

HEADCORN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, Headcorn Village Hall, Church Lane, Headcorn, TN27 9N

Tel: 01622 892496 Email: clerk @headcornpc.org.uk



HEADCORN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 23rd May 2018 at 7:00p.m in the Village Hall, Longmeadow.

Cllr Lyn Selby presided and there were 13 present, including Parish Councillors and Borough Councillor Round.

Apologies were received from Cllr Davies, Evenden and James.

1. Introduction

Cllr Selby opened the meeting and warmly welcomed all attending. Thanks to Sainsbury's Local were given for a contribution to the refreshments for this evening.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 20th April 2017 were approved.

3a Elected Officer Reports

Kent County Councillor Shellina Prendergast was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:-

Dear Resident,

It is a great honour and privilege to represent you at Kent County Council.

Kent is a great county and my Maidstone Rural East Division is one of the very best parts of Kent for its natural beauty, heritage and of course the people. Last year you elected me to Kent County Council with the largest vote, biggest majority and the highest share of vote among the KCC candidates standing in the Maidstone district. Thank you for your support.

As many of you will be aware, in recent years (and for the foreseeable future) Kent County Council has faced an enormous and unprecedented financial challenge. This challenge arises from a combination of rising spending demands, reductions in central government funding and freezes/limits on raising council tax. Combined, this has led the Council to make annual savings of between £80 to £90 million per annum since 2010.

Despite such punitive financial constraints, and the ever-increasing pressures of an ageing and growing population, Kent County Council has continued to meet its statutory duties in maintaining its complex array of front line services such as adult social care, highways improvements/maintenance and the education of our children and young people. And whilst supporting the continued delivery of a balanced budget!

The last few months however have seen some very positive outcomes for the Council and Kent residents – Kent has been chosen by the government as one of the few counties benefitting from a 100% Business Rate Retention Pilot (worth £10million to Kent) and government funding also included a Social Care Grant of £3.65million to help in our ambition

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for older and vulnerable residents to be safe and supported with choices to live independently and £3.1million for pothole repairs.

During my time at Kent County Council, I have worked with residents and 17 parish councils/meetings to address the pledges I made to you when elected, and these include:

Transport and Highways

- Speeding motorists and inconsiderate parking are a problem for us all and can lead to life threatening injuries. As your Councillor, I have worked with Kent Highways, Cabinet Members and the Police to seek solutions to this type of problem.
- Highways Improvements – I was delighted to play a part in securing just under £1million of developer funding to implement the improvements to the much needed A20 Harrietsham Road Improvement Scheme. A revised design was consulted on earlier this year with some very positive feedback and the scheme has an anticipated commencement date of September 2018. I am currently working with several parishes on further highways improvements in this area – the A20/Faversham Road being an example - and am liaising with Officers to secure the appropriate schemes and the all-important funding sources.
- Potholes, overgrown vegetation, drain and road repairs are the responsibility of Kent County Council – KCC have a war chest of £7.5million to address this problem, and I have urged the Cabinet Member for Highways to ensure that the roads in this Division are prioritised for long overdue repairs, particularly in the rural areas. Please report any potholes or highways issues on <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> or ring 03000 418181 during office hours or 03000 419191 for emergencies.
- Public Transport – working alongside bus operators and KCC Officers, I have continued to push for high quality reliable bus services to ensure that our children get to school on time and our older residents are not left isolated in rural villages. Train links to London are a vital amenity for our residents and commuters, and I continue my work with our MP and South Eastern trains to improve services.

Planning and Infrastructure

- I have a proven record in fighting against inappropriate development within our rural areas and am not afraid to challenge decision makers. Housing development without supporting infrastructure such as schools, medical facilities, transport links and community facilities remain my priorities and I have worked hard with those parish councils currently in the process of preparing Neighbourhood Plans to ensure that developments are sustainable for both current and future residents.

Communications

- Improving access to broadband and better mobile services for our rural areas is dear to my heart. At a time of great financial pressure, KCC has invested £16m to match fund the Government's funding to extend broadband to rural Kent. 94.6% of Kent households now have access to superfast broadband. KCC is now working on a subsidy scheme to help the remaining households connect. More detail can be found on <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/broadband>

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- I have worked with our MP, Helen Whately, in getting the mobile phone companies and broadband providers to look at solutions for the “not spots” in this area and a survey covering all households in Headcorn was launched a few weeks ago. Helen and I await the results of this survey and will take the necessary actions.

