



HERNHILL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th August.

Present: Mrs H. Figgis (Chairman), Mr G. Morsman, Mr A. Chapman, Mrs J. Geliot, Mr M. Cooper, Mr M. Woods, Mr A. Bowles (County & Borough Councillor), Mrs S. Muteham (Clerk). *Also present was one member of the public. There were apologies from Mr G. Bobbin (Borough Councillor) and Mr M. Woodcock.*

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30th July were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising: The concerns regarding the water running down the hill at Fairbrook were again discussed, following a letter from a local landowner who believes that the water is coming from temporary springs in the land. The factor contributing to the excess water at the bottom of the hill is the blocked drain. The Clerk stated that she had recently been in touch with KCC to request that the drain be

cleared to try and remedy the situation before the winter. The drains at Godfreys Grave are still not working properly and the Clerk will liaise with KCC to see what can be done. The drains at Oakwell have been cleared. KCC have recently refreshed the white lines on the road at the junction of Church Hill and Staplestreet, although this has not remedied the potential safety hazard of visibility for vehicles turning at the junction. The Clerk is to investigate the possibility of extending the white lines.

Reports: Mr Morsman reported that some of the local public footpaths which were previously overgrown have now been cleared by KCC and that the litter bin at Staplestreet needs to be emptied. It was also noted that Mr Morsman had recently treated the wood on the seat at Staplestreet. Mr Chapman commented that although KCC had been out to inspect the sinking pothole between the old school and Red Lion, it appears to have sunk further. The matter will be raised again with KCC. Several residents have re-

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Clerk: Sarah Muteham phone 07740 706189

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Swale Representatives: Andrew Bowles; phone 01227 752840

and George Bobbin; phone 01227 751388

KCC Representative: Andrew Bowles

ported concerns over dog mess through the Village and the Parish Council wishes to remind people that there is a dog bin on the Village Hall playing field. It was also reported that several residents had voiced concerns over the number of vehicles parking on the road at the recent music event held at the Red Lion, which at times was causing obstructions to the footways. Mr Woods highlighted the fact that the road surface between the Village Hall and Godfreys Grave has started to look as if it needs resurfacing. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of road repairs. Mr Cooper reported that one allotment is in need of tidying. Mrs Figgis commented that the roadside hedges around the Parish would benefit from cutting and the Clerk will ask KCC if there can be an additional visibility cut in the area. It was also noted that the hedge by Brooklyn House in Dargate is again obstructing visibility on the road.

Planning: SW/13/1447 - *Evaluna*, the matter has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate and is awaiting a decision. Following conversations with Swale Planning Department, the

Clerk was informed that this decision may take several months. Concerns were also raised regarding the animal noise generated from the site and this will be investigated further.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Kent Air Ambulance asking for donations. It was agreed that the Parish Council would donate the sum of £100 to the charity. An email was received from KCC requesting that the Parish Council agree on a suitable place to relocate "The mighty and marvellous oak" information board that was previously located outside the Red Lion. It was agreed that it should be located next to the Parish Council notice board (subject to agreement by the conservation officer at Swale Borough Council). An invitation was received from Citizens Advice Bureau for the AGM on 9th September.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be on Wednesday 24th September at 8:00pm. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

I will start this month's report where I finished last month. My visit to the Marlowe to see my granddaughter Molly in *Oliver* exceeded all our expectations. Like all the parents and grandparents present I, of course, thought our child was the star. However I must praise the standard of the whole show.

The following day (Saturday) I attended the Executive Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils. This is the umbrella body to which almost all Parish and Town Councils in

Kent belong. This was the first Executive I had attended since being elected as a Vice President. We had the National Association Chief Executive in attendance to speak and take questions.

