



HERNHILL NEWS

JUNE 2010

PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Council took place on Wednesday 26th May. With the exception of Mrs Taylor, who sent apologies, all Councillors were present, as were Mr Bowles and the Clerk. Mr Bobbin also sent apologies for absence, having to attend another meeting. The first business of the meeting, to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year, resulted in Mrs Figgis and Mr Chapman being unanimously re-elected to those posts.

Reports: the Clerk said that within the past few hours he had been informed by Councillor Bobbin that the appeal by Moneypeak, to develop premises at Waterham Road had been successful. No written confirmation of this is to hand.

Financial report: the Clerk said that the recorded balance in the most recent bank statement of £4402.61 agreed with the Council's records.

Annual Audit: the Clerk informed the meeting that such micro-accountancy was now required by the

Audit Commission that a task which used to occupy approximately a half-day now took up to 20 hours to complete. The Council's Internal Auditor, required by law, also requires some four hours and is also a chargeable expense, in addition to the Audit Commission's hefty account. Whilst acknowledging that the accounts being audited involve public money, and that particular care should be taken, nevertheless it is felt that having to explain why the Council's expenditure was marginally smaller in 2009/10 than in 2008/9 seems a somewhat extraneous exercise.

Mr Chapman said that a resident of Staple Street had complained to him about the serious parking problem caused by vehicles parked at the Church Hill/Staple Street junction. Cars are parked on the extreme corner which makes it practically impossible for HGV's to exit Church Hill without causing damage to property or to other vehicles. The police have now become involved and have made two suggestions - double yellow lines,

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e-mail helen@lavenderfarm.plus.com

Clerk: Terry Smart; phone 01227 274047

Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 767423

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

or a prohibiting sign. Both of these have been asked for by the Parish Council in recent years without success so the outcome of the present alleged cure is awaited with interest. The complaint by a member of the public concerning the operation of a trade or business being carried on at Church Mews has, it is hoped, been resolved. Development Control Officers of Swale's Planning Department have decided that a breach of planning control has not occurred, but should the number of

clients increase or any other changes be made, the matter would be reconsidered.

Mrs Figgis announced that the school would be available to children's parents on 15th July next, from 9.30am to 11.30am, to enable parents and potential pupils to look around the school and its attractive environs.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting to be closed at 8.55pm.

PLEASE HELP

We need a part time cleaner to look after the Village Hall, set heating times for bookings and report on any damage etc that may occur.

The post is flexible in terms of hours but amounts to around 2 or 3 hours per week on average.

Please contact me on 0773 6463921

David Mann
Chairman

ART EXHIBITION



Over twenty artists, including many distinguished local artists, will be exhibiting their paintings, drawings, textiles etc in St. Michael's Church, Hernhill. This will be a rare opportunity and you will be able to purchase some of the items on display; so make a note of the dates in your diary.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June, 10.00am till 6.00pm.

If you would like more information about the exhibition, please contact Brian Jelfs, 01227 752309 or Janet Macintosh 01227 750374

SHOES NEWS

On Friday 11th June, we have 'Tim Haine' playing at the pub, 8.30pm start. On Saturday 26th June, we have 'Bad Influence' here at

8.30pm.

Tales from the bar

The local vet and his wife Mr and Mrs George like to go walking in the Lake District. Last year they were

chased by a goat. Going back for more this year Clifford spotted a pregnant cow in distress. Tracey stood and watched Clifford walk towards the cow but then the only words that could be heard were, "RUN!" I would like to have seen the two bolting down that field.

Michael, big Michael as he is known in the pub, had to drive a bride to the church in a Rolls Royce. Once the bride was in the church, he tried to move the car but it would not start. Lifting the bonnet up, he starts banging the starter motor. When the AA arrives he says that the

problem will be the starter motor. Michael says, "I've tried that mate but the starter motor still won't work". "That's funny." says the AA guy, "First car I have seen with two of them. There is one over here as well". Michael had been banging the alternator, what a plonker!

Well, I've packed a few more boxes. All the Star Trek videos are binned but then I did find three more hidden ones. The most frequent word from my mouth at the moment is "BINNIT!"

Have a good month.

Vera

STAPLEGATE WI

Coffee was a big part of our meeting this month. We were given the opportunity to taste three different ground coffees from the Fairtrade enterprise, and give our views on aroma, flavour and colour to give feedback with notes. A very convivial evening, but everybody seemed to take the tasting seriously.

There was also the important resolution to discuss on the need for manufacturers and supermarkets to have clear and unequivocal labelling on foodstuffs as to the country of origin. This is important in order that consumers can make informed choice when shopping. The result

of our consultation will be forwarded to the National Office.

Future plans include a lunch at Eastwell Manor and the 'Associated Countrywomen of the World' lunch next month.

Thanks were given to everybody who helped to make the Village Fete such a great success.

We meet every second Wednesday in the month at 7.45pm in Hernhill Village Hall and we welcome guests and new members. My apologies to Sheldwich WI as it was their members who visited us last month, not Selling WI.

Liz Walton

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The summer show is on Saturday 12th June. It will open at 2.00pm to the public. This is the show when the Mary Dawes Memorial Vase is presented for the best rose as voted by the people attending the show. We need lots of roses and lots of

people to vote, please support us. We are introducing a plant stall at our show. If you have any spare plants, bring them along between 9.45am to 11.15am or 2.00pm and please remember to put a price tag on your plants.

Garden outing on Thursday 15th

July is a full day coach trip visiting two gardens. Nymans Garden, West Sussex, (the garden has disabled access) and also High Beeches Garden, West Sussex (the garden has limited disabled access). This is our annual coach outing and the coach will leave Mount Ephraim car park promptly at 9.00am. To book a place please phone Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128 and send a deposit of £10 per person to Rebecca Parr at Southland, Church Hill, Hernhill, Faversham, Kent. Cheques should be made payable to Hernhill Horticultural Society. The total cost of the outing depends on numbers, but will not exceed £25. For those who only pay the deposit, please send the £15 balance before the 1st July. Nymans is a National Trust garden and National Trust members are entitled to free entry. Please remember to bring your membership card, we will reimburse you at the end of the day.

There will be a visit to Great Comp Garden near Borough Green on Saturday 7th August. Meet in the

car park there at 11.00am. The entrance fee is £5.50 (Concessions £5.00). Car share if possible and contact Isabel if you have a spare place or wish to travel with someone else. The garden has a 'Plantsman's Paradise' award winning nursery. (Disabled access). There will be an evening garden visit to Godmersham Park Gardens (between Chilham and Ashford on the A28) on Thursday 27th May at 6.30pm. Meet at the gardens. The entrance fee is £4.00. Please car share if possible. Isabel apologises for increase in entrance fee to £4.00 instead of £3.50 as originally quoted.

For anymore information on outings please call Isabel Pettifer on 01227 751128

Helen and I are opening our garden at 41, Clover Rise on Sunday 4th July between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. Entry for adults £4.00, children £2.00 to included tea and cake. All proceeds go to the Pilgrims Hospice and Air Ambulance. We look forward to seeing you.

Peter Bentley

DOWN AT THE DOVE

May has proved to be a busy month at The Dove as we hosted our Quiz Night and Pie and Mash Evening. Congratulations to 'Guys Aloud' who were overall winners of the Pub Quiz held on Sunday 2nd May. You surprisingly proved that our best customers, family members and staff have much of the brains of the village (and no, it really wasn't a fix). Team 'Just for Men' used their grey matter to gain sec-

ond prize - a tour of the famous Shepherd Neame Brewery in Faversham. Enjoy!

The Pie and Mash night was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who entered into true Cockney spirit enjoying music from 'Chase 'n' Dave' and snippets of Cockney Rhyming Slang as the East End took over The Dove for one night only. The traditional Pie, Mash 'n' Liquor with jellied eels was soooo good some guests happily polished

off a second helping..... you know who you are!

Our next fundraising event will be on Sunday 27th June when we anticipate that our fifth 'Day of Roast' will further boost our contribution to MacMillan Cancer Support. And coming soon.... a fresh exhibi-

tion of photography from a local photographer will be displayed at The Dove.

Lastly, our Summer opening hours are here. The bar will stay open on Sundays until 8.00pm (all the time we have customers willing to drink)!

Sarah

VILLAGE FETE



Saturday 1st May brought the 'Annual Fete'. It is a terrific community event in the Village and attracted even more visitors than before. The weather gave us a window of sunshine, the stalls were splendid, the teas delicious and the Maypole dancing by

the schoolchildren hugely enjoyable.

Sincere thanks are due to the committee, the master of ceremonies, stall holders, helpers and the setting-up and clearing-away crew.

After the expenses, there will be a total of about £4,000 to be shared between the village Hall and the St Michael's Church. What a splendid effort and outcome. Well done!

Barbara Taylor

IT TAKES TWO TO QUANGO

The fragile truce arranged between the Parish Council and the Audit Commission at the end of last year was threatened by the Audit Commission in mid-March this year. Three "bullet points" (the AC's jargon, not mine) arrived, with a curt demand that they be given close attention.

The first - that the Parish Council's Fidelity Assurance Guarantee (FAG) be increased - was nullified before it left the Audit Commission's ivory tower in Plymouth, because the FAG had already been negotiated upwards following a small rise in the Precept for 2010/11.

The second commandment referred to the Risk Assessment which the Parish Council has to carry out each year. This ridiculous requirement had also been completed at the

March Parish Council meeting, and was simply a repeat of last year's farrago of nonsense, in that Councillors, all of whom were present, solemnly considered that the National Westminster Bank was fit and able to handle Hernhill Parish Council's massive resources of approximately £8000. They also took a quick inventory of fingers and toes, broken legs and slipped discs which may have been incurred whilst sitting at tables for approximately one hour, once a month. All of them declared themselves to be reasonably intact.

The third requirement laid down by the Audit Commission is, in my opinion, the most contentious and intrusive in the Parish Council's business. Year after year, the Audit Commission complains that the Parish Council's year-end balance is below what it should be; furthermore, the Audit

Commission will frown on any action by the Parish Council towards securing a bank loan, should that become necessary.

Without exception the Parish Council has, for the past ten years and more, finished the year with a credit bank balance averaging £800-900. Already, Councillors are frustrated that this funding is 'dead' money, which must be retained for emergency purposes. In over 20 years as Clerk such contingencies have never arisen to justify this sum, much less the even greater amount suggested by the Audit Commission.

In my opinion, Councillors are morally correct in their attitude towards the Audit Commission's interference in what is, primarily, a domestic matter. They are aware of the needs of the parish's infrastructure to a far greater extent than a robotic jobsworth in an office three hundred miles from Hernhill.

As a Government quango, it has to be queried as to whether it also advises its boss on how to spend the tax payer's money - if so, it is doing a splendid job.

Terry Smart

POND REPORT

Firstly many thanks for appointing me parish pond warden. I knew little of the post and what it entailed, but it has been a rapid and thorough education. The scheme is run by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and I have attended a full-day induction at Singleton covering health and safety, survey techniques etc. However I should declare a more specific Interest - Herpetofauna, or the amphibians that live in and out of our ponds.

When joining the Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group I confessed to keeping great crested in a tank in my room as a 10-year-old. Disturbing one today could cost £3,000 a newt, but my collecting days were way before the Wildlife and Countryside Act. It turns out that most members started out with a net, jar and wellingtons.