Education

- Many of you will have heard me saying that our children and young people are our future and they deserve the very best start in life by attending good local schools. The unprecedented increase in the population of Maidstone Rural East has led to some significant pressures, particularly on primary school provision, and I have worked hard with Cabinet Colleagues, the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Maidstone Borough Council and our MP to ensure that every child is able to attend a school within proximity of their local area.

At Kent County Council, I am a Deputy Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education – the largest portfolio within Kent County Council - which includes responsibility for commissioning school places, Special Educational Needs Assessment and Placement, Youth and Youth Justice, Children in Care Services, Adolescent Support, the Fostering and Adoption Service and many other services. The welfare of our children and young people is the Council’s top priority, and I am proud to be part of a team which last year gained a “good” judgment from Ofsted for our Children’s Specialist Services and where 92% of the schools attended by our children are rated by Ofsted to be “good” or “outstanding”. A memorable highlight for me was giving the opening speech at this year’s Kent Adoption Conference – it was truly humbling to see nearly 200 professionals and adopters in the room with only one clear ambition: to make a family for some of our most vulnerable children here in Kent.

As well as Cabinet meetings, I sit on the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee, the Corporate Parenting Panel - like all elected Members, I am very proud to be a corporate parent to Kent’s looked after children and care leavers. Appointments to outside bodies include the Red Hill Trust – a registered charity offering support to children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

I attend as many of the local parish council meetings in my Division as I can – often two in one evening – as well as the annual parish meetings. My most important role is to help and support residents with individual problems – my case work is varied - and I am easily contactable by telephone or email.

I am also pleased to help many local projects through my KCC Member Grant – and so far this year I have committed/pledged to the following organisations: Maidstone Mela, Headcorn Scouts, Harrietsham Summer Fun Club, Broomfield and Kingswood Traffic Regulation Order for reduction of speed near school, Stockbury signage, Maidstone Pastors, Kent Search and Rescue, Slideway Youth Bereavement Support, Ulcombe Play Area, Detling Cricket Club, Harrietsham Parish Council office lift, Maidstone Dawn Patrol, Kent Autistic Trust, Five Acre Wood School, Harrietsham History Society Memorial Garden, Ulcombe Church, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Kent Foster Care Association.

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I already have a queue of worthy projects lined up for 2018/19 but do please let me know if you have a local project which I can support.

Thank you again and my very best wishes to you all.

3b Maidstone Borough Councillor Martin Round

Councillor Round gave the meeting an update on the past year and this included:-

- As part of the MBC Planning Committee he can ensure that the committee consider the rural perspective, especially as there is a view that MBC are too urban in their approach
- His recent empathetic election win, he believes, allows him some influence at committee
- MBC Local Plan is poor in its structure and policies and these will need through review
- On the subject of planning Enforcement action is a major issue and it is hoped that the recent positive actions will continue and more appropriate action taken at the right time
- Planning Law is very arduous and it is essential that MBC get the balance right
- MR is involved in the review of rail franchise operators and this will include the step free access at Headcorn Station
- A much improved infrastructure is essential and this should include the Leeds/Langley by pass
- Other matters that need addressing
 - Drainage & flooding issues
 - Fly tipping
 - ASB
 - Highways issue such as speed & parking
- Section 106 matters need addressing
- The housing need numbers maybe correct but the housing has been built in all the wrong locations
- He is also involved with two parliamentary committees
 - Woman equality Group
 - Rural housing & disability group

4 Stuart Ellesmere Kent Community Warden

Stuart gave his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting and he sent the following report:-

During the past year I continue to serve the community of Headcorn

This includes tasking's from My Supervisor, Community Safety Unit (CSU, Partners & Agencies) and the Residents.

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This year I have had 6 priorities: Domestic abuse, antisocial behaviour, substance misuse, road safety, serious & organised crime and safeguarding vulnerable people. We are accredited to Kent Police.

I act as the 'eyes and ears' for residents, tackling low level crime and antisocial behaviour - I can also help by offering advice on home security and property marking.

I have dealt with Cold Callers, Scam Calls, Graffiti, fly tipping, Dog Fouling and other concerns and with this information referred onwards to other relevant partners and agencies.

As a Community Warden, I continue to attend various training courses and events that keeps me up to date on Scams, hate crime, Road Safety, Anti Bullying and Internet Awareness.

