

Ivychurch Annual Parish Meeting 2022

21st April 2022 at Ivychurch Village Hall – 12 present

Chairman's Introduction and Welcome, Approval of 2021 APM minutes

The Chairman of Ivychurch Parish Council welcomed all the attendees, and the minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting were approved.

Annual Summaries of the Year's Highlights

PCSO John Gorham said this time of year contractors are busy on farms and roads. The police are also aware of the issue of Pentland Homes spoil lorries passing through the village. He has spoken twice to Pentland Homes about their contractors, pointing out that Ivychurch has no footpaths. Two of the drivers had been spoken to. Also several locals stopped. More speed checks are planned. He suggested signage along the lines of "please be courteous to the village".

Poaching is likely to rise in July/August from its current lower levels, when there will be less cover for hares, etc.

Some concern has recently been expressed about an individual wandering around and living on the street. A charity has visited him with offers of support, but it is his choice whether or not to accept help.

A member of the public mentioned that there has been a car in a ditch on Ashford Road for at least a week near the Newchurch turning. The police had been unaware – the red and white tape would be fire brigade. If a vehicle is not causing danger or distraction, it is normally left for the owner to remove.

A member of the public asked if there were plans to impose a 40mph limit across the whole of Romney Marsh. John replied this would be a highways issue. Discussion ensued about what speed limits should be adhered to by HGV's.

The issue of fly tipping was raised – the police will act if they find evidence of whose rubbish it was, and KCC will prosecute anyone caught.

Councillor Tony Hills gave his report (reproduced at the end of these minutes) and spoke about local issues such as proposals for 40 and 20 mph limits, and a possible link road between the new housing development and the A259. Other issues mentioned were: road repairs – around £6m spent on Kent roads last year; Covid is still reducing staffing levels; some families are taking in Ukrainian refugees; Operation Brock still causing a headache; Dungeness "A" could take two mini nuclear units, around £150m to clear the site and around 200 jobs per module; the nuclear site provides justification for the area's flood defences. Storm flood plans need to be in place. The parish council has recently lost the highways liaison contact, Cllr Hills named James Bowen as district manager and will email Debbie's details to us. **Action TH** T

Councillor Clive Goddard's report was read out in his absence by Cllr Rick Bailey. This is reproduced at the end of these minutes.

Margaret Waite, St. George's Church Warden, gave her report (see end of minutes) and also mentioned last year's BBQ run by the Ivychurch Amenities Association, plus their plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Childrens' Christmas Party. The Community Woodland Project is making progress.

Rick Bailey, Chairman of Ivychurch Parish Council, then spoke of some of the past year's highlights: the parish council website was migrated successfully to a new platform; Electric Vehicle charging points were installed and the first of several annual lease payments has been received; hall maintenance is being undertaken; the first litter picking session of 2022 is imminent; several new households have moved to the village and were welcomed; Rick went on to thank Alan for his work with the mowers, village survey and brunch, Tony for taking on hall booking admin, Simon for fixing the damaged village gate, Robin for all the work he has been undertaking for the village, Jan and Jools for their support to the council, and Tony, John and Margaret for coming along tonight to give their reports. Rick then invited questions from the floor. Discussion ensued around the subject of a static speed sign, the need for more observers for the Speedwatch group (a couple expressed interest in this), and Tony Hills mentioned that he had funded some roundels at Greatstone which are useful reminders to drivers of speed limit changes. Further suggestions were invited for using any excess funds.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Annual Reports

Annual Report 2022 from Cllr Clive Goddard, Folkestone & Hythe District Council

It has been another challenging year and, like the past 2 years with the pandemic, awful. But with sound leadership and fine budgeting, all services which the council provide remain. Staying with the pandemic, financial assistance for local businesses continues.

I remain chairman of the planning and licensing committee for a record 7th year and I monitor local development with interest within the marsh.

Locally I remain on the airport consultative committee and am delighted about the exciting new plans that will be shared by the airport management team soon. This I hope will bring more jobs for the marsh.

