

The Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of Upchurch held remotely on Thursday 6th May 2021

Present: Cllr Tyrone Ripley (Chairman), Cllr John Arnold (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Bodycomb, Cllr Pam Denny, Cllr Alan Horton, Cllr Gerry Lewin and Cllr Gary Rosewell; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk)

Cllr Ripley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies had been received from Cllr Neil Sheppard and Ward Member Richard Palmer.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2019

Cllr Horton **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2019 as a true record; **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewin: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2. Matters Arising from the minutes

No matters were raised.

3. Report of the Chairman of Upchurch Parish Council

Cllr Ripley said that Upchurch Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Masson and Janet Marshall for their sterling contribution during their time on the Parish Council. Welcome to our most recent Cllr John Bodycomb who I am sure will prove a worthy addition to the Parish Council.

In terms of what the Parish has achieved in the past two years, given the COVID-19 situation we have continued to work with remotely held meetings and pressed on. The Council utilised the kind offer of a grant to the sum of £495 from Cllr Mike Whiting for the hand sanitisers which were offered free from the Surgery to residents during the first wave of the lockdown.

There has been a number of individuals within the village who really have gone above and beyond to offer assistance to those in need or require a little help during the COVID-19 situation. The Council intends to announce and present in person the KALC Community Award to the deserving individuals at the next Full council meeting in June to acknowledge the significant contribution they have made to others within our village.

PADDOCK and RECREATION GROUND:

Cllr Ripley thanked Cllr Pam Denny for her constant supervision of the Paddock and Recreation Ground ensuring it is always well maintained.

Exercise equipment was successfully installed at the Recreation Ground ensuring the S106 money which was set aside for such a project was achieved for Upchurch.

Upchurch Parish Council funded along with securing two grants towards the cost of the new fencing project at the Recreation ground with support from Cllr Alan Horton and Cllr Richard Palmer our Ward Councilors who form part of the Swale Western Area Committee; a grant of £4655 was successful. Cllr Mike Whiting also provided a grant of £2000 towards the project ensuring the Recreation Ground continues to be a safe environment for all.

STREET LIGHTING and HIGHWAYS:

Thanks to Cllr John Arnold on the assistance he provided in ensuring Upchurch Parish Council achieved the installation of the LED street lighting in Upchurch. The Council is now able to reduce the precept as the lighting scheme has been implemented ahead of schedule. Currently UK Power are closing their side of the works.

The village roundels and SLOW signs have been refreshed and seem to be effective in encouraging motorists to drive a little more considerately.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK:

Unfortunately due the Pandemic we were unable to arrange a village litter pick. Though this did not stop a number of residents getting out and being proactive collecting a vast amount of litter on a regular basis from our public spaces and country lanes. I would like to give a special thank you to those individuals.

Upchurch Parish Council has installed and renewed a number of litter and dog waste bins in the village along with the most recent at Oak Lane along the verge to the Golf Club. With two TiksPac Station locations now in village in an effort to stop the dog fouling.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Thank you to Planning Committee members and particularly Cllr Gary Rosewell the Chair of the planning committee, he has continued to attend Swale Planning Zoom meetings representing Upchurch Parish Council on behalf of the village.

BURIAL GROUND:

Thank you to Cllr Janet Marshall for her constant supervision of the Burial Ground and for kindly reviewing and updating the regulations and policies there. The rose beds were consecrated to allow more space for burials.

The Parish Council has also carried out continued tree works in the Churchyard and Burial Ground.

CHRISTMAS TREE:

Cllr Ripley thanked Mr Bob Friend for his kind and generous donation again of the tree, which is for the benefit of all in the village during the festive season.

Additional thanks to Councillors who assisted with erection of tree and the Christmas lighting.

LADIES THAT KNIT:

A note of thanks for the time and effort given by the ladies that knit on the amazing displays of the hand crafted poppies and daffodils displays we have seen within the village.

VILLAGE IN BLOOM:

With the now regular cascade planter in the heart of the village we have four barrier baskets along the fence line at the Recreation Ground, with a further four arriving this year continuing to provide the springtime blooms throughout the village.

WEBSITE:

The Parish Council has a new website enabling residents to sign up for email alerts to planning applications and news.

Finally a note of thanks and gratitude to all the Councillors serving on the Parish Council none of these achievements would be possible without their dedication. As Chairman of the Parish Council, you are only as good as the team you have supporting you and I can certainly say I have a valued team. Hope to see you all next month in person rather than via Zoom.

Cllr Lewin **PROPOSED** to accept the Chairman's report; **SECONDED** by Cllr Horton: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Horton said Peter Masson and Janey Marshall have made a significant contribution to the Parish Council and the community and thanked them for their sterling work and dedication to the role.

4. To receive questions and comments from parishioners.

No parishioners were present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.33pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 28 April 2022