

Parish Council Of Guston

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 16th May 2019 at Guston Village Hall

PRESENT: Parish Clerk: Mrs Glynis Farthing. Parish Councilors: Mrs Tracey Creed (in the Chair), Mr. Keith Gowland , Ms K. Husk, Mrs J. Gray, Cllr. Steve Manion, Cllr. Oliver Richardson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

9

APOLOGIES:

Mrs D. Day, Mrs Sharon Kidd, Mr. S. Saunderson, Mr. Chris Valdus, Mrs Lisa White

The meeting began at 7.00pm

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes from 24/05/18. Proposed Cllr. Gowland, seconded Cllr. Husk

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of 24.05.2018 be accepted and signed by the Chairman

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

WELCOME ADDRESS FROM CHAIRMAN

I thought it would be nice for my report this year, as we have just had a parish councillor election in May, to introduce each councillor and our clerk to the village residents. I hope that it will encourage more residents to come and introduce themselves to us.

My name is **Tracey Creed** and I have been Chairman of the Parish Council since 2014. I moved to the village in 2001 with my husband and have raised 3 children during our 18 year stay. My husband and I also run our own Plumbing & Heating company. I currently work in the private education sector and previous to this I enjoyed working in construction for over 20 years. My experience covers management in Accounting, Human Resources and Payroll.

Since joining the parish council 9 years ago I have been extremely passionate about improving the village amenities and community facilities that our parish lacked. I have been part of the transformation of Guston Green and Mini Meadow and helped to raise over £100,000 in grant funding for our village which was a massive achievement. I have also been managing the transformation of Guston Village Hall since last Autumn in a bid to get the hall up and running for local families and businesses.

Glynis Farthing is our clerk and she moved to Guston in 1985 and brought up her family in the village. Once her family had grown up and moved out Glynis downsized in 2015 and moved to our neighbouring parish of East Langdon.

Glynis is a very passionate member of the Guston church where she takes on the responsibility of Churchwarden/Treasurer /and Safeguarding Officer and she also helps teach the monthly Sunday School. Additionally, Glynis is Clerk to both Lydden Parish Council and the R.V. Coleman Trust as well as being Treasurer to the newly formed committee of Guston Village Hall Trust. Glynis is also an LEA appointed Governor at Guston CE Primary School where she enjoys supporting staff and pupils on a regular basis.

Before taking on the role as Parish Clerk Glynis was in teaching for over 40 years specialising in working with children and adolescents who had learning and physical disabilities finally retiring from part-time teaching at Aspen 2 in 2015.

In Glynis' 'spare' time, which I am shocked about because I cannot see that she has any, she takes part in a number of activities through U3A (University of the Third Age), including dancing, choir, card-making and Zumba.

Keith Gowland lives in the adjoining Parish of Whitfield and been a Parish Councillor there for many Years. He wished to experience how a smaller Parish functioned which is why Keith got involved with Guston parish council. Keith claims to have enjoyed every minute of it and has definitely made an impact to the stringent running of our council. Keith has been at Guston P.C. for two four year terms and is about to start his third.

As part of Keith's interests in this sector of Local Government he is GPC's Member on Kent Association of Local Councils (the umbrella body for Local Councils in Kent), Dover Area Committee, and is currently Chairman.

Karen Husk was born and bred in Pineham, which is the small hamlet between Whitfield and Guston. Karen is from a big farming family and has worked at Guston Court Farm for just short of the last 4 years until the herd was reduced in size this spring.

Karen joined the parish council when Guston Green was in its early stages around 2012 and felt that she could lend a hand with more of the practical aspects as she is keen to help improve the local community.

Karen has also been very involved with village life joining darts and skittle teams for the village. Karen is very supportive of our parish and always is pleased to see the improvements that are being made.

Julie Gray is the newest member of our team. Julie's grandparents moved to Guston during World War 2 and purchased Guston Court Farm, where her family have lived ever since.

Julie now lives back in our village at Mapledene, next to the church, with her husband and 2 children. Julie has worked for Tesco as a senior manager for 23 years and has gained many skills in organising and managing events for example.

In addition to her role as parish councillor Julie also successfully applied to be a Charity Trustee for Guston Village Hall and is looking forward to putting her skills into action by helping to bring the village hall back to life for everyone in the village to enjoy.

I think you would agree that we have a very strong team moving forward this year and we will continue to support the village in all areas that we can. As a Parish Council we carry out a full range of duties for the benefit of the parishioners and we meet once every 6 weeks to administer parish business.