I have been a Parish Councillor since 1976. Parishes are the most local level of Local Government in England. They have many potential powers and responsibilities and are consulted on all Local Planning Applications. To be accepted by the other layers of Local Government as a truly representative democratic voice of their communities

it is vital that the members are democratically elected. Too many of the seventeen Parish Councils within my County Division never have contested Elections and many are currently operating with vacancies they are unable to fill. As an example, Lynsted and Kingsdown Parish Council had to abandon their August meeting as there were not enough Parish Councillors able to attend to form a quorum. Please consider putting your name forward for election to your Local Parish Council. Elections for all of our Parish Councils take place next May. For many of our Parishes this only entails attendance at one statutory meeting per month and some background reading. Send a clear message that your Parish Council genuinely reflects the views and has the support of its residents as evidenced through the ballot box. If you require any more information please contact the Clerk to your Parish Council, alternatively I would be more than pleased to discuss the role with any potential candidates in my Division. Most of my Parish Councils choose not to meet in August but since my last newsletter I have attended Lynsted Parish Council on the last week of July and Selling Parish Council in August. Although August is traditionally the quietest month in Local Government my diary has been fuller than usual with one or more meetings most days. I substituted for the unwell Councillor Colin Prescott at the August Planning Committee Meeting which enabled me to support both Dunkirk and Selling Parish Councils on applications within my Borough Ward. On the Tuesday evening before drafting this report I attended Swale's Rural Forum held in Leysdown. Despite many usual attendees being unavail-

able, harvesting etc, we had some very good debates on Rural Apprenticeships, the new Leader Funding Programme for Rural Businesses which will run until 2020, World War I commemoration events and the never ending intractable problem of parking issues at village schools.

September looks to be horrendously busy. Every organisation to which I belong seems to wish to hold a September meeting, having in many cases, had August off. As well as Parish Councils there are meetings scheduled in my diary for the Environment Agency Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority, Swale Joint Transport Board, Kent and Medway Economic Partnership, Mid Kent Improvement Partnership Board, Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel, Faversham Area and Sittingbourne Area Local Engagement Forums, Kent Council Leaders, Swale Health and Wellbeing Board, Full Meetings of both Swale Borough and Kent County Councils, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership along with an unusually large number of Kent County Council Committees.

I am sure that you all share my shock and concern at the recent Care Quality Commission Report on our local hospitals. On receipt of this I immediately contacted the Chairman of Kent County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to request the matter be added as an emergency item on the next agenda. This he has agreed to and there will be an initial report at our September meeting followed by a fuller debate in October.

Andrew Bowles

'BIG SUMMER DO'

On Sunday 10th August, with rain, wind and chilly weather, the annual Children's Society 'Do', planned for the Village Green, took place in St. Michael's Church, Hernhill but it did not feel like summer!

It was too dangerous for the Teddy Bears to risk injury by parachuting from the church tower as planned, and the stalls and refreshments moved into the church. A very successful fund raising event was warmly supported by Villagers, their families and friends. It was particularly pleasing to see so many children from Messy Church involved with the event. A big 'thank you' to everyone who supported us in any way by

running stalls, providing refreshments, arranging children's activities and spending money.

The annual box-opening raised £298 and an amazing £609 from the stalls and refreshments was added to the final total of over £907 to send to the Children's Society. This money will provide support for the many vulnerable children who need our help and we are very grateful for your enthusiastic support. If you would like a special box for those annoying coins that weigh down your purse, then please phone me on 01227 752309.

Thank you
Doreen Jelfs

DOVE DOINGS

Ladies, are you at a loose end after dropping the children at school, or would you simply like to get out of the house for a morning and have a good natter over a nice coffee and some scrummy cake? If so, come along to The Dove on the second Thursday of every month at 10.00am for our Coffee Morning.

Summer is still here (hopefully)! So, come along to our lovely garden and join us for one of our regular Summer Barbecues. Ben will still be cooking his excellent food in the main kitchen, but there will also be more traditional barbecue fare available from our new summer kitchen and bar area in the garden. Bat and Trap League, Wednesday evenings. Come and support our local teams for League games and, if you really enjoy it, why not sign up to have

a go and play. We also have regular Bat and Trap social events.

Come along to our regular 'Pie and a Pint' evenings on autumn/winter Wednesdays at £10.00 per head.

Dust off those 'little grey cells' and come along to the next of our regular monthly Quiz Nights on Thursday 18th September at 7.00pm and win something exciting!!