Community Wardens across the County have identified residents that have paid £100k's in scams. They have been working closely with Trading Standards in order to educate residents and help reduce the likelihood of becoming an on-going victim of crime.

In Britain, 3.2 million people have hand over cash to mass marketing scams run by organised criminals. It is now estimated that £10 billion is sent in postal scams alone. Evidence shows that out of 1.4 million residents living in Kent, 42% are likely to be a scam victim at some point...up to 600,000 residents – Across Kent, Wardens have been visiting 1500 residents on a 'Suckers List' seized by the Police.

My role is to act as a community's trusted friend, providing a visible, reassuring presence in their area. Listening to and encouraging residents to resolve problems and enhance their quality of life. If I can't solve a problem directly my role is to refer people to the appropriate agencies that can help. I promote social inclusion and assist vulnerable people.

As well as working closely with local Parish Councils, I also work with Maidstone Borough Council and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Councils, I also work with other professional authorities to ensure residents are able to access the support they need. Examples of these authorities are:

Kent Fire & Rescue Service	Kent Trading Standards
Schools	Environmental Protection
Social Services	NHS/Doctor Surgeries
KCC Highways	Housing Providers

The aim is to enable residents to take a proactive approach to work together to build safer and strong communities and improve the quality of life for vulnerable residents. I also help to tackle social isolation with the help of voluntary agencies and local charities. During the last year I have been supporting residents with dementia; hoarding; food parcels, self-neglect and welfare visits, some requiring hospital treatment.

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This brings me on to those other local people. (or hero's in my eyes)

In Headcorn, I am surrounded by individuals that go above and beyond in this area – and who make my job such a pleasure and whom are incredibly helpful. The individuals that I would like to particularly thank would be Malcolm and Peter – the Village Lengthsmen. To all intents and purposes, Malcolm and Peter are Headcorn's answer to the dynamic duo.

Forget Batman and Robin – when Malcolm and Peter get involved you won't find a double act that works harder for the Parish Council and its residents, no job appears too small and the effort levels that they operate at, put me and most others to shame. They are quite brilliant, and what I appreciate the most is their unfaltering levels of empathy that they show to others in the community.

The other individual I would like to mention is Caroline – the Parish Clerk.

Outside of Headcorn Caroline is revered as one of the most professional and respected Parish Clerk's in the Maidstone area – Partnering agencies will comment on Caroline's unwavering commitment to put Headcorn on the Map and fight for any injustices that may come Headcorn's way. With Caroline's commitment and drive, it certainly helps me with my role here in Headcorn – I treat Caroline like she is one of the team, and Headcorn is the stronger for it. Most importantly I class her as a good friend and I think there are many others in this room that would share this notion by the sheer amount of help both professionally and personally she has given.

This year has already seen a few challenges that are outside of my normal role. I am also a KCC Incident Liaison Officer working closely with Kent Resilience Forum in times of emergency and I was involved in assisting residents during the flooding in Yalding distributing food and water during operation stack (a few years ago) and this year distributing water in areas with burst water mains shortly after the snow

I will continue to cover the Headcorn area with visible presence and visit when needed.

I have in the past year visited residents regarding Scams. I have also visited the area to report Fly tipping and abandoned vehicles (areas between Headcorn and Grafty Green) and reported road surface issues to Kent Highways.

I have also worked closely with PCSO Boyd where problems with crime and ASB are the main issue.

If you have any issues or concerns or are worried about someone in particular after hearing this report then please do not hesitate to call me or email me on the details below.

5. John Boyd Kent Police PCSO

Headcorn has maintained a fairly low level of crime during the past year.

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Crime levels throughout the year have their peaks and troughs but I am pleased to say that we are sustaining the reduced level of crime overall that we have benefited from over the past few years. This thankfully has been possible through the support of the community and the Parish Council.

We have dealt with a number of issues throughout the year, which have included the following:

- Provide a visible presence in my wards and surrounding areas.
- Follow ups on the victims of burglaries/breaks to give crime prevention advice and information booklets.
- Helping neighbours to try to sort out their disputes, this on most occasions means linking in with the housing associations where applicable.
- Linking in with the Kent County Council Wardens and other agencies to help out with many problems that arise.
- Speed enforcement checks and speed monitoring checks throughout the area though we do accept that speed is a nuisance throughout the rural and more needs to be done.
- Patrols of outlying areas to deter and stop vehicles known for scrap metal thefts. This has been backed up with pre-arranged Policing Operations County wide involving numerous authorities and scrap yard inspections.