These duties include but are not limited to:

- Highways where we liaise with KCC on matters relating to conditions of the roads, paths, signage, road markings and surface water drainage.
- Bus stops where we have recently arranged for a new brick built bus stop at Burgoyne Heights as well as maintaining the bus stop in the village centre.
- Playing fields and parks which include Guston Green and Mini Meadow and we are also discussing leasing land at Burgoyne Heights to improve provisions of play.
- How the village looks which includes grass cutting of verges, notice boards, signage, benches.
- Planning where we communicate new planning applications to residents, along with making sure that the applications are acceptable to the village community.
- Raising extra grants for the village to provide extra facilities in the village.
- GPC is also custodian trustee for Guston Village Hall.
- Community Cohesion.

- Broadband accessibility
- Litter and dog fouling

All parish councillors are not paid for what they contribute; they all volunteer their time. Thanks to Peter Sampson for all his work on the planters around the village and his continued efforts to make the village look good.

Tracey Creed BEM - Chairman.

Cllrs. responded by congratulating the Chair for all her hard work and commitment over the year. She has led by example and encouraged the community to pull together.

REPORTS:

• Guston Primary School

We have had another very busy year at Guston CEP School. We continue to develop our links with the local community; the Church, Fort Burgoyne and the local town.

We have attended the Church at key points in the Christian calendar, for Christingle and Easter, as well as having very regular contact with Rev Sean Sheffield who leads us in worship on a Tuesday.

We also work closely with Pete Evans from 'Shout' who supports our developing work around Forest Schools. This is an amazing opportunity for our pupils to explore their understanding of the environment around them.

As a school we are currently working on a heritage projects at Fort Burgoyne. The project will support our journey towards an Artsmark award supported by Dover Arts, Animate Arts Company, The Land Trust. We continue to serve a diverse community, with many of our families being Service families. As a result many of our Fathers have just returned home following deployment in Afghanistan. Our next Battalion move is due for July/August 2020.



GUSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

2018 Performance Data

EYF5 (16 Pupils)

Summary Indicators	EYFSP % Attained	National
Good Level of Dev.	81.3%	71.5%

Key Stage One (19 Pupils)

Phonic Check	% Reaching Level	National
Y1	60.08%	*61.0%

Reading		Writing		Maths		R, W & M Combined	
% Achieved Standard +	% Working at Greater Depth	% Achieved Standard +	% Working at Greater Depth	% Achieved Standard +	% Working at Greater Depth	% Achieved Standard	% Working at Greater Depth
84.2% *(76%)	36.8% *(25%)	68.4% *(68%)	10.5% *(16%)	78.9% *(75%)	36.8% *(21%)	65%	5.3%

Key Stage Two (13 pupils)

Reading		Writing		SPAG		Maths		R, W & M Combined	
% Achieved Standard	% Achieved Higher Standard	% Achieved Standard	% Achieved Higher Standard	% Achieved Standard	% Achieved Higher Standard	% Achieved Standard	% Achieved Higher Standard	% Achieved Standard	% Achieved Higher Standard
92.3% (75%)	38.477% (28%)	92.3% (78%)	30.7% (20%)	92.3% (78%)	38.4 (34%)	92.3% (76%)	23% (24%)	92.3% (64%)	15.3% (10%)
Average Scaled Score 108 (105)		n/a		Average Scaled Score 109 (106)		Average Scaled Score 107 (104)		n/a	
Reading Progress Score: -0.57		Writing Progress Score: 0.34				Maths Progress Score: -2.06			

2018 (*2017) National Percentages are noted in blue. Orange is where the school is in line with National averages. Green is where school has exceeded National averages. Red is where school has not reached National averages.

Up and coming dates for your diary:

School Fete: 29th June 2019, 11am – 2pm.

Multicultural Festival, Dover Town: 29th June 2019, 3pm

Mrs Deby Day - Headteacher

- Guston Village Hall Trust

AGM held on 30th April. There is a new committee in place of people who are looking to push the hall forward.

Mrs Tracey Creed -Chairman – Guston Village Hall Trust

- Burgoyne Heights Pre-school

Apologies for being unable to attend the meeting this evening.

This September we lose 26 children going to Primary school, we are low on numbers for September and are looking to advertise as well as mail drops locally.

Mrs Sharon Kidd

- The Land Trust

The Land Trust acquired Fort Burgoyne in March 2014 with a total of 42 hectares of land.

Whilst a preferred option for the future use of the Fort is emerging around the theme of a Village with for example retail, workshops, café uses serving existing community, new community on Connaught Barracks and visitors, the cost and complexity of delivering this means the Trust has determined it will seek to deliver improvements on a more phased basis.

While the future use remains a challenge, activity on site has continued to increase.