Talking of jobs and the local economy, I continue to lobby all levels of government for Dungeness C as this is key to the area.

Unfortunately, and again due to the pandemic, the Romney marsh forum hasn't been able to meet, but I intend to call a meeting very soon so we can pick up on key issues affecting the parish - including speed watch, policing, border control and health provision.

Each year I receive funds to distribute for local causes I was pleased to give £750 to your community woodland project here in Ivychurch in which will become an excellent asset to all in the village.

I work closely with the police and thank them for their work and support, and my F&HDC colleague and KCC Cllr Tony Hills for all his hard work and continued support.

I will continue to work for the good of all local people young and old and help to provide a safer, greener, cleaner and thriving place for all to live in finally I would like to thank the Parish Clerk, for her continued hard work assistance and support not only to myself but to the whole of Ivychurch.



Tony Hills KCC member for the Romney Marsh Division Annual Report April 2022

Pandemic

As we enter the third year of this cruel pandemic. We all must find a way to live with covid 19. I'm proud of the way KCC has worked with our district council and local organisations. Strengthening our sense of community on the Romney Marsh. The success of the Romney Marsh Community Hub goes from strength to strength following the change of name last June. This has been a big success, which I'm happy to promote as well to support.

Ukraine

KCC is committed to help the tragic situation in Ukraine. The KCC website has lots of useful information on what you can do to help.

Highways

Following budget cuts from the government we will have had a difficult year for road maintenance. But KCC is committed to finding new and inventive ways to repair our highways making our budgets go further.

The Romney Marsh has highways like the rest of the County in poor condition. Reporting problems online really helps, the more reports the better, it all helps. Latest update on 'Hammonds Corner' (A259); As I said last year, we now have a design for the roundabout. But funding for the build continues to be a challenge.

Dungeness 'A' Station site reuse.

I have over this last year been campaigning for the existing 'A' site to be considered for 'hi speed' demolition. Making it available as a site for a new SMNR (small modular Nuclear Reactor). If the government decides to go down this route, it will have my support.

Climate Change

Is the biggest single long term threat to the Romney Marsh. But I'm happy to say the EA have been working hard over the last year to improve our defences. Following the new defences at the 'redoubt' in Hythe to protect the northern end of the Romney Marsh, I had a site visit to 'Jessons' outfall to see the successful conclusion of re-shingling to protect the east bay area. Work is continuing at Lydd Ranges to defend the western side of the Romney Marsh. This is all part of the FoCES plan (Folkestone to Cliff End Scheme) to defend the whole of the Romney Marsh. As I said last year, I get many enquiries concerning 'flood maps' showing the Romney Marsh at risk. You must remember these flood maps show the risk without sea defences; we can and will continue to defend the Marsh.

Bus Transport

KCC has been forced through budget cuts to reconsider its community support for poorly used bus services across Kent. But I'm pleased to report that the number 11 service is not one of them. We need to find better supported means of community travel. The Romney Marsh Partnership was successful to receive funding from KCC to do the market research, to gauge the level of support for an electric bus shuttle service from New Romney to Appledore station to access Ashford and Rye...The Green Line Service would link the two lines The Hythe & Dymchurch and the Southern Region main line. There has been interest from Lydd Airport to extend the service to include the airport.

Medical Matters

After many years 'battling' with the East Kent Trust over the William Harvey Hospitable Accident and Emergency services being retained. It is cheering to see the new extension to A&E facilities at the William Harvey under construction.

My Kent responsibilities

Positions I have served in over the last year.

Deputy Cabinet member for Environment & Waste.

Chair of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee.

Member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Member for Kent of the Southern Region Flood & Coastal Committee.

Member for Kent of the Kent & Essex Inshore Fishing Conservation

Committee. Member of the Kent Environment Transport & Waste Cabinet

Committee. Member of the Kent Environment Strategy (cross party group)

It has been another challenging year at Kent County Council, working now in a new hybrid system some meetings 'virtually' from home others in person at Maidstone.

Kent County Councillors have two main functions.

To represent residents of Romney Marsh at 'County' and do their level best to help with local concerns.