We are always trying to keep on top of any nuisance youth issues in the village. As with the previous year this has also not been a major issue this year and any incidents of this type of behaviour have been swiftly dealt with to good effect. We encourage residents to call in any incidents of this type of nuisance behaviour.

As with most areas in life the police have changing priorities and budgets. Taking that into account for most of the last year my wards stretched from Harrietsham across to Headcorn than across to Downswood.

But now I am pleased to say that after the last recruitment drive we have more personnel who have now taken over their wards.

So my wards are now Harrietsham/Lenham and the Headcorn area wards

I have and will continue to provide the visible presence and first class service that the Kent Police is renowned for.

Anyone wishing to contact me about any issues or crime prevention advice can call the non-emergency Police number 101.

Thank you for your continued support in making Headcorn safe.

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6. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman.

Yet another year has sped by since we last met – just over in fact as the hall had a prior booking on our usual date in April. We hope to return to April in 2019 so that the Annual Parish Meeting occurs before the AGM and in 2020, before the Local Government Elections. I have mentioned the 2020 elections deliberately as in 2016 we only had 13 people standing for 13 places on the Council. To me, it seems that some people were persuaded to stand who did not really know what it was all about and as a result we have had another 2 new Cllrs resign over the past year.

So we will be trying to give everyone an idea what being a Parish Councillor entails, over the next 2 years, mainly through our Newsletter which is delivered to all, to inspire more than 13 people to stand in the next elections.

In addition to the two Cllrs mentioned, we are very sad to say that Cllr Dave Andrews has also left us after 9 years -we thank him for all his hard work, particularly as Chair of the Planning Committee and towards the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and the Judicial Review (JR). As a result, we welcomed three new Cllrs who have been co-opted -Cllrs. S Walker, Nettleingham and Tull and hope they enjoy being elected (but unpaid) representatives of the parishioners.

Planning Committee

This is a sub-committee of the Full Parish Council and considers planning applications for any development in the parish as a statutory consultee of Maidstone Borough Council (MBC). It is chaired by Cllr Nigel Pyman and continues to meet twice a month due to the volume of work and the need to get HPC's view to Maidstone Borough Council within nationally set time limits.

In the past year we have examined 93 applications. In each case the application is looked at in detail, usually online before the meeting, and Cllrs consider if there are any planning reasons for it to be recommended for refusal, taking into account planning guidelines, Maidstone's Local Plan, our Neighbourhood Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and our local knowledge, for example regarding flooding. As always our special thanks must go to the Cllrs who sit on the Planning Committee.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites (G and T sites)

Some of the most contentious planning applications relate to G and T sites. I have said many times that there have been Gypsies in Headcorn Parish for decades and they were accepted as part of the village. Problems have arisen with the number of sites that have been set up on green fields since around 2000 when legislation was made allowing G and T's to buy a field and move in.

If you have planning laws you need enforcement. Unfortunately, despite many representations by HPC and other Parish Councils, MBC did not seem to understand this fact and as a result, Headcorn has the largest ratio of G and T's to the settled community of any parish in Maidstone Borough, and MBC have the largest ratio of G and T's to settled community in Kent. There is no doubt that this has had an impact on the village.

However, the good news is that MBC now have 2 very active enforcement officers, one of whom is particularly assigned to sort out the G and T sites, and HPC has been working with these officers where possible. As a result, enforcement orders have been issued on a number of sites and, most important, followed up. The injunction on Hammerstream

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Paddock has been monitored and breaches have been jumped on -currently the "bund" is still there but the site is free of other unplanned activity.

I reported at the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting that MBC had issued enforcement notices on the large G and T site known as The Meadows, on the Lenham Road. HPC has been working with MBC to try and get this issue to a Public Inquiry as soon as possible –unfortunately the Planning Inspectorate did not have an Inspector free who was able to conduct this Inquiry until last week (over a year!). HPC was all set up to attend – we agreed to close the office for the 4days so that the Clerk could attend every day with a least one Cllr – first morning, the MBC solicitor was ill so after 3hrs the Inspector adjourned the Inquiry until October!!

Judicial Review (JR)

The most contentious planning application regarding the development of new houses on green sites around the village has been the 220 houses on the land between Millbank and Hazlepits. HPC consulted a very well regarded planning consultant and tried all avenues to get a JR in an attempt to overturn the planning permission. Unfortunately, we did not succeed and the 220 houses will go ahead -indeed someone said the site was "crawling" with developers/builders last week. There is no doubt this will have a major impact on the village and it was a very unpopular development amongst parishioners.

