price we pay for the other bananas.

The Fairtrade Foundation is taking this issue as the primary focus of Fairtrade Fortnight which begins on Monday 24th February. We need to act to ensure a fair deal for all banana farmers and workers. If all supermarkets are unable to make pricing work for both consumers and farmers, the Fairtrade Foundation believes it is time for the government to step in to end these unfair practices. We must act now to deliver a fair deal to all banana farmers and workers. Together we can make bananas fair.

Revd Jean Burrows



I would like to thank all of you who sponsored me for the 'MOVEMBER' mens cancer charity with your help I raised £137.00

Tony Chapman.

BITS AND PIECES

A cartoon in the Telegraph by 'Matt' summed up the Christmas and New Year weather succinctly; it showed a man saying, "I'm just going out to scrape the barnacles off my car". On one morning over that period I was greeted with a river across the

end of my drive. Clearing the drain improved that situation a lot but the usual dips in the roads around the Village have been impassable at times and some have had their cars badly damaged as a result. There were also some in the Village who were even worse off, they lost their

electricity and gas supplies for days. I have begun to feel that the rains will never cease. Perhaps we will be spared hosepipe bans in the future but we might have to invest in amphibious cars.

The surprise has been that, despite the soggi-ness of the garden, Spring flowers are already coming out. I even have had some roses come into flower.



let properly. I now know that they will take milk cartons, clothing and even small electrical items and bat-teries for recycling. Excellent! How-ever, their leaflet makes the point

that we should con-tinue to support charity collection and these will con-tinue to be found at the Village Hall.

You will have seen the notice about an

open meeting on the subject of the firework display for Guy Fawkes Night. For many years this event has been a considerable social and financial success. The work of or-ganising it has fallen on the same old few, year after year. The need now is for new people to take over. Please don't be shy. Volunteers are needed.

I didn't know until the message from Peter Bentley that Allan George had died. As Peter says, Allan was a very active member of the Horti-cultural Society over many years. Those of us who have lived here a while will also remember him in the plays put on in the Village Hall by the, regrettably now defunct, Hern-hill Players. Those of us who knew him send our condolences to his family.

I wonder if any others were tricked by the refuse collectors. I managed to get the days right for the Christ-mas collection, but I was caught out by the removal of the inner bin for glass. I even rang the Council to find out if someone had pinched it. That will teach me to read their leaf-

I took a peek at a letter to Barbara about 'Staplegate'. I am delighted to see that it has had a successful first year and is looking forward to 2014. I'm sure that new members would be warmly welcomed. Exist-ing members or Lesley Holmes (01227 750380) will be able to help.

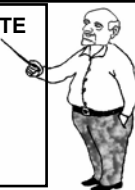
ADT

To book the Village Hall www.hernhill-booking.net

Alan D. Taylor
Yew Tree House, Dargate
near Faversham, Kent ME13 9HG
01227 751293
e-mail taylornews@hotmail.co.uk

COPY DATE

**Mon
24th
Feb**



Sat 1 Feb	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion (Plough Sunday)
Tues 4	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 5	7.45pm	Dunkirk Hall	Staplegate
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 11	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 12	7.00pm	Village Hall	Fireworks Event - open meeting
Sat 15	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 18	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Mon 24	-----	-----	Fairtrade fortnight begins
Tues 25	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 26	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 2 Mar	10.00am	Village School	Education Sunday
Tues 4	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 5	7.45pm	Dunkirk Hall	Staplegate
Sun 9	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 11	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 15	3.00pm	Village Hall	Horticultural Soc AGM
	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 16	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 18	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 23	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 25	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 26	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sat 29	-----	Village Hall	Horticultural Society Spring Show
Sun 30	Tba	Tba	Mothering Sunday



PUBLISHED BY
COURTESY OF
HERNHILL PARISH
COUNCIL