There will be a Classic Car Meet on Sunday 28th September. Come along and enjoy great food, great music and a great welcome, not to mention some spectacular cars. We have large gardens and a huge car parking area so come and join us.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@thedoveinn) or Facebook (The Dove at Dargate) to find out what other interesting things are going on.

Chris and Dee

FROM THE VICAR

In July I had the privilege of going on a pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine staying in memorable locations by the Sea of Galilee, in Bethlehem (right on Manger Square) and Jerusalem (just inside the old city wall by the Jaffa Gate). The

recent indiscriminate bombing of Gaza by Israel had just begun and we were aware of some tensions. Sitting in a church in the old city and hearing gunfire going on outside and thinking this is what millions of people live with everyday is something I won't forget quickly.

This was my fourth trip to Israel and Palestine so had visited most of the Christian sites before, what was memorable about this trip was the wonderful people I met, Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians and learning more about life in the Holy Land.

One particularly memorable person was a young woman who worked in the International Centre of Bethlehem, an ecumenical project focusing on serving the whole Palestinian community with an emphasis on children, youth and women. She adamantly refused to focus on the negatives, and there were plenty, like not being allowed to leave Bethlehem, and she was so positive about the Centre's work and what they were able to achieve.

I met an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Muslim linked through the tragic deaths of their young daughters by their 'enemy'. Both had been on a long journey

from wanting revenge to a place of forgiveness, and the friendship and respect between them was palpable.

One of the words I hold onto amongst all the conflict in the world, is 'hope'. For me Christian hope isn't a vague hope that it will all work out all right in the end but seeing the positive signs despite the warfare, There are many projects working for peace and reconciliation and these are all signs of hope. The work is often discouraging and it would be easy to give up but they know the solution to Israel and Palestine's problems won't be solved through warfare, at some stage they will have to sit down and talk. As I remember the people I met I can continue to pray for them, they are like candles in the darkness, but even a small candle can shed a lot of light.

Revd Jean Burrows

HARVEST SUPPER



Saturday 4th October is the date for this year's Harvest Supper. Again, this to be held in the Village Hall.

Come and enjoy an evening of good company and a tasty, home-cooked supper. All for the price of just £8.00, or £5.00 for children under 12 years. Just bring your own glasses and drink. The time is 7.00pm for 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Tickets will be available from Joy Pritchard (01227 750372) or Barbara Taylor (01227 751293).

VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the AGM of the Village Hall Committee will be on Monday 6th October at 7.30pm in the village hall.

This is your opportunity to elect your committee. We have a vacancy at the moment owing to Liz Walton deciding

to step down. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz on behalf of the trustees for all the hard work that she has done in the past. I hope to see you at the village hall. Thank you.

Peter Rawlins
Chairman, Village Hall Committee

ARTISTS CALENDAR 2016

It is proposed to publish another Hernhill Artists Calendar for 2016 provided sufficient enthusiasm and interest is

shown. A letter has already been sent to a number of local artists but it is very, very possible there are others in or around Hernhill who might like to con-

sider offering their work for publication. Fine art can be in any medium, oil, watercolour, pen and ink, acrylic, pastel. Local scenes, buildings are preferable although coastal scenes of Whitstable, Seasalter and the Swale are always attractive. We normally request one or two works, no more and from the collection we make our choices for the

calendar. The calendar raises money for the restoration of St. Michael's Church Hernhill. If you are interested, please contact me either by telephone. 01227 752309 or by email brian.jelfs3@btinternet.com. Many thanks.

Brian Jelfs

TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTE JUMP

This had to be postponed in August because the bad weather conditions made it too dangerous for the Teddies to jump, we are hoping for calmer weather for the new date Sunday 28 September. Teddies will be taken aloft in the teddy bear basket, we all shout 'Ready, Teddy, go,' Teddy is launched by the organisers from the tower roof and Teddy's descent is timed. As several adults prepared their teddies to jump in August there will be 2 categories – adult and children - with prizes for the slowest descent in both. In the event of a tie, the Teddies will have to jump again. There is also a prize for the best dressed Teddy with parachute. Every Teddy that completes



a jump will receive a special 'Bearavery Certificate'.

If your Teddy is injured First Aid will be on paw from the Paratedics and Teddy-medics in the Tederal Centre.

All brave bears will be asked to pay £2.00 for their very daring jump, or £5.00 per family, in aid of St Michael's Church, Hernhill. There is no need to enter in advance, just turn up on the day at 2.30pm. There will

also be refreshments to help sustain Teddy owners.

All Teddies and their owners are welcome. Teddy must come wearing a parachute so that he is ready to jump. More info from

Revd Jean Burrows (01227 751410).

FOR SALE

Black, male labrador pedigree puppy.

Phone Helen
07775 426551



HERNHILL SCHOOL

The school will be having the usual splendid fete on Saturday 20th September between 12.30 and 3.30pm. Put a note in your diary and if you need further information, get in touch with Emma Dowling, school secretary.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Autumn Show will be on Saturday 20th September in Hernhill Village Hall. It will be open to public at 2.00pm, with the presentations at 3.00pm followed by an auction of produce. Staging of entries is 9.45am to 11.15am. Entry is free. **NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER 11.15am.** Please come along and support us, just one more entry helps to

make the show.

The quiz held on Friday 8th August proved to be a real success with six tables taking part. Jean James's table were the winners and received the garden vouchers. Thank you to Mark for organizing the quiz and Mark Thomas for the scoring.

Peter Bentley

VACANCIES?

I am looking to relocate to the Village and thought that a good place to start would be the 'News'. For example, "Quiet, professional man seeks single accommodation within Hernhill. Non-smoker aged 48, member of Faver-

sham Baptist Church would like to relocate to the country. Good references available. Please call 07515 162819"

Yours sincerely Alan Barnes
226b Tankerton Road,
Whitstable CT5 2AY

BITS AND PIECES

There has been a recent significant improvement in our sporting achievements. After the ignominious defeats in the tests in Australia and in the soccer in South America, we have been able to enjoy a comfortable win against the Indian Cricket Team and coming top of the medals list in the Commonwealth Games. However, on the wider front, there is widespread and bitter fighting in the Middle East and now there are serious race riots in the Southern State of America. Despite the weather, and it has been raining all day, isn't it good to live here?



Of course, nothing is perfect. We are still plagued with thefts. Neighbourhood Watch has sent out a warning following a number of thefts in the Hernhill area. A spokesman said: "Please be aware that there has been several sheds, and cars broken into and bicycles have also been stolen all over Swale. Security mark your tools if possible and do not store anything of value in your vehicle, partic-

ularly Sat Navs. Bicycles can be registered with immobilise.com so please consider this and hopefully get your property back." Hernhill Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators can supply security markers. Phone Mike Pearce on 01227 751356. He has a limited number available.

The long promised repair of the atrocious road surface on the road from Dargate to Dunkirk is at last about to happen. At least there is a road sign to that effect. I'm waiting with bated breath. This month sees the Scottish vote on separation. Weather forecasters have massive facilities at their disposal to help them to forecast and they often fail to get the weather right a week ahead. The predictions about the long term future for Scotland don't seem to me to have any chance of being accurate. I am glad that I don't have to vote on it. The apple harvest will be celebrated at Mount Ephraim on Sunday 14th September. There will be a lot to enjoy and, of course the Craft Centre will be open in the stable yard with many different, locally made craft items for sale.

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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COPY DATE

Mon
22nd
Sep



Tues 2 Sep	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sun 7	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 9	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sat 13	-----	-----	Ride and stride
Sun 14	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 16	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 20	-----	Village Hall	Hort Soc Autumn Show
	12.30pm	Hernhill School	School fete
	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 21	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Patronal festival
Tues 23	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Wed 24	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council
Sun 28	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 30	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 4 Oct	7.00pm	Village Hall	Harvest supper
Sun 5	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Harvest Festival
Mon 6	7.30pm	Village Hall	Village Hall AGM
Tues 7	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 12	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 14	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Sat 18	3.30pm	St Barnabas	Messy Church
Sun 19	10.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Sung Communion
Tues 21	-----	-----	GREEN bin collection
Sun 26	8.00am	St. Michael's Ch	Holy Communion
Tues 28	-----	-----	BLUE bin collection
Wed 29	8.00pm	Village Hall	Parish Council