HPC is u happy about the result, but we know we tried everything possible to prevent it or at least minimise it.

Headcorn Neighbourhood Plan (HNP)

Despite presenting a well evidenced HNP to MBC in November 2015, there is still a stalemate with MBC over its acceptance. MBC's Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee (SPST) instructed a small group of MBC Cllrs to negotiate with HPC to find a way forward, however, when we met them, everything we suggested was met with a stone wall -there was no negotiation.

A parishioner has sought legal advice and has been trying to get a JR on the MBC Local Plan - this process has been going on for several months.

The NP Group met and decided, as a rethink of the Local Plan would have a significant effect on our NP, to take no further action regarding HNP until this legal process has been concluded.

However, the years of work on the HNP has not been in vain. In the HNP it says that further development in the village would need a bigger primary school - during the production of the NP there were meetings with education officers where evidence was presented that a bigger school was needed and that the village preferred this to be on the existing site On Friday, May 25th -the new school building will be officially opened on the Kings Road site.

An improved foul drainage system - whilst working on the HNP, the group commissioned a drainage survey and met several times with Southern Water (SW) engineers, at one meeting pointing out that their map of Headcorn's sewers was not correct. Last week we met with SW to hear the latest on their plans for the upgrade of Headcorn's sewers – the first phase will start at the end of July. A second phase is still being finalised. A public information day will be held in June.

On to lighter but no less important issues.

Open Spaces Committee (OS)

This committee meets every 2 months preceded by a Sunday walk around the

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village. It is chaired by Cllr James. Their remit is to plan for our open spaces and other public places in the village to make it a pleasant place in which to live.

Some of the issues that have been organised or monitored by the OS in 2018:-

Lighting – the programme of replacement of the old street lamps by LED has been continued.

Day's Green, Hoggs Bridge Green, Longmeadow, Parsonage Meadow, Spires Ash - all maintenance of grass and equipment, including any play equipment, fencing etc.

Yearly Tree Health and Safety Audit – commissioned re the trees on land owned by the HPC and monitored.

War Memorial – commissioned the major cleaning activity recently started in time for the Remembrance Service following the receipt of a 75 % grant.

Burial Ground – continued to ensure it is suitably tidy and well maintained. Considered fees and agreed not to increase this year. In addition have been continuing to plan ahead re future space for burials at the back of existing ground and in Longmeadow, agreeing appropriate action.

Hoggs Bridge Green Recreation Project – a significant development of play equipment for the older child and even adults – this has been financed by S106 money i.e. paid for by developers.

Section 106 Money – I just want to point out the work by our Clerk to identify where money has been agreed in legal agreements between MBC and the developers - some is specifically allotted to open space in Headcorn – unfortunately the only Open Space MBC seem to have heard of is Hoggs Bridge Green and we are trying to find ways of using this significant amount of money for other spaces e.g. the burial ground. Following an impasse with MBC we are involving KALC to ask in particular why does MBC not consult with the Parish Councils before allotting the money to a specific site.

Lengthsmen

Most of the issues discussed by Open Spaces are actioned by the Clerk, either by involving other agencies/companies or by organising our lengthsmen.

For 19 years, most of it by himself, our lengthsmen was Alan Hodge. Alan finally retired in June 2017 and HPC presented him with an artist light box with many thanks for his years of hard work.

In November 2015, Alan was joined by an assistant, Malcolm Hitchcock. After Alan's retirement, we recruited Peter Beeken as an assistant for Malcolm. Together the pair have had a major impact on the village scene -not only working on the standard lengthsmen jobs of tidying and sweeping, emptying our rubbish bins etc but undertaking a total revamp of the Parish storeroom, also making and putting into place a new security set up for the store following the theft of our equipment (meaning the HPC did not have to pay for contractors). And when MBC could not fit in the expected grass cut before the May Fair they came to the rescue cutting the Days Green grass using our hand mowers!! Many thanks to our lengthsmen.