I have been fortunate in that the County Amphibian Recorder for Kent, Dr. Lee Brady, lives at Dunkirk,

and that ecologist Amy Wright is in Boughton. After a survey plotting session in the Three Horseshoes with them, I have been conducting night time newt counts. I have to be with Amy or Lee, as I do not yet qualify for the Great Crested Newt Licence required to touch, or even shine a torch at one.



Or Brady has been a mine of information. Within a couple of hours of me emailing him, he replied with a series of attachments. The first is a Google Earth document showing every pond within 5km of Staplestreet. This is a "live" view from space, but you can close in to about 100ft above Hernhill and check the location. Moreover, each pond marked has a series of symbols attached. Click on the pond marker, then the toad, newt, frog motif or whatever, and it opens out to show full survey details, such as: April 2006: Six smooth newt (female) three male. Great crested: two males one female. Bear in mind

that just about every pond in Kent is covered in this way.

However. ... it turns out that we have more unsurveyed ponds in the village than we might have thought.

Over the last month we have looked at several previously unrecorded pools. The landowners involved could not have been more helpful and we are most grateful.

There is a swimming pond in Sta-

plestreet with dozens of smooth and palmate newts and a field pond near Kemsdale in which 17 great crested were counted last week.

If anyone has any pond or amphibian related questions, please email me on crispin@hernhill.plus.com or phone 07599 797579 - especially if you think you have great crested newts in your garden.

Crispin Whiting

BITS AND PIECES

It is interesting that you can use a phrase repeatedly thinking that everyone knows what it means. I was stopped in my tracks last month when I was asked for the meaning of 'copy date'. I have included this term in every issue over the years without thinking that, of course, it is yet another piece of jargon. What it is intended to convey is that this is the final date for things to be received if they are to be published in the next issue. So 'copy date' means get it to me by then or it wont get published. I have just come back from a short break in Italy. Since I left the weather has been consistently better here than there. What is more, the day after I returned the temperature here dropped ten degrees centigrade. It is as if I carry a personal weather depressor with me. However, it must have been switched off on the day of the fete. It did rain a bit on fete day

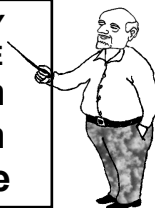
but the day after was appalling. If you remember, it rained hard all day and the roads were flooded. Thank goodness we did not have that weather for the Fete; it would have been a disaster instead of a success. By the way, Kate and Joyce have asked me to pass on their huge thanks to; all the people who made cakes and buns, all the people who helped on the day and 'Young Brothers' for their donations towards costs of running the teas in the Village Hall. Their splendid effort raised £435.

I have been asked by the 'Friends of Graveney Church' to tell you about trips to the London Array site at Cleve Hill. When completed it will be the World's largest and first 1,000MW offshore wind farm. This event is in conjunction with a special weekend at their church on 19th and 20th June. Contacts are Val on 01795 537778 and Sue on 01227 751361.

ADT

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**COPY
DATE
Mon
28th
June**



Jun 1 Tues	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 2	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 6	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 7	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
	8.00pm	Village Hall	Village Hall Committee
Tues 8	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 9	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Sandra Shere, The Samaritans
Sat 12	10.00/6.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Art Exhibition
	-----	Village Hall	Hort Soc Summer Show
Sun 13	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
	10.00/6.00pm	St. Michael's Ch	Art Exhibition
Tues 15	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 20	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 21	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 22	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 27	10.00am	Boughton Ch	Joint Patronal Service
Tues 29	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 30	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
July 4 Sun	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung communion
Mon 5	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 6	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 7	7.45pm	Jubilee Room	WI Committee
Sun 11	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 13	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 14	7.45pm	Village Hall	WI - Carol Phillpott, Rag rugs
Thurs 15	9.00am	Mount Ephraim	Horticultural day out
Sun 18	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	All Ages Service
Mon 19	2.00pm	Village Hall	Monday Club
Tues 20	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 25	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy communion
Tues 27	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 28	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council