In addition to guided walks and ghost hunt events, 2018 saw 2 theatre performances added to the event programme. Our ongoing increase in volunteer hours saw the total exceed 1,500 hours in 2018-19 with this both aiding events and making a considerable difference to the management of the Fort and wider site.

Having replaced over 4,000m of fence around Coombe Hole and added 12 kissing gates to aid access in early 2018, management of the site in the form of scrub removal continued in early 2019 with a further 0.5 hectares removed to both promote access and chalk grassland habitat. We have had some challenges over the winter with contracted emptying of dog bins on the recreation ground but are considering adding a further bin within that area as well as one on Coombe Hole opposite the entrance to Burgoyne Heights to reflect increased dog walking on the site.

We are keen to continue discussion with the Parish Council regarding management of the recreation ground around the Fort but as an interim measure are replacing the old goal posts with new equipment which can be moved at regular intervals to reduce wear and tear on the ground. Smaller posts will also aid use by younger people.

Provision of education and training are included in the Trusts charitable objectives and we are delighted that the Fort has recently expanded its activity in this area. With funding from Artswork, the South East Bridge, we have appointed Animate Arts to work with 3 schools on the development of an activity pack for the Fort focused on aiding pupils to achieve Arts Award Explore level while the schools work to achieve Artsmark accreditation. We are delighted that both Guston and Charlton primary schools who are very local to the site have engaged in this programme together with Warden House school in Deal. The pack itself we anticipate will be a free resource to aid future visits to the Fort.

The Trust has also expanded its Green Angels training programme to the Fort with the first course on Environmental Education taking place in May – June 2019. We are committed to a further countryside management course in the Autumn of 2019 with potential to add landscaping and building conservation works over time.

A 3 year circa £2million stabilization programme of activity has also been initiated. This is focused on key threats to the site including wall instability, bridge lifespan, drainage and ventilation together with conservation and enabling access to the West Wing Battery.

The Trust at Fort Burgoyne is part of Pioneering Places East Kent. Part of the national Great Place Scheme, Pioneering Places is an ambitious project that will make East Kent an even better place to live, work and visit by exploring heritage, developing civic pride and connecting artists and communities. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council, along with Historic England the project at the Fort is aiming to engage communities and stakeholders in:

- a) The opening up of the West Wing Battery of the Fort adjacent to the Officers Mess of Connaught Barracks;
- b) Regeneration of the main Fort through a 'year of engagement'

Activity in the West Wing has seen Dover Arts Development and Charles Holland Architects plan a series of 'Explorer' walks through the space with participants providing drawings and notes with their thoughts on the space. This, together with a 2 week archaeological investigation in May 2019 will inform a Big Drawing for future layout. Whilst the Drawing is emerging, over the summer of 2019 a contract to stabilize the structures of the Wing Battery will take place. The goal is to have the space open on a managed basis from July 2020.

As part of the 'year of engagement' a regular newsletter is being produced and a podcast 'Dover Calling' being made available. Further events and activities will be developing in the near future.

For further information on the project, events, volunteering, or to receive newsletter updates please contact chrisvaldus@thelandtrust.org.uk 07825901358

Chris Valdus, Fort Burgoyne Heritage Project Manager
The Land Trust

- St. Martin Of Tours Church

Last year's review began on a low note, 2017 was a difficult year, so it's pleasing to report that on a number of fronts 2018 was a considerable improvement.

Rev Walker, Rev Sheffield, Rev Christopher Dent have presided over our regular services and we have added an additional morning prayer service at 8am on a Friday morning. All residents are welcome to attend. We have also been delighted to welcome Chris Scoble to the worship leadership team. Having completed his Readers training Chris led our Remembrance Day service and made it a memorable and moving occasion.

The Friends of Kent Churches provided a generous grant of £5000 towards the cost of repairs to the church. This has made the roof secure and free of moss and the bell cote slats have been replaced. The church is in a healthy state of repair. To avoid a recurrence of moss growth on the roof it was quickly identified that some work would need to be undertaken on tree management in the churchyard. We are indebted to Guston Parish Council for arranging a comprehensive tree survey and then meeting the substantial cost of dealing with ensuing works. This has resulted in the roof and porch being free of overhanging branches and allowed more light to flood the church. The handrails to the church steps have been thoroughly cleaned and re-varnished, a huge improvement. We have also been delighted to have a new noticeboard made and erected.

Consequently, we are now in a position to contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to attach a sign indicating that Guston has a war grave to visit. This will be done during 2019.

Reflecting on 2018, our small community has really worked diligently to sustain our lovely church and churchyard.

As usual the church social activities continue to centre around the village and the quiz evenings in The Chance continue to be popular and provide a small source of much needed revenue. Thanks are due to the continued support of Roger and Leanne Morris who give generously with time and encouragement and the promotion of our events. The income generated during 2018 has been the best yet, the Christmas raffle was particularly successful. We continue to strive for imaginative ways to improve our finances. The Church members are very much looking forward to being able to use the newly renovated Village Hall for regular functions.

In November we had held a wedding service for a local couple. We wish them well for a happy future.

Guston Primary School pupils have continued to make regular visits to Guston Church this year, participating in a Christingle Service, Experience Easter and exploring the interior of the building as part of a curriculum activity. The children always enjoy these visits and have been well supported by Rev. Sheffield.

Two members of the PCC continue as Governors of the school. Both Governors have continued to attend regular training sessions and are heavily involved in the day to day activities of the school.

The Sunday School continues to thrive. New young members have been welcomed to the monthly worship and they have enjoyed a wide range of activities. It has been a challenge to the leaders to develop work that spans a wide age range.

The fabric of the church is generally in good order. This year all of the kneelers for the pews have been renewed and we continue to be indebted to Guston Parish Council for continuing to maintain the grass cutting of the churchyard for which the PCC are very grateful. The Gift Aid Scheme continues to prove helpful.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council.

Churchwarden: Glynis Farthing

- PCSO
No report

- Duke of York's School

The Duke of York's Royal Military School was established in 1803 in Chelsea (now the Saatchi Gallery) by HRH Frederick Duke of York to care for the orphans of soldiers. In 1909, it moved to its present 150-acre site in the parish of Guston. Initially just for boys, it will be 25 years in September when girls were first admitted. Since 2010, the School has also accepted students aged 11 – 18 from non-military families. Indeed, the next Open Morning is on 5th October 2019 and places can be reserved at www.doyrms.com. When students join the School they become Dukies for life, and there will be some coming again this September from Guston Primary School. The majority of our staff still live and work within the parish and student numbers are currently 500. Our last OFSTED inspection rated our leaders and managers as 'Outstanding' and the School 'Good' overall. The boarding fee from September 2019 is £14,445 per year, which is £4,815 per term. It covers boarding, meals and laundry, with education provided free of charge as it is funded by the Department of Education. Armed Forces families can receive finance support from the Ministry of Defense in the form of an allowance which reduces the fee. In the Sixth Form, a number of scholarships are given to academic, sporting and musical high achievers – this includes students wishing to attend our School for the first time.

Every year, we hold our Trooping the Colour Ceremony on what we call 'Grand Day'. This will take place on Friday the 5th July 2019 and the Guest of Honour will be His Excellency Rudolf Huygelen, Belgian Ambassador.

We welcome continued links with our local community and are pleased to report that a number of sports clubs and children learning to swim are using our exceptional facilities. In addition, organisations such as Kent County Council and Deal Music and Arts Festival use our impressive hall with its tiered seating and latest audio and lighting systems for conferences and performances.

As always, we would be delighted to welcome parish councillors as a group should they ever wish to visit the School. Alternatively, follow our activities on Facebook @DOYRMS.

S S Saunderson BA PGCE
Vice Principal (Recruitment & Military);
Lay Chaplain:
Lieutenant Colonel / CCF Contingent Commander.
11 Brigade Deputy Colonel (Cadets)

- KCC

KCC Councillor's Annual Report

Cllr. Manion commended the Chairman on all her work over the years.

KCC Finances – lots of authorities are in trouble but KCC have a stable budget having had to make some difficult choices. The main pressure on the budget is Social Care – this accounts for over 40% of the annual expenditure. Obviously this impacts on the remainder of the budget.

The other big financial spend is on education – there is a move to open a special unit in Deal for autistic pupils.

Brexit money – extra funding was provided to KCC to deal with the impact of Brexit on the local area.

Cllr. Steve Manion

Kent County Councillor

- DDC

Oliver Richardson introduced himself to the residents. Oliver is one of two ward Cllrs. the other is Cllr Keith Morris. Both Cllrs are aware of the issues related to the development of Connaught Barracks and are keen to work with the Parish Council

Cllr Richardson provided the following report on the work of DDC:

Value for Money. DDC has the lowest Council Tax in East Kent. Yet unlike many other councils DDC has not made any cuts to services or made any staff redundant. To the contrary it has invested in tourism and boosted the enforcement teams to stop people littering, fly-tipping and not clearing up after their dogs. DDC is putting back nearly 200 ex-council houses or new builds into their housing stock.

The Environment. Not only have DDC increased their enforcement activity, but have maintained their waste collection cycle and collected over 95% of the rubbish first time, every time. Over £1m is being spent repairing or replacing every one of our street lights by next winter. This means brighter streets, lower carbon emissions and savings on the DDC energy bills. DDC are upgrading their CCTV cameras to digital and wi-fi, giving better coverage and resolution but also the ability to provide free wi-fi across the Town centres. Over £3m is being invested at Kearsney Park to return it to its former glory and become one of the best days out in the county.

Regeneration. DDC has improved the District in so many ways. For example the removal of Burlington House in Dover. The opening of St James' shopping centre and the new state of the art leisure centre, on time and on budget. High streets have bucked the national trend with direct support through the High Street Grants and the new starter units in the old Dover Co-Op. Deal is having the most comprehensive refurbishment of its pier in its 60 years history. Sandwich is planning to upgrade its historical Guildhall Forecourt and is bringing its Boathouse into use through a local charity.

Future Ambitions.

1. To increase the amount of road side litter picks in a year.
2. Roll out Big Belly Bins across the District.
3. Continue the increased focus on tourism, for example the planned work at Maison Dieu.
4. Increase house building and especially social housing.
5. Renewing and repairing our street lights.
6. Delivering a successful Open Championship.
7. Building on in-house grounds maintenance, for example more flowers and flower beds.

- Representative of the Burgoyne Heights Community

The Nepalese community are living at Burgoyne Heights, plus privately owned homes – they asked questions related to the council tax and the money that they are paying to the management committee at

Burgoyne Heights. The maintenance payments were agreed with Annington Homes – residents are concerned about the money that they are paying for their council tax and their management fees to Priam. Residents were invited to join the Parish Council. Communication is the key and Cllr Gowland has requested that the Burgoyne Heights community come up with a 'wish list'. The PC was keen to stress that Burgoyne Heights are very important to the Parish Council and they are anxious to respond to their requests. Cllr. Gowland has suggested that the PC, DDC, KCC and the agents for Burgoyne Heights all meet to discuss the issues that are of concern to the residents. This will not solve everything overnight but would be a good starting point. It was suggested that we invite all interested parties to a meeting in July/September to research views and gain a greater understanding of how to move forward. In the meantime attention was drawn to the parish website which has a considerable amount of information including minutes of PC meetings, agendas and dates for meetings. It also has links to other useful sites plus planning and road closures.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Annual KALC Report for 2017/18

The past year has been quite 'a mixed bag' with many of the same issues needing to be addressed. These include HGV Parking, Stack, now Brock because of Manston being used as a 'holding area' as and when. The Government has altered its Housing Allocations upwards for districts and altered the Planning rules to encourage development where appropriate. This has implications in Dover District. I have been involved through KALC in many issues through my being part of KALC Advisory Committees / Groups on Transport, Planning and Devolution and on Dover Planning Project Advisory Group (a DDC Cabinet appointment).

At Area Committee level we have had interesting Presentations from the Area Commander of Kent Police, the Ports Engagement Team, Victim Support and Care Support, All covering popular topics. The new four year Local Council term has just begun with trying but exciting times ahead although the lack of Candidates in the recent Elections is of concern.

The role of Parish Councillors, Parish Councils and their Clerks will change over the coming years which will mean a greater commitment and Cllrs being better prepared (increased Training) to carry out their functions. Can I put on record my appreciation of the support I have been given by the Parish Clerk and the Chairman Cllr. Creed and the other Cllrs who form the nucleus of a "good team

Cllr. Keith Gowland

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The year started with a balance of £133,026 and finished with a balance of £81,543.49. The balance at the beginning of the year reflected the fact that the Precept for 2018/19 had been paid early. The true start balance from 2018/19 should read as £94,326

Our 2017/2018 audit was successfully under taken; the accounts were passed and submitted to the external auditor. These were approved with no issues raised.

The 2018/2019 internal audit, took place on 8th May 2019. The completed accounts will be put up for acceptance and approval at the May meeting of the Parish Council.

Monthly bank reconciliations continue to be available for review on the parish website. A list of all expenditure for the year is also published for inspection.

In line with the considerations raised in the financial report of 2018 the precept request showed a small decrease. The building of a bus stop at Burgoyne Heights has been completed and the Village Hall will be opened in June 2019. There is a proposal to lease some land from the Land Trust at Burgoyne Heights to facilitate the development of a sports area.

The accounts and related documents are available for inspection. In future all accounts will be published on the Parish website.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING –April/ May 2020, date to be agreed and published on the Parish website.

This meeting closed at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE

DRAFT