Community Payback following the talk at the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting, the clients of this scheme worked for the HPC over a period of 10weeks on Sundays. Jobs done included scrub clearance in Longmeadow, fence painting around Parsonage Meadow and similar projects. The only cost to the HPC was for materials used. We may well try to use them in the future but other PCs are now aware of their service and we may find it difficult. ,

Car Parking

This seemingly intractable problem is being discussed by Open Spaces at the

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request of Full Council . Currently we are looking at a scheme for Church Lane which is a private road owned by the Parish. All other roads come under the jurisdiction of MBC for parking issues.

After much chasing of MBC and the developers Crest Nicholson, the pavement and yellow lines appeared in Oak Lane and the yellow lines have actually been enforced. This has displaced the commuter parking and other roads are suffering. The operators of the station car park have long been immune to pleas that their every increasing charges are detrimental to the villages, but I believe a meeting may be on the horizon to discuss these issues. We really do not want to have yellow lines around all the roads in the village!

Residents in parts of the village, for example the terrace at the end of Forge Lane and some houses at the beginning of Ulcombe Road do not have off street parking. They have been requesting parking permits, but MBC have in the past refused to expand the system from the High Street and in any case, a permit does not guarantee a parking place. This matter is ongoing.

The Car Park by Sainsburys has caused problems, mainly due to the working, or not working, of the parking meters and the poor state of the roadway, particularly in the entrance. We are in contact with both the owner of this car park and Starnes the owner of the section down the ramp at the far end. The latter, as they have been unable to make money from car parking (most people it seems will not walk that far!) have obtained planning permission to build a small unit of 4 small businesses. The owner of the top area has told us he is in negotiation with Starnes for a contribution towards the repair of at least the main entrance after the building is completed

Kent Highways (KH)

Over the past year we have had a variety of contacts with a number of KH officers. Cllrs attended the KH Annual Parish Conference where we learnt that they have run out of possible efficiency measures to save money. As a result they only have money for high priority projects on the 5000 plus miles of road for which they are responsible.

Cllrs met with KH officers near the train station to discuss a way of making it easier to cross the road to get to the station, particularly in view of most of the houses being on the opposite side to the station and with more children going to schools in Ashford, plus cars seem to speed up as they reach that area. The officers agreed the problem and suggested a traffic survey - HPC had to pay given the state of KH finances. Unfortunately, the figures from the survey, measured against national standards, did not support a pedestrian crossing being provided by KH. It is possible however, that developer funding may help this to be achieved in the future.

With the Clerk, I met the KH Maidstone Area Manager and our local steward. We raised a number of highway related issues and were told who to approach and the Clerk has since registered a number of requests. So many that it has been suggested that we compile a Headcorn Highways Improvement Plan. We specifically mentioned the state of Grigg Lane, both near the new developments which has been an ongoing issue with the KH engineer, and the rash of small pot holes further out into the countryside. We queried why Grigg Lane has not been resurfaced when Ulcombe Road has been resurfaced at least twice and learnt that it is due to Ulcombe Road being considered a "strategic" road as it is the route to Ulcombe Village.

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The state of Brooklands has been raised with KH now that the school development has finished -the builders lorries used this road extensively.

Following an inspection, we have been told that the damage is not "safety critical" and as no "pre- condition survey" was undertaken, they cannot make the builders pay. Hence nothing can happen. We have suggested that such a survey should take place before any big development and have asked that a survey is made of the roads affected by the 220 house development.

We are somewhat mystified by an email from the Area Manager saying that no traffic from the 220 house development should use Ulcombe Road over the bridge in Headcorn or into Ulcombe itself. How are the building supplies going to reach the site -by helicopter? If they use Tattlebury a narrow country lane, the road will cease to exist after 2-3yrs of heavy lorry use. This matter is ongoing.

Finally when thinking about KH, we are currently in correspondence with them regarding the entrance to Dawks Meadow which is becoming dangerous for pedestrians. It is a difficult situation as the footpath officer only has responsibility for a strip as wide as the walk through further up and states there is a legal agreement involving the residents on either side regarding any repairs to the wider area. Consequently, the Footpath's Officer is getting quotes only for a pedestrian strip across the area and for filling in potholes on the rest.

HPC is a very busy council and I could go on a lot longer, but I am sure you are all thinking about home, so I will make a few brief points:-

There is an ongoing relationship with the **Police** via weekly contact with our PCSO John Boyd. In addition I, along with 4 other local Parish Council Chairs met Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, and updated him on issues effecting this area.

The Clerk, vice chair and myself met with **Staplehurst Parish Council** and other Parish Councils surrounding Staplehurst to discuss common issues effecting the parishes. A further meeting is to be arranged and a meeting of all these Parish Councils with MBC, mainly regarding planning, has been arranged for June.