To play their part in 'running' the 'County' for the benefit of all the residents of Kent.



Tony Hills

Kent County Councillor for Romney Marsh

Report from St George's for the year 2021 to 2022 for the Ivychurch Annual Parish Meeting on 21st April 2022

St George's Ivychurch is one of 14 churches in the Romney Marsh Benefice which stretches from Dymchurch to Dungeness, taking in the towns and villages of St Mary's Bay and New and Old Romney Greatstone, Lydd, Brookland, Fairfield, Snargate, Brenzett, St Mary in the Marsh, Newchurch and Burmarsh.

For over 2 years St George's had been in Interegnum (i.e. awaiting a new priest in charge) but had been very fortunate to have the Right Rev John Richardson who was contracted to spend 1 day per week supporting 8 of the 14 churches, working virtually full time. The other 5 churches were supported by Rev Chris Maclean, Team Vicar for the Romney Marsh Benefice.

In October 2021 a new priest Rev Chris Hodgkins was installed as Team Rector for the Romney Marsh Benefice, and Rev John Richardson moved to take up another demanding post in the Canterbury Diocese.

Services have continued in Ivychurch, when allowed within Covid Rules, throughout the covid crisis, some outside; including the 2021 Ivychurch Christmas Carol Service which was held outside the village hall, led by Rev Chris Hodgkins and curate Rev Jacky Darling, with 4 brave members of the City Of Canterbury Band managing to play despite the cold. Around 40 people attended (and some froze!). After the service Father Christmas who hadn't been able to visit as usual for the Childrens Christmas party as it had been postponed due to covid managed (with the help of an Ivychurch resident) to find his way to Ivychurch and give the children gifts.

The 9 pm Christmas Eve 2021 Carols and Candles service went ahead as usual, in the church.

Rev Chris Hodgkins led the Easter 2022 Service, attended by 18 children and 28 adults; this was followed by the Ivychurch Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard.

The Mighty Mowers have continued to do a magnificent job keeping the churchyard looking spic and span whilst at the same time enabling the churchyard to support environmentally friendly wildflowers and bees. Our thanks go to Mike Bartlett who had established the Mighty Mowers several years ago, to Alan Martin who has taken over those reins, to Martin Killick who arranged and funded a project to trim the trees, and clear the churchyard wall of brambles and ivy which were beginning to degrade the wall, and Celia Heritage who has taken responsibility for the overall management of the churchyard, and to all the willing supporting volunteers.

The church clock is a feature of St George's of which we are very proud. Unlike clocks on some other churches our clock keeps impeccable time due to the fact for which we are very grateful, that twice weekly for well over 20 years Ivychurch resident Robin Button has wound the clock. This involves some physical strength!

Within the church there is an easel with a poster donated by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust giving information about ways that bee populations can be supported.

There is also an easel with a mosaic, completed by many local volunteers, and funded by the Kent Wildlife Trust, of St George's Church. The church is surrounded by images that are relevant to Ivychurch past and present; the mosaic was presented to the church during 2021.

The tower of the church has over the years served a purpose for the local community. During World War 2 it served as a lookout post for incoming enemy aircraft. In more recent years a broadband service was beamed from the church tower, until BT fibre was provided to the village.

From the late 2010's Bob Preedy broadcast an FM Community Radio Station Shoreline Radio aimed at providing a service to members of the Marsh Community who were experiencing relative isolation. In March

2022 Bob moved his service to an internet based service and Ivychurch resident James Clark has taken over the licence for broadcasting on the FM frequency (100.02) under the name of Cinque Ports Radio.

As the church is Grade 1 Listed there are inevitably repairs that are required from time to time, and some, including renewal of part of the clock face surround are planned to take place in the near future.

Finally, the church continues to be very grateful to the IPC for the use, without charge, of the hall, and equipment such as tables and crockery for church related events. This includes the Ivychurch Harvest Supper which, as is traditional, was held in the church on the first Saturday of October 2021, and hopefully will be on the first Saturday (1st) October 2022
