

BRENZETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall, Brenzett, on Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Mrs A Beeching, (Chair), Mrs J Thompson and Mrs J Webb
Mr N Fisher and Mr G Harrison
Mr C Stanley, Webmaster

PARISH CLERK: Mrs J Batt

COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no Members of the Public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for Absence was received from District Councillor Goddard and County Councillor Hills.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed by Mrs Beeching.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

As with many villages and towns, Brenzett has had to face inevitable development proposals. For a village of our size, the extensive building of new homes is worrying considering the lack of services we have. The Parish Council continues to stress the real need for a large play area for children in the village.

The Parish Council have been able to support some projects at the Primary School this year, and I had the pleasure of attending a musical morning and meeting members of Mr Nick Sermon's class, who demonstrated their work on designing playground equipment.

The Council have also donated money towards the running of "The Marsh Harrier", and to the upkeep of the village hall. I am pleased to say that the hall has been the subject of much improvement over the last year. However, that is dampened by the constant vandalism suffered both in the grounds and in the hall itself. Just this last month the hall has been broken in to twice. The management committee are considering updating their CCTV in an effort to combat this. As trustees of the hall, the Parish Council must ensure that our responsibilities are met.

It has been heartening to welcome the new coffee shop, come delicatessen, to the village. We wish them well with this venture, I understand from Councillor Fisher that their quiches are second to none.

Thank you to our wonderful Clerk, Judith, who has had a very challenging year to say the least. The advent of the new Data Protection Act has caused her endless hours of extra work. We are all very grateful for the efficient way she performs her duties and the extensive knowledge she brings to each meeting. I like to think that this council runs very smoothly and professionally and that is mainly down to our clerk.

Finally, thank you to my fellow councillors who have supported both Judith and I throughout another year.

The Parish Council's Financial Statement was presented, and an opportunity given for questions and comment.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Hills was not in attendance at the meeting but sent this report, received 21 May 2018. Since my election last May I have had a rapid learning curve on the strategic responsibilities of being an elected member of Kent County Council, and I'm still learning.

My pleasure is and has been meeting residents of the Romney Marsh to see how I can help and represent their concerns at Maidstone.

This has been another tough budgetary year for KCC; only through very careful 'house keeping' can we meet our obligations. KCC has had to find another 55 million in savings from the revenue budget, it has been a very tough job but by using a blend of savings, reserves and smarter working we have done it! ...next year, it won't get any easier. I have been very fortunate to be appointed chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management committee. Some of you might know my background, having spent twenty years trying to protect the Romney Marsh from Flooding.

Also, I was placed on the KCC Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, A committee of great importance in recommending how KCC manages these key areas.

I have also been appointed to the Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, as well as the Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority to represent KCC.

With more extreme weather challenging the counties infrastructure, the 'beast from the east' caused a lot of damage to our roads. KCC has increased the budget to repair our roads to over eleven million pounds and is working hard to repair the damage. I include the latest performance figures for the Kent 'Pothole Blitz'.

District Date: Week ending 18/05/2018

Potholes Number Patching area m2 Potholes to date Number Patching to date area m2

Ashford 137 1079 1659 6140
 Canterbury 225 122 2396 1333
 Dartford 8 36 256 1160
 Dover 116 40 1699 1515
 Gravesham 51 109 1162 950
 Maidstone 305 106 2940 3898
 Sevenoaks 304 1961 2292 6097
 Folkestone and Hythe 174 118 1320 2401
 Swale 131 56 2131 1094
 Thanet 68 107 1161 1754
 Tonbridge & Malling 126 137 1003 2695
 Tunbridge Wells 248 611 1938 2214

Total 1893 4482 19956 31251 £1,713,935.

The Marsh is also under threat from salt water.

The Marsh is under threat from not just from the sea but also the land. I'm fighting hard to reject the proposed quarries at Lydd. This I believe would cause environmental damage to the Marsh with the risk to our water quality through saline intrusion, as well as enhancing the flood risk.

With so much 'work in progress' all I can do is reassure you of my best endeavours in the year ahead.

Tony Hills
 Romney Marsh member for Kent County Council 2018

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Goddard was not in attendance at the meeting but sent this report. It has been another challenging year for the District Council but careful financial planning and management of the budget means that we are still able to deliver all services to the community. You will have heard that our name has changed and we are now called Folkestone and Hythe District Council. I am pleased to report that I am dedicated to making sure that Walland and Denge Marsh is recognised and well served, although not mentioned by name in the new District Council logo.

I still remain Chairman of the Development Control and Licencing Committee and sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which enables me to scrutinise issues before they are put to full Council and I am monitoring the Otterpool Park development closely

More locally, I am appointed as a representative on the Lydd Airport Consultative Committee and I am delighted that the Bristow Search and Rescue Helicopters operate from Lydd Airport and have contributed so positively to the airport revenue. We are fortunate to have them close at hand operating on behalf of Her Majesty's Coastguard because they are a service that people rely on in a time of need. Hopefully the airport will be up and running soon to bring more jobs to the Romney Marsh. I will continue to lobby for Dungeness C as this is also key for the future of our local economy across the Marsh.

I am also appointed as a District Council representative on the Romney Marsh Internal Drainage Board.

I was honoured to be re-elected as Chairman of the Romney Marsh Forum. Since my involvement, the Romney Marsh Forum has adopted a new constitution, and our meetings are well attended by representatives from the Town and Parish Councils across the Marsh. It has reviewed its purpose and structure and I am pleased to report that the Forum is now recognised as a positive vehicle through which the Parish and Town Councils on the Marsh can communicate and engage with other agencies. The Forum members have integrity, are sharing information and are working together for the benefit of their communities.

The Forum is working on several key issues which include Speed Watch and Health Provision on the Marsh and it is an excellent platform to work with both Cllrs Webb and Cllr Thompson on issues involving Brenzett.

The District Council gives each Councillor a Ward Budget each year which enabled me to give financial support to local organisations which included the Brenzett Aeronautical Museum/Romney Marsh Wartime Collection and the Romney Marsh Website and Tourism Brochure to which Brenzett has contributed.

I work closely with the Police and would like to thank them for their support. I would also like to say thank you for all the hard work to Cllr Tony Hills in his first year as our County Councillor.

I will continue to work for the good of local people and help to provide a safer, cleaner and thriving place for all to live in. I would also like to thank the Chairman, Cllr Beeching and the Parish Clerk, Mrs Batt for their assistance and support over the last year.

Councillor Clive Goddard
Folkestone and Hythe District Council

7. ANY OTHER SPEAKERS

There were no other speakers.

8. FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.37 pm

Signed Date

Chairperson

DRAFT