Cllrs continue to sit on **Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee**, set up after the Public Inquiry in 1977. After several years with very few complaints, a new set of helicopters flew over the village and caused significant noise nuisance in 2017. Jamie Freeman has laid down stricter guidelines for 2018 and says he will stop them operating if they fail to keep to these guidelines. There is also an Event Calendar for this summer which includes aerobatic free Saturdays and Sundays.

Cllr Dungey is helping a volunteer Bill Ryall to resurrect **Speedwatch** following changing regulations and the need for Police to agree new standing positions. Volunteers needed urgently -if only for a couple of hours a month.

The Remembrance Day Parade, currently organised by HPC was again a very successful event and preparations have already started for November 2018.

Fly tipping continues to be major issue including a quantity of ducks and geese, shot illegally and dumped on our traders carpark where they were disturbed by Mr Fox. A company

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wanted to charge the Clerk £900 to remove them and “cleanse” the site! However, a local remover of fallen stock disposed of them for us for £20.

Litter on the roads outside the 30mph limit continues to raise complaints. We have continued to point out to MBC during our meetings with them that other Borough Councils manage to deal with the problem and would they please get active. Meanwhile, our lengthsman do an excellent job in the built up area.

Defibrillators are still an issue – having thought all was settled, Sainsburys have yet to install their defib, our defib is in place at the village hall and our other defib was at the fire station - until it was impounded by the Transport Police following an incident at the train station, when it was thought a criminal act might have taken place. The Fire Station have now installed their own defib, so we need to think again where to put ours when it is returned to us.

Flooding – On Easter Saturday, 2 Cllrs and the Clerk were out looking at flooding in gardens of Oak Farm Gardens and the nearby Oast House. Following some discussion with Countryside Properties, who carried out work on their drainage system, flooding did not occur on Wet Monday, April 30th so hopefully the matter has been resolved. The newly formed Flood Action Group will be encouraging “flood resilience “when talking to parishioners.

Finance and Data Protection – HPC now banks with the Unity bank which means we can pay people directly saving time for the Clerk who previously had to write cheques and send them out with letters. And ahead of the Data Protection Legislation, all Cllrs have their PC email addresses.

To end on a happy note

New Green Space

HPC has been offered as a gift, 4 ½ acres of land behind Millbank and running along the side of the 220 houses, to be kept as a greenspace in perpetuity. It was originally offered with the thought that it could be used to rectify the lack of Natural Burial Grounds (NBG) in the area. However, it would seem that if you get one NBG, another comes along, and the Redhill Stables site in Lenham Road, owned by MBC has been suggested as a site. HPC is waiting to hear from MBC whether they would grant planning permission at Redhill Stables.

In the meantime, Cllrs have agreed that when the owners are ready, we will be very pleased to accept the offer of a new green space and will work with them to establish its future use. Very many thanks to Dr and Mrs Ian Roberts the current owners for this generous gift that will ensure a green “lung” in an area which is almost certain to see more development in the coming years.

I must at this point give my thanks to our Clerk, Caroline Carmichael without whom all the above would not be happening. Caroline is paid for 37hours per week, but frequently works longer than this - I often have to ask why I am receiving emails on a Sunday or at 6am in the morning and to remind her to have time off. Her passion for the village and her love of her job means she is always ready to go the extra mile and parishioners respond to this so the link between HPC and the Parish continues to strengthen. I value her support - even

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if recently she has developed a rather unnerving habit of saying or doing something just immediately before I speak to her about it!

Thanks also goes out to all my fellow Cllrs, but especially to the Chairs of committees, Cllr James and Cllr Pyman, and also my Vice Chair, Bridget Dungey.

7. Reports were received from the following Clubs and Societies

- Jack Keeler – Chair of Governors Headcorn Primary School
 - Jack Keeler thanked the Chair and Councillors of the Parish Council for all their hard work and dedication to the village
- Jane Stone – Headara
- James Beecher & Mark Pleasance – Headcorn Football Club
- Barbara Allcock – Headcorn Womens Institute
- Susan Quarendon – Headcorn Handbell Ringers
- Martin Round – Headcorn Aerodrome

Written reports were received from

- Headcorn Cricket & Tennis Club
- Headcorn Ukulele Group
- Headcorn Scout Group
- Eldercare
- Headcorn Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Signed By